

Case 16 (May 25 2006): [N Engl J Med 2006;354:2263-71](#)

Case 16-2006 — A 72-Year-Old Woman Admitted to the Emergency Department because of a Sudden Change in Mental Status

Demographic: Female, 72 yrs, America North, General speciality

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

low GCS
left hemiparesis
slurred speech
deviation of gaze to the right
hypercholesterolemia

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

low GCS
hypercholesterolemia

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:

Acute stroke

Final Diagnoses of the case according to NEJM:

Acute ischemic stroke

Differential Diagnoses of the case as given by Isabel:

CVA/Stroke – Isabel 1st page

Was the final diagnosis given by Isabel:

Yes, Isabel 1st page

Entire presentation cut and pasted into the Isabel query box:

None of the above

Isabel differential:

<p>NERVOUS SYSTEM DISORDERS</p> <p>↳ CVA/Stroke <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>↳ Intracranial Hemorrhage <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>↳ Aphasic Syndromes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p> Vascular Dementia <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>↳ Brain Neoplasms <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p> Progressive Supranuclear Palsy <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p> Multiple Sclerosis <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p> Subdural Empyema <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p> Epilepsy & Seizure Disorders <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>↳ Ataxic Disorders <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>INFECTIOUS DISEASES</p> <p> Bacterial Meningitis <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>↳ Viral Meningoencephalitis <input type="checkbox"/></p>
	<p>NUTRITIONAL DISORDERS</p> <p>↳ Thiamine Deficiency <input type="checkbox"/></p>
	<p>OPHTHALMOLOGY</p> <p>↳ Strabismus Disorders <input type="checkbox"/></p>
	<p>GASTROINTESTINAL DISORDERS</p> <p> Hepatic Encephalopathy <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>HEMATOLOGY</p> <p> Septic Intracranial Thrombophlebitis <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM</p> <p>↳ Conduction Defects <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>↳ Supraventricular Tachycardia <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>↳ Left-to-Right Shunt Lesions <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>ENDOCRINE SYSTEM</p> <p> Hypothyroidism <input type="checkbox"/></p>	