

Case 19 (June 23 2005): [N Engl J Med 2005;352:2734-2741](#)

Demographic: Female, 17 yrs, Not Pregnant, Asia Southeast, General speciality

Asia Southeast chosen as the region as the person was a victim of the Tsunami and lived in that region. Choosing Asia Southeast means diagnoses are sorted according to region prevalence.

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

respiratory distress
hemiparesis
aspirated water
cough
headache
nausea
vomiting
decreased appetite
difficulty swallowing
hypotensive
pleural effusion
prolonged capillary refill
babinski reflex
hydropneumothorax
flaccid paralysis
change in mental status

Synonyms used by Isabel for the above query:

Babinski reflex
cough
headache
respiratory distress
vomiting
decreased appetite
pleural effusion
flaccid paralysis

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:

Aspiration Pneumonia
Mycobacterium Tuberculosis
Burkholderia
Cerebral Venous Sinus Thrombosis
Multiple Sclerosis
Acute Demyelinating Encephalomyelitis
Brain Abscess

Final Diagnoses of the case according to NEJM:

Tsunami Related Aspiration Pneumonia
Lung Abscesses
Brain Abscesses

Differential Diagnoses of the case as given by Isabel:

Aspiration Pneumonia – Yes, 1st page
 Mycobacterium Tuberculosis – Yes, 1st page
 Burkholderia - No
 Cerebral Venous Sinus Thrombosis – Yes, click on Nervous system heading
 Multiple Sclerosis - No
 Acute Demyelinating Encephalomyelitis Yes, Click on Infectious diseases heading
 Brain Abscess – Yes, 1st page

Was the final diagnosis given by Isabel:

Tsunami Related Aspiration Pneumonia – Yes, 1st page
 Lung Abscess – Yes, Click on Respiratory disorders heading
 Brain Abscess – Yes, Click on Nervous system heading

Entire presentation cut and pasted into the Isabel query box:

Tsunami Related Aspiration Pneumonia – No
 Lung Abscess – No
 Brain Abscess - No

Isabel differential for extracted features:

Aspiration Pneumonia:

CARDIAC DISORDERS << Click here Heart Failure / CHF RD Myocarditis RD	INFECTIOUS DISEASES << Click here ↳ Arboviral Infections / Encephalitides RD ↳ Viral Meningoencephalitis RD
SHOCK STATES << Click here ↳ Sepsis and Shock RD Cardiogenic Shock RD	GYNECOLOGICAL DISORDERS << Click here Ovarian Neoplasms ♀ RD
RESPIRATORY SYSTEM DISORDERS << Click here ↳ Aspiration Syndromes RD ↳ Atypical Pneumonia RD ↑ Aspiration Pneumonia RD	GASTROINTESTINAL DISORDERS << Click here RHEUMATIC DISEASES << Click here PSYCHOLOGIC DISORDERS << Click here
NERVOUS SYSTEM DISORDERS << Click here	TOXICOLOGY << Click here

Lung Abscess – Click on Respiratory disorders heading

RESPIRATORY SYSTEM DISORDERS	
↳ <u>Aspiration Syndromes</u>	RD
↳ <u>Atypical Pneumonia</u>	RD
↳ <u>Lung Neoplasms</u>	RD
<u>Sarcoidosis</u>	RD
<u>Lung Abscess</u>	RD

Brain Abscess – Click on Nervous system disorders heading

NERVOUS SYSTEM DISORDERS	
↳ <u>Intracranial Abscess</u>	RD
↑ <u>Otogenic Brain Abscess thrombosis</u>	RD
↳ <u>Brain Neoplasms</u>	RD
↳ <u>Intracranial Hemorrhage</u>	RD
<u>Intracranial Hypertension</u>	RD
<u>CVA / Stroke</u>	RD
<u>Cerebral Palsy</u>	RD