

**Case 15 (May 17 2007):** [N Engl J Med 2007;356\(20\):2083-2091](#)

**Demographic:** Female, 20 yrs, Not pregnant, America North, General speciality

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

respiratory distress

tachycardia

hypertension

tachypnea

low oxygen saturation

body habitus was cushingoid

diffuse wheezes in both lungs

consolidation in the right middle lobe and patchy opacity in the left upper lobe

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

Respiratory distress

Tachycardia

Hypertension

Tachypnea

Low oxygen saturation

**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:***

Corticosteroid -induced chronic immunosuppression  
Anaphylaxis  
Acute hypersensitivity reactions  
Eosinophilic pneumonia  
Churg-Strauss syndrome  
Emphysema

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

Status asthmaticus with resultant fatal asthma

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

Asthma – Isabel 1<sup>st</sup> page  
Emphysema – Isabel 1<sup>st</sup> page  
Anaphylaxis – click on Allergic disorders heading  
Hypersensitivity pneumonitis - click on Allergic disorders heading

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

Yes, Isabel 1<sup>st</sup> page

***Entire presentation cut and pasted into the Isabel query box:***

Asthma – click on respiratory system disorder  
Anaphylaxis – click on Allergic disorders heading

**Isabel differential:**

<b>RESPIRATORY SYSTEM DISORDERS</b> << <a href="#">Click here</a> <u>Emphysema</u> <b>RD</b> <u>Bronchiectasis</u> <b>RD</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Interstitial Lung Disease</u> <b>RD</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Atypical Pneumonia</u> <b>RD</b> <u>Asthma</u> <b>RD</b> <u>Sarcoidosis</u> <b>RD</b> <u>Lung Collapse</u> <b>RD</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Aspiration Syndromes</u> <b>RD</b>	<b>CARDIAC DISORDERS</b> << <a href="#">Click here</a> <u>Heart Failure / CHF</u> <b>RD</b>
	<b>INFECTIOUS DISEASES</b> << <a href="#">Click here</a> <u>Pseudomonas</u> <b>RD</b>
	<b>ENDOCRINE SYSTEM</b> << <a href="#">Click here</a>
	<b>NEUROMUSCULAR DISORDERS</b> << <a href="#">Click here</a>
	<b>HEMATOLOGY</b> << <a href="#">Click here</a>
	<b>SHOCK STATES</b> << <a href="#">Click here</a>
<b>RHEUMATIC DISEASES</b> << <a href="#">Click here</a>	<b>LIVER DISORDERS</b> << <a href="#">Click here</a>
<b>ALLERGIC DISORDERS</b> << <a href="#">Click here</a>	<b>TOXICOLOGY</b> << <a href="#">Click here</a>
<b>NEOPLASTIC DISEASES</b> << <a href="#">Click here</a>	