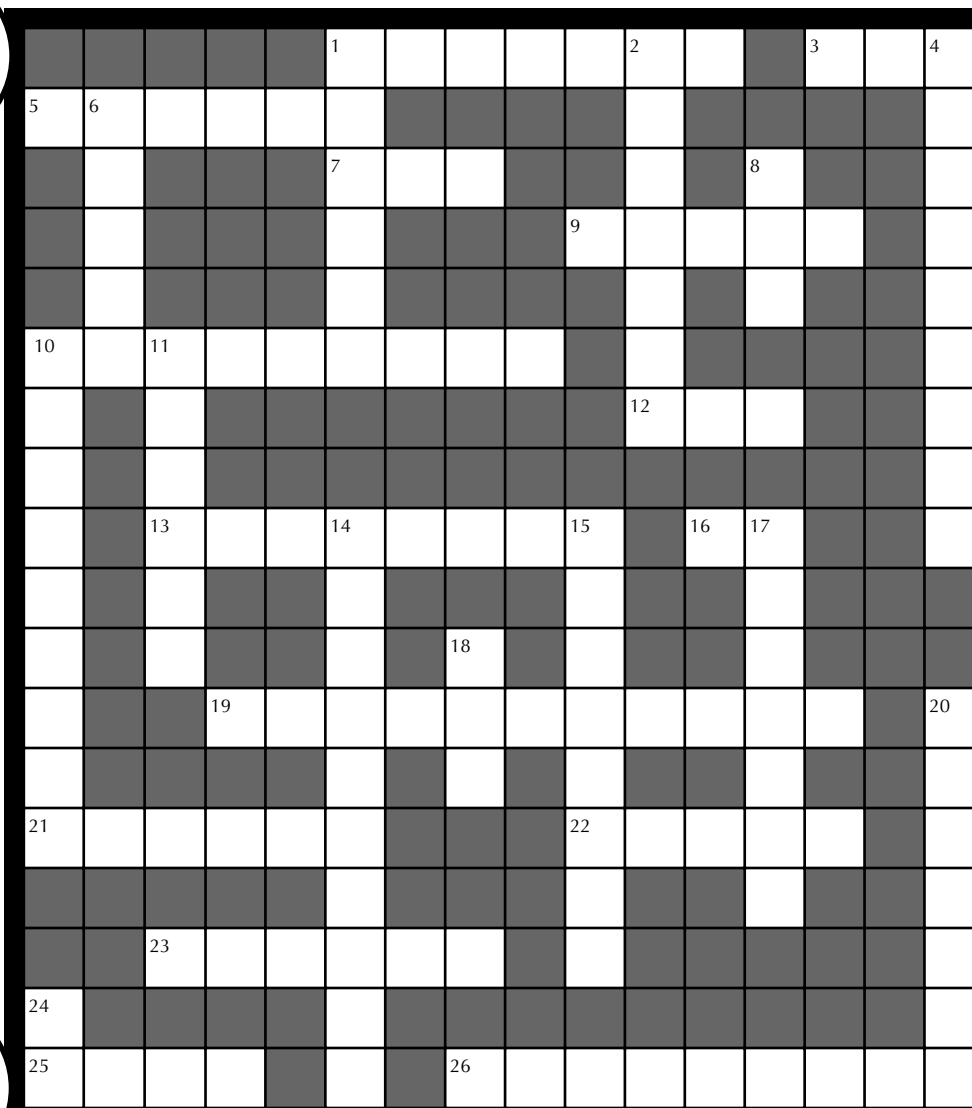


by *Jyothi Jayaraman, MD; K.S. Joseph, MD,*

C R O S S W O R D



Diagnosis in retrospect

The retrospective diagnosis of famous people has been described as one of the lowest forms of medical history.¹ Nevertheless, scientific reports speculating on the illnesses of famous people appear regularly in the medical

literature. MEDLINE lists more than a hundred such papers each year. This crossword puzzle is based mainly on such diagnoses. The clues name a famous person and give information about the illness that he or she is believed to have had. Medical abbreviations are used, and possessives have been dropped from eponymous terms (e.g., Hodgkin's would be shortened to Hodgkin).

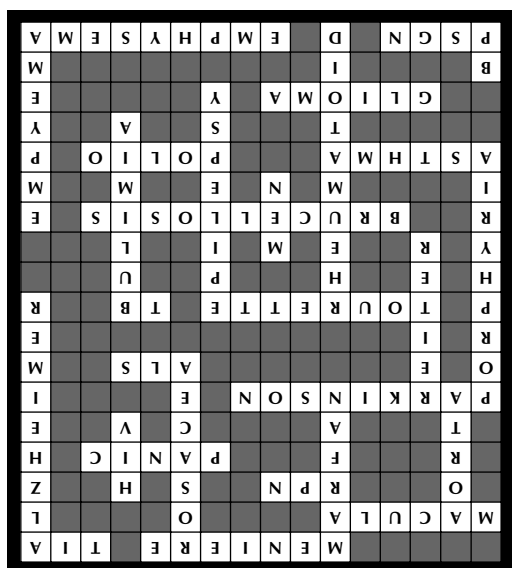
ACROSS

1. Martin Luther; attacks of "roaring tinnitus" with vertigo at irregular intervals with no loss of consciousness²
3. Arturo Toscanini; "stumbled, dropped his baton . . . music interrupted by 20–30 seconds of silence"³ (abbr.)
5. Edgar Degas; "he could only see around the spot at which he was looking, and never the spot itself." Possible site for pathology⁴
7. Ludwig van Beethoven; autopsy description of nephropathy⁵ (abbr.)
9. Charles Darwin; "sudden attacks of fear accompanied by palpitations, dizziness and shortness of breath"⁶
10. Adolf Hitler; tremor⁷
12. David Niven; slurred speech and progressive weakness⁸ (abbr.)
13. Samuel Johnson; verbal and motor tics, coprolalia and periodic boundless mental energy⁹
16. Emily Brontë; pulmonary infection¹⁰ (abbr.)
19. Florence Nightingale; insomnia, anorexia, tachycardia, headaches and depression¹¹
21. Charles Dickens; "I have coughed from 2 to 3 in the morning until 5 or 6 and have been absolutely sleepless. Last night I took some laudanum, and it is the only thing that has done me any good."¹²
22. Franklin D. Roosevelt; viral infection with neurologic sequelae¹³
23. George Gershwin; brain tumour with poor prognosis¹⁴
25. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart; renal complication of common childhood ailment¹⁵ (abbr.)
26. Frederic Chopin; chronic respiratory illness¹⁶

DOWN

1. Abraham Lincoln; autosomal dominant disorder; lack of fibrillin in the skin^{13,17}
2. Rembrandt van Rijn; erythematous, papular skin disease with a telangiectatic lesion and rhinophyma (based on self-portrait)¹⁸
4. Immanuel Kant; short- and long-term memory impairment, judgement deficit, aphasia and possibly apraxia¹⁹
6. Albert Einstein; fatal vascular accident involving this vessel²⁰
8. Arthur Ashe; iatrogenic infection?²¹ (abbr.)
10. King George III; severe abdominal pain, constipation, psychiatric disorder and intermittent discoloration of urine²²
11. James Joyce; syndrome characterized by urethritis, arthritis and recurrent iridocyclitis²³
14. Pierre Auguste Renoir; "swelling of the metacarpophalangeal joints and deformities of the feet"²⁴
15. Fyodor Dostoyevsky; attacks of ecstasy followed by unconsciousness²⁵
17. George Gordon Byron; "when I *do* dine I gorge like . . . a Boa snake"²¹
18. Goliath; acromegaly, bitemporal visual field defect, osteitis fibrosa cystica. Type I of condition^{26,27} (abbr.)
20. William Osler; cause of death, respiratory²⁸
24. Virginia Woolf; psychiatric disorder allegedly responsible for her death by suicide²⁹ (abbr.)

Dr. Jayaraman is a clinical biochemist residing in Ottawa; Dr. Joseph is an Associate Editor of *CMAJ*.



- Abbreviations used:
- TIA transient ischemic attack
 - RPN renal papillary necrosis
 - HIV human immunodeficiency virus
 - ALS amyotrophic lateral sclerosis
 - TB tuberculosis
 - MEN multiple endocrine neoplasia
 - BP bipolar
 - PSGN post-streptococcal glomerulonephritis

References

1. Baron JH. Byron's appetites, James Joyce's gut, and Melba's meals and mésalliances. *BMJ* 1997;315:1697-703.
2. Feldmann H. [Martin Luther's seizure disorder]. *Sudhoffs Arch Z Wissenschaftsgesch* 1989;73:26-44.
3. Cheng TO. Toscanini's fumble. *Postgrad Med* 1990;88:29.
4. Ravin JG, Kenyon CA. Degas' loss of vision: evidence for a diagnosis of retinal disease. *Surv Ophthalmol* 1994;39:57-64.
5. Davies PJ. Beethoven's nephropathy and death: discussion paper. *J R Soc Med* 1993;86:159-61.
6. Barloon TJ, Noyes R. Charles Darwin and panic disorder. *JAMA* 1997;277:138-41.
7. Redlich FC. A new medical diagnosis of Adolf Hitler. *Arch Intern Med* 1993;153:693-7.
8. Morley S. *The other side of the moon*. London: Weidenfield and Nicolson; 1985.
9. Pearce JMS. Doctor Samuel Johnson: "the great convulsionary" a victim of Gilles de la Tourette's syndrome. *J R Soc Med* 1994;87:396-9.
10. Leavesley JH. The Brontë family. *Med J Aust* 1985;143:415-7.
11. Young DAB. Florence Nightingale's fever. *BMJ* 1995;311:1711-4.
12. Cohen SG. Asthma among the famous. Charles Dickens (1812-1870) English author. *Allergy Asthma Proc* 1997;18:263-8.
13. McKusick VA. The defect in Marfan's syndrome. *Nature* 1991;352:279-81.
14. Kasdan ML. The final days of George Gershwin, American composer. September 26, 1898-July 11, 1937. 50th anniversary. *J Ky Med Assoc* 1987;85:649-52.
15. Wheater M. Mozart's last illness — a medical diagnosis. *J R Soc Med* 1990;83:586-9.
16. Kubba AK, Young M. The long suffering of Frederic Chopin. *Chest* 1998;113:210-6.
17. Young I. Understanding Marfan's syndrome. *BMJ* 1991;303:1414-5.
18. Espinel HC. A medical evaluation of Rembrandt. His self-portrait: ageing, disease, and the language of the skin. *Lancet* 1997;350:1835-7.
19. Fellin R, Blè A. The disease of Immanuel Kant. *Lancet* 1997;350:1771-3.
20. Chandler JJ. The Einstein sign: the clinical picture of acute cholecystitis caused by ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm. *N Engl J Med* 1984;310:1538.
21. Ashe A, Rampersad A. *Days of grace*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf; 1993.
22. Warren MJ, Jay M, Hunt DM, Elder GH, Rohl JC. The maddening busi-ness of King George III and porphyria. *Trends Biochem Sci* 1996;21:229-34.
23. Paton A. James Joyce — a case history. *BMJ* 1975;ii:636-7.
24. Boonen A, Rest JVD, Dequeker J, Linden SVD. How Renoir coped with rheumatoid arthritis. *BMJ* 1997;315:1704-8.
25. Kjetsaa G. *Fyodor Dostoyevsky*. New York: Viking; 1987.
26. Rabin D, Rabin PL. David, Goliath and Smiley's people. *N Engl J Med* 1983;309:992.
27. Covell LL, Covell LM. David, Goliath et al. *N Engl J Med* 1983;310:790.
28. Robb-Smith AHT. Did Sir William Osler have carcinoma of the lung? *Chest* 1974;66:712-6.
29. Banks JT. Mrs. Woolf in Harley Street. *Lancet* 1998;351:1124-6.

