

Case 21 (July 12 2007): [N Engl J Med. 357\(2\):164-173](#)

Demographic: Female, 58 yrs, Not-pregnant, America North, General speciality

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

headaches
motor weakness
strokelike episodes
word-finding difficulties
forgetfulness
fatigue
cachexia
hypertension
diminished peripheral vision
ptosis
dysarthria
diminished sensation in lower limbs
dysmetria
disorientation
inattention
progressive cognitive difficulties
peripheral neuropathy with stocking distribution
poor glucose control

Synonyms used by Isabel for the above query:

ptosis
dysarthria
fatigue
hypertension
headaches
dysmetria
disorientation
forgetfulness
cachexia

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:

Multiple sclerosis

Binswanger's disease

Small-vessel ischemic disease of the brain with multiple infarcts

Lyme Disease

MELAS

Migraine

Final Diagnosis of the case according to NEJM:

Diabetic vasculopathy, with multiple cerebral infarcts.

Differential Diagnoses of the case as given by Isabel:

CVA / Stroke – Isabel top 10

Diabetic neuropathy – Isabel top 10

Multiple sclerosis - click on Nervous System Disorders heading

Binswanger's disease - click on Nervous System Disorders heading

Lyme Disease – click on Infectious Diseases heading

MELAS – click on Nervous System Disorders heading

Migraine – click on Nervous System Disorders heading

Was the final diagnosis given by Isabel:

Yes, Isabel top 10 both Diabetic neuropathy & CVA/Stroke

Isabel differential:

NERVOUS SYSTEM DISORDERS << Click here	CARDIAC DISORDERS << Click here
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CVA / Stroke ? Related Dx Intracranial Abscess ? Related Dx Diabetic Neuropathy ? Related Dx Alzheimer's Disease ? Related Dx Migraine ? Related Dx Vascular Dementia ? Related Dx <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Binswanger's Disease CADASIL Multi Infarct Dementia Multiple Sclerosis ? Related Dx Subdural Empyema ? Related Dx Human Prion Diseases ? Related Dx <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Syngomyelia ? Related Dx Cervical Spondylosis ? Related Dx Neuroacanthocytosis Disorders ? Related Dx Mitochondrial Encephalomyopathies ? Related Dx <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MELAS Von Hippel-Lindau Disease ? Related Dx Ataxic Disorders ? Related Dx 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NEPHROLOGY << Click here PSYCHOLOGIC DISORDERS << Click here OPHTHALMOLOGY << Click here HEMATOLOGY << Click here RHEUMATIC DISEASES << Click here LIVER DISORDERS << Click here NUTRITIONAL DISORDERS << Click here DERMATOLOGY << Click here TRAUMA INJURIES << Click here
INFECTIOUS DISEASES << Click here	
Bacterial Meningitis ? Related Dx	
TOXICOLOGY << Click here	
Radioactive Isotopes ? Related Dx	
NEUROMUSCULAR DISORDERS << Click here	
Myasthenia Gravis ? Related Dx	
Motor Neurone Disease ? Related Dx	
Polyneuropathy Disorders ? Related Dx	
RESPIRATORY SYSTEM DISORDERS << Click here	
Lung Neoplasms ? Related Dx	