

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 the fevers occur in the late afternoon and are accompanied by night sweats. He has no cough, hemoptysis, or chest pain. He has lost approximately 10 pounds (4.5 kg) over the last 3 months. 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 has no known drug allergies. He is a former smoker (quit 10 years ago) and drinks alcohol socially. He has no recent travel history and no contact with anyone who has been ill. He is currently on a diet of low-carbohydrate, high-protein foods. He has no family history of autoimmune disease. He is currently on a diet of low-carbohydrate, high-protein foods. He has no family history of autoimmune disease.

System	Findings
General	Weight loss, fatigue, intermittent fevers, night sweats
Cardiovascular	Normal heart rate, normal blood pressure, normal lung sounds
Respiratory	No cough, no hemoptysis, no chest pain
Neurological	No focal deficits, normal reflexes
GI	No abdominal pain, no diarrhea, no constipation
Urogenital	No hematuria, no proteinuria, normal renal function
Endocrine	No hyperglycemia, normal thyroid function
Immunology	No leukocytosis, normal ESR, normal CRP

What is the most likely diagnosis?

ANSWER

The most likely diagnosis is **lymphoma**. The patient's symptoms, including weight loss, fatigue, and intermittent fevers, are characteristic of a systemic illness. The absence of cough, hemoptysis, or chest pain makes a primary lung malignancy less likely. The patient's history of hypertension and hyperlipidemia, along with his current medications, does not explain the symptoms. The patient's diet and family history are also unlikely to be the cause. The patient's symptoms are most consistent with a systemic illness, such as lymphoma. The patient's symptoms are most consistent with a systemic illness, such as lymphoma.