Case 7 (March 9 2006): N Engl J Med 2006;354:1065-72.

Case 7-2006 — A 47-Year-Old Man with Altered Mental Status and Acute Renal Failure

Demographic: Male, 47 years, America North, General speciality

Clinical features extracted from the case and entered into the query box:
obtunded
hyperchloremic acidosis and anion-gap metabolic acidosis
calcium oxalate crystalluria
generalized tonic-clonic seizure
vomiting
bilateral rhonchi
small left perihilar opacity
hyperglycemia
high creatinine

Synonyms used by Isabel (optional) for the above query:
high creatinine
hyperglycemia
vomiting

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:

Four Main Causes of Anion-Gap Metabolic Acidosis.
Lactate
-Carbon monoxide
-Cyanide
-Isoniazid (>30 mg/kg)
-Iron
-Salicylates (cytochrome poisoning)
-Metformin
-Acute alcohol intoxication

Ketoacidosis
-Diabetic ketoacidosis
-Alcoholic ketoacidosis

Renal failure
-Uremia, decreased secretion of ammonium, hydrogen sulfate, hydrogen phosphate
-Toxins and metabolites
-Toluene
-Methanol, ethylene glycol, paraldehyde (metabolized to formate, oxalate, acetate)

Final Diagnosis of the case according to NEJM:
Ethylene glycol intoxication

Differential Diagnoses of the case as given by Isabel:
Ethylene glycol intoxication – Isabel 1st page
Diabetic Ketoacidosis – Isabel 1st page
Renal Tubular acidosis – Isabel 1st page
Alcohol toxicity – Isabel 1st page
Salicylate toxicity – Isabel 1st page
Methanol toxicity – Isabel 1st page
Isoniazid toxicity – Isabel 2nd page & on clicking on speciality heading

Was the final diagnosis given by Isabel?
Yes, Ethylene glycol intoxication (Isabel 1st page).

Entire presentation cut and pasted into the Isabel query box:
None of the above

Isabel Differential: