

Case 39 (December 22 2005): [N Engl J Med 2005;353:2697-705](#)

Demographic: Female, 63 yrs, Not pregnant, Africa West, General Speciality (recent immigration from Cameroon, hence region of Africa West was selected)

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

intermittent diffuse pruritus and disseminated dermatitis
progressive bilateral hearing loss and tinnitus
leopard-skin appearance of the skin on upper back, upper buttocks, and upper thighs, with scattered hypopigmented lesions
persistent eosinophilia
hypertension
mild peripheral neuropathy
dilated ascending aorta with insufficiency
cataracts
macular drusen

Synonyms used by Isabel for the above query:

Hypertension
Cataracts

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:

Syphilis

Eosinophilia (*Dientamoeba fragilis*, strongyloides infection & filarial infection)

Filariasis - Onchocerciasis

Final Diagnoses of the case according to NEJM:

Onchocerciasis

Differential Diagnoses of the case as given by Isabel:

Onchocerciasis – Isabel 1st page

Strongyloidiasis – Isabel 1st page

Syphilis – click on Infectious diseases heading

Was the final diagnosis given by Isabel:

Yes, Isabel 1st page

Entire presentation cut and pasted into the Isabel query box:

None of the above

Isabel differential:

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>INFECTIOUS DISEASES << Click here</p> <p>Lyme Disease RD</p> <p>↳ Leprosy RD</p> <p>Histoplasmosis RD</p> <p>Strongyloidiasis RD</p> <p>Onchocerciasis RD</p> <p>Tuberculosis RD</p> <p>↳ Syphilis RD</p> <p>Bacterial Meningitis RD</p> <p>Lymphatic Filariasis RD</p> | <p>VASCULAR DISORDERS << Click here</p> <p>Aortic Aneurysm / Dissection RD</p> |
| | <p>RHEUMATIC DISEASES << Click here</p> <p>SLE RD</p> |
| | <p>DERMATOLOGY << Click here</p> <p>Scabies RD</p> <p>Localized Lipodystrophy RD</p> <p>Keratosis Pilaris RD</p> <p>↳ Skin Pigmentation Disorders RD</p> |
| <p>NERVOUS SYSTEM DISORDERS << Click here</p> <p>Multiple Sclerosis RD</p> | <p>IMMUNOLOGIC SYSTEM << Click here</p> <p>Eosinophilia-Myalgia Syndrome RD</p> |
| <p>RESPIRATORY SYSTEM DISORDERS << Click here</p> <p>Sarcoidosis RD</p> | <p>ALLERGIC DISORDERS << Click here</p> <p>Atopic Dermatitis RD</p> |
| <p>NEUROMUSCULAR DISORDERS << Click here</p> <p>Dermatomyositis / Polymyositis RD</p> | <p>TOXICOLOGY << Click here</p> |
| <p>NEOPLASTIC DISEASES << Click here</p> | <p>LIVER DISORDERS << Click here</p> |
| <p>ORTHOPEDIC DISORDERS << Click here</p> | |
| <p>CARDIAC DISORDERS << Click here</p> | |
| <p>ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HAZARDS << Click here</p> | |