

**Case 24 (August 9 2007):** [N Engl J Med. 357\(6\):589-600](#)

**Demographic:** Female, 20yrs, Pregnant, America North, General speciality

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

dizziness  
altered mental status  
weakness  
choreiform movements  
leg hypertonia, hyperreflexia and clonus  
CSF lymphocytic pleocytosis  
high CSF IgG  
dysmetria  
truncal ataxia

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

dysmetria  
dizziness  
memory loss  
altered mental status  
choreiform movements

**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:***



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Aseptic meningitis

Chronic rubella panencephalitis

Subacute sclerosing panencephalitis

Postinfectious encephalomyelitis / Acute Disseminated Encephalomyelitis

Subacute measles encephalitis

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

Subacute sclerosing panencephalitis secondary to measlesvirus infection

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

Subacute sclerosing panencephalitis – click on Infectious diseases heading, under Measles infection

Aseptic meningitis – Isabel top 10, under Viral Meningoencephalitis

Progressive Rubella Panencephalitis – click on Infectious diseases heading, under Rubella infection

Measles Encephalitis – Isabel top 10, under Viral Meningoencephalitis

Acute Disseminated Encephalomyelitis - click on Infectious diseases heading

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

Yes, click on Infectious diseases heading

***Isabel differential:***



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<b>INFECTIOUS DISEASES</b>	<b>&lt;&lt; Click here</b>
<a href="#">Viral Meningoencephalitis</a>	<a href="#">? Related Dx</a>
<a href="#">Toxic Shock Syndrome</a>	<a href="#">? Related Dx</a>
<a href="#">Herpes Zoster</a>	<a href="#">? Related Dx</a>
<a href="#">Tuberculosis</a>	<a href="#">? Related Dx</a>
<a href="#">VZV Infection</a>	<a href="#">? Related Dx</a>
<a href="#">Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever</a>	<a href="#">? Related Dx</a>
<a href="#">Mumps Infection</a>	<a href="#">? Related Dx</a>
<a href="#">Rubella Infection</a>	<a href="#">? Related Dx</a>
<a href="#">Measles Infection</a>	<a href="#">? Related Dx</a>
<a href="#">Measles in the Immunocompromised Host</a>	
<a href="#">Subacute Sclerosing Panencephalitis</a>	
<a href="#">Lyme Disease</a>	<a href="#">? Related Dx</a>
<a href="#">Brucellosis</a>	<a href="#">? Related Dx</a>
<a href="#">Coccidiomycosis</a>	<a href="#">? Related Dx</a>
<a href="#">Amoebiasis</a>	<a href="#">? Related Dx</a>
<a href="#">Coagulase-Negative Staphylococci</a>	<a href="#">? Related Dx</a>
<a href="#">Limbic Encephalitis</a>	<a href="#">? Related Dx</a>
<a href="#">Syphilis</a>	<a href="#">? Related Dx</a>
<a href="#">Acute Disseminated Encephalomyelitis</a>	<a href="#">? Related Dx</a>
<a href="#">Fungal Meningitis</a>	<a href="#">? Related Dx</a>
<a href="#">Ehrlichiosis and Anaplasmosis</a>	<a href="#">? Related Dx</a>
<a href="#">Bartonella Infection</a>	<a href="#">? Related Dx</a>
<b>NERVOUS SYSTEM DISORDERS</b>	<b>&lt;&lt; Click here</b>
<a href="#">CVA / Stroke</a>	<a href="#">? Related Dx</a>
<a href="#">Dystonia Disorders</a>	<a href="#">? Related Dx</a>
<a href="#">Drug-Induced Movement Disorders</a>	<a href="#">? Related Dx</a>
<b>NEUROMUSCULAR DISORDERS</b>	
<a href="#">Polyneuropathy Disorders</a>	<a href="#">? Related Dx</a>

<b>RESPIRATORY SYSTEM DISORDERS</b>	<b>&lt;&lt; Click here</b>
<b>GASTROINTESTINAL DISORDERS</b>	<b>&lt;&lt; Click here</b>
<b>RHEUMATIC DISEASES</b>	<b>&lt;&lt; Click here</b>
<b>ENDOCRINE SYSTEM</b>	<b>&lt;&lt; Click here</b>
<b>TOXICOLOGY</b>	<b>&lt;&lt; Click here</b>