

Case 2 (25 Marks)

A GP has referred a 64-year-old woman to the general surgical team on call. She has been complaining of pain in the upper part of the abdomen and generalized itching. Her daughter has also noticed a yellowish discolouration of her skin. The symptoms began about a week ago and became gradually worse. On further questioning she reports passing dark urine and pale stools for the last few days. She is usually fit and well, does not drink alcohol and denies any recent foreign travel.

On Examination The patient is clinically jaundiced and tender in the right upper abdomen. The liver is not enlarged and rectal examination reveals pale stool on the glove. Her temperature is 37°C, blood pressure 130/80mmHg and pulse rate 72/min. Bilirubin is detected on urinalysis.

INVESTIGATIONS

INVESTIGATIONS		<i>Normal</i>
Haemoglobin	12 g/dl	11.5–16.0 g/dl
Mean Cell Volume	80 fl	76–96 fl
White Cell Count	11.5 × 10 ⁹ /l	4.0–11.0 × 10 ⁹ /l
Platelets	315 × 10 ⁹ /l	150–400 × 10 ⁹ /l
Sodium	137 mmol/l	135–145 mmol/l
Potassium	4.2 mmol/l	3.5–5.0 mmol/l
Urea	6 mmol/l	2.5–6.7 mmol/l
Creatinine	62 μmol/l	44–80 μmol/l
Amylase	72 iu/dl	0–100 iu/dl
ALP	556 iu/l	35–110 iu/l
AST	45 iu/l	5–35 iu/l
GGT	127 iu/l	11–51 iu/l
Albumin	38 g/l	35–50 g/l
Bilirubin	122 mmol/l	3–17 mmol/l

1. What do the blood results show?
2. What are the causes of this condition?
3. What are the options for investigation and treatment?