

Case 21 (July 13 2006): [N Engl J Med 2006;355:183-8](#)

Demographic: Male, 61 yrs, America North, General speciality

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

Chronic unilateral facial pain

sharp, electrical or lancinating pain when eating, talking or touching facial hair

duller, throbbing pain over the maxilla, lips, and lower jaw, sensitivity over maxillary and mandibular bone

Synonyms used by Isabel (optional) for the above query:
none

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:

Differential diagnoses for chronic facial pain includes inflammatory, infectious, and neoplastic processes

- **Trigeminal Neuralgia**
- **Dental pathology** - broken teeth, dental caries, root abscesses
- **Causes of Secondary Trigeminal Neuralgia** - Multiple Sclerosis and acoustic neuroma; tumors and cysts in the cerebellopontine angle
- **Atypical Facial Pain**

Final Diagnoses of the case according to NEJM:

Left trigeminal neuralgia

Differential Diagnoses of the case as given by Isabel:

Trigeminal neuralgia – Isabel 1st page

Dental occlusion – Isabel 1st page

Oral cancer – Isabel 1st page

Was the final diagnosis given by Isabel:

Yes, Isabel 1st page

Entire presentation cut and pasted into the Isabel query box:

Trigeminal neuralgia – Isabel 1st page

Oral cancer – Isabel 1st page

Dental occlusion – Isabel 2nd page

Isabel differential:

<p>GASTROINTESTINAL DISORDERS ▾</p> <p>Dental Occlusion <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> R</p> <p>Oral Cancer <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> R</p>	<p>NERVOUS SYSTEM DISORDERS ▾</p> <p>↳ Trigeminal Nerve Disorders <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> R</p> <p>↳ Migraine <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> R</p> <p>↳ Brain Neoplasms <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> R</p> <p>Syringomyelia <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> R</p>
<p>RHEUMATIC DISEASES ▾</p> <p>Giant Cell Arteritis <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> R</p>	<p>RESPIRATORY SYSTEM DISORDERS ▾</p> <p>↳ Sinusitis <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> R</p> <p>Sarcoidosis <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> R</p> <p>↳ Bacterial Pneumonia <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> R</p>
<p>ORTHOPEDIC DISORDERS ▾</p> <p>TM Joint syndrome <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> R</p> <p>Paget's Disease <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> R</p>	<p>NEUROMUSCULAR DISORDERS ▾</p> <p>↳ Polyneuropathy Disorders <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> R</p> <p>↳ Muscular Dystrophies <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> R</p>
<p>NEOPLASTIC DISEASES ▾</p> <p>Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis Class1 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> R</p> <p>Carcinoid Syndrome <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> R</p>	<p>INFECTIOUS DISEASES ▾</p> <p>Lyme Disease <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> R</p> <p>Herpes Zoster <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> R</p>
<p>DISORDERS OF THE EAR ▾</p> <p>External Otitis <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> R</p> <p>↳ Otitis Media Complications <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> R</p>	