

Are you sure it's really

# FLU?

Your differentials go way beyond "just" sepsis!

"Flu-like illness", like other dangerous descriptions such as "off-legs", "acopia" and "social admission" may be a deadly trap. Be careful!



Your brain is lazy & will try to make you short-cut to a flu diagnosis, a cognitive bias called "availability heuristic" (if this is new to you, google!)



**Beware the pre-labelled patient:**

Patients who are referred to you already carrying a label of "flu" (e.g. from family, triage nurse, GP, ED, or paramedics) need objective assessment too.

*Worldwide confessions from Twitter:*

*Here's some we got wrong earlier*

Some are fairly obvious differentials for flu...

- Pneumonia
- Pulmonary Embolism

Other infections less so!

- TB ("Tamiflu didn't help...")
- Leptospirosis
- Scarlet Fever

There's definitely a respiratory theme:

- Pulmonary oedema/ Heart Failure
- Myocardial infarction
- "Non cardiac chest pain" (Tn >5000!)
- Primary lung cancer
- DKA (1st presentation)

And finally, from the scary to the niche!

- Lymphoma
- Addisonian crisis
- Disseminated malignancy
- Stroke
- Hyperkalaemia (8.6)
- Shigella dysentery

your  will try to lead you astray #cognitivebias

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