

Case 8 (March 12 2009): [N Engl J Med. 360\(11\):1126-1137](#)

Demographic: Female, 36 yrs, Pregnancy not specified, America North,
General speciality

Clinical features extracted from the case and entered into the query

box:

frontal headaches
hypertension
seizures
trace peripheral edema
nausea
photophobia
confusion
word finding difficulty
hemiparesis
ataxia
weakness
unresponsive

Synonyms used by Isabel for the above query:

ataxia
hypertension
photophobia
seizures
word finding difficulty
headaches
weakness
peripheral edema
confusion
hemiparesis

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:

Subarachnoid hemorrhage
Cerebral venous sinus thrombosis
Delayed postpartum eclampsia

Final Diagnosis of the case according to NEJM:

Reversible Cerebral Vasoconstriction Syndrome

Differential Diagnoses of the case as given by Isabel:

Subarachnoid hemorrhage – under Intracranial Hemorrhage in Nervous system disorders heading
Cerebral venous sinus thrombosis – under Nervous system disorders heading
Delayed postpartum eclampsia – under Cardiac disorders heading

Was the final diagnosis given by Isabel:

Yes, Reversible Cerebral Vasoconstriction Syndrome – under Nervous system disorders heading

Isabel Differential:

| | |
|---|--|
| - NERVOUS SYSTEM DISORDERS >> click to collapse | + INFECTIOUS DISEASES << click to expand |
| Migraine ? RD | Measles Infection ? RD |
| CVA / Stroke ? RD | Bacterial Meningitis ? RD |
| Transient Ischemic Attack ? RD | Viral Meningoencephalitis ? RD |
| Intracranial Abscess ? RD | Tuberculosis ? RD |
| Intracranial Hemorrhage ? RD | + HEMATOLOGY << click to expand |
| Head Injury ? RD | + CARDIAC DISORDERS << click to expand |
| Multiple Sclerosis ? RD | + METABOLIC DISEASES << click to expand |
| Cerebral Sinus Venous Thrombosis ? RD | + GASTROINTESTINAL DISORDERS << click to expand |
| Mitochondrial Encephalomyopathies ? RD | + ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HAZARDS << click to expand |
| HIV Neuro Complications ? RD | |
| Cerebral AV Malformations ? RD | |
| Brain Neoplasms ? RD | |
| Reversible Cerebral Vasoconstriction Syndrome ? RD | |
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Why did this diagnosis come up ?</p> <p>We matched the terms: ataxia ataxy hypertension htn photophobia seizures seizure headache headaches confusion frontal nausea</p> <hr/> <p>Degree of match between query entered and isabel database (Not clinical probability): 61%</p> </div> | |
| Mova Mova Disease ? RD | |