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Every Patient Tells A Story – Medical Mysteries and the Art of Diagnosis– Lisa Sanders

Chapter 4: The Language the Body Speaks Pages 58-64 – Gayle Delacroix

Demographic: Female, 58yrs, America North, General speciality

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

lower back pain
fever
chills
leg weakness
stomach ache
diarrhea
fasciculations

Synonyms used by Isabel PRO for the above query:

stomach ache
lower back pain
fever
diarrhea
rash
fasciculations
chills
weakness

STOP !

Before you read further you might want to construct your own:

- Differential diagnosis
- Final diagnosis

In the following section you will find:

- The differential diagnosis considered by medical personnel involved in the patient's care
- The final diagnosis of the case
- Whether Isabel PRO suggested the final diagnosis



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Differential diagnoses considered by medical personnel:

- Lyme disease
- Food poisoning
- Rocky mountain spotted fever
- Eastern equine encephalitis
- Herpes simplex encephalitis
- Polio

Final diagnosis of the case:

West Nile Virus

Was the final diagnosis given by Isabel PRO:

Yes, West Nile Encephalitis – under Infectious diseases

Isabel PRO Final Diagnosis:

The screenshot displays the Isabel PRO interface, divided into two main sections: 'ENTER CLINICAL FEATURES' and 'DEGREE OF MATCH'.

ENTER CLINICAL FEATURES: This section includes dropdown menus for 'age' (adult (50 - 65 years)), 'gender' (female), 'pregnancy' (- not specified -), 'region' (America North), and 'speciality' (General). Below these is a text input area for 'ENTER QUERY TERMS ON SEPARATE LINES:' containing the following terms: lower back pain, fever, chills, leg weakness, stomach ache, diarrhea, rash, and fasciculations. There is a '+ Add a Clinical Feature' button and a 'Get Checklist »' button. At the bottom, there are 'Help' and 'Search Again' links, and a disclaimer: 'Isabel PRO is not meant to replace your clinical judgment.'

DEGREE OF MATCH: This section shows '56 DIAGNOSES- DEGREE OF MATCH'. The top results are 'Sarcoidosis' and 'Arboviral Infections / Encephalitides'. Under 'Arboviral Infections / Encephalitides', 'West Nile Encephalitis' is highlighted in green. Below this, a yellow box contains the text: 'Why did this diagnosis come up ? We matched the terms: abdominal pain | abdominal pains | fever | febrile | fevers | diarrhea | rash | skin rash | weakness | chill'. Below the yellow box, it states 'Degree of match between query entered and Isabel database (Not clinical probability): 51%'. The next result is 'Toxic Shock Syndrome'. At the bottom, there is a section for '16 Body Systems' with a list of categories: INFECTIOUS DISEASES, RHEUMATIC DISEASES, NEPHROLOGY DISORDERS, NEUROMUSCULAR DISORDERS, NERVOUS SYSTEM DISORDERS, HEMATOLOGY DISORDERS, GASTROINTESTINAL DISORDERS, DERMATOLOGY DISORDERS, CARDIAC DISORDERS, RESPIRATORY DISORDERS, TOXICOLOGY DISORDERS, and NEOPLASTIC DISEASES.

Isabel Healthcare Inc

3120 Fairview Park Drive, Suite 200, Falls Church, VA 22042

Tel: +1.703.289.8855