

Case 8 (March 16 2006): [N Engl J Med 2006;354:1178-84.](#)

Case 8-2006 — A 71-Year-Old Woman with Crohn's Disease and Altered Mental Status

Demographic: Female, 71 years, America North, General speciality

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

2 months before admission:

Fatigue
blurred vision
headaches
unsteady gait
Mass in right inguinal area

Admission:

Fatigue
blurred vision
headaches
unsteady gait
Mass in right inguinal area
Weight loss
Nausea
Fever

2 days after admission:

Fatigue
blurred vision
headaches
unsteady gait
Mass in right inguinal area
Weight loss
Nausea
Fever
Left sided weakness
Seizure
Brain mass

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

Admission:

Blurred vision
Fever
Weight loss

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:

Abscess
Tuberculosis
Metastatic carcinoma
Lymphoma

Final Diagnosis of the case according to NEJM:

Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (B-cell lymphoma, probably large-B-cell lymphoma that is EBV-positive, associated with immunosuppression)

Differential Diagnoses of the case as given by Isabel:

Admission:

Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma - Diffuse Large B Cell Lymphoma – Isabel 1st page
Tuberculosis – Isabel 2nd page & on clicking on specialty heading

Was the final diagnosis given by Isabel?

Admission:

Non Hodgkins Lymphoma – Diffuse Large B Cell Lymphoma (Isabel 1st page)

Entire presentation cut and pasted into the Isabel query box:

Tuberculosis – Isabel 2nd page & on clicking on specialty heading

Isabel Differential:

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>NERVOUS SYSTEM DISORDERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parkinson's Disease <input type="checkbox"/> ↳ Brain Neoplasms <input type="checkbox"/> ↳ Intracranial Hemorrhage <input type="checkbox"/> CVA/Stroke <input type="checkbox"/> Ataxic Disorders <input type="checkbox"/> Intracranial Hypertension <input type="checkbox"/> | <p>INFECTIOUS DISEASES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↳ Salmonella Infections <input type="checkbox"/> ↳ Toxoplasmosis <input type="checkbox"/> Viral Hepatitis <input type="checkbox"/> Q Fever <input type="checkbox"/> ↳ Bartonella Infection <input type="checkbox"/> Brucellosis <input type="checkbox"/> ↳ Yersinia Infection <input type="checkbox"/> Cryptococcus Neoformans <input type="checkbox"/> Tuberculosis <input type="checkbox"/> Babesiosis <input type="checkbox"/> Anthrax <input type="checkbox"/> Clostridial Infections <input type="checkbox"/> Microsporidiosis <input type="checkbox"/> Listeriosis <input type="checkbox"/> Lyme Disease <input type="checkbox"/> Influenza Virus <input type="checkbox"/> Tularemia <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <p>RESPIRATORY SYSTEM DISORDERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sarcoidosis <input type="checkbox"/> Legionnaires' Disease <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| <p>DISORDERS OF THE EAR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vestibular Neuritis <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| <p>NEOPLASTIC DISEASES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↳ Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma <input type="checkbox"/> Carcinoid Tumors <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| <p>GASTROINTESTINAL DISORDERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hepatocellular Failure <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | <p>RHEUMATIC DISEASES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SLE <input type="checkbox"/> |