

Case 3 (January 26 2006): [N Engl J Med 2006;354:398-406.](#)

Case 3-2006 — A 63-Year-Old Woman with Jaundice and a Pancreatic Mass

Demographic: Female, 63 years, not pregnant, Carribean, General speciality (recent immigrant from the Dominican Republic)

Clinical features extracted from the case and entered into the query box:

extensive intraabdominal lymphadenopathy
chronic nasal congestion with white discharge
chronic nocturnal cough with watery sputum
stable bilateral apical lung opacities
jaundice
biliary obstruction related to cystic mass in the head of the pancreas
cystic mass near the tail of the pancreas
mass in the porta hepatis
mass in the spleen

Synonyms used by Isabel (optional) for the above query:

none

STOP !

Before you read further you might want to construct your own:

- Complete differential diagnosis
- Final diagnosis

In the following section you will find:

- The differential diagnosis constructed by the MGH panel
- The final diagnosis of the case
- Which of the MGH panel differential diagnoses did Isabel contain
- Did Isabel suggest the Final diagnosis

Differential Diagnoses considered by the MGH panel:

- primary tumors of the head of the pancreas, cystic neoplasms (intraductal papillary mucinous neoplasms)
- tumors of the bile ducts
- Metastatic tumors to the porta hepatis (colon, breast, and lung, ovary, kidney, and other organs.)
- Lymphomas in porta-hepatis.
- Inflammatory processes include chronic or autoimmune pancreatitis - x, sclerosing cholangitis -x, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) cholangiopathy - x, and various chronic infections, such as *Mycobacterium avium* complex (x) or *M. tuberculosis*.
- Intraluminal obstruction of the bile duct can result from stones, parasites, and polyps.

Final Diagnosis of the case according to NEJM:

Probable intraabdominal tuberculosis (Intraabdominal infection with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, with secondary biliary obstruction.)

Differential Diagnoses of the case as given by Isabel:

Pancreatic neoplasm – Isabel 1st page
Bile duct neoplasm – Isabel 1st page
Lung neoplasm – Isabel 1st page
Tuberculosis – Isabel 1st page, Tuberculosis GI – Isabel 1st page
Biliary obstruction & injury – Isabel 1st page, Cholelithiasis – Isabel 1st page

Was the final diagnosis given by Isabel?

Yes. GI tuberculosis (Isabel 1st page) & Biliary obstruction (Isabel 1st page)

Entire presentation cut and pasted into the Isabel query box:

Lung neoplasms – Isabel 1st page
Kidney neoplasms – Isabel 1st page
Ovarian neoplasms – Isabel 1st page
Breast Cancer – Isabel 1st page
Tuberculosis – Isabel 1st page
Bile duct neoplasms – Isabel 1st page
Pancreatic neoplasms – Isabel 1st page

Isabel Differential:

<p>INFECTIOUS DISEASES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuberculosis <input type="checkbox"/> Nocardia Infection <input type="checkbox"/> Clostridial Infections <input type="checkbox"/> Aspergillus Infection <input type="checkbox"/> 	<p>GASTROINTESTINAL DISORDERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pancreatic Pseudocyst <input type="checkbox"/> Hepatocellular Failure <input type="checkbox"/> ↳ Cholelithiasis <input type="checkbox"/> Peritonitis <input type="checkbox"/> Liver Abscess <input type="checkbox"/> Biliary Obstruction and Injury <input type="checkbox"/> Tuberculosis GI Disease <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>NEOPLASTIC DISEASES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↳ Liver Neoplasms <input type="checkbox"/> ↳ Pancreatic Neoplasms <input type="checkbox"/> Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis Class I <input type="checkbox"/> Carcinoid Tumors <input type="checkbox"/> 	<p>RESPIRATORY SYSTEM DISORDERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↳ Lung Neoplasms <input type="checkbox"/> Sarcoidosis <input type="checkbox"/> Sinusitis <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>NEPHROLOGY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↳ Polycystic Kidney Disease <input type="checkbox"/> 	<p>ENDOCRINE SYSTEM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↳ MEN Syndromes <input type="checkbox"/>