FACT:

Identifying Early Signs of Friedreich's Ataxia Can Help Speed Time to a Definitive Diagnosis

Early symptoms of Friedreich's ataxia (FA), typically appearing between the ages of 10 and 15, can overlap with other conditions.[1,2] **FA is the most common inherited ataxia**,[3] making it essential to think FA **FIRST** when you see any combination of these signs and symptoms.

Falls[1]
(gait ataxia)

Imbalance[1,4]
(proprioception loss)

Reflex loss[4]
(areflexia)

Sensation loss[4]
(peripheral neuropathy)

Tiredness[3]
(chronic fatigue)

A Genetic Test That Includes a Friedreich's Ataxia Repeat Expansion Analysis Confirms an FA Diagnosis[5]

Nearly **98%** of FA cases are caused by a genetic variant within the frataxin (FXN) gene called a GAA triplet-repeat expansion, with about 2% attributable to point mutations.[4]

Not all reference laboratories offer a genetic test that can detect these expansions, so ordering the right test is crucial.

Confirming a diagnosis accelerates your patients' connection to multidisciplinary supportive care that can help them maintain independence longer.

Get additional information and resources at **ThinkFA.com**.

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FACT:

Friedreich's Ataxia (FA) Can Be Overlooked Because Patients Often Describe Vague Initial Symptoms[1,6]

WHAT PARENTS OF YOUNGER PATIENTS MAY SAY:	WHAT OLDER PATIENTS WITH LATER-ONSET FA MAY SAY:
"I notice that she often falls down."[1,3]	"People say I look intoxicated when I walk."[1,3]
Is it clumsiness or is it gait ataxia?[4]	
"At night, he struggles walking up the stairs."[7]	"If I'm in a dark room, I feel like I'm on a rocking boat."[3]
Is it a passing difficulty or is it loss of proprioception?[4]	
"Her handwriting is getting more difficult to read."[1]	"I can't type text messages lately."[1]
Is it a temporary challenge or is it loss of fine motor skills?[1]	

Recognizing early signs of FA can help you initiate intervention sooner and potentially make a big difference in a patient's life.

Get additional information and resources at ThinkFA.com.

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