

Case 11 (April 12 2007): [N Engl J Med 2007; 356\(15\):1561-1570](#)

Demographic: Male, 59 yrs, America North, General speciality

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

fever
thrombocytopenia
progressive multiple cranial-nerve palsies
motor weakness
hyperreflexia
respiratory failure
lymphocytic pleocytosis
neck stiffness and pain
back pain
ptosis
diplopia
dysmetria
unsteady gait
dyspnea
dysarthria
diminished gag reflex
Babinski reflex positive

Synonyms used by Isabel for the above query:

Fever
Thrombocytopenia
Respiratory failure
Back pain
Ptosis
Diplopia
Unsteady gait
Dyspnea
Dysarthria
Dysmetria
Babinski reflex positive
Hyperreflexia
Lymphocytic pleocytosis

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:

Neuroborreliosis or Lyme disease
Leptomeningeal metastases
Lymphoma

Final Diagnosis of the case according to NEJM:

Neuroborreliosis / Lyme Disease

Differential Diagnoses of the case as given by Isabel:

Lyme disease – Isabel 1st page
Leptomeningeal metastases / Carcinomatous Meningitis – click on Neoplastic diseases heading

Was the final diagnosis given by Isabel:

Yes, Isabel 1st page

Entire presentation cut and pasted into the Isabel query box:

Lyme disease – click on Infectious diseases heading

Isabel differential:

<p>NERVOUS SYSTEM DISORDERS << Click here</p> <p>+ Cerebral Sinus Venous Thrombosis RD</p> <p>CVA / Stroke RD</p> <p>Multiple Sclerosis RD</p> <p>+ Cervical Spondylosis RD</p> <p>Atlantoaxial Instability RD</p>	<p>NEUROMUSCULAR DISORDERS << Click here</p> <p>+ Myasthenia Gravis RD</p>
<p>NEOPLASTIC DISEASES << Click here</p>	<p>INFECTIOUS DISEASES << Click here</p> <p>Botulism RD</p> <p>Lyme Disease RD</p> <p>Brucellosis RD</p>
<p>ALLERGIC DISORDERS << Click here</p>	<p>TOXICOLOGY << Click here</p> <p>+ Radioactive Isotopes RD</p>
<p>LIVER DISORDERS << Click here</p>	<p>RESPIRATORY SYSTEM DISORDERS << Click here</p>
	<p>RHEUMATIC DISEASES << Click here</p>