

**Case 5 (February 15 2007):** [N Engl J Med 2007;356:715-25](#)

**Demographic:** Male, 53yrs, America North, General speciality

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

fatigue  
weight loss  
anorexia  
dyspnea on exertion  
profuse sweating  
ruddy facial complexion  
anemia  
bibasilar rales  
lymphadenopathy  
splenomegaly  
elevated serum lactate dehydrogenase  
pancytopenia  
changing murmurs  
high ESR

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

Fatigue  
Weight loss  
Anorexia  
Anemia  
Splenomegaly  
Pancytopenia  
High ESR  
Lymphadenopathy  
Dyspnea on exertion

**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:***

Infectious endocarditis

*C. burnetii* (Q fever) endocarditis

Bartonella infection - *B. Quintana*, *B. henselae*

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

*C. burnetii* (Q fever) endocarditis

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

Infectious endocarditis – Isabel 1<sup>st</sup> page

Q fever – click on Infectious 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:***

Infectious endocarditis – click on Cardiac disorders heading

Q fever – click on Infectious diseases heading

**Isabel differential:**

<p><b>RESPIRATORY SYSTEM DISORDERS</b> &lt;&lt; <a href="#">Click here</a></p> <p><a href="#">Sarcoidosis</a> <b>RD</b></p> <p><a href="#">Interstitial Lung Disease</a> <b>RD</b></p>	<p><b>INFECTIOUS DISEASES</b> &lt;&lt; <a href="#">Click here</a></p> <p><a href="#">Brucellosis</a> <b>RD</b></p> <p><a href="#">Q Fever</a> <b>RD</b></p> <p><a href="#">Hantavirus Syndrome</a> <b>RD</b></p> <p><a href="#">Babesiosis</a> <b>RD</b></p>
<p><b>CARDIAC DISORDERS</b> &lt;&lt; <a href="#">Click here</a></p> <p><a href="#">Infective Endocarditis</a> <b>RD</b></p> <p><a href="#">Heart Failure / CHF</a> <b>RD</b></p> <p>+ <a href="#">Cardiac Neoplasms</a> <b>RD</b></p>	<p><b>NEOPLASTIC DISEASES</b> &lt;&lt; <a href="#">Click here</a></p> <p>+ <a href="#">Non-Hodqkin's Lymphoma</a> <b>RD</b></p> <p>+ <a href="#">Leukemia</a> <b>RD</b></p> <p>+ <a href="#">Lymphoma</a> <b>RD</b></p>
<p><b>HEMATOLOGY</b> &lt;&lt; <a href="#">Click here</a></p> <p><a href="#">Castleman's Disease</a> <b>RD</b></p> <p><a href="#">Aplastic Anemia</a> <b>RD</b></p> <p><a href="#">Polycythemia Disorders</a> <b>RD</b></p> <p><a href="#">Myelofibrosis</a> <b>RD</b></p> <p><a href="#">Hemochromatosis</a> <b>RD</b></p>	<p><b>LIVER DISORDERS</b> &lt;&lt; <a href="#">Click here</a></p> <p>+ <a href="#">Liver Abscess</a> <b>RD</b></p>
<p><b>RHEUMATIC DISEASES</b> &lt;&lt; <a href="#">Click here</a></p> <p><a href="#">Giant Cell Arteritis</a> <b>RD</b></p> <p><a href="#">Polymyalgia Rheumatica</a> <b>RD</b></p>	<p><b>ALLERGIC DISORDERS</b> &lt;&lt; <a href="#">Click here</a></p>

