

Case 2 (January 15 2009): [N Engl J Med. 360\(3\):281-290](#)

Demographic: Male, 25 yrs, America North, General speciality

Clinical features extracted from the case and entered into the query

box:

hypotension
chills
fever
obtunded
vomiting
incontinent
prolonged capillary refill time
swollen painful erythematous hand
petechiae on legs

Synonyms used by Isabel for the above query:

hypotension
petechiae
vomiting
fever
chills
obtunded

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:

Streptococcal Toxic Shock Syndrome

Final Diagnosis of the case according to NEJM:

Necrotizing fasciitis with resulting Septic shock

Differential Diagnoses of the case as given by Isabel:

Streptococcal Toxic Shock Syndrome – under Infectious diseases heading

Was the final diagnosis given by Isabel:

Yes, Necrotizing fasciitis under Dermatology heading

Isabel Differential:

- INFECTIOUS DISEASES >> click to collapse	+ SHOCK STATES << click to expand
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Influenza and Parainfluenza Viruses ? RD <input type="checkbox"/> Bacterial Meningitis ? RD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MRSA ? RD <input type="checkbox"/> EBV Infection ? RD <input type="checkbox"/> Salmonella Infections ? RD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meningococcal Disease ? RD <input type="checkbox"/> Yersinia Infection ? RD <input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Shock Syndrome ○ RD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sepsis and Shock ? RD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hypovolemic Shock ? RD
	RESPIRATORY DISORDERS
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sarcoidosis ? RD
	+ RHEUMATIC DISEASES << click to expand
	+ CARDIAC DISORDERS << click to expand
	- DERMATOLOGY >> click to collapse
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Necrotizing Fasciitis ○ RD
<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #ffff00; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>Why did this diagnosis come up ?</p> <p>We matched the terms: hypotension hypotensive vomiting fever febrile fevers chill chills encephalopathy loc disorientation obtundation obtund incontinent prolong prolonged</p> <hr/> <p>Degree of match between query entered and isabel database (Not clinical probability): 54%</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lyme Disease ? RD 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #ffff00; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>Why did this diagnosis come up ?</p> <p>We matched the terms: vomiting fever fevers chill chills swollen erythemat erythematous</p> <hr/> <p>Degree of match between query entered and isabel database (Not clinical probability): 47%</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> + ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HAZARDS << click to expand <input type="checkbox"/> + METABOLIC DISEASES << click to expand
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Brucellosis ? RD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Q Fever ? RD Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever ? RD <input type="checkbox"/> Anthrax ? RD 	