

## QUESTION

A 65-year-old male patient with a long history of hypertension and hyperlipidemia is admitted to the hospital with a 2-week history of progressive weakness and fatigue. He reports that he has lost about 15 pounds (7 kg) in the last 3 months. He has no chest pain, shortness of breath, or palpitations. He has no history of smoking or alcohol use.

On physical examination, his vital signs are stable. He appears thin and well-appearing. There is no tachycardia, murmurs, or rales. His bowel sounds are normal. There is no peripheral edema. His laboratory studies are as follows:

Complete blood count (CBC): Hemoglobin 12 g/dL, Hematocrit 36%, White blood cells 10,000/mm<sup>3</sup>, Platelets 250,000/mm<sup>3</sup>.  
Basic metabolic panel (BMP): Sodium 135 mEq/L, Potassium 4.0 mEq/L, Calcium 9.0 mg/dL, Creatinine 1.2 mg/dL, Glucose 100 mg/dL.  
Liver function tests (LFTs): Aspartate aminotransferase (AST) 25 U/L, Alanine aminotransferase (ALT) 20 U/L, Bilirubin 1.0 mg/dL.

Which of the following is the most likely diagnosis?

Option	Diagnosis	Correct Answer
A	Hyperthyroidism	Incorrect
B	Primary hyperparathyroidism	Incorrect
C	Chronic kidney disease	Incorrect
D	Depression	Correct
E	Heart failure	Incorrect

Explanation: The patient's symptoms of progressive weakness and fatigue, weight loss, and normal laboratory studies are most consistent with depression.

## ANSWER



**Thyroid Gland**  
The thyroid gland is a butterfly-shaped gland located in the neck, anterior to the trachea. It is composed of two lobes, the right and left, which are connected by a narrow isthmus.

The thyroid gland is responsible for the production and secretion of thyroid hormones, which are essential for the regulation of metabolism and energy production in the body.