

**Case 27 (September 8 2005):** [N Engl J Med 2005;353:1042-50](#)

**Demographic:** Male, 80 yrs, America North, General speciality

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

fatigue  
insomnia  
confusion  
hypertension  
nystagmus  
unsteady gait  
startle myoclonus and fasciculations in the legs

**Synonyms used by Isabel for the above query:**

Fatigue  
Insomnia  
Confusion  
Hypertension  
Unsteady gait

**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

***Final Diagnoses of the case according to NEJM:***

Creutzfeldt–Jakob disease

***Differential Diagnoses of the case as given by Isabel:***

Creutzfeldt–Jakob disease (Human Prion disease) – Isabel 1<sup>st</sup> page

***Was the final diagnosis given by Isabel:***

Yes, Isabel 1<sup>st</sup> page

***Entire presentation cut and pasted into the Isabel query box:***

None of the above

**Isabel differential of extracted features:**

<p><b>NUTRITIONAL DISORDERS</b> &lt;&lt; <a href="#">Click here</a></p> <p>↳ <a href="#">Thiamine Deficiency</a> <b>RD</b></p>	<p><b>INFECTIOUS DISEASES</b> &lt;&lt; <a href="#">Click here</a></p> <p><a href="#">Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever</a> <b>RD</b></p> <p><a href="#">Limbic Encephalitis</a> <b>RD</b></p> <p>↳ <a href="#">Yersinia Infection</a> <b>RD</b></p>
<p><b>TOXICOLOGY</b> &lt;&lt; <a href="#">Click here</a></p> <p>↳ <a href="#">Radioactive Isotopes</a> <b>RD</b></p>	<p><b>NERVOUS SYSTEM DISORDERS</b> &lt;&lt; <a href="#">Click here</a></p> <p>↳ <a href="#">Human Prion Diseases</a> <b>RD</b></p> <p><a href="#">Multiple Sclerosis</a> <b>RD</b></p>
<p><b>PSYCHOLOGIC DISORDERS</b> &lt;&lt; <a href="#">Click here</a></p> <p><a href="#">PTSD</a> <b>RD</b></p>	<p><b>ORTHOPEDIC DISORDERS</b> &lt;&lt; <a href="#">Click here</a></p> <p><a href="#">Paget's Disease</a> <b>RD</b></p>
<p><b>DISORDERS OF THE EAR</b> &lt;&lt; <a href="#">Click here</a></p> <p><a href="#">Vestibular Neuritis</a> <b>RD</b></p>	<p><b>NEUROMUSCULAR DISORDERS</b> &lt;&lt; <a href="#">Click here</a></p>
<p><b>CARDIAC DISORDERS</b> &lt;&lt; <a href="#">Click here</a></p>	<p><b>NEPHROLOGY</b> &lt;&lt; <a href="#">Click here</a></p>
<p><b>RESPIRATORY SYSTEM DISORDERS</b> &lt;&lt; <a href="#">Click here</a></p>	<p><b>ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HAZARDS</b> &lt;&lt; <a href="#">Click here</a></p>
<p><b>GASTROINTESTINAL DISORDERS</b> &lt;&lt; <a href="#">Click here</a></p>	
<p><b>DERMATOLOGY</b> &lt;&lt; <a href="#">Click here</a></p>	
<p><b>LIVER DISORDERS</b> &lt;&lt; <a href="#">Click here</a></p>	
<p><b>RHEUMATIC DISEASES</b> &lt;&lt; <a href="#">Click here</a></p>	

**Isabel differential for features – Dementia / myoclonic jerking:**

<p><b>NERVOUS SYSTEM DISORDERS</b> &lt;&lt; Click here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Lewy Body Dementia</a> <span style="float: right;">RD</span></li> <li><a href="#">Alzheimer's Disease</a> <span style="float: right;">RD</span></li> <li><a href="#">Corticobasal Degeneration</a> <span style="float: right;">RD</span></li> <li>↳ <a href="#">Human Prion Diseases</a> <span style="float: right;">RD</span></li> <li>↳ <a href="#">Mitochondrial Encephalomyopathies</a> <span style="float: right;">RD</span></li> <li>↳ <a href="#">Chorea Disorders</a> <span style="float: right;">RD</span></li> <li>↳ <a href="#">Epilepsy &amp; Seizure Disorders</a> <span style="float: right;">RD</span></li> <li>↳ <a href="#">Vascular Dementia</a> <span style="float: right;">RD</span></li> <li><a href="#">Septic Encephalopathy</a> <span style="float: right;">RD</span></li> <li><a href="#">Progressive Supranuclear Palsy</a> <span style="float: right;">RD</span></li> <li><a href="#">HIE</a> <span style="float: right;">RD</span></li> <li><a href="#">Frontotemporal Dementia</a> <span style="float: right;">RD</span></li> <li><a href="#">Delayed Postanoxic Encephalopathy</a> <span style="float: right;">RD</span></li> <li><a href="#">Susac Syndrome</a> <span style="float: right;">RD</span></li> </ul>	<p><b>GASTROINTESTINAL DISORDERS</b> &lt;&lt; Click here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Whipple Disease</a> <span style="float: right;">RD</span></li> </ul>
<p><b>NEUROMUSCULAR DISORDERS</b> &lt;&lt; Click here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Motor Neurone Disease</a> <span style="float: right;">RD</span></li> </ul>	<p><b>ENDOCRINE SYSTEM</b> &lt;&lt; Click here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Hashimoto's Thyroiditis</a> <span style="float: right;">RD</span></li> </ul>
<p><b>TOXICOLOGY</b> &lt;&lt; Click here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↳ <a href="#">Alcohol Toxicity</a> <span style="float: right;">RD</span></li> <li>↳ <a href="#">Drug Overdose/Poisoning</a> <span style="float: right;">RD</span></li> <li>↳ <a href="#">Pesticides Toxicity</a> <span style="float: right;">RD</span></li> </ul>	<p><b>INFECTIOUS DISEASES</b> &lt;&lt; Click here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Limbic Encephalitis</a> <span style="float: right;">RD</span></li> <li>↳ <a href="#">Enterovirus Infections</a> <span style="float: right;">RD</span></li> <li>↳ <a href="#">Measles Infection</a> <span style="float: right;">RD</span></li> <li>↳ <a href="#">Syphilis</a> <span style="float: right;">RD</span></li> </ul>
	<p><b>OPHTHALMOLOGY</b> &lt;&lt; Click here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Opsoclonus</a> <span style="float: right;">RD</span></li> </ul>
	<p><b>NEPHROLOGY</b> &lt;&lt; Click here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↳ <a href="#">Renal Failure</a> <span style="float: right;">RD</span></li> </ul>
	<p><b>PSYCHOLOGIC DISORDERS</b> &lt;&lt; Click here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Depression</a> <span style="float: right;">RD</span></li> </ul>
	<p><b>LIVER DISORDERS</b> &lt;&lt; Click here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↳ <a href="#">Hepatocellular Failure</a> <span style="float: right;">RD</span></li> </ul>