Clinical Suspicion of Pheochromocytoma

Measure plasma normetanephrine (NM) and metanephrine (M)

Both metabolites normal:
(NM < 112 pg/mL
M < 61 pg/mL)
Tumor highly unlikely

Either or both metabolites elevated:
Consider extent of elevation

Slight to moderate elevation:
(NM ≥ 112 and < 400 pg/mL
M ≥ 61 and < 236 pg/mL)
Tumor possible

Eliminate medications or other causes of false-positive results

Both metabolites normal on repeat testing:
Tumor unlikely

Follow-up biochemical tests
Repeat testing of plasma/urinary fractionated metanephrines, additional tests of plasma catecholamines

Metanephrines remain elevated on repeat testing
Tumor remains possible

Clonidine suppression test

Suppression of NM:
Tumor unlikely

High ratio of plasma metanephrines to catecholamines
Tumor highly probable

No suppression of NM:
Tumor highly possible

Repeat testing at later date if clinical suspicion remains

Locate tumor through CT, MRI, Mibg