Mild Disease

Pain ranges from mild to moderate and may localize to the trochlea (i.e. trochleitis). Diplopia, if present, is mild and may "step out" to a superior oblique palsy. No proptosis or exam findings to suggest significant inflammation.

Classic Disease (IOM)

Pain may range from mild to severe. Diplopia is present and is typically horizontal and/or vertical in nature. Proptosis and obvious evidence of orbital inflammation are typical.

Atypical Disease

Pain ranges from severe to debilitating.
Considering the severity of pain, there may be very little diplopia.
Evidence of active orbital inflammation may be absent on exam.

Work-Up

Clinical diagnosis. Check a "Q-tip test." Defer lab testing and imaging, unless clinical suspicion directs otherwise.

Work-Up

Basic lab testing is indicated to rule out infection and thyroid orbitopathy. CT, MRI, or orbital echography may show mono- or oligomyositis.

Work-Up

Basic lab testing is indicated to rule out infection and thyroid orbitopathy. CT, MRI, or orbital echography may be unrevealing. Consider orbital biopsy.

Treatment

Trial of NSAIDs.

Treatment

Oral corticosteroids.
Controlled taper.
Consider steroid –sparing agents if difficulty tolerating or tapering steroids.

Treatment

Poor response to NSAIDs and/or corticosteroids. Consider alternative treatments, e.g. pain clinic (orbital pain syndrome), radiation.