Figure 1. Algorithm for etiological diagnosis of chronic cough

1. History collection
2. Physical Examination
3. Specific Investigations
4. ACEI used
5. Yes → Stop ACEI
6. No → Chest X-ray
7. Cough persists → Further investigation
8. No obvious abnormality
9. Spirometry + Bronchial provocation test
10. Normal → Induced-sputum test
11. UACS/PNDS
12. CVA
13. EB
14. Others
15. Not Effective → Further investigation
16. Diagnosis confirmed
17. Sinus radiography
18. Nasopharyngoscopy
19. Esophageal pH monitoring
20. Fibreoptic bronchoscopy
21. CT
22. SPT
23. IgE
24. Others
25. UACS/PNDS
26. GERC
27. AC
28. Others
29. Not Effective → Further investigation
30. Effective → Aetiological or Empirical Treatment