

Case 15 (May 19 2005): [N Engl J Med 2005;352:2111-9](#)

Demographics: Male, 80yrs, America North, General speciality

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

shortness of breath
pleural effusions
peripheral edema
fatigue
increased respiratory effort
hypotension
low oxygen saturation
atrial fibrillation
proteinuria
monoclonal immunoglobulin protein in the serum and urine
hypoalbuminemia
elevated serum alkaline phosphatase with mild aminotransferase elevation
macroglossia

Synonyms used by Isabel for the above query:

shortness of breath
peripheral edema
hypotension
low oxygen saturation
atrial fibrillation
proteinuria
hypoalbuminemia
macroglossia
fatigue

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:

Systemic Amyloidosis - AL
Nephrotic syndrome
SLE

Final Diagnoses of the case according to NEJM:

Systemic Amyloidosis, AL type

Differential Diagnoses of the case as given by Isabel:

Systemic Amyloidosis (AL) – Isabel 1st page
Nephrotic syndrome – click on Nephrology heading
SLE – click on Rheumatic diseases heading

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>RHEUMATIC DISEASES << Click here</p> <p>+ Amyloidosis RD</p>	<p>LIVER DISORDERS << Click here</p> <p>+ Liver Abscess RD</p> <p>+ Cholangitis RD</p> <p>+ Cholestasis RD</p>
<p>CARDIAC DISORDERS << Click here</p> <p>Heart Failure / CHF RD</p>	<p>NEOPLASTIC DISEASES << Click here</p> <p>Liver Neoplasms RD</p> <p>+ Pancreatic Neoplasms RD</p>
<p>INFECTIOUS DISEASES << Click here</p> <p>+ Toxic Shock Syndrome RD</p> <p>Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever RD</p>	<p>RESPIRATORY SYSTEM DISORDERS << Click here</p> <p>+ Lung Neoplasms RD</p>
<p>ENDOCRINE SYSTEM << Click here</p>	<p>NEPHROLOGY << Click here</p>
<p>GASTROINTESTINAL DISORDERS << Click here</p>	<p>HEMATOLOGY << Click here</p>
	<p>SHOCK STATES << Click here</p>