



M83: A spiral galaxy 12 million light years from Earth in the constellation Hydra.

Credit: NASA/CXC/U.Leicester/U.London/R.Soria & K.Wu

Chandra's image of M83 shows numerous point-like neutron star and black hole X-ray sources scattered throughout the disk of the galaxy. The bright nuclear region glows prominently due to a cloud of hot gas and a high concentration of neutron stars and black holes that were created during a burst of star formation that is estimated to have begun about 20 million years ago in the galaxy's time frame.

Chandra X-ray Observatory ACIS Image