

QUESTION

A patient with a long history of hypertension is brought to the emergency department with a severe headache, vomiting, and blurred vision. The patient's blood pressure is 180/110 mmHg. The patient's physical examination is otherwise normal. The patient's laboratory studies are as follows:

Test	Result
Serum sodium	135 mEq/L
Serum potassium	4.0 mEq/L
Serum calcium	10.0 mg/dL
Serum magnesium	1.8 mg/dL
Serum phosphate	3.5 mg/dL
Serum creatinine	1.2 mg/dL
Serum urea nitrogen	18 mg/dL
Serum glucose	100 mg/dL
Serum lactate	0.8 mg/dL
Serum ammonia	15 mg/dL
Serum salicylate	0 mg/dL
Serum acetaminophen	0 mg/dL
Serum ethanol	0 mg/dL
Serum salicylate	0 mg/dL
Serum acetaminophen	0 mg/dL
Serum ethanol	0 mg/dL

The patient's electrocardiogram is normal. The patient's chest radiograph is normal. The patient's head computed tomography scan is normal. The patient's magnetic resonance imaging scan is normal. The patient's lumbar puncture is normal. The patient's cerebrospinal fluid studies are as follows:

Test	Result
CSF sodium	135 mEq/L
CSF potassium	4.0 mEq/L
CSF calcium	10.0 mg/dL
CSF magnesium	1.8 mg/dL
CSF phosphate	3.5 mg/dL
CSF creatinine	1.2 mg/dL
CSF urea nitrogen	18 mg/dL
CSF glucose	100 mg/dL
CSF lactate	0.8 mg/dL
CSF ammonia	15 mg/dL
CSF salicylate	0 mg/dL
CSF acetaminophen	0 mg/dL
CSF ethanol	0 mg/dL

The patient's clinical picture is most consistent with which of the following conditions?

ANSWER

ANSWER



The patient's clinical picture is most consistent with hypertensive encephalopathy. The patient's severe headache, vomiting, and blurred vision are all consistent with this condition. The patient's blood pressure is significantly elevated, and the patient's physical examination is otherwise normal. The patient's laboratory studies and imaging studies are all normal, which is also consistent with hypertensive encephalopathy.