

**Case 2 (January 17 2008):** [N Engl J Med. 358\(3\):275-289](#)

**Demographic:** Female, 38 yrs, Pregnancy Not-specified, America North,  
General speciality

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

postpartum loss of vision  
shortness of breath  
headaches  
tachycardia  
renal failure  
arthralgias  
generalized edema  
scotomata  
mitral regurgitation

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

Shortness of breath  
Headaches  
Tachycardia  
Arthralgias  
Scotomata  
Mitral regurgitation  
Generalized edema  
Renal failure

**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:***

Antiphospholipid Antibody Syndrome  
Cryoglobulinemia

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

Postpartum renal failure due to thrombotic microangiopathy, associated with antiphospholipid antibodies.

***Differential Diagnoses of the cases given by Isabel:***

Antiphospholipid Antibody Syndrome – under Rheumatic diseases heading  
Cryoglobulinemia – under Rheumatic diseases heading

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

Yes, under Rheumatic diseases heading



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**Isabel Differential:**

<p><b>INFECTIOUS DISEASES</b> &lt;&lt; click to expand</p> <p><a href="#">Meningococcal Disease</a> ? Related Dx</p>	<p><b>RESPIRATORY SYSTEM DISORDERS</b></p> <p><a href="#">Sarcoidosis</a> ? Related Dx</p>
<p><b>GASTROINTESTINAL DISORDERS</b> &lt;&lt; click to expand</p> <p><a href="#">Food Poisoning</a> ? Related Dx</p>	<p><b>SHOCK STATES</b></p> <p><a href="#">Cardiogenic Shock</a> ? Related Dx</p>
<p><b>RHEUMATIC DISEASES</b> &gt;&gt; click to collapse</p> <p><a href="#">SLE</a> ? Related Dx</p> <p><a href="#">Systemic Sclerosis</a> ? Related Dx</p> <p><a href="#">Polyarteritis Nodosa</a> ? Related Dx</p> <p><a href="#">Antiphospholipid Syndrome</a> ? Related Dx</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #ffff00; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> <p><b>Why did this diagnosis come up ?</b></p> <p><b>We matched the terms:</b> renal failure   mitral insufficiency   mr   mitral valve insufficiency   sob   shortness of breath   dib   headache   headaches   loss   vision</p> </div> <p><a href="#">Wegener's Granulomatosis</a> ? Related Dx</p> <p><a href="#">Cryoglobulinemia</a> ? Related Dx</p> <p><a href="#">Behçet's Syndrome</a> ? Related Dx</p> <p><a href="#">Churg-Strauss Syndrome</a> ? Related Dx</p> <p><a href="#">Relapsing Polychondritis</a> ? Related Dx</p> <p><a href="#">Amyloidosis</a> ? Related Dx</p> <p><a href="#">Microscopic Polyangiitis</a> ? Related Dx</p>	<p><b>HEMATOLOGY</b></p> <p><a href="#">Methemoglobinemia</a> ? Related Dx</p>
<p><b>CARDIAC DISORDERS</b> &lt;&lt; click to expand</p> <p><a href="#">Infective Endocarditis</a> ? Related Dx</p> <p><a href="#">Hypertension in Pregnancy</a> ? Related Dx</p>	<p><b>NERVOUS SYSTEM DISORDERS</b> &lt;&lt; click to expand</p> <p><a href="#">Cerebral Sinus Venous Thrombosis</a> ? Related Dx</p>
<p><b>NEOPLASTIC DISEASES</b></p> <p><a href="#">Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma</a> ? Related Dx</p>	<p><b>OBSTETRIC DISORDERS</b> &lt;&lt; click to expand</p> <p><a href="#">Puerperium Complications</a> ♀ ? Related Dx</p>
<p><b>GYNECOLOGICAL DISORDERS</b></p> <p><a href="#">Breast Cancer</a> ♀ ? Related Dx</p>	<p><b>ENDOCRINE SYSTEM</b> &lt;&lt; click to expand</p> <p><a href="#">Hyperthyroidism</a> ? Related Dx</p>
<p><b>NEPHROLOGY</b> &lt;&lt; click to expand</p> <p><a href="#">Renal Failure</a> ? Related Dx</p>	<p><b>DERMATOLOGY</b> &lt;&lt; click to expand</p> <p><a href="#">Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis</a> ? Related Dx</p>
<p><b>NUTRITIONAL DISORDERS</b> &lt;&lt; click to expand</p> <p><a href="#">Vit C Deficiency</a> ? Related Dx</p>	<p><b>OPHTHALMOLOGY</b> &lt;&lt; click to expand</p> <p><a href="#">Retinitis Pigmentosa</a> ? Related Dx</p>
<p><b>TOXICOLOGY</b> &lt;&lt; click to expand</p> <p><a href="#">Heavy Metal Intoxication</a> ? Related Dx</p>	<p><b>ALLERGIC DISORDERS</b></p> <p><a href="#">Arthropod Allergy</a> ? Related Dx</p>
<p><b>ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HAZARDS</b> &lt;&lt; click to expand</p> <p><a href="#">Decompression Illness</a> ? Related Dx</p>	