

WEEK 1

Case of the week: A man with a swollen abdomen

A 55 year old man has 3 days history of sharp, diffuse abdominal pain and fever. The patient has liver cirrhosis secondary to chronic hep B. Current medications are spironolactone 200 mg/d, furosemide 40mg/d and nadolol 40 mg/d.

On physical examination, temperature is 38.9 °C , B/P 110/62, Pulse 60/min .The abdomen is distended and tender ,with shifting dullness

Laboratory studies:

<i>WBC</i>	<i>8800/μL</i>
<i>Hg</i>	<i>9 g/dL</i>
<i>Plt</i>	<i>55,000/μL</i>
<i>Urea</i>	<i>65 md/dL</i>
<i>Creatinine</i>	<i>2.5mg/dL</i>
<i>Na</i>	<i>120meq/L</i>
<i>Albumin</i>	<i>2.2g/dL</i>

Abdominal US show a large amount of ascites, moderate splenomegaly. Paracentesis is done; the ascetic fluid polymophonuclear leukocyte count is 650/ μ L and albumin is less than 1 g/dL.

Question 1:

Which of the following is the most appropriate treatment of the above patient at this time?

- (A) Large volume paracentesis
- (B) Increase in diuretic dosage
- (C) IV Cefotaxime
- (D) Transjugular intraheptic portosystemic shunt (TIPS)

Question 2:

Which physical sign has **the highest** specificity for detection of ascites?

- (A) Bulging flanks
- (B) Shifting dullness
- (C) Fluid thrill
- (D) Puddle sign

Question 3:

Which of the following is the **most** objective way to follow the response of ascites to diuretics?

- (A) 24 h urine volume
- (B) Abdominal girth
- (C) Serum ascites/albumin gradient
- (D) Daily weight

Question 4:

Each of the following is believed to play an important role in the pathogenesis of spontaneous bacterial peritonitis **EXCEPT** :

- (A) Increased gut permeability
- (B) Low ascites/albumin concentration
- (C) Bacterial seeding of mesenteric lymph
- (D) Reticuloendothelial cell dysfunction

Question 5:

Match the following conditions with the associated characteristics of peritoneal fluid

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| 1. Hepatocellular carcinoma cytology | A. Abnormal |
| 2. Peritoneal carcinomatosis | B. High SAAG |
| 3. Bile duct laceration | C Low glucose level |
| 4. Secondary peritonitis concentration | D. High bilirubin |