

Case 14 (April 29 2009): [N Engl J Med. 360\(18\):1886-1895](#)

Demographic: Male, 36 yrs, America North, General speciality

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

chest pain
dysphagia
exertional dyspnea
gastroesophageal reflux
lightheadedness
sinus tachycardia
weakness in arms and legs
migraines
elevated alkaline phosphatase level
hypercalcemia

Synonyms used by Isabel for the above query:

hypercalcemia
chest pain
dysphagia
exertional dyspnea
gastroesophageal reflux
migraine
sinus tachycardia
lightheadedness
weakness

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:

Osteosarcoma

Final Diagnosis of the case according to NEJM:

- Diffuse malignant mesothelioma, with extensive osseous differentiation, involving the pleura, chest wall, lung, mediastinum, esophagus, and pericardium.
- Acute myocardial infarction.

Differential Diagnoses of the case as given by Isabel:

Osteosarcoma – Malignant bone tumors - under Neoplastic diseases.

Was the final diagnosis given by Isabel:

Yes, Pleural mesothelioma – Lung neoplasms under Respiratory disorders.

Acute myocardial infarction – Ischemic heart disease under Cardiac disorders.

Isabel Differential:

| | |
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| <p>+ NERVOUS SYSTEM DISORDERS << click to expand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CVA / Stroke ? RD Transient Ischemic Attack ? RD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vertebrobasilar TIA Intracranial Hemorrhage ? RD | <p>+ ORTHOPEDIC DISORDERS << click to expand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Osteitis Fibrosa Cystica ? RD Paget's Disease ? RD |
| <p>+ CARDIAC DISORDERS << click to expand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ischemic Heart Disease ? RD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Angina Myocardial Infarction / Acute Coronary Syndrome Prinzmetal's Variant Angina Unstable Angina | <p>+ ENDOCRINE SYSTEM << click to expand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hyperthyroidism ? RD |
| <p>+ HEMATOLOGY << click to expand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Iron Deficiency Anemia ? RD | <p>- RESPIRATORY DISORDERS >> click to collapse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lung Neoplasms ? RD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benign Lymphocytic Angiitis Bronchioloalveolar Carcinomas Bronchogenic Carcinoma Lung Carcinosarcomas Lymphoproliferative Disorders of the Lung Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Pleural Mesothelioma Primary Sarcoma of the Lung Pseudotumor of the Lung Pulmonary Metastases Small Cell Lung Carcinoma Thoracic Tumors Sarcoidosis ? RD |
| <p>SHOCK STATES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cardiogenic Shock ? RD | |
| <p>+ RHEUMATIC DISEASES << click to expand</p> | |
| <p>+ NEUROMUSCULAR DISORDERS << click to expand</p> | |
| <p>+ GASTROINTESTINAL DISORDERS << click to expand</p> | |