

**Case 39 (December 18 2008):** [N Engl J Med. 359\(25\):2707-2718](#)

**Demographic:** Female, 51 yrs, Not Pregnant, America North, General speciality

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

***box:***

anemia  
massive splenomegaly  
fatigue  
night sweats  
left upper quadrant fullness  
leg edema  
dyspnea on exertion  
lymphadenopathy  
fever  
migraines  
tremor  
anxiety  
tachycardia  
scleral icterus  
paraproteinemia  
coagulopathy

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

dyspnea on exertion  
fatigue  
night sweats  
paraproteinemia  
lymphadenopathy  
anemia  
fever  
leg edema  
tachycardia  
anxiety  
scleral icterus  
left upper quadrant fullness  
massive splenomegaly



## **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:***

Waldenström's macroglobulinemia  
Hairy-cell leukemia

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

Splenic marginal-zone lymphoma, with an IgM paraprotein, antiphospholipid antibodies (lupus anticoagulant and IgM anticardiolipin antibody), and autoimmune hemolytic anemia.

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

Waldenström's macroglobulinemia – under Neoplastic diseases heading  
Hairy-cell leukemia – under Neoplastic diseases heading

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

Yes, Splenic Marginal Lymphoma and Autoimmune Hemolytic Anemias – under Hematology heading.

**Isabel Differential:**

<p><b>- HEMATOLOGY</b> &gt;&gt; click to collapse</p> <p><a href="#">Iron Deficiency Anemia</a> ? RD</p> <p>⊕ <a href="#">Sickle Cell Disease / Crisis</a> ? RD</p> <p>⊕ <a href="#">Hemochromatosis</a> ? RD</p> <p style="color: red;">Splenic Marginal Lymphoma</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #ffffcc; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Why did this diagnosis come up ?</b> ✖</p> <p>We matched the terms: tiredness   fatigue   tired   night sweats   paraproteinemia   lymphadenopathy   anemia   anemic   massive splenomegaly</p> <hr/> <p>Degree of match between query entered and isabel database (Not clinical probability): 54%</p> </div> <p>⊕ <a href="#">Autoimmune Hemolytic Anemias</a> ? RD</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #ffffcc; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Why did this diagnosis come up ?</b> ✖</p> <p>We matched the terms: exertional dyspnea   malaise   fatigue   anemia   anemic   tachycardia   tachycardic   palpitation   palpitations</p> <hr/> <p>Degree of match between query entered and isabel database (Not clinical probability): 39%</p> </div> <p>⊕ <a href="#">Thrombocytosis</a> ? RD</p> <p><a href="#">Castleman's Disease</a> ? RD</p>	<p><b>+ RESPIRATORY DISORDERS</b> &lt;&lt; click to expand</p> <p>⊕ <a href="#">Atypical Pneumonia</a> ? RD</p>
	<p><b>- NEOPLASTIC DISEASES</b> &gt;&gt; click to collapse</p> <p>⊖ <a href="#">Leukemia</a> ? RD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... <a href="#">Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia</a></li> <li>... <a href="#">Acute Myeloblastic Leukemia</a></li> <li>... <a href="#">B-Cell Prolymphocytic Leukemia</a></li> <li>... <a href="#">Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia</a></li> <li>... <a href="#">Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia</a></li> <li>... <a href="#">Eosinophilic Leukemia</a></li> <li>... <a href="#">Hairy-Cell Leukemia</a></li> <li>... <a href="#">Intracerebral Leukocytostasis</a></li> <li>... <a href="#">Large Granular Lymphocytic Leukemia</a></li> <li>... <a href="#">T-Cell Prolymphocytic Leukemia</a></li> </ul> <p>⊕ <a href="#">Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma</a> ? RD</p> <p>⊕ <a href="#">Hodgkin's Disease</a> ? RD</p> <p>⊕ <a href="#">Liver Neoplasms</a> ? RD</p> <p>⊖ <a href="#">Lymphoma</a> ? RD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... <a href="#">Lymphoma-Like Disorders</a></li> <li>... <a href="#">Subcutaneous Panniculitis-Like T-Cell Lymphoma</a></li> <li>... <a href="#">Waldenstrom's Macroglobulinemia</a></li> </ul>