
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESPIRATORY SYSTEM DISORDERS</th>
<th>RHEUMATIC DISEASES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COPD</td>
<td>Polymyalgia Rheumatica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lung Neoplasms</td>
<td>Giant Cell Arteritis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interstitial Lung Disease</td>
<td>SLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emphysema</td>
<td>Spondyloarthropathies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bacterial Pneumonia</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INFECTION DISORDERS</th>
<th>GASTROINTESTINAL DISORDERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brucellosis</td>
<td>Gastroesophageal Reflux</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herpes Zoster/Shingles Infection</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yersinia Infection</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ALLERGIC DISORDERS</th>
<th>NEUROMUSCULAR DISORDERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food Allergy/Intolerance</td>
<td>Dermatomyositis / Polymyositis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Endocrine Myopathies</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alcoholic Myopathy</td>
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</tbody>
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<tr>
<th>NERVOUS SYSTEM DISORDERS</th>
<th>ORTHOPEDIC DISORDERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parkinson's Disease</td>
<td>Hand and Wrist Ligament Injuries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vit D Deficient</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rickets/Osteomalacia</td>
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</tbody>
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