

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 reveals a 10% weight loss, tachycardia, and a positive Tinel's sign. Laboratory studies show a serum albumin of 2.8 g/dL, a total bilirubin of 1.8 mg/dL, and a prothrombin time of 18 seconds. The patient's most likely diagnosis is:

A. Alcohol withdrawal
B. Acute pancreatitis
C. Wernicke's encephalopathy
D. Cirrhosis
E. Vitamin B12 deficiency

Option	Correct Answer	Explanation
A	Incorrect	Alcohol withdrawal typically presents with tremors, tachycardia, and hypertension, but not with weight loss or a positive Tinel's sign.
B	Incorrect	Acute pancreatitis is characterized by severe abdominal pain and elevated serum amylase and lipase levels.
C	Incorrect	Wernicke's encephalopathy is characterized by a triad of ophthalmoplegia, ataxia, and confusion.
D	Correct	The patient's symptoms and laboratory findings are consistent with cirrhosis. The positive Tinel's sign is a classic finding in cirrhosis.
E	Incorrect	Vitamin B12 deficiency is characterized by megaloblastic anemia and neurological symptoms, but not by a positive Tinel's sign.

ANSWER: D

DISCUSSION: The patient's symptoms and laboratory findings are consistent with cirrhosis.

QUESTION



The patient's symptoms and laboratory findings are consistent with cirrhosis. The positive Tinel's sign is a classic finding in cirrhosis.

ANSWER: D