

## 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, muscle wasting, and a 2-week history of alcohol abuse. Laboratory studies show a total protein of 6.0 g/dL, albumin of 3.5 g/dL, and a normal serum creatinine. The patient's liver function tests are normal. The patient is most likely suffering from:

- A. Hypothyroidism
- B. Nephrotic syndrome
- C. Protein-losing enteropathy
- D. Scurvy
- E. Vitamin B12 deficiency

Answer	Explanation	Reference
A	Hypothyroidism causes weight gain, not weight loss.	1
B	Nephrotic syndrome causes proteinuria and edema, not weight loss.	2
C	Protein-losing enteropathy causes proteinuria and weight loss.	3
D	Scurvy causes weight loss, but also causes bleeding and skin changes.	4
E	Vitamin B12 deficiency causes weight loss, but also causes neurological symptoms.	5

1. *Textbook of Internal Medicine*, 10th ed, pp 150-155.

## ANSWER



2. *Textbook of Internal Medicine*, 10th ed, pp 150-155.

3. *Textbook of Internal Medicine*, 10th ed, pp 150-155.