

Case 29 (September 22 2005): [N Engl J Med 2005;353:1275-84](#)

Demographic: Male, 68 yrs, America north, General speciality

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

periorbital edema
mild crusting of the skin and malar erythema
tender, erythematous macular areas on the scalp
brightly erythematous, excoriated, morbilliform papular eruption over the midsternal region, the upper arm, neck and upper back.
ill-defined areas of erythema over the proximal and distal interphalangeal joints
plantar responses flexor
hypophonia
dysphagia
muscle tenderness
heliotropic rash
proximal muscle weakness, with truncal instability
elevated creatine kinase

Synonyms used by Isabel for the above query:

Hypophonia
dysphagia
Muscle tenderness
Elevated creatine kinase

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:

Contact dermatitis
SLE (malar erythema and possible photosensitivity)
Drug-induced exanthem
Seborrheic dermatitis
Dermatomyositis
Polymyositis
Vasculitis (such as lupus vasculitis or polyarteritis nodosa),
Polymyalgia rheumatica
Myasthenia gravis
Other metabolic myopathies and infection.

Final Diagnoses of the case according to NEJM:

Dermatomyositis, due to a malignant tumor in the abdomen

Differential Diagnoses of the case as given by Isabel:

Dermatomyositis – Isabel 1st page
Allergic drug reactions – Isabel 1st page
SLE – click on Rheumatic diseases heading
Rheumatoid arthritis – click on Rheumatic diseases heading
Epstein–Barr virus – click on Infectious diseases heading
Systemic sclerosis – click on Rheumatic diseases heading
Seborrheic dermatitis – click on Allergic disorders heading

Was the final diagnosis given by Isabel:

Yes, Isabel 1st page

Entire presentation cut and pasted into the Isabel query box:

Dermatomyositis – Isabel 1st page
SLE – click on Rheumatic diseases heading
Epstein–Barr virus – click on Infectious diseases heading
Systemic sclerosis – click on Rheumatic diseases heading

Isabel differential:

<p>NEUROMUSCULAR DISORDERS << Click here</p> <p><u>Dermatomyositis / Polymyositis</u> RD</p>	<p>DERMATOLOGY << Click here</p> <p><u>Dermatophyte Infections</u> RD</p> <p><u>Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis</u> RD</p> <p><u>Pityriasis Lichenoides</u> RD</p> <p><u>Miliaria</u> RD</p>
<p>INFECTIOUS DISEASES << Click here</p> <p><u>Lyme Disease</u> RD</p> <p><u>Herpes Simplex Virus Infection</u> RD</p>	<p>RESPIRATORY SYSTEM DISORDERS << Click here</p> <p>↳ <u>Lung Neoplasms</u> RD</p>
<p>IMMUNOLOGIC SYSTEM << Click here</p> <p><u>Eosinophilia-Myalgia Syndrome</u> RD</p>	<p>ALLERGIC DISORDERS << Click here</p> <p>↳ <u>Urticaria / AnGIOedema</u> RD</p>
<p>RHEUMATIC DISEASES << Click here</p>	<p>DISORDERS OF THE EAR << Click here</p>
<p>NERVOUS SYSTEM DISORDERS << Click here</p>	<p>TOXICOLOGY << Click here</p>
	<p>GASTROINTESTINAL DISORDERS << Click here</p>
	<p>SOCIAL ISSUES << Click here</p>
	<p>ORTHOPEDIC DISORDERS << Click here</p>