

## QUESTION

1. A patient with a long history of alcohol abuse presents with a 2-week history of weight loss, weakness, and decreased appetite. Physical examination reveals a thin, elderly man with a yellowish tint to the skin and sclera. Laboratory studies show a total bilirubin of 2.5 mg/dL, with a direct bilirubin of 1.8 mg/dL. The patient's liver function tests are as follows:

Test	Result	Reference Range
Aspartate aminotransferase (AST)	120 U/L	0-40 U/L
Alanine aminotransferase (ALT)	150 U/L	0-40 U/L
Gamma-glutamyl transaminase (GGT)	250 U/L	0-60 U/L
Alkaline phosphatase (ALP)	180 U/L	40-120 U/L
Bilirubin (Total)	2.5 mg/dL	0.1-1.2 mg/dL
Bilirubin (Direct)	1.8 mg/dL	0.0-0.3 mg/dL

Which of the following is the most likely cause of the patient's jaundice?

## ANSWER



1. The patient's jaundice is most likely caused by alcoholic liver disease. The patient's history of alcohol abuse, weight loss, and weakness are consistent with this diagnosis. The laboratory studies show a mixed pattern of liver dysfunction, with elevated AST and ALT levels, as well as elevated GGT and ALP levels. The total bilirubin is elevated, with a direct bilirubin of 1.8 mg/dL, indicating a mixed pattern of liver dysfunction.