

**Case 34 (November 10 2005):** [N Engl J Med 2005;353:2057-66](#)

**Demographic:** Female, 10yrs, America North, General Speciality

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

fever

rash

petechiae

diffuse, erythematous morbilliform rash with extensive confluence, visible on upper body, with blanching and vesicles

Nikolskys sign positive

multiple vesicles and ulcers on the oral and lingual mucosa, with desquamation of the lingual mucosa

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

Fever

Rash

Petechiae

Nikolskys sign positive

**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:***

**Table 3. Differential Diagnosis of Bullous Exfoliative Erythroderma in a Child.**

Bullous erythema multiforme  
Stevens–Johnson syndrome or toxic epidermal necrolysis  
Staphylococcal scalded skin syndrome (Staphylococcus aureus exotoxin, phage group II, type 71)  
Infection with varicella–zoster virus  
Generalized contact dermatitis  
Scarlet fever (due to group A beta-hemolytic streptococcal exotoxin)  
Toxic shock syndrome  
Bullous congenital ichthyosiform erythroderma (epidermolytic hyperkeratosis)  
Primary immunologically mediated bullous diseases (bullous pemphigoid, linear IgA disease of childhood)  
Bullous lupus erythematosus  
Bullous mastocytosis

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

Toxic epidermal necrolysis

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

Toxic epidermal necrolysis – Isabel 1<sup>st</sup> page  
Staphylococcal scalded skin syndrome (SSSS) – Isabel 1<sup>st</sup> page  
Toxic shock syndrome – Isabel 1<sup>st</sup> page  
Scarlet fever – Isabel 1<sup>st</sup> page  
Stevens–Johnson syndrome – click on Infectious diseases heading  
Varicella–zoster virus infection – click on Infectious diseases 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:***

None of the above

**Isabel differential:**

**INFECTIOUS DISEASES** << [Click here](#)

- [Meningococcal Disease](#) RD
- ↳ [Toxic Shock Syndrome](#) RD
- [Herpes Simplex Virus Infection](#) RD
- [Measles Infection](#) RD

**HEMATOLOGY** << [Click here](#)

**RHEUMATIC DISEASES** << [Click here](#)

- [Kawasaki Disease](#) RD

**DERMATOLOGY** << [Click here](#)

- [Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis](#) RD
- ↳ [Pemphigus](#) RD
- [Steven-Johnson Syndrome](#) RD
- [Staphylococcal Scalded Skin Syndrome \(SSSS\)](#) RD

**GASTROINTESTINAL DISORDERS** << [Click here](#)

- ↳ [Gingivitis / Stomatitis](#) RD