

**Case 38 (December 15 2011):** [N Engl J Med. 365\(24\):2306-2316](#)

**Demographic:** Male, 34 years, South America (temperate)

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

chronic diarrhea  
periodic paralysis  
foul smelling stools  
abdominal cramps  
weight loss  
hypokalemia

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

chronic diarrhea  
abdominal cramps  
weight loss  
hypokalemia

**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:**

Irritable bowel syndrome

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

- (i) Cystoisospora belli enteritis
- (ii) HIV infection

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

Irritable bowel syndrome in Gastro

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

- Yes, (i) Cystoisospora belli enteritis in Infectious
- (ii) HIV infection in Infectious

**Isabel Checklist Differential:**

**enter clinical features** | **synonyms**

age\*

gender  female  male

**Refine search:**

travel history:

**show me:**

diagnoses

causative drugs

bioterrorist agents

Enter clinical features, no negatives, no numbers: ⓘ

chronic diarrhea	✕
periodic paralysis	✕
foul smelling stools	✕
abdominal cramps	✕
weight loss	✕
hypokalemia	✕
unprotected sex with HIV partner	✕

+ add a clinical feature

**get checklist** ➔

[clear search](#)

**diagnoses** | **drugs**

**Results**

sort by: most relevant | action: -select-

show: 10 / all ⓘ ⓘ

Giardiasis	👤👤	? INFEC
Cystoisosporiasis	👤👤	? INFEC
Whipple's disease	👤👤	? GASTRO
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inflammatory Bowel Disease	👤👤	? GASTRO
Amebiasis	👤👤	? INFEC
Pseudomembranous / Drug-Induced Colitis	👤👤	? GASTRO
Lactose Intolerance	👤👤	? GASTRO
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Salmonella Infections	👤👤	? INFEC
Celiac Disease	👤👤	? GASTRO
Irritable Bowel Syndrome	👤👤	? GASTRO
Lung Abscess ▼	👤👤	? RESP
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hyperthyroidism ▼	👤👤	? ENDO
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Colorectal Cancer ▼	👤👤	? NEOPL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Diarrheal Disorders	👤👤	? GASTRO
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pancreatitis ▼	👤👤	? GASTRO
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tuberculosis ▼	👤👤	? INFEC
Cholera	👤👤	? INFEC
<input type="checkbox"/> HIV/AIDS	👤👤	? INFEC
└─ Gastrointestinal HIV Infection	👤👤	
Vibrio Parahemolyticus Infection	👤👤	? INFEC

feedback:  **submit**