

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 reveals a 10% weight loss, tachycardia, and a 30-degree angle of trunk extension. Laboratory studies show a total bilirubin of 2.5 mg/dL, alkaline phosphatase of 1200 U/L, and a normal aspartate aminotransferase (AST) and alanine aminotransferase (ALT). The patient's most likely diagnosis is:

- A. Acute alcoholic hepatitis
- B. Chronic alcoholic hepatitis
- C. Primary biliary cirrhosis
- D. Primary sclerosing cholangitis
- E. Wilson disease

ANSWER: B

EXPLANATION: The patient's symptoms and physical findings are consistent with chronic alcoholic hepatitis. The weight loss, anorexia, and weakness are common symptoms of this condition. The physical examination findings of tachycardia and a 30-degree angle of trunk extension are also characteristic. The laboratory studies show a total bilirubin of 2.5 mg/dL, alkaline phosphatase of 1200 U/L, and a normal AST and ALT. This pattern of laboratory findings is typical of chronic alcoholic hepatitis.



KEY POINTS



Chronic alcoholic hepatitis is a liver disease that occurs in people who have a long history of alcohol abuse. It is characterized by weight loss, anorexia, and weakness. Physical examination may reveal a 10% weight loss, tachycardia, and a 30-degree angle of trunk extension. Laboratory studies show a total bilirubin of 2.5 mg/dL, alkaline phosphatase of 1200 U/L, and a normal aspartate aminotransferase (AST) and alanine aminotransferase (ALT). The patient's most likely diagnosis is chronic alcoholic hepatitis.

ANSWER: B