

TOM ROSE 149

History of the present illness: Tom Pink is a 12 y.o. African male who is brought to you with the chief complaint of yellow eyes and a loss of appetite over the past week. He complains of mild pain in his right upper abdomen and a heavy, dragging feeling in his left upper abdomen. He also had several episodes of fever and chills within the past week.



Past medical and social history: Tom is the youngest of 5 siblings. His father is a farmer; the family is very poor. He had several episodes of malaria within the past year. He had a head injury at 2 years of age from which he

recovered well. He has also had several ear infections. He has had no immunizations, has no allergies, and is on no medication.

Physical exam: Tom is alert and in no distress. Vital signs: T 104.0; P 142; R 26; 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 shown.

Corneas are clear. Inside the lower lids is yellowish 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 his neck in all directions without pain. Heart sounds have no murmur. Lungs are clear. Bowel sounds are present and normal. Liver and spleen are shown; neither one is tender. The abdomen is soft and non-tender. 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 his limbs in all directions without complaint of pain. Respond.

Options:

Treat him yourself.

Send him to a government clinic.

Send him to a private clinic.

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Setting and past history:

Is there schistosomiasis in the area? Probably not but there is some 2 hours north of his location.

Has Tom ever been in that schistosomiasis area? No

Has he ever eaten raw or pickled fish? No

Is there visceral leishmaniasis in his area? Yes

Has he had diarrhea? Not for the past year or so; he did as an infant.

Was it bloody diarrhea? No

Are there dogs in the home? No

Have his fever and chills been more or less regular? Yes, about every 2 days or so.

Has he had a cough? No

Has he had large lymph nodes? No

Does chamomile tea help the pain? No

Does eating change the pain? He can't eat much but it doesn't hurt to eat.

What is the pain in his upper right abdomen like? It is continual and burning, not crampy.

Does he have shoulder pain? No

Has he had swollen ankles? No

Has he lost weight? Probably yes

Does he live in a malarious area? Yes

Does he complain a lot? No; he's not the complaining sort.

Are large spleens common in his area? Yes, very common.

Is there any information about what causes the large spleens? Reportedly it is all malaria though some say there is also visceral leishmaniasis in the area.

Has he taken any teas, drugs, or toxins? No

Does he have a family history of a large spleen and anemia? No, none; one relative only had a slightly large spleen.

Present illness:

Has he had back, bone, or joint pains? No

Does he have free fluid in his abdomen? No

Is he extremely fatigued? A little fatigued, not extremely.

Are the swollen liver and spleen soft or firm? Both are firm; there are no soft spots.

Labortatory: Urinalysis shows 4+ bilirubin; it is otherwise negative.

Hemoglobin: 80%.

