

**Case 2 (January 17 2013):** [N Engl J Med. 368\(3\):267-277](#)

**Demographic:** Male, 20 years, North America

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

recurrent ear pain  
fever  
severe occipital headache  
photophobia  
dizziness

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

fever  
photophobia  
dizziness

**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:***

Meningitis

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

- (i) Cholesteatoma
- (ii) Chronic otitis media

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

Bacterial meningitis in Infectious

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

Yes, (i) Cholesteatoma in Ear  
(ii) Otitis media 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:

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

+ add a clinical feature

Isabel is not meant to replace your clinical judgment.

**diagnoses** | drugs

St Louis Encephalitis	<input type="button" value="thumbs up"/> <input type="button" value="thumbs down"/>	
West Nile Encephalitis	<input type="button" value="thumbs up"/> <input type="button" value="thumbs down"/>	? GASTRO
Abdominal Migraine	<input type="button" value="thumbs up"/> <input type="button" value="thumbs down"/>	? EAR
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Otitis Media Complications	<input type="button" value="thumbs up"/> <input type="button" value="thumbs down"/>	? INFEC
Brucellosis	<input type="button" value="thumbs up"/> <input type="button" value="thumbs down"/>	? INFEC
CNS TB & TB Meningitis	<input type="button" value="thumbs up"/> <input type="button" value="thumbs down"/>	? INFEC
Meningococcal Infections	<input type="button" value="thumbs up"/> <input type="button" value="thumbs down"/>	? INFEC
Influenza Viruses	<input type="button" value="thumbs up"/> <input type="button" value="thumbs down"/>	? INFEC
Viral Meningoencephalitis	<input type="button" value="thumbs up"/> <input type="button" value="thumbs down"/>	? INFEC
Viral Hemorrhagic Fever	<input type="button" value="thumbs up"/> <input type="button" value="thumbs down"/>	? INFEC
Relapsing Polychondritis	<input type="button" value="thumbs up"/> <input type="button" value="thumbs down"/>	? RHEUM
Sarcoidosis	<input type="button" value="thumbs up"/> <input type="button" value="thumbs down"/>	? RESP
Mumps Infection	<input type="button" value="thumbs up"/> <input type="button" value="thumbs down"/>	? INFEC
Congen Cholesteatoma	<input type="button" value="thumbs up"/> <input type="button" value="thumbs down"/>	? EAR

**Why did this diagnosis come up ?**

We matched the terms: dizziness | dizzy | dizziness | balance loss | balance losing | ear | pain | headache | headach | recurrent | recurr

Degree of match between query entered and Isabel database (Not clinical probability): 49%

Click diagnosis for evidence-based content.

feedback: