

QUESTION

1. A patient with a long history of alcohol abuse presents with a 2-week history of progressive weakness and weight loss. Physical examination reveals a 10% weight loss, muscle wasting, and a 30-degree angle of the scapula. Laboratory studies show a total protein of 5.5 g/dL, albumin of 3.5 g/dL, and a positive serum protein electrophoresis. The patient's most likely diagnosis is:

A. Multiple myeloma
B. Metastatic carcinoma
C. Amyloidosis
D. Waldenström macroglobulinemia
E. Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance

Answer	Explanation	Reference
A	Multiple myeloma is a plasma cell dyscrasia characterized by the presence of a monoclonal immunoglobulin (M) protein. The M protein is typically IgG or IgA, but can also be IgD or IgE. The M protein is produced by a clone of plasma cells that have undergone clonal expansion. The M protein is typically found in the serum and/or urine. The M protein is typically associated with a variety of clinical features, including bone pain, anemia, renal failure, and hypercalcemia. The patient's weight loss and muscle wasting are consistent with the presence of a monoclonal protein. The patient's total protein and albumin levels are also consistent with the presence of a monoclonal protein. The patient's positive serum protein electrophoresis is also consistent with the presence of a monoclonal protein.	1
B	Metastatic carcinoma is a common cause of weight loss and muscle wasting. However, the patient's total protein and albumin levels are normal, which is not typical for metastatic carcinoma. The patient's positive serum protein electrophoresis is also not typical for metastatic carcinoma.	2
C	Amyloidosis is a group of diseases characterized by the deposition of amyloid fibrils in various organs. The most common type of amyloidosis is AL amyloidosis, which is associated with the presence of a monoclonal immunoglobulin light chain. The patient's weight loss and muscle wasting are consistent with the presence of amyloidosis. However, the patient's total protein and albumin levels are normal, which is not typical for amyloidosis. The patient's positive serum protein electrophoresis is also not typical for amyloidosis.	3
D	Waldenström macroglobulinemia is a type of plasma cell dyscrasia characterized by the presence of a monoclonal immunoglobulin M protein. The M protein is typically IgM. The M protein is typically found in the serum and/or urine. The M protein is typically associated with a variety of clinical features, including weight loss, muscle wasting, and anemia. The patient's weight loss and muscle wasting are consistent with the presence of Waldenström macroglobulinemia. However, the patient's total protein and albumin levels are normal, which is not typical for Waldenström macroglobulinemia. The patient's positive serum protein electrophoresis is also not typical for Waldenström macroglobulinemia.	4
E	Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS) is a type of plasma cell dyscrasia characterized by the presence of a monoclonal immunoglobulin M protein. The M protein is typically IgG or IgA. The M protein is typically found in the serum and/or urine. The M protein is typically associated with a variety of clinical features, including weight loss, muscle wasting, and anemia. The patient's weight loss and muscle wasting are consistent with the presence of MGUS. However, the patient's total protein and albumin levels are normal, which is not typical for MGUS. The patient's positive serum protein electrophoresis is also not typical for MGUS.	5

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