

Case 39 (December 21 2006): [N Engl J Med 2006;355:2678-](#)

Demographic: Female, 24 yrs, Not pregnant, America North, General speciality

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

fever
seizures
weakness
brain lesion
slurred speech
intermittent numbness of tongue
joint pain
hemiparesis
headaches
loss of balance
altered mental status

Synonyms used by Isabel for the above query:

Altered mental status
Joint pain
Seizures
Fever
Slurred speech

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:

SLE Activity

Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy

Primary CNS Lymphoma

Final Diagnoses of the case according to NEJM:

Granulomatous Amebic Encephalitis due to Acanthamoeba

Differential Diagnoses of the case as given by Isabel:

SLE Activity – Isabel 1st page

Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy – Isabel 1st page

Primary CNS Lymphoma – Isabel 1st page

Was the final diagnosis given by Isabel:

Yes, Isabel 1st page

Entire presentation cut and pasted into the Isabel query box:

Granulomatous Amebic Encephalitis due to Acanthamoeba - No

SLE Activity – Click on Rheumatic diseases heading

Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy – No

Primary CNS Lymphoma – No

Isabel differential for extracted features:

<p>NERVOUS SYSTEM DISORDERS << Click here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↳ Brain Neoplasms RD ↳ Multiple Sclerosis RD ↳ Syringomyelia RD ↳ Progressive Multifocal Leucoencephalopathy RD ↳ CVA / Stroke RD 	<p>INFECTIOUS DISEASES << Click here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↳ Toxoplasmosis RD ↳ Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis RD ↳ Arboviral Infections / Encephalitides RD
<p>IMMUNOLOGIC SYSTEM << Click here</p>	<p>RHEUMATIC DISEASES << Click here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↳ SLE RD ↳ Malignant Atrophic Papulosis / Degos's Disease RD
<p>RESPIRATORY SYSTEM DISORDERS << Click here</p>	<p>CARDIAC DISORDERS << Click here</p>
<p>ENDOCRINE SYSTEM << Click here</p>	<p>TOXICOLOGY << Click here</p>
<p>NEUROMUSCULAR DISORDERS << Click here</p>	<p>ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HAZARDS << Click here</p>