



‘Is it more than just jaundice?’

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An 83-year-old man presents with painless jaundice (Figure 1). He also shows a 20-pound weight loss.

1. What is the most likely diagnosis?

- a) Acute viral hepatitis
- b) Drug-induced jaundice
- c) Cirrhosis of the liver
- d) Choledocholithiasis
- e) Carcinoma of the gallbladder or pancreas

A computed tomography (CT) scan of the abdomen is performed (Figure 2).

2. What does the CT scan show?

- a) Large, infiltrating lesion in the left lobe of the liver
- b) Mass-like lesion in the neck of the pancreas
- c) All of the above

3. What is the next step?

- a) Percutaneous biopsy of the tumour
- b) Surgery
- c) Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP)

ERCP shows complete obstruction of the left hepatic duct, as well as stricture of the lower common bile duct. A stent is inserted to bridge the lower stricture and results in relief of the patient's jaundice.

Tumour markers and alpha fetoprotein are also done, which are suggestive of metastatic pancreatic cancer, but could be in keeping with a bile duct tumour. **Dx**



Figure 1. Patient showing jaundice.

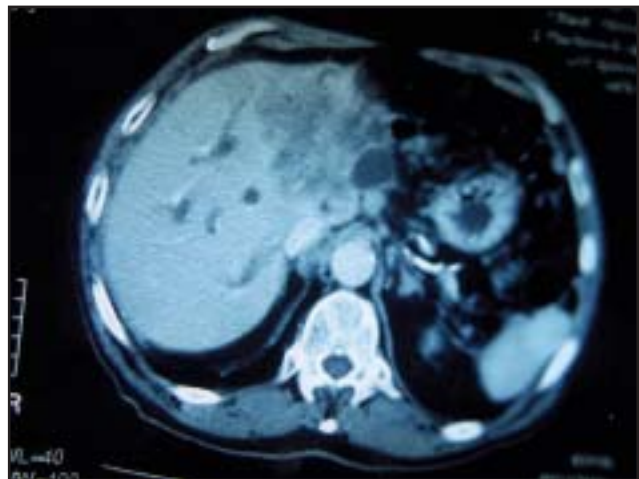


Figure 2. CT scan of the abdomen.

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Answers: 1-e ; 2-c; 3-c