

BISON POWER ADHESIVE



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QUESTION

QUESTION: A 60-year-old male with a long history of alcohol abuse presents with a 2-week history of increasing weakness, weight loss, and abdominal pain. He has a history of chronic liver disease and is currently on no medications. Physical examination reveals a jaundiced patient with a palpable, firm, and tender right upper quadrant mass. Laboratory studies show a total bilirubin of 2.5 mg/dL, aspartate aminotransferase (AST) of 150 U/L, and alanine aminotransferase (ALT) of 180 U/L. A computed tomography (CT) scan of the abdomen shows a large, heterogeneous mass in the right lobe of the liver. What is the most likely diagnosis?

ANSWER

ANSWER: The most likely diagnosis is hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). The patient's history of chronic liver disease, alcohol abuse, and the presence of a large, heterogeneous mass in the right lobe of the liver on CT scan are all suggestive of HCC. The laboratory findings of elevated bilirubin, AST, and ALT further support this diagnosis.

EXPLANATION

1. The patient's history of chronic liver disease and alcohol abuse are risk factors for hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC).

2. The presence of a large, heterogeneous mass in the right lobe of the liver on CT scan is a characteristic finding of HCC.

3. The laboratory findings of elevated bilirubin, AST, and ALT are consistent with liver dysfunction, which is often seen in HCC.

4. The patient's symptoms of increasing weakness, weight loss, and abdominal pain are also consistent with HCC.

5. The physical examination finding of a palpable, firm, and tender right upper quadrant mass is another clue to the diagnosis of HCC.

6. The most likely diagnosis is hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC).