

NEJM 15 (May 18 2006): [N Engl J Med 2006;354:2166-75.](#)

Case 15-2006 — A 46-Year-Old Woman with Sudden Onset of Abdominal Distention

Demographic: 46yrs, female, not pregnant, America North

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

right upper quadrant "abdominal pain"
abdominal distension
dyspnea worse on lying flat
nausea
vomiting
anorexia
early satiety
peripheral edema
hepatomegaly
ascites
splenomegaly
deep venous thrombosis in leg
hepatic dysfunction
prolonged PT

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

prolonged pt
anorexia
vomiting
right upper quadrant
abdominal pain
abdominal distension
splenomegaly
hepatomegaly

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:

Budd–Chiari syndrome
Hepatic veno-occlusive disease

Final Diagnosis of the case according to NEJM:

Budd–Chiari syndrome

Differential Diagnoses of the case as given by Isabel:

Budd–Chiari syndrome – Isabel 1st page
Liver pathology - Cirrhosis, Hepatocellular failure, Portal hypertension – Isabel 1st page

Was the final diagnosis given by Isabel?

Yes, Isabel 1st page

Entire presentation cut and pasted into the Isabel query box:

Liver pathology - Hepatocellular failure, Portal hypertension, Hepatic encephalopathy – Isabel 1st page

Isabel Differential:

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>RHEUMATIC DISEASES</p> <p>SLE <input type="checkbox"/></p> | <p>INFECTIOUS DISEASES</p> <p>Brucellosis <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Anthrax <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Clostridial Infections <input type="checkbox"/></p> |
| <p>HEMATOLOGY</p> <p>↳ Polycythemia Disorders <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Hemochromatosis <input type="checkbox"/></p> | <p>GASTROINTESTINAL DISORDERS</p> <p>Portal Hypertension/Varices <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Budd-Chiari Syndrome <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Peptic Ulcer Disease <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Hepatocellular Failure <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Cirrhosis <input type="checkbox"/></p> |
| <p>RESPIRATORY SYSTEM DISORDERS</p> <p>Lung Neoplasms <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Sarcoidosis <input type="checkbox"/></p> | <p>NEOPLASTIC DISEASES</p> <p>↳ Gastric Neoplasms <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>↳ Liver Neoplasms <input type="checkbox"/></p> |
| <p>CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM</p> <p>Heart Failure/CHF <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>↳ Pericarditis <input type="checkbox"/></p> | <p>ALLERGIC DISORDERS</p> <p>↳ Food Allergy/Intolerance <input type="checkbox"/></p> |
| <p>GYNECOLOGICAL DISORDERS</p> <p>↳ Ovarian Neoplasms <input type="checkbox"/></p> | |