

**Case 9 (March 22 2007):** [N Engl J Med 2007;356:1252-9](#)

**Demographic:** Female, 27 yrs, Not pregnant, America North, General speciality

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

lower limb edema  
burning, tingling and stinging pain in feet  
petechial and purpuric rash  
dry scaly skin  
loss of sensation  
increased sensitivity  
elevated erythrocyte sedimentation rate

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

Elevated erythrocyte sedimentation rate

**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:**

Sensorimotor Neuropathy - sensorimotor multiple mononeuropathy  
Vasculitic Neuropathy  
Sjögren's Syndrome

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

Axonal neuropathy due to lymphoplasmacytic small-vessel vasculitis, associated with connective-tissue disease with features of Sjögren's syndrome, associated with autoimmune thyroiditis and autoimmune gastritis.

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

Sjögren's syndrome – Isabel 1<sup>st</sup> page

Vasculitic Neuropathies (Microscopic Polyangitis, SLE) – click on Rheumatic diseases 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:***

Sjögren's syndrome – click on Rheumatic diseases heading

Vasculitic Neuropathies (Microscopic Polyangitis, SLE) – click on Rheumatic diseases heading

***Isabel differential:***

<b>RESPIRATORY SYSTEM DISORDERS</b> << <a href="#">Click here</a> <u>Sarcoidosis</u> <b>RD</b>	<b>DERMATOLOGY</b> << <a href="#">Click here</a> <u>Steven-Johnson Syndrome</u> <b>RD</b>
<b>INFECTIOUS DISEASES</b> << <a href="#">Click here</a> <u>Herpes Zoster</u> <b>RD</b> <u>Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever</u> <b>RD</b> <u>Bacterial Meningitis</u> <b>RD</b>	<b>RHEUMATIC DISEASES</b> << <a href="#">Click here</a> <u>Sjögren's Syndrome</u> <b>RD</b> <u>Systemic Sclerosis</u> <b>RD</b>
<b>TOXICOLOGY</b> << <a href="#">Click here</a> <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Radioactive Isotopes</u> <b>RD</b>	<b>NUTRITIONAL DISORDERS</b> << <a href="#">Click here</a> <u>Thiamine Deficiency</u> <b>RD</b>
<b>NERVOUS SYSTEM DISORDERS</b> << <a href="#">Click here</a> <u>Multiple Sclerosis</u> <b>RD</b>	<b>NEUROMUSCULAR DISORDERS</b> << <a href="#">Click here</a>
<b>HEMATOLOGY</b> << <a href="#">Click here</a>	<b>OPHTHALMOLOGY</b> << <a href="#">Click here</a>
<b>GASTROINTESTINAL DISORDERS</b> << <a href="#">Click here</a>	<b>PSYCHOLOGIC DISORDERS</b> << <a href="#">Click here</a>
<b>ALLERGIC DISORDERS</b> << <a href="#">Click here</a>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HAZARDS</b> << <a href="#">Click here</a>
<b>SHOCK STATES</b> << <a href="#">Click here</a>	