

Case 25 (August 17 2006): [N Engl J Med 2006;355:714-22](#)

Demographic: Female, 41yrs, Not pregnant, America North,
General speciality

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

multiple painful subcutaneous nodules
weight loss
fever
decreased appetite
fatigue

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

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:

Erythema nodosum
Panniculitis
Lipomas
Liposarcoma

Final Diagnoses of the case according to NEJM:

Adiposis dolorosa (Dercum's disease)

Differential Diagnoses of the case as given by Isabel:

Erythema nodosum (Neurophilic dermatoses) – Isabel 1st page

Panniculitis – Isabel 1st page

Adiposis dolorosa (Dercum's disease) – Isabel 2nd page

Lipoma – by clicking on a heading

Was the final diagnosis given by Isabel:

Yes, Isabel 2nd page

Entire presentation cut and pasted into the Isabel query box:

None of above

Isabel differential:

INFECTIOUS DISEASES ▾		
Brucellosis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> R
↳ Bartonella Infection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> R
Nocardia Infection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> R
Lyme Disease	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> R
↳ Tuberculosis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> R
Pseudomonas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> R
NEOPLASTIC DISEASES ▾		
↳ Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> R
↳ Leukemia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> R
↳ Liver Neoplasms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> R
DERMATOLOGY ▾		
Furuncles and Carbuncles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> R
Panniculitis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> R
Dercum's Disease	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> R
CARDIAC DISORDERS ▾		
Infective Endocarditis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> R
TOXICOLOGY ▾		
↳ Heavy Metal Intoxication	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> R
RESPIRATORY SYSTEM DISORDERS ▾		
Sarcoidosis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> R
Pulmonary TB	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> R
BOOP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> R
RHEUMATIC DISEASES ▾		
SLE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> R
Lymphomatoid Granulomatosis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> R
↳ Neutrophilic Dermatoses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> R
↳ Reactive Arthritis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> R
Polyarteritis Nodosa	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> R
Cutaneous Vasculitis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> R
Churg-Strauss Syndrome	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> R
Rheumatoid Arthritis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> R
Giant Cell Arteritis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> R
Sjögren's Syndrome	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> R
ENDOCRINE SYSTEM ▾		
Hyperthyroidism	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> R
ALLERGIC DISORDERS ▾		
↳ Arthropod Allergy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> R
METABOLIC DISEASES ▾		
↳ Primary Dyslipidemias	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> R