

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. Laboratory studies show a serum albumin of 2.5 g/dL, a total bilirubin of 2.0 mg/dL, and a prothrombin time of 18 seconds. What is the most likely diagnosis?

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

ANSWER: B

DISCUSSION

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 tachycardia and positive Tinel's sign are also suggestive of chronic liver disease. The laboratory studies show a low serum albumin, which is consistent with liver dysfunction. The total bilirubin is elevated, and the prothrombin time is prolonged, both of which are indicative of liver failure. The most likely diagnosis is chronic alcoholic hepatitis.

ANSWER: B