

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 thin, elderly man with a yellowish tint to the skin and sclera. Laboratory studies show a total bilirubin of 2.5 mg/dL, alkaline phosphatase of 150 U/L, and aspartate aminotransferase of 45 U/L. The patient's liver enzymes are elevated, but the pattern is more consistent with cholestasis than with primary liver damage. The patient's symptoms and laboratory findings are most consistent with which of the following conditions?

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

ANSWER: B

EXPLANATION

The patient's symptoms and laboratory findings are most consistent with chronic alcoholic liver disease. The patient's long history of alcohol abuse, weight loss, anorexia, and weakness are all common symptoms of this condition. The physical examination findings of a thin, elderly man with a yellowish tint to the skin and sclera are also consistent with chronic alcoholic liver disease. The laboratory studies show a total bilirubin of 2.5 mg/dL, alkaline phosphatase of 150 U/L, and aspartate aminotransferase of 45 U/L. The patient's liver enzymes are elevated, but the pattern is more consistent with cholestasis than with primary liver damage. The patient's symptoms and laboratory findings are most consistent with chronic alcoholic liver disease.

REFERENCE

1. [Chronic Alcoholic Liver Disease](#). Medscape. Available at: [https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/944271](#)