

Case 4 (February 9th 2006): [N Engl J Med 2006;354:623-30.](#)

Case 4-2006 — A 79-Year-Old Woman with Myalgias, Fatigue, and Shortness of Breath

Demographic: Female, 79 years, America North, General speciality

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

Initial presentation:

Myalgias
Sore throat
Fatigue

7 months:

Myalgia
fatigue
pain over lateral aspect of chest wall extending to rib cage
lump in her throat when swallowing and had pain that radiated to her right ear
bilateral shoulder ache
neck and back pain

11 days:

Chronic myalgia
Chronic fatigue
Unbearable pain in the morning
Sore throat
pain over lateral aspect of chest wall extending to rib cage
tenderness with abduction of the shoulders

Admission:

myalgia
fatigue
chronic pain in the morning
sore throat
increased proximal muscle weakness
tenderness with abduction of shoulders
pain over lateral aspect of chest wall extending to rib cage
high ESR
inspiratory crackles at both lung bases
pitting edema of the lower limbs

patchy bibasilar atelectasis
hoarseness
exertional dyspnea

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

Exertional dyspnea
High ESR
Hoarseness
Myalgia
Sore throat

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:

Polymyalgia rheumatica
Giant Cell Arteritis

Final Diagnosis of the case according to NEJM:

Giant Cell Arteritis

Differential Diagnoses of the case as given by Isabel:

Polymyalgia Rheumatica – Isabel 1st page
Giant Cell Arteritis – Isabel 1st page

Was the final diagnosis given by Isabel?

Yes, Giant Cell Arteritis (Isabel 1st page)

Entire presentation cut and pasted into the Isabel query box:

Giant cell arteritis – Isabel 1st page
Polymyalgia rheumatica – Isabel 1st page

Isabel Differential:

<p>RESPIRATORY SYSTEM DISORDERS</p> <p>COPD <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>↳ Lung Neoplasms <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>↳ Interstitial Lung Disease <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Emphysema <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>↳ Bacterial Pneumonia <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>RHEUMATIC DISEASES</p> <p>Polymyalgia Rheumatica <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Giant Cell Arteritis <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>SLE <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>↳ Spondyloarthropathies <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>INFECTIOUS DISEASES</p> <p>Brucellosis <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Herpes Zoster/Shingles Infection <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>↳ Yersinia Infection <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>GASTROINTESTINAL DISORDERS</p> <p>Gastroesophageal Reflux <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>ALLERGIC DISORDERS</p> <p>↳ Food Allergy/Intolerance <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>NEUROMUSCULAR DISORDERS</p> <p>Dermatomyositis / Polymyositis <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Endocrine Myopathies <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Alcoholic Myopathy <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>NERVOUS SYSTEM DISORDERS</p> <p>Parkinson's Disease <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>ORTHOPEDIC DISORDERS</p> <p>Hand and Wrist Ligament Injuries <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Vit D Deficient Rickets/Osteomalacia <input type="checkbox"/></p>