History, physical exam, CBC, chemistry panel, electrolytes and urinalysis consistent with Cushing’s syndrome

Draw baseline cortisol sample.

Perform a low-dose dexamethasone suppression test with 0.01 mg/kg of dexamethasone IV.

Draw 4-hour and 8-hour cortisols (run 8-hour first and 4-hour may not be indicated).

4 hours
- <1 µg/dL
- 1–1.5 µg/dL
- >1.5 µg/dL and >50% of baseline

8 hours
- <1 µg/dL
- 1–1.5 µg/dL
- >1.5 µg/dL and >50% of baseline

- Normal
- Inconclusive, consider repeating in 6–8 weeks*
- Consistent with Cushing’s
- Consistent with PDH

Perform high-dose dexamethasone suppression, endogenous ACTH concentration and/or abdominal ultrasound to discriminate between PDH and ATH.

*Wait a minimum of 48 hours before repeating if a technical error in the protocol occurred.