INDICATIONS FOR TESTING
Patient presenting with symptoms that are suspicious for paraneoplastic neurological syndromes (PNS)

Known malignancy

No

Test for antibodies suggested by clinical symptoms

Well-characterized onconeural antibodies present

No

PNS possible but evaluate for other disorders associated with neurologic symptoms (eg, chronic infections, metabolic encephalopathy)

None

Evaluate with other neurologic testing (EMG, muscle biopsy, CT, MRI) to look for tumor and/or neurologic diagnosis

Negative

Reevaluate in 6 months or sooner depending on symptoms

Positive

PNS probably present, antibody negative syndrome

Yes

Test for antibodies that support clinical symptoms and type of tumor present

Antibodies present

No

PNS confirmed

Evaluate for most common tumors associated with the syndrome based on age, sex

Yes

PNS confirmed

Evaluate for other possible complications related to cancer

Consider CSF and electrolyte testing, EMG, muscle biopsy, MRI/PET