

**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 chest pain, shortness of breath, or changes in bowel habits. He has a 20-pack-year smoking history and consumes alcohol socially. His current medications include lisinopril, atorvastatin, and aspirin. He has no known drug allergies.

**ANSWER**  
 The patient's symptoms are concerning for a systemic illness, such as a malignancy or an infection. The most common cause of weight loss and fatigue in this age group is a malignancy. The patient's symptoms are non-specific, but the combination of weight loss, fatigue, and fevers is highly suggestive of a systemic process. The patient's medical history and current medications do not provide any clear clues to the diagnosis.

**DISCUSSION**  
 The patient's symptoms are non-specific, but the combination of weight loss, fatigue, and fevers is highly suggestive of a systemic process. The patient's medical history and current medications do not provide any clear clues to the diagnosis. The differential diagnosis includes malignancy, infection, and endocrine disorders. The patient's symptoms are most consistent with a malignancy, such as a lung cancer or a hematologic malignancy. The patient's smoking history and age are risk factors for lung cancer. The patient's weight loss and fatigue are common symptoms of a malignancy. The patient's intermittent fevers are also a common symptom of a malignancy.

## ANSWERS

**1. A**  
 The patient's symptoms are most consistent with a malignancy, such as a lung cancer or a hematologic malignancy. The patient's smoking history and age are risk factors for lung cancer. The patient's weight loss and fatigue are common symptoms of a malignancy. The patient's intermittent fevers are also a common symptom of a malignancy.

**2. B**  
 The patient's symptoms are most consistent with a malignancy, such as a lung cancer or a hematologic malignancy. The patient's smoking history and age are risk factors for lung cancer. The patient's weight loss and fatigue are common symptoms of a malignancy. The patient's intermittent fevers are also a common symptom of a malignancy.

**3. C**  
 The patient's symptoms are most consistent with a malignancy, such as a lung cancer or a hematologic malignancy. The patient's smoking history and age are risk factors for lung cancer. The patient's weight loss and fatigue are common symptoms of a malignancy. The patient's intermittent fevers are also a common symptom of a malignancy.