

Case 18 (June 12 2008): [N Engl J Med. 358\(24\):2619-2628](#)

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

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

immunosuppressed
persistent anorexia
fatigue
headaches
scalp tenderness
jaw claudication
elevated CRP
blurred vision
hypertension
hypertropia
nystagmus
facial nerve palsy
unilateral vision loss

Synonyms used by Isabel for the above query:

blurred vision
hypertension
fatigue
facial nerve palsy
headaches
nystagmus

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:

Giant Cell Arteritis
Anterior Ischemic Optic Neuropathy
Cryptococcal Infection
Aspergillus Infection

Final Diagnosis of the case according to NEJM:

Ischemic Optic Neuropathy resulting from Aspergillus Infection mimicking Giant Cell Arteritis

Differential Diagnoses of the case as given by Isabel:

Giant Cell Arteritis – under Rheumatic diseases heading
Anterior Ischemic Optic Neuropathy – under Ophthalmology heading
Cryptococcal Infection- under Infectious diseases heading
Aspergillus Infection -under Infectious diseases heading

Was the final diagnosis given by Isabel:

Yes, Ischemic Optic Neuropathy – under Ophthalmology heading
Aspergillus Infection – Under Infectious diseases heading
Giant Cell Arteritis – Under Rheumatic diseases heading

Isabel Differential:

<p>- INFECTIOUS DISEASES >> click to collapse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Tuberculosis ? RD <input type="checkbox"/> Fungal Meningitis ? RD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lyme Disease ? RD Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever ? RD <input type="checkbox"/> CMV Infections ? RD <input type="checkbox"/> Brucellosis ? RD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cryptococcus Neoformans ? RD <input type="checkbox"/> Aspergillus Infection ? RD <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #ffff00; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> <p>Why did this diagnosis come up ?</p> <p>We matched the terms: htn malaise headache headaches immunosuppress immunosuppressed vision loss</p> <p>Degree of match between query entered and isabel database (Not clinical probability): 40%</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mumps Infection ? RD <input type="checkbox"/> Toxoplasmosis ? RD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microsporidiosis ? RD <input type="checkbox"/> Syphilis ? RD <input type="checkbox"/> Bartonella Infection ? RD 	<p>+ NERVOUS SYSTEM DISORDERS << click to expand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> CVA / Stroke ? RD <p>+ TOXICOLOGY << click to expand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Radioactive Isotopes ? RD <p>+ RESPIRATORY DISORDERS << click to expand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Atypical Pneumonia ? RD <p>ENDOCRINE SYSTEM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Hypothyroidism ? RD <p>+ NEOPLASTIC DISEASES << click to expand</p> <p>+ SHOCK STATES << click to expand</p> <p>+ DERMATOLOGY << click to expand</p>
<p>- RHEUMATIC DISEASES >> click to collapse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> SLE ? RD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Henoch-Schonlein Purpura ? RD <input type="checkbox"/> Giant Cell Arteritis ? RD <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #ffff00; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> <p>Why did this diagnosis come up ?</p> <p>We matched the terms: blurred vision blurring of vision htn headache headaches scalp tender tenderness jaw claudic claudication vision</p> <p>Degree of match between query entered and isabel database (Not clinical probability): 61%</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Systemic Sclerosis ? RD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Antiphospholipid Syndrome ? RD Aortic Arch Syndrome ? RD Relapsing Polychondritis ? RD <input type="checkbox"/> Amyloidosis ? RD 	
<p>+ OPHTHALMOLOGY << click to expand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ischemic Optic Neuropathy ? RD <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #ffff00; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> <p>Why did this diagnosis come up ?</p> <p>We matched the terms: htn fatigue headache headaches scalp tender tenderness jaw claudic claudication unilater unilateral vision loss</p> <p>Degree of match between query entered and isabel database (Not clinical probability): 60%</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acute Visual Loss ? RD 	
<p>CARDIAC DISORDERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Systemic Hypertension Disorders ? RD <input type="checkbox"/> Hypotensive Disorders ? RD <p>+ NEPHROLOGY << click to expand</p> <p>+ HEMATOLOGY << click to expand</p> <p>+ TRAUMA INJURIES << click to expand</p> <p>+ ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HAZARDS << click to expand</p>	