

QUESTION

1. A patient with a long history of alcohol abuse presents with a 2-week history of weight loss, weakness, and anorexia. Physical examination reveals 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. The patient's most likely diagnosis is:

A. Acute alcoholic hepatitis
B. Chronic alcoholic hepatitis
C. Alcoholic cirrhosis
D. Alcoholic pancreatitis

ANSWER	EXPLANATION	REFERENCE
C	The patient's history of alcohol abuse, weight loss, weakness, and anorexia are consistent with alcoholic cirrhosis. The physical examination findings of tachycardia and a positive Tinel's sign are also consistent with this diagnosis. The laboratory studies show a low serum albumin, elevated total bilirubin, and a prolonged prothrombin time, all of which are characteristic of alcoholic cirrhosis.	1
A	Acute alcoholic hepatitis is characterized by a recent history of alcohol abuse, fever, jaundice, and right upper quadrant pain. The patient's symptoms and physical examination findings are not consistent with this diagnosis.	2
B	Chronic alcoholic hepatitis is characterized by a long history of alcohol abuse, weight loss, and weakness. The patient's symptoms and physical examination findings are consistent with this diagnosis, but the laboratory studies show a low serum albumin, elevated total bilirubin, and a prolonged prothrombin time, which are not characteristic of chronic alcoholic hepatitis.	3
D	Alcoholic pancreatitis is characterized by a recent history of alcohol abuse, severe abdominal pain, and vomiting. The patient's symptoms and physical examination findings are not consistent with this diagnosis.	4

1. [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC11111111/](#)

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