

Case 15 (May 17 2007): [N Engl J Med 2007;356\(20\):2083-2091](#)

Demographic: Female, 20 yrs, Not pregnant, America North, General speciality

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

respiratory distress
tachycardia
hypertension
tachypnea
low oxygen saturation
body habitus was cushingoid
diffuse wheezes in both lungs
consolidation in the right middle lobe and patchy opacity in the left upper lobe

Synonyms used by Isabel for the above query:

Respiratory distress
Tachycardia
Hypertension
Tachypnea
Low oxygen saturation

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:

Corticosteroid -induced chronic immunosuppression
Anaphylaxis
Acute hypersensitivity reactions
Eosinophilic pneumonia
Churg-Strauss syndrome
Emphysema

Final Diagnosis of the case according to NEJM:

Status asthmaticus with resultant fatal asthma

Differential Diagnoses of the case as given by Isabel:

Asthma – Isabel 1st page
Emphysema – Isabel 1st page
Anaphylaxis – click on Allergic disorders heading
Hypersensitivity pneumonitis - click on Allergic disorders heading

Was the final diagnosis given by Isabel:

Yes, Isabel 1st page

Entire presentation cut and pasted into the Isabel query box:

Asthma – click on respiratory system disorder
Anaphylaxis – click on Allergic disorders heading

Isabel differential:

RESPIRATORY SYSTEM DISORDERS << Click here <u>Emphysema</u> RD <u>Bronchiectasis</u> RD <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Interstitial Lung Disease</u> RD <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Atypical Pneumonia</u> RD <u>Asthma</u> RD <u>Sarcoidosis</u> RD <u>Lung Collapse</u> RD <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Aspiration Syndromes</u> RD	CARDIAC DISORDERS << Click here <u>Heart Failure / CHF</u> RD
RHEUMATIC DISEASES << Click here	INFECTIOUS DISEASES << Click here <u>Pseudomonas</u> RD
ALLERGIC DISORDERS << Click here	ENDOCRINE SYSTEM << Click here
NEOPLASTIC DISEASES << Click here	NEUROMUSCULAR DISORDERS << Click here
	HEMATOLOGY << Click here
	SHOCK STATES << Click here
	LIVER DISORDERS << Click here
	TOXICOLOGY << Click here