

Case 13 (April 23 2009): [N Engl J Med. 360\(17\):1770-1779](#)

Demographic: Female, 54 yrs, America North, General speciality

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

hypotension
cavitary lung lesion
cough
shortness of breath
tachycardia
pyrexial
tension pneumothorax

Synonyms used by Isabel for the above query:

cough
hypotension
shortness of breath
pyrexial
tachycardia
tension pneumothorax

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:

Aspiration pneumonia
Tuberculosis
Coccidioidmycosis

Final Diagnosis of the case according to NEJM:

Bacterial pneumonia with abscess formation and cavitation.

Differential Diagnoses of the case as given by Isabel:

Aspiration pneumonia – Aspiration Syndromes – under Respiratory disorders
Tuberculosis – under Infectious diseases
Coccidioidmycosis – under Infectious diseases

Was the final diagnosis given by Isabel:

Yes, Bacterial pneumonia with abscess formation and cavitation – under Respiratory disorders

Isabel Differential:

- RESPIRATORY DISORDERS >> [click to collapse](#)

- [Asthma](#) ? RD
- Bacterial Pneumonia** ○ RD

Why did this diagnosis come up ? ✕

We matched the terms: coughing | cough | coughs | shortness of breath | fever | fevers | cavitary pulmonary lesions | cavitary pulmonary lesion

Degree of match between query entered and isabel database (Not clinical probability): 56%

- [Atypical Pneumonia](#) ? RD
- [Pulmonary Thromboembolism](#) ? RD
- [Lung Neoplasms](#) ? RD
- [Pneumothorax Conditions](#) ? RD
- [Sarcoidosis](#) ? RD
- [Bronchiectasis](#) ? RD
- [Pulmonary Edema](#) ? RD
- [Lung Abscess](#) ? RD
- [ARDS](#) ? RD
- [Eosinophilic Lung Disease](#) ? RD
- [Aspiration Syndromes](#) ? RD