

Case 27 (September 8 2005): [N Engl J Med 2005;353:1042-50](#)

Demographic: Male, 80 yrs, America North, General speciality

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

fatigue
insomnia
confusion
hypertension
nystagmus
unsteady gait
startle myoclonus and fasciculations in the legs

Synonyms used by Isabel for the above query:

Fatigue
Insomnia
Confusion
Hypertension
Unsteady gait

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

Final Diagnoses of the case according to NEJM:

Creutzfeldt–Jakob disease

Differential Diagnoses of the case as given by Isabel:

Creutzfeldt–Jakob disease (Human Prion disease) – Isabel 1st page

Was the final diagnosis given by Isabel:

Yes, Isabel 1st page

Entire presentation cut and pasted into the Isabel query box:

None of the above

Isabel differential of extracted features:

<p>NUTRITIONAL DISORDERS << Click here</p> <p>↳ Thiamine Deficiency RD</p>	<p>INFECTIOUS DISEASES << Click here</p> <p>Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever RD</p> <p>Limbic Encephalitis RD</p> <p>↳ Yersinia Infection RD</p>
<p>TOXICOLOGY << Click here</p> <p>↳ Radioactive Isotopes RD</p>	<p>NERVOUS SYSTEM DISORDERS << Click here</p> <p>↳ Human Prion Diseases RD</p> <p>Multiple Sclerosis RD</p>
<p>PSYCHOLOGIC DISORDERS << Click here</p> <p>PTSD RD</p>	<p>ORTHOPEDIC DISORDERS << Click here</p> <p>Paget's Disease RD</p>
<p>DISORDERS OF THE EAR << Click here</p> <p>Vestibular Neuritis RD</p>	<p>NEUROMUSCULAR DISORDERS << Click here</p>
<p>CARDIAC DISORDERS << Click here</p>	<p>NEPHROLOGY << Click here</p>
<p>RESPIRATORY SYSTEM DISORDERS << Click here</p>	<p>ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HAZARDS << Click here</p>
<p>GASTROINTESTINAL DISORDERS << Click here</p>	
<p>DERMATOLOGY << Click here</p>	
<p>LIVER DISORDERS << Click here</p>	
<p>RHEUMATIC DISEASES << Click here</p>	

Isabel differential for features – Dementia / myoclonic jerking:

<p>NERVOUS SYSTEM DISORDERS << Click here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lewy Body Dementia RD Alzheimer's Disease RD Corticobasal Degeneration RD ↳ Human Prion Diseases RD ↳ Mitochondrial Encephalomyopathies RD ↳ Chorea Disorders RD ↳ Epilepsy & Seizure Disorders RD ↳ Vascular Dementia RD Septic Encephalopathy RD Progressive Supranuclear Palsy RD HIE RD Frontotemporal Dementia RD Delayed Postanoxic Encephalopathy RD Susac Syndrome RD 	<p>GASTROINTESTINAL DISORDERS << Click here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whipple Disease RD
<p>NEUROMUSCULAR DISORDERS << Click here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motor Neurone Disease RD 	<p>ENDOCRINE SYSTEM << Click here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hashimoto's Thyroiditis RD
<p>TOXICOLOGY << Click here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↳ Alcohol Toxicity RD ↳ Drug Overdose/Poisoning RD ↳ Pesticides Toxicity RD 	<p>INFECTIOUS DISEASES << Click here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limbic Encephalitis RD ↳ Enterovirus Infections RD ↳ Measles Infection RD ↳ Syphilis RD
	<p>OPHTHALMOLOGY << Click here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opsoclonus RD
	<p>NEPHROLOGY << Click here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↳ Renal Failure RD
	<p>PSYCHOLOGIC DISORDERS << Click here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depression RD
	<p>LIVER DISORDERS << Click here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↳ Hepatocellular Failure RD