

Case 11 (April 10 2008): [N Engl J Med. 358\(15\):1604-1613](#)

Demographic: Male, 45 yrs, America North, General speciality

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

fever
confusion
photophobia
neck stiffness
headaches
fatigue
somnolent
diarrhea
slurred speech
difficulty walking
intermittent incontinence of urine and stool
chills
diffuse hyperreflexia
myoclonic jerks
immunocompromised

Synonyms used by Isabel for the above query:

Fever
Confusion
Photophobia
Neck stiffness
Headaches
Fatigue
Somnolent
Diarrhea
Slurred speech
Difficulty walking

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:

Donor-Derived Infections – Cryptococcal infection

Final Diagnosis of the case according to NEJM:

Disseminated cryptococcosis with cryptococcal meningitis in a liver-allograft recipient.

Differential Diagnoses of the cases given by Isabel:

Cryptococcal meningitis – under Infectious diseases heading, Under Fungal Meningitis

Cryptococcal neoformans – under Infectious disease heading

Was the final diagnosis given by Isabel:

Yes, under Infectious diseases heading



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Isabel Differential:

| | |
|--|--|
| INFECTIOUS DISEASES << click to expand | <input type="checkbox"/> Measles Infection <input type="button" value="Related Dx"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Influenza and Parainfluenza Viruses <input type="button" value="Related Dx"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Bacterial Meningitis <input type="button" value="Related Dx"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Viral Meningoencephalitis <input type="button" value="Related Dx"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Meningococcal Disease <input type="button" value="Related Dx"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tuberculosis <input type="button" value="Related Dx"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Shock Syndrome <input type="button" value="Related Dx"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shigella Infections <input type="button" value="Related Dx"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Arboviral Infections / Encephalitides <input type="button" value="Related Dx"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fungal Meningitis <input type="button" value="Related Dx"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Cryptococcal Meningitis |

Why did this diagnosis come up ? ✖

We matched the terms: fatigue | lethargy | Stiff neck | meningismus | Photophobia | fever | fevers | headache | headaches | confusion | altered mental state | loc | confused | altered mental status | obtundation | obtund | DIFFUS | diffuse | IMMUNOCOMPROM | immunocompromised

Degree of match between query entered and Isabel database (Not clinical probability): 54%

| | |
|--|---|
| RHEUMATIC DISEASES << click to expand | <input type="checkbox"/> SLE <input type="button" value="Related Dx"/> |
| LIVER DISORDERS << click to expand | <input type="checkbox"/> Viral Hepatitis <input type="button" value="Related Dx"/> |
| GASTROINTESTINAL DISORDERS << click to expand | <input type="checkbox"/> Inflammatory Bowel Disease <input type="button" value="Related Dx"/> |
| ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HAZARDS | <input type="checkbox"/> Diseases of High Altitudes <input type="button" value="Related Dx"/> |

| | |
|--|---|
| NERVOUS SYSTEM DISORDERS << click to expand | <input type="checkbox"/> Intracranial Abscess <input type="button" value="Related Dx"/> |
| NEPHROLOGY << click to expand | <input type="checkbox"/> Renal Failure <input type="button" value="Related Dx"/> |
| TOXICOLOGY << click to expand | <input type="checkbox"/> Substance Abuse <input type="button" value="Related Dx"/> |
| ENDOCRINE SYSTEM | <input type="checkbox"/> Hyperthyroidism <input type="button" value="Related Dx"/> |