

Development of a care pathway for a patient with suspected PML

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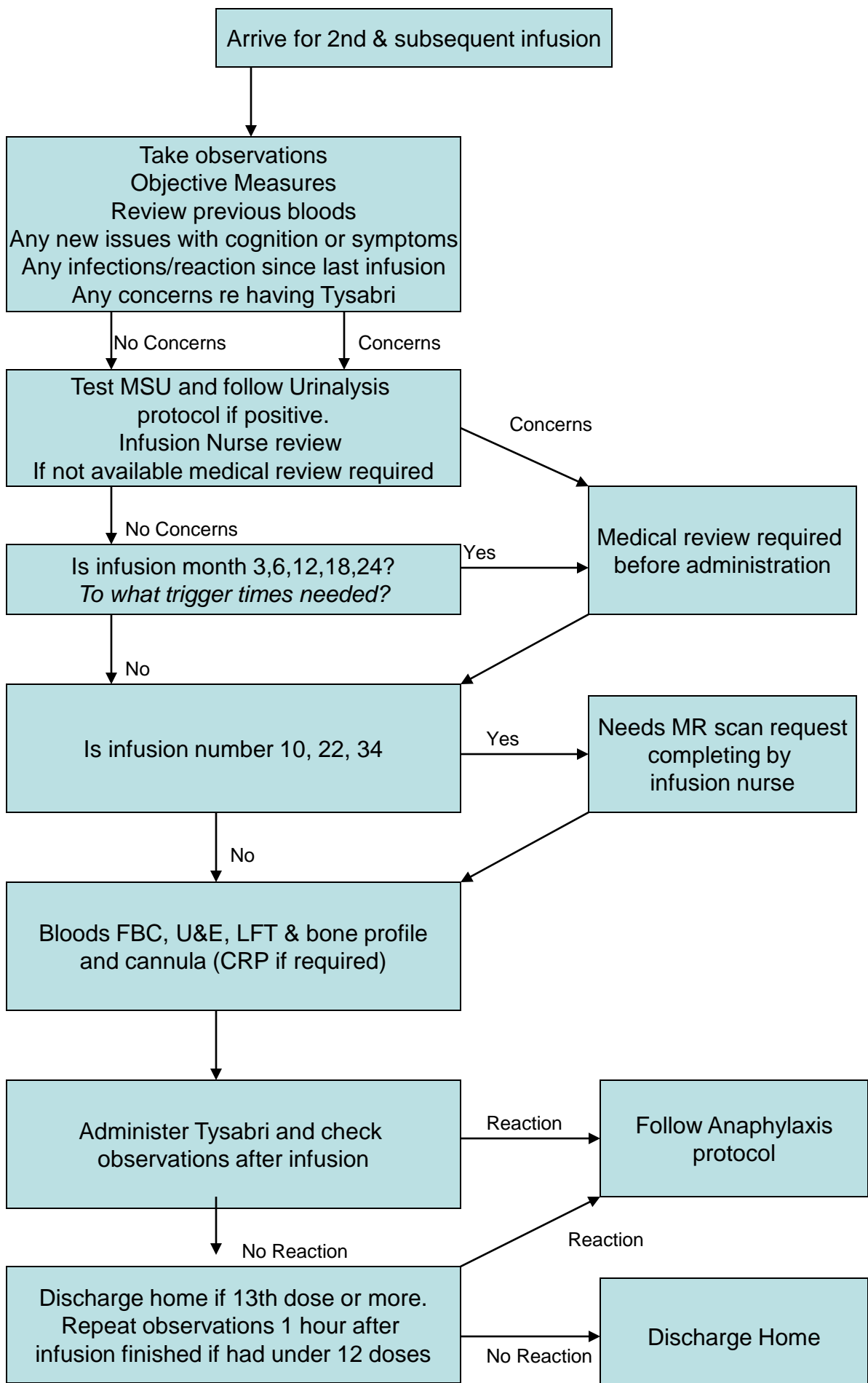
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Abstract Text:

- Background: patient with suspected PML following 42 months of treatment with tysabri.
- Objectives: To increase vigilance and identification of suspected PML through a structured nurse led care pathway.
- Methods: identification of key points in the assessment process through critical reflection, development of a care pathway and implementation.
- Results: improved monitoring of patients undergoing tysabri infusions and early intervention in patients identified as potential PML cases
- Conclusions: Through development of a structured nurse led care pathway, increased vigilance and earlier identification of potential patient safety concerns will be achieved.



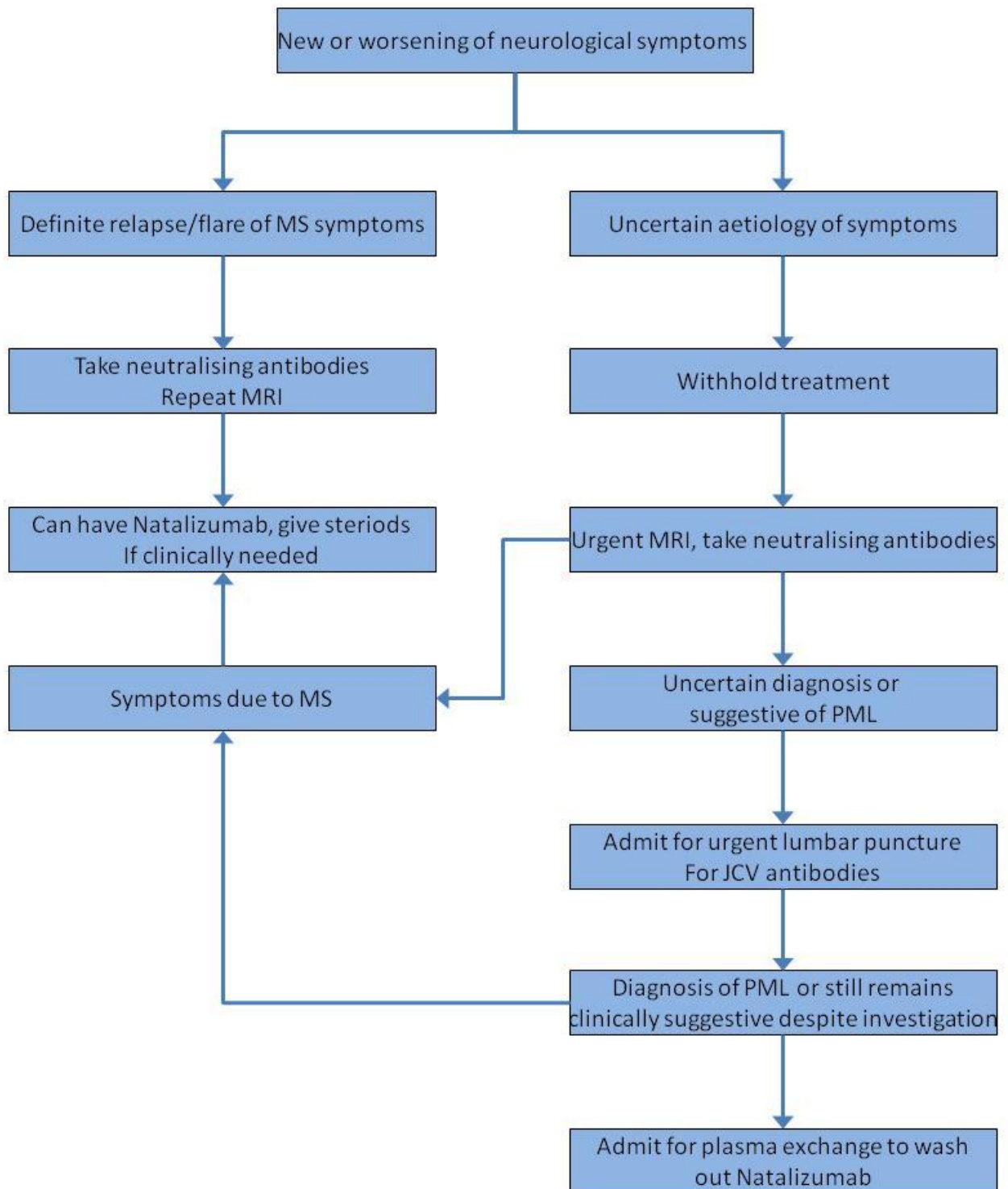
background

- 42 year old male patient JCV positive with total exposure of 40 doses of Natalizumab presented for infusion with a 2 – 3 day history of left lower weakness & numbness up to T6. His wife also reported him becoming more forgetful and short tempered. MRI brain/spine performed and reviewed – no changes and was given 5 day course of OMP.
- 10 days later patient's mobility and balance had deteriorated despite steroids and was admitted for further imaging and CSF analysis for JCV antibodies all of which were negative.
- At this time it was noted that he attended his district general hospital 3 months prior with diplopia and was given steroids without consulting a neurologist.
- Following this case it was felt that a care pathway should be developed for the care of patient's with new symptoms or suspected of PML.

Reflection on events

- Any patient with new or worsening symptoms will have medical review.
- Unless certain of diagnosis of MS symptoms Natalizumab will be withheld until investigated appropriately.
- All patients with new/worsening symptoms will have MRI and anti Natalizumab neutralising antibodies taken with the MRI requested urgently if diagnosis uncertain.
- If MRI scan unable to identify cause or suspicious of PML then urgent admission is required to perform LP for CSF analysis JCV
- Identification of patients treated with Mitox or other chemotherapy ensuring JCV status is known and if positive after 2 years treatment routine MRI scans every 6 months

Management of new neurological symptoms in patients on Natalizumab



Development of a care pathway for patient's with suspected PML

- Any patient on Natalizumab presenting to a primary or secondary care provider with symptoms that they feel may need steroids should discuss with a neurologist prior to prescribing. This is due to PML having a steroid response and so may mask some symptoms if steroids are given.
- Suspicion should be always of PML until it can be proved otherwise

Algorithm for JCV testing patients on Natalizumab

