

ASTER ROSE 133



History of the present illness:
Aster Rose is a 12 y.o. Ethiopian female who presents with the chief complaint of lower left abdominal pains for the past week, fevers off and on, and bloody diarrhea. She lives near one of the large lakes in the Rift Valley.

Past medical and social history:
Aster is the fourth of nine siblings. She has had malaria multiple times and various childhood diseases with fevers

and rashes, from which she recovered. She has not had injuries. Her parents are ginger farmers. She has had no immunizations, has no allergies, and is on no medication.

Physical exam: Aster is alert and in moderate distress. Vital signs: T 100.2; P 114; R 28; Weight 27 kg; The skin is warm, dry, and normal in texture. Head is normal size and shape. Pupils are equal, round, and responsive to light. The whites of the eyes are white. Corneas are clear. Inside the lower lids is normal pink. The nose is normal shape and without sores. The outer ears, canals, and ear drums are normal in appearance. The teeth are normal in number and appearance; the mouth is moist. The tonsils are normal size and color. There are no enlarged lymph nodes in the neck, front or back. The thyroid is not enlarged. The patient can move her neck in all directions without pain. Heart sounds have no murmur. Lungs are clear. Bowel sounds are present and normal. Liver and spleen are not enlarged. The abdomen is soft and is tender all over. There are no enlarged lymph nodes in

the groin. The kidney area in back is not tender. Arms and legs show no swelling. The patient can move her limbs in all directions without complaint of pain. Respond.

Options:

Treat her yourself.

Send her to a government clinic.

Send her to a private hospital (costs you \$200).



A sample of her bloody diarrhea is shown here

Aster Rose 133

Setting and past history:

Is there schistosomiasis in the area? Yes

Has she been swimming in fresh water? Yes, she swims regularly.

Does she have other bleeding (nosebleeds, heavy menstruation, or spontaneous bruising)? No

Does she walk barefoot? No

Is the soil sandy? Yes

Has she been exposed to TB? She doesn't know; probably she has because it is common in her area.

Present illness:

How many times a day does she have diarrhea? About 30 times, a small quantity each time.

Was the onset sudden or gradual? It was over about 2 days.

Does she tend to pass diarrhea any particular time of day? No, it seems to be random.

Did she eat or drink anything unusual right before this started? No; she eats and drinks with the rest of the family.

Does the diarrhea smell very bad? No, it has no odor at all.

Does she have severe pain before each bout of diarrhea? Yes, and passing the stool relieves the pain.

Has she noticed anything that makes it better or worse? No but it seems to get better and worse on its own.

Does she ever have shaking chills? No, never.

Do her joints hurt? No

Does she ever pass pus? Yes, frequently there is visible pus.

What is her appetite like? She eats, but not much at a time.

How much does this interfere with her daily life? She had to drop out of school the week before exams.

Has she lost weight? She doesn't know; probably not much in any case.

Is she sexually active? No

Laboratory: Urinalysis entirely normal; Hemoglobin 85%

