

## MYRA ROSE 134



### History of the present illness:

Myra Rose is a 28 y.o. Ethiopian female who is brought to you with the chief complaint of fevers for the past 3 weeks. She is brought by her husband and some of his friends,

having been transported on a donkey cart. This began with fevers, abdominal pains and a severe headache which started gradually and became gradually worse during the first week. Then, the second week, she developed increasing somnolence. For the past 2 days she has been difficult to arouse.

Past medical and social history: Myra is the wife of a middle class merchant and the mother of 5 children. She is totally uneducated. She had various childhood diseases with fevers from which she recovered. She has had malaria multiple times. The husband is not aware of her having had any injuries. She has had no immunizations and is on no medications.

Physical exam: Myra is sleeping and difficult to arouse. With some effort you can get a few words out of her—such as her name and the fact that she has a headache. Vital signs: T 103.5; P 74; R 28; BP 110/6. 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 somewhat pale. The nose is normal shape and without sores. The outer ears, canals, and ear drums are normal in appearance. The teeth have a few missing and most of the rest are badly decayed; the tongue has a yellowish coating on top and is somewhat dry; it is moist below the tongue. The tonsils are normal size and color. There are no enlarged lymph nodes in the neck, front or back. The thyroid is slightly enlarged.. The patient can move her neck in all directions without pain. Heart sounds have no murmur. Lungs are clear. Bowel sounds are absent. Liver is not enlarged.; the spleen can be felt below the left rib margin The abdomen is soft and somewhat tender all over; there is no rebound tenderness.. 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 hospital.

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

Specify what you will do about the public health implications.

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## **Setting and past history:**

Is there any African sleeping sickness in the area? No

Is there good water sanitation in her area? No

Are there a lot of biting insects? Yes, there are many.

Are rats common in the area? Yes

## **Present illness:**

Is the fever sustained or is it up and down? It is sustained.

Did the fever and other symptoms develop at the same time or different times? The same time.

Has the patient had nausea and vomiting? She is nauseated and refuses to eat but has not vomited.

Has she had diarrhea? She was constipated until yesterday when she started having diarrhea.

In what part of her abdomen is most of the pain? It is all over.

Was the onset of the pain rapid or gradual? It was gradual, over 3 days.

What kind of pain was it? She didn't say and she's too foggy to answer questions now.

Did she say if the pain went anywhere? It did not.

Was there anything that alleviated or aggravated it? Eating seemed to aggravate it.

How severe was the pain? She slept at night but it was a restless sleep.

How about the headache? As far as the family can tell, that happened the same time as the abdominal pain.

What part of her head was it? The whole head.

Was there anything that aggravated it or relieved it? She took ibuprofen which helped a little.

Does she have a rash? No, she has no rash at all.

Does she have a peculiar body odor? Not that you can tell.

**Laboratory:** Urinalysis is positive for ketones, otherwise normal. Hemoglobin is 80%.

