

**Case 16 (May 25 2006):** [N Engl J Med 2006;354:2263-71](#)

**Case 16-2006 — A 72-Year-Old Woman Admitted to the Emergency Department because of a Sudden Change in Mental Status**

**Demographic:** Female, 72 yrs, America North, General speciality

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

low GCS  
left hemiparesis  
slurred speech  
deviation of gaze to the right  
hypercholesterolemia

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

low GCS  
hypercholesterolemia

**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:***

Acute stroke

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

Acute ischemic stroke

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

CVA/Stroke – Isabel 1<sup>st</sup> page

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

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

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

None of the above

***Isabel differential:***

<p><b>NERVOUS SYSTEM DISORDERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↳ CVA/Stroke <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>↳ Intracranial Hemorrhage <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>↳ Aphasic Syndromes <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li style="padding-left: 20px;">Vascular Dementia <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>↳ Brain Neoplasms <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li style="padding-left: 20px;">Progressive Supranuclear Palsy <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li style="padding-left: 20px;">Multiple Sclerosis <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li style="padding-left: 20px;">Subdural Empyema <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li style="padding-left: 20px;">Epilepsy &amp; Seizure Disorders <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>↳ Ataxic Disorders <input type="checkbox"/></li> </ul>	<p><b>INFECTIOUS DISEASES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bacterial Meningitis <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>↳ Viral Meningoencephalitis <input type="checkbox"/></li> </ul>
	<p><b>NUTRITIONAL DISORDERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↳ Thiamine Deficiency <input type="checkbox"/></li> </ul>
	<p><b>OPHTHALMOLOGY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↳ Strabismus Disorders <input type="checkbox"/></li> </ul>
	<p><b>GASTROINTESTINAL DISORDERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hepatic Encephalopathy <input type="checkbox"/></li> </ul>
<p><b>HEMATOLOGY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Septic Intracranial Thrombophlebitis <input type="checkbox"/></li> </ul>	<p><b>CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↳ Conduction Defects <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>↳ Supraventricular Tachycardia <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>↳ Left-to-Right Shunt Lesions <input type="checkbox"/></li> </ul>
<p><b>ENDOCRINE SYSTEM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hypothyroidism <input type="checkbox"/></li> </ul>	