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Case 25 (August 19 2010): [N Engl J Med. 363\(8\):766-777](#)

Demographic: Female, 24 yrs, Not Pregnant, North America

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

abdominal pain
ascites
shock
fatigue
fevers
headache
diffuse body aches
lower back pain
nausea
leukocytosis
mesenteric lymphadenitis

Synonyms used by Isabel for the above query:

abdominal pain
ascites
fatigue
fever
headache
diffuse body aches
lower back pain
nausea
leukocytosis
mesenteric lymphadenitis

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

Isabel Healthcare Inc

3120 Fairview Park Drive, Suite 200, Falls Church, VA 22042

Tel: +1.703.289.8855

Differential Diagnoses considered by the MGH panel:

Campylobacter infection

Final Diagnosis of the case according to NEJM:

Intestinal anthrax

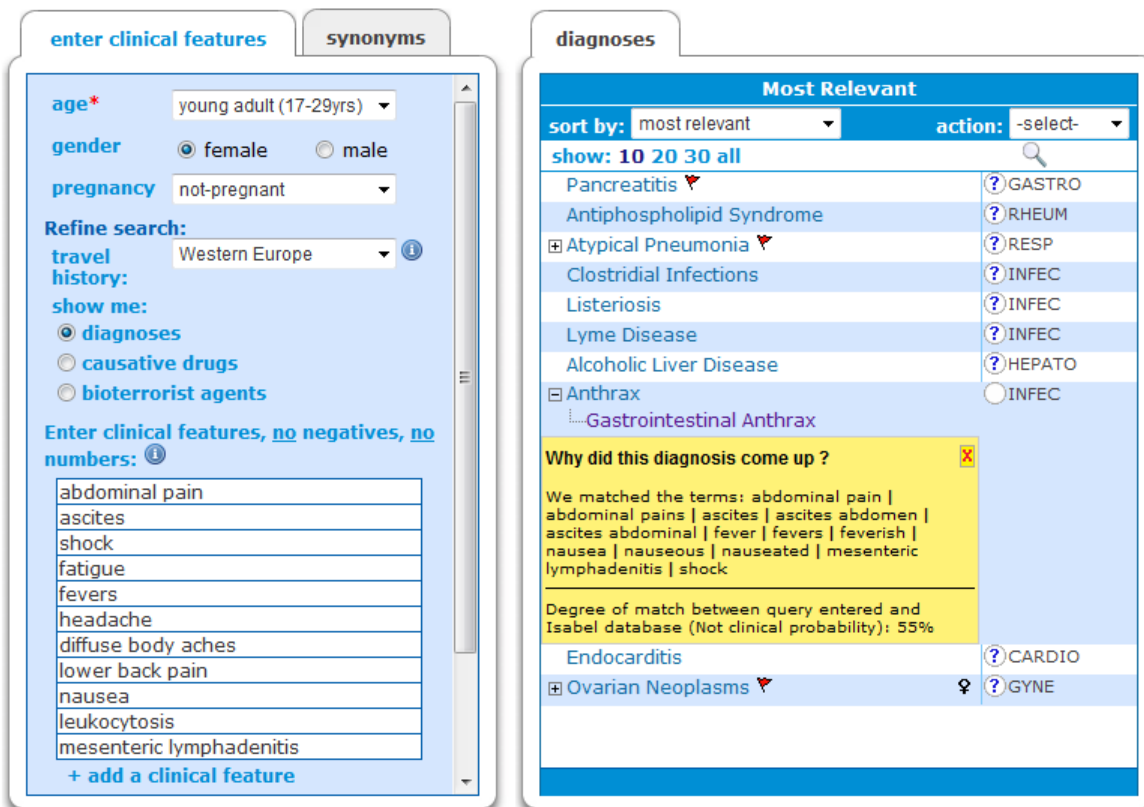
Differential Diagnoses of the case as given by Isabel:

Campylobacter infection in Infectious

Was the final diagnosis given by Isabel:

Yes, Intestinal anthrax under Anthrax in Infectious

Isabel Differential:



The screenshot shows the Isabel Differential interface. On the left, the 'enter clinical features' panel includes fields for age (young adult (17-29yrs)), gender (female selected), pregnancy (not-pregnant), and travel history (Western Europe). It also has a 'Refine search' section with 'show me' options for diagnoses, causative drugs, and bioterrorist agents. A list of clinical features is provided, including abdominal pain, ascites, shock, fatigue, fevers, headache, diffuse body aches, lower back pain, nausea, leukocytosis, and mesenteric lymphadenitis. On the right, the 'diagnoses' panel shows a list of 'Most Relevant' diagnoses. The top diagnosis is Pancreatitis (GASTRO), followed by Antiphospholipid Syndrome (RHEUM), Atypical Pneumonia (RESP), Clostridial Infections (IN FEC), Listeriosis (IN FEC), Lyme Disease (IN FEC), and Alcoholic Liver Disease (HEPATO). Anthrax (IN FEC) is also listed, with a sub-entry for Gastrointestinal Anthrax. A yellow box explains why this diagnosis came up: 'We matched the terms: abdominal pain | abdominal pains | ascites | ascites abdomen | ascites abdominal | fever | fevers | feverish | nausea | nauseous | nauseated | mesenteric lymphadenitis | shock'. The degree of match is 55%. Other diagnoses include Endocarditis (CARDIO) and Ovarian Neoplasms (GYNE).