

QUESTION

1. A patient with a long history of hypertension is brought to the emergency department with a severe headache and vomiting. The patient's blood pressure is 180/110 mmHg. The patient is also experiencing a change in mental status and is unable to walk. The patient's pupils are unequal and nonreactive. The patient's neck is stiff. The patient's chest is clear. The patient's lungs are clear. The patient's heart rate is 110 bpm. The patient's respiratory rate is 20 breaths per minute. The patient's oxygen saturation is 98% on room air. The patient's temperature is 38.5°C. The patient's blood glucose is 100 mg/dL. The patient's serum electrolytes are normal. The patient's serum creatinine is 1.2 mg/dL. The patient's serum uric acid is 6.0 mg/dL. The patient's serum lactate is 2.0 mmol/L. The patient's serum ammonia is 150 µmol/L. The patient's serum salicylate level is 0.5 mg/dL. The patient's serum theophylline level is 0.5 mg/L. The patient's serum digoxin level is 0.5 ng/mL. The patient's serum phenytoin level is 15 mg/L. The patient's serum valproic acid level is 50 mg/L. The patient's serum carbamazepine level is 10 mg/L. The patient's serum phenobarbital level is 10 mg/L. The patient's serum ethanol level is 0 mg/dL. The patient's serum acetaminophen level is 0 mg/dL. The patient's serum salicylate level is 0.5 mg/dL. The patient's serum theophylline level is 0.5 mg/L. The patient's serum digoxin level is 0.5 ng/mL. The patient's serum phenytoin level is 15 mg/L. The patient's serum valproic acid level is 50 mg/L. The patient's serum carbamazepine level is 10 mg/L. The patient's serum phenobarbital level is 10 mg/L. The patient's serum ethanol level is 0 mg/dL. The patient's serum acetaminophen level is 0 mg/dL.

ANSWER

The patient has a subarachnoid hemorrhage (SAH). The patient's severe headache, vomiting, change in mental status, and unequal and nonreactive pupils are all signs of a SAH. The patient's stiff neck is also a sign of a SAH. The patient's blood pressure is 180/110 mmHg, which is a sign of a SAH. The patient's serum ammonia level is 150 µmol/L, which is a sign of a SAH. The patient's serum salicylate level is 0.5 mg/dL, which is a sign of a SAH. The patient's serum theophylline level is 0.5 mg/L, which is a sign of a SAH. The patient's serum digoxin level is 0.5 ng/mL, which is a sign of a SAH. The patient's serum phenytoin level is 15 mg/L, which is a sign of a SAH. The patient's serum valproic acid level is 50 mg/L, which is a sign of a SAH. The patient's serum carbamazepine level is 10 mg/L, which is a sign of a SAH. The patient's serum phenobarbital level is 10 mg/L, which is a sign of a SAH. The patient's serum ethanol level is 0 mg/dL, which is a sign of a SAH. The patient's serum acetaminophen level is 0 mg/dL, which is a sign of a SAH.

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