

QUESTION

1. A patient with a long history of alcohol abuse presents with a 2-week history of weight loss, weakness, and confusion. On admission, the patient is found to have a serum sodium of 125 mEq/L, serum glucose of 100 mg/dL, and serum urea nitrogen of 18 mg/dL. The patient's physical examination is unremarkable. The patient's medical history is significant for chronic alcohol abuse, hypertension, and type 2 diabetes mellitus. The patient's current medications include lisinopril, metformin, and insulin. The patient's laboratory studies are as follows:

Test	Result	Reference Range
Serum sodium	125 mEq/L	135-145 mEq/L
Serum glucose	100 mg/dL	70-100 mg/dL
Serum urea nitrogen	18 mg/dL	7-20 mg/dL
Serum creatinine	1.2 mg/dL	0.6-1.2 mg/dL
Serum albumin	3.5 g/dL	3.5-5.0 g/dL
Serum total bilirubin	1.2 mg/dL	0.1-1.2 mg/dL
Serum aspartate aminotransferase (AST)	45 U/L	0-37 U/L
Serum alanine aminotransferase (ALT)	35 U/L	0-40 U/L
Serum gamma-glutamyl transaminase (GGT)	120 U/L	0-40 U/L
Serum lactate dehydrogenase (LDH)	250 U/L	100-250 U/L
Serum ferritin	100 ng/mL	50-200 ng/mL
Serum ferritin (ferritin index)	100	50-200
Serum ferritin (ferritin index)	100	50-200

ANSWER

The patient's laboratory studies are consistent with alcoholic liver disease. The elevated serum GGT and AST levels are characteristic of alcohol abuse. The patient's serum sodium is low, which is consistent with hyponatremia. The patient's serum glucose is normal, and the patient's serum urea nitrogen is elevated, which is consistent with renal dysfunction. The patient's serum albumin is normal, and the patient's serum total bilirubin is normal. The patient's serum aspartate aminotransferase (AST) and serum alanine aminotransferase (ALT) levels are elevated, which is consistent with liver disease. The patient's serum gamma-glutamyl transaminase (GGT) level is elevated, which is consistent with alcohol abuse. The patient's serum lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) level is normal, and the patient's serum ferritin level is normal. The patient's serum ferritin (ferritin index) is normal.

The patient's clinical presentation is consistent with alcoholic liver disease. The patient's weight loss, weakness, and confusion are common symptoms of liver disease. The patient's physical examination is unremarkable, which is consistent with liver disease. The patient's medical history is significant for chronic alcohol abuse, hypertension, and type 2 diabetes mellitus. The patient's current medications include lisinopril, metformin, and insulin.

QUESTION



The diagrams illustrate the anatomy of the human digestive system. The top diagram shows the esophagus, stomach, and small intestine. The bottom diagram shows the large intestine and rectum.