

Case 34 (November 8 2007): [N Engl J Med. 357\(19\):1957-1965](#)

Demographic: Male, 77yrs, America North, General speciality

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

ear pain
ear discharge
altered mental status
nasal congestion
facial pain
aphasia
loss of consciousness
tachycardia
fever

Synonyms used by Isabel for the above query:

ear pain
facial pain
nasal congestion
aphasia
fever
ear discharge
altered mental status
loss of consciousness

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

Final Diagnosis of the case according to NEJM:

Acute bacterial meningoenkephalitis, acute right otitis media and mastoiditis, and aberrant arachnoid granulations with erosion of the temporal bone.

Differential Diagnoses of the case as given by Isabel:

- Bacterial Meningitis – Isabel top 10
- Mastoiditis – Isabel top 10
- Otitis Media – Isabel top 10
- Brain abscess – Isabel top 10
- Temporal Bone Fracture - No

Was the final diagnosis given by Isabel:

Yes, Isabel top 10

Isabel Differential:

<p>NERVOUS SYSTEM DISORDERS << Click here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cerebral Sinus Venous Thrombosis (?) Related Dx CVA / Stroke (?) Related Dx Intracranial Abscess (?) Related Dx 	<p>CARDIAC DISORDERS << Click here</p>
<p>INFECTIOUS DISEASES << Click here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bacterial Meningitis (?) Related Dx 	<p>ENDOCRINE SYSTEM << Click here</p>
<p>RHEUMATIC DISEASES << Click here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wegener's Granulomatosis (?) Related Dx 	<p>HEMATOLOGY << Click here</p>
<p>DISORDERS OF THE EAR << Click here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extradural Abscess (?) Related Dx Otitis Media Complications (?) Related Dx <ul style="list-style-type: none">Acquired CholesteatomaChronic Suppurative Otitis Media with MastoiditisGradenigo SyndromeMastoiditis 	<p>UROLOGIC DISORDERS << Click here</p>
<p>RESPIRATORY SYSTEM DISORDERS << Click here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sinusitis (?) Related Dx Bacterial Pneumonia (?) Related Dx 	<p>GASTROINTESTINAL DISORDERS << Click here</p>
<p>SHOCK STATES << Click here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sepsis and Shock (?) Related Dx 	<p>ALLERGIC DISORDERS << Click here</p>
	<p>NEPHROLOGY << Click here</p>
	<p>PSYCHOLOGIC DISORDERS << Click here</p>
	<p>TRAUMA INJURIES << Click here</p>
	<p>TOXICOLOGY << Click here</p>
	<p>ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HAZARDS << Click here</p>