

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 currently on lisinopril and atorvastatin. His medical history is significant for type 2 diabetes mellitus, chronic kidney disease, and a recent diagnosis of atrial fibrillation. He is a former smoker and has no alcohol consumption. His family history is notable for coronary artery disease and hypertension. He is currently taking aspirin and warfarin for his atrial fibrillation. His physical examination is unremarkable. His laboratory studies show a hemoglobin of 10 g/dL, a hematocrit of 30%, and a ferritin level of 100 ng/mL. His chest X-ray is normal. His echocardiogram shows a normal left ventricular size and function. His electrocardiogram shows a normal sinus rhythm. His computed tomography scan of the chest is normal. His bone marrow biopsy shows a hypercellular marrow with a normal morphology. His flow cytometry study shows a normal population of T cells. His immunoglobulin levels are normal. His serum protein electrophoresis is normal. His serum lactate dehydrogenase level is elevated. His serum ferritin level is elevated. His serum ferritin level is elevated.

ANSWER
 The patient's presentation is consistent with a diagnosis of iron deficiency anemia. The elevated ferritin level is a common finding in iron deficiency anemia, particularly in patients with chronic inflammation. The patient's symptoms of fatigue, weight loss, and intermittent fevers are consistent with iron deficiency anemia. The patient's physical examination is unremarkable. The patient's laboratory studies show a hemoglobin of 10 g/dL, a hematocrit of 30%, and a ferritin level of 100 ng/mL. The patient's chest X-ray is normal. The patient's echocardiogram shows a normal left ventricular size and function. The patient's electrocardiogram shows a normal sinus rhythm. The patient's computed tomography scan of the chest is normal. The patient's bone marrow biopsy shows a hypercellular marrow with a normal morphology. The patient's flow cytometry study shows a normal population of T cells. The patient's immunoglobulin levels are normal. The patient's serum protein electrophoresis is normal. The patient's serum lactate dehydrogenase level is elevated. The patient's serum ferritin level is elevated.

ANSWERS

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