

QUESTION

10. A patient with a long history of alcohol abuse is brought to the emergency department with a 2-day history of confusion and vomiting. The patient is found to have a serum sodium of 118 mEq/L. Which of the following is the most appropriate initial management?

- A. 0.9% saline
- B. 3% saline
- C. 5% dextrose in water
- D. 5% dextrose in 0.9% saline
- E. 5% dextrose in 0.45% saline

ANSWER: B
This patient has acute hyponatremia secondary to alcohol abuse. The patient is symptomatic with vomiting and confusion. The patient's sodium is 118 mEq/L, which is significantly low. The patient's sodium should be corrected to a level of 125 mEq/L. The most appropriate initial management is 3% saline.

11. A 65-year-old male with a long history of alcohol abuse is brought to the emergency department with a 2-day history of confusion and vomiting. The patient is found to have a serum sodium of 118 mEq/L. Which of the following is the most appropriate initial management?

- A. 0.9% saline
- B. 3% saline
- C. 5% dextrose in water
- D. 5% dextrose in 0.9% saline
- E. 5% dextrose in 0.45% saline

ANSWER: B
This patient has acute hyponatremia secondary to alcohol abuse. The patient is symptomatic with vomiting and confusion. The patient's sodium is 118 mEq/L, which is significantly low. The patient's sodium should be corrected to a level of 125 mEq/L. The most appropriate initial management is 3% saline.