

**Case 29 (September 22 2005):** [N Engl J Med 2005;353:1275-84](#)

**Demographic:** Male, 68 yrs, America north, General speciality

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

periorbital edema  
mild crusting of the skin and malar erythema  
tender, erythematous macular areas on the scalp  
brightly erythematous, excoriated, morbilliform papular eruption over the midsternal region, the upper arm, neck and upper back.  
ill-defined areas of erythema over the proximal and distal interphalangeal joints  
plantar responses flexor  
hypophonia  
dysphagia  
muscle tenderness  
heliotropic rash  
proximal muscle weakness, with truncal instability  
elevated creatine kinase

***Synonyms used by Isabel for the above query:***

Hypophonia  
dysphagia  
Muscle tenderness  
Elevated creatine kinase

**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:***

Contact dermatitis  
SLE (malar erythema and possible photosensitivity)  
Drug-induced exanthem  
Seborrheic dermatitis  
Dermatomyositis  
Polymyositis  
Vasculitis (such as lupus vasculitis or polyarteritis nodosa),  
Polymyalgia rheumatica  
Myasthenia gravis  
Other metabolic myopathies and infection.

***Final Diagnoses of the case according to NEJM:***

Dermatomyositis, due to a malignant tumor in the abdomen

***Differential Diagnoses of the case as given by Isabel:***

Dermatomyositis – Isabel 1<sup>st</sup> page  
Allergic drug reactions – Isabel 1<sup>st</sup> page  
SLE – click on Rheumatic diseases heading  
Rheumatoid arthritis – click on Rheumatic diseases heading  
Epstein–Barr virus – click on Infectious diseases heading  
Systemic sclerosis – click on Rheumatic diseases heading  
Seborrheic dermatitis – click on Allergic disorders heading

***Was the final diagnosis given by Isabel:***

Yes, Isabel 1<sup>st</sup> page

***Entire presentation cut and pasted into the Isabel query box:***

Dermatomyositis – Isabel 1<sup>st</sup> page  
SLE – click on Rheumatic diseases heading  
Epstein–Barr virus – click on Infectious diseases heading  
Systemic sclerosis – click on Rheumatic diseases heading

**Isabel differential:**

<p><b>NEUROMUSCULAR DISORDERS</b> &lt;&lt; <a href="#">Click here</a></p> <p><u>Dermatomyositis / Polymyositis</u> <b>RD</b></p>	<p><b>DERMATOLOGY</b> &lt;&lt; <a href="#">Click here</a></p> <p><u>Dermatophyte Infections</u> <b>RD</b></p> <p><u>Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis</u> <b>RD</b></p> <p><u>Pityriasis Lichenoides</u> <b>RD</b></p> <p><u>Miliaria</u> <b>RD</b></p>
<p><b>INFECTIOUS DISEASES</b> &lt;&lt; <a href="#">Click here</a></p> <p><u>Lyme Disease</u> <b>RD</b></p> <p><u>Herpes Simplex Virus Infection</u> <b>RD</b></p>	<p><b>RESPIRATORY SYSTEM DISORDERS</b> &lt;&lt; <a href="#">Click here</a></p> <p>↳ <u>Lung Neoplasms</u> <b>RD</b></p>
<p><b>IMMUNOLOGIC SYSTEM</b> &lt;&lt; <a href="#">Click here</a></p> <p><u>Eosinophilia-Myalgia Syndrome</u> <b>RD</b></p>	<p><b>ALLERGIC DISORDERS</b> &lt;&lt; <a href="#">Click here</a></p> <p>↳ <u>Urticaria / AnGIOedema</u> <b>RD</b></p>
<p><b>RHEUMATIC DISEASES</b> &lt;&lt; <a href="#">Click here</a></p>	<p><b>DISORDERS OF THE EAR</b> &lt;&lt; <a href="#">Click here</a></p>
<p><b>NERVOUS SYSTEM DISORDERS</b> &lt;&lt; <a href="#">Click here</a></p>	<p><b>TOXICOLOGY</b> &lt;&lt; <a href="#">Click here</a></p>
	<p><b>GASTROINTESTINAL DISORDERS</b> &lt;&lt; <a href="#">Click here</a></p>
	<p><b>SOCIAL ISSUES</b> &lt;&lt; <a href="#">Click here</a></p>
	<p><b>ORTHOPEDIC DISORDERS</b> &lt;&lt; <a href="#">Click here</a></p>