

QUESTION

1. A patient with a long history of alcohol abuse presents with a 2-week history of progressive weakness, weight loss, and anorexia. Physical examination reveals a thin, elderly man with a dry mouth, tachycardia, and a positive Tinel's sign at the wrist. Laboratory studies show a serum sodium of 128 mEq/L, serum potassium of 3.2 mEq/L, serum calcium of 8.5 mg/dL, and serum albumin of 3.5 g/dL. The patient's most likely diagnosis is:

A. Alcohol withdrawal
B. Hypokalemia
C. Hypocalcemia
D. Hypomagnesemia
E. Hypothyroidism

Option	Correct Answer	Explanation
A	Incorrect	Alcohol withdrawal typically presents with tremors, sweating, and hypertension, but not with the chronic symptoms described.
B	Incorrect	While hypokalemia is present, it is a secondary finding and not the primary cause of the patient's symptoms.
C	Incorrect	Hypocalcemia is also present, but it is a secondary finding and not the primary cause of the patient's symptoms.
D	Correct	Hypomagnesemia is the most likely diagnosis. It is a common complication of chronic alcohol abuse and can cause symptoms such as weakness, weight loss, and anorexia. The positive Tinel's sign at the wrist is also consistent with hypomagnesemia-induced neuropathy.
E	Incorrect	Hypothyroidism is unlikely given the patient's history of alcohol abuse and the absence of other thyroid-related symptoms.

ANSWER: D

EXPLANATION:

QUESTION

2. A 65-year-old male patient with a long history of alcohol abuse presents with a 2-week history of progressive weakness, weight loss, and anorexia. Physical examination reveals a thin, elderly man with a dry mouth, tachycardia, and a positive Tinel's sign at the wrist. Laboratory studies show a serum sodium of 128 mEq/L, serum potassium of 3.2 mEq/L, serum calcium of 8.5 mg/dL, and serum albumin of 3.5 g/dL. The patient's most likely diagnosis is:

A. Alcohol withdrawal
B. Hypokalemia
C. Hypocalcemia
D. Hypomagnesemia
E. Hypothyroidism

Option	Correct Answer	Explanation
A	Incorrect	Alcohol withdrawal typically presents with tremors, sweating, and hypertension, but not with the chronic symptoms described.
B	Incorrect	While hypokalemia is present, it is a secondary finding and not the primary cause of the patient's symptoms.
C	Incorrect	Hypocalcemia is also present, but it is a secondary finding and not the primary cause of the patient's symptoms.
D	Correct	Hypomagnesemia is the most likely diagnosis. It is a common complication of chronic alcohol abuse and can cause symptoms such as weakness, weight loss, and anorexia. The positive Tinel's sign at the wrist is also consistent with hypomagnesemia-induced neuropathy.
E	Incorrect	Hypothyroidism is unlikely given the patient's history of alcohol abuse and the absence of other thyroid-related symptoms.

ANSWER: D

EXPLANATION: