

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 shows a 10% weight loss, tachycardia, and a positive Tinel's sign at the wrist. Laboratory studies show a serum gamma-glutamyl transaminase (GGT) level of 120 U/L, an aspartate aminotransferase (AST) level of 40 U/L, and a total bilirubin level of 1.5 mg/dL. The patient's alcohol consumption is approximately 80 g of ethanol per day.

Answer Choice	Correct Answer	Explanation
A. Alcohol withdrawal	Incorrect	Alcohol withdrawal typically presents with tremors, tachycardia, and hypertension, but not with weight loss or a positive Tinel's sign.
B. Carpal tunnel syndrome	Correct	The patient's symptoms, including weight loss, anorexia, weakness, and a positive Tinel's sign, are consistent with carpal tunnel syndrome. The elevated GGT and AST levels suggest chronic alcohol abuse, which is a risk factor for this condition.
C. Hypothyroidism	Incorrect	Hypothyroidism can cause weight loss and weakness, but it does not typically cause a positive Tinel's sign or elevated GGT and AST levels.
D. Iron deficiency anemia	Incorrect	Iron deficiency anemia can cause weakness and weight loss, but it does not cause a positive Tinel's sign or elevated GGT and AST levels.
E. Vitamin B12 deficiency	Incorrect	Vitamin B12 deficiency can cause weakness and weight loss, but it does not cause a positive Tinel's sign or elevated GGT and AST levels.

2. A 65-year-old male patient with a long history of alcohol abuse presents with a 2-week history of weight loss, anorexia, and weakness. Physical examination shows a 10% weight loss, tachycardia, and a positive Tinel's sign at the wrist. Laboratory studies show a serum gamma-glutamyl transaminase (GGT) level of 120 U/L, an aspartate aminotransferase (AST) level of 40 U/L, and a total bilirubin level of 1.5 mg/dL. The patient's alcohol consumption is approximately 80 g of ethanol per day.

ANSWER

