

**Case 28 (September 13 2007):** [N Engl J Med. 357\(11\):1137-1145](#)

**Demographic:** Male, 68yrs, America North, General speciality

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

syncope  
hemiparesis  
altered mental status  
lethargic  
proteinuria  
ketonuria  
sinus tachycardia with ST elevation  
holosystolic murmur  
abnormal clotting  
elevated aspartate aminotransferase  
elevated cardiac enzymes

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

syncope  
holosystolic murmur  
hemiparesis  
altered mental status  
lethargic  
proteinuria  
ketonuria

**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:***

Embolization of the cerebral, coronary, renal, and mesenteric vasculature  
Cardiac neoplasm - Myxoma

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

Left atrial cardiac myxoma with systemic embolization.

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

Myocardial infarction – Isabel top 10  
Cardiac Mxyoma – click on Cardiac disorders heading, under Cardiac neoplasms  
Renal failure – Isabel top 10

***Was the final diagnosis given by Isabel:***

Yes, click on Cardiac disorders heading, under Cardiac neoplasms

***Isabel differential:***

<b>CARDIAC DISORDERS</b> << Click here	<b>NEUROMUSCULAR DISORDERS</b> << Click here
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Ischemic Heart Disease / Acute Coronary Syndrome</a> <span style="float: right;">? Related Dx</span></li> <li><a href="#">Heart Failure / CHF</a> <span style="float: right;">? Related Dx</span></li> <li><a href="#">Cor Pulmonale</a> <span style="float: right;">? Related Dx</span></li> </ul>	<b>HEMATOLOGY</b> << Click here
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Conduction Defects</a> <span style="float: right;">? Related Dx</span></li> <li><a href="#">Sick Sinus Syndrome</a> <span style="float: right;">? Related Dx</span></li> <li><a href="#">Extrasystoles</a> <span style="float: right;">? Related Dx</span></li> </ul>	<b>LIVER DISORDERS</b> << Click here
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Myocarditis</a> <span style="float: right;">? Related Dx</span></li> <li><a href="#">Cardiomyopathy</a> <span style="float: right;">? Related Dx</span></li> <li><a href="#">Pericarditis</a> <span style="float: right;">? Related Dx</span></li> </ul>	<b>VASCULAR DISORDERS</b> << Click here
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Pericardial Effusion / Tamponade</a> <span style="float: right;">? Related Dx</span></li> <li><a href="#">Long QT Syndrome</a> <span style="float: right;">? Related Dx</span></li> </ul>	<b>ALLERGIC DISORDERS</b> << Click here
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Cardiac Neoplasms</a> <span style="float: right;">? Related Dx</span> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Benign Cardiac Mesothelioma</a></li> <li><a href="#">Cardiac Myxoma</a></li> <li><a href="#">Carotid Body Tumor</a></li> <li><a href="#">Elastofibroma</a></li> <li><a href="#">Papillary Fibroelastoma</a></li> <li><a href="#">Pericardial Mesothelioma</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>NEOPLASTIC DISEASES</b> << Click here
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Aortic Stenosis</a> <span style="float: right;">? Related Dx</span></li> <li><a href="#">Mitral Insufficiency / Regurgitation</a> <span style="float: right;">? Related Dx</span></li> <li><a href="#">Aortic Insufficiency / Regurgitation</a> <span style="float: right;">? Related Dx</span></li> </ul>	<b>RHEUMATIC DISEASES</b> << Click here
<b>RESPIRATORY SYSTEM DISORDERS</b>	<b>TOXICOLOGY</b> << Click here
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Lung Neoplasms</a> <span style="float: right;">? Related Dx</span></li> <li><a href="#">Sarcoidosis</a> <span style="float: right;">? Related Dx</span></li> </ul>	<b>METABOLIC DISEASES</b> << Click here
<b>SHOCK STATES</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Cardiogenic Shock</a> <span style="float: right;">? Related Dx</span></li> </ul>	
<b>ENDOCRINE SYSTEM</b> << Click here	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Diabetic Ketoacidosis</a> <span style="float: right;">? Related Dx</span></li> </ul>	
<b>NEPHROLOGY</b> << Click here	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Renal Failure</a> <span style="float: right;">? Related Dx</span></li> </ul>	
<b>INFECTIOUS DISEASES</b> << Click here	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Meningococcal Disease</a> <span style="float: right;">? Related Dx</span></li> </ul>	
<b>NERVOUS SYSTEM DISORDERS</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">CVA / Stroke</a> <span style="float: right;">? Related Dx</span></li> </ul>	