

**QUESTION**  
 A 65-year-old male patient with a long history of hypertension and hyperlipidemia presents to the clinic with a 2-week history of increasing fatigue, weight loss, and intermittent fevers. He reports that he has been unable to complete his usual activities of daily living. He has no cough, hemoptysis, or chest pain. He has no recent travel history and no contact with anyone who has been ill. He is on lisinopril, atorvastatin, and aspirin. His last laboratory workup was within normal limits.

**ANSWER**  
 The patient's symptoms are suggestive of a chronic infectious process. The most common cause of such symptoms in an immunocompetent adult is tuberculosis. The clinical presentation is consistent with a reactivation of latent tuberculosis infection. The patient's symptoms of fatigue, weight loss, and fevers are classic for active tuberculosis. The absence of cough and chest pain does not rule out tuberculosis, as these symptoms may be absent in some patients. The patient's medical history and current medications do not suggest an alternative diagnosis.

**DISCUSSION**  
 Tuberculosis is a chronic infectious disease caused by Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex. It is a leading cause of death worldwide. The disease is characterized by a long incubation period, often years, before symptoms appear. The clinical presentation is nonspecific, with fatigue, weight loss, and fevers being the most common symptoms. The disease can affect any organ system, but the lungs are the most common site of infection. The patient's symptoms are consistent with a reactivation of latent tuberculosis infection. The patient's medical history and current medications do not suggest an alternative diagnosis.

## Tuberculosis



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