

## Thorough Work-up For Psychological Masquerade

As mentioned in the discussion about alerting and presumptive clues for psychological masquerade, it was noted that when such clues are present, the person requires a “thorough work-up” for medical problems that may be causing the presenting symptoms. So... just what is a thorough work-up? This is a somewhat tricky question because everyone who presents with what may be psychological masquerade can not be worked-up for every possible medical condition: the list is essentially inexhaustible. The person likely requires a comprehensive general physical exam and medical interview. Then that person needs to have a work-up for the conditions suggested by:

1. The symptoms thought to be psychological masquerade;
2. The medical symptoms that are concurrent with the psychological ones;
3. The physical exam.

Much of the decision about specific tests and such is up to the judgment of the physician.

Typical testes included in this are:

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|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. CBC and blood work    | 5. Nutritional assessment |
| 2. Urinalysis            | 6. Hypertension           |
| 3. B12 and Folate levels | 7. Anemia                 |
| 4. Thyroid screening     | 8. General Neurological   |

Please note that the above list is not necessarily all inclusive.

Specific presentations of psychological masquerade, co-existing physical symptoms, and results of the general physical are quite likely to be suggestive of specific medical disorders (cardio-vascular, pulmonary, diabetes, etc). Each one of these would require a specific work-up.