

QUESTION

1. A patient with a long history of alcohol abuse presents with a 2-week history of weight loss, anorexia, and weakness. Physical examination shows 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 normal creatinine. The patient's serum is positive for anti-HCV antibody. Which of the following is the most likely cause of the patient's weight loss and weakness?

- A. Alcohol abuse
- B. Chronic hepatitis C
- C. Depression
- D. Iron deficiency anemia
- E. Vitamin B12 deficiency

ANSWER: B

DISCUSSION: The patient's weight loss and weakness are most likely due to chronic hepatitis C.

QUESTION



The diagram illustrates the scapulothoracic angle, which is a clinical sign of muscle wasting in chronic liver disease. The angle is formed by a line drawn from the tip of the scapula to the center of the humeral head, and it is labeled as 30 degrees.

ANSWER: B

DISCUSSION: The patient's weight loss and weakness are most likely due to chronic hepatitis C. The scapulothoracic angle is a clinical sign of muscle wasting in chronic liver disease.