

Case 26 (August 21 2008): [N Engl J Med. 359\(8\):842-853](#)

Demographic: Female, 26 years, Not Pregnant, America North, General speciality

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

diffuse headache
visual hallucinations
incoherent speech
tonic clonic seizure
febrile
elevated creatine kinase
diarrhea
agitated
autonomic disequilibrium
oromotor dyskinesias
dermoid cyst
somnolence

Synonyms used by Isabel for the above query:

elevated creatine kinase
diarrhoea
febrile
agitated
somnolence

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

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Differential Diagnoses considered by the MGH panel:

Acute Limbic Encephalitis

SLE

Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome

Final Diagnosis of the case according to NEJM:

Paraneoplastic Limbic Encephalitis

Differential Diagnoses of the case as given by Isabel:

Was the final diagnosis given by Isabel:

SLE – under Rheumatic diseases Heading

Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome – under Nervous system heading

Was the final diagnosis given by Isabel:

Yes, Limbic Encephalitis – under Infectious diseases heading

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Isabel Differential:

- INFECTIOUS DISEASES >> click to collapse	+ NERVOUS SYSTEM DISORDERS << click to expand
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Bacterial Meningitis ? RD <input type="checkbox"/> Viral Meningoencephalitis ? RD <input type="checkbox"/> Salmonella Infections ? RD <input type="checkbox"/> Tuberculosis ? RD <input type="checkbox"/> Taenia solium ? RD <input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Shock Syndrome ? RD <input type="checkbox"/> Arboviral Infections / Encephalitides ? RD <input type="checkbox"/> Fungal Meningitis ? RD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amebiasis ? RD Limbic Encephalitis ? RD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Migraine ? RD <input type="checkbox"/> Intracranial Abscess ? RD <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Sclerosis ? RD
<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #ffffcc; padding: 5px;"> <p>Why did this diagnosis come up ? ✖</p> <p>We matched the terms: diffus diffuse seizur seizure autonom autonomic dyskinesia dyskinesias dermoid cyst</p> <hr/> <p>Degree of match between query entered and isabel database (Not clinical probability): 49%</p> </div>	METABOLIC DISEASES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis ? RD <input type="checkbox"/> Tularemia ? RD <input type="checkbox"/> Psittacosis ? RD <input type="checkbox"/> Tetanus ? RD <input type="checkbox"/> Bartonella Infection ? RD 	+ PSYCHOLOGIC DISORDERS << click to expand
+ TOXICOLOGY << click to expand	+ RHEUMATIC DISEASES << click to expand
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Radioactive Isotopes ? RD 	+ OPHTHALMOLOGY << click to expand
NEPHROLOGY	+ ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HAZARDS << click to expand
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Renal Failure ? RD 	
+ RESPIRATORY DISORDERS << click to expand	
+ GASTROINTESTINAL DISORDERS << click to expand	
+ LIVER DISORDERS << click to expand	
+ TRAUMA INJURIES << click to expand	

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