Giant Cell Arteritis

1990 CRITERIA FOR THE CLASSIFICATION OF GIANT CELL (TEMPORAL) ARTERITIS - EXCERPT

1. Age at disease onset >=50 years
   Development of symptoms or findings beginning at age 50 or older

2. New headache
   New onset of or new type of localized pain in the head

3. Temporal artery abnormality
   Temporal artery tenderness to palpation or decreased pulsation, unrelated to arteriosclerosis of cervical arteries

4. Elevated erythrocyte sedimentation rate
   Erythrocyte sedimentation rate >=50 mm/hour by the Westergren method

5. Abnormal artery biopsy
   Biopsy specimen with artery showing vasculitis characterized by a predominance of mononuclear cell infiltration or granulomatous inflammation, usually with multinucleated giant cells

* For purposes of classification, a patient shall be said to have giant cell (temporal) arteritis if at least 3 of these 5 criteria are present. The presence of any 3 or more criteria yields a sensitivity of 93.5% and a specificity of 91.2%