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QUESTION 1

A 50-year-old woman complains of worsening dyspnea of 1-month duration, but is otherwise asymptomatic. Lung examination is normal; her CXR is shown in the figure below. Which of the following is the most likely diagnosis?



- A. pulmonary tuberculosis
- B. lung metastases
- C. sarcoidosis
- D. mycoplasma pneumonia
- E. silicosis

Correct Answer: B

The CXR shown in figure contains multiple bilateral pulmonary parenchymal nodules varying in size and shape, most compatible with metastatic disease to the lungs. Other possibilities are bronchogenic carcinoma or fungal granulomas (e.g., histoplasmosis or coccidiosis). Sarcoidosis usually presents with bilateral hilar adenopathy and rarely with multiple pulmonary nodules. Tuberculosis presents with a cavitating lesion, pleural effusion, or miliary pattern. Typical findings in silicosis are diffuse nodular fibrosis and eggshell calcification of hilar or bronchopulmonary lymph nodes. The CXR of patients with mycoplasma pneumonia usually shows patchy infiltrates involving the lower lobes and spreading from the hila. The finding of metastatic nodules on CXR should prompt a search for the primary tumor.

QUESTION 2

An 18-month-old girl is brought to the physician's office for evaluation of left neck mass. Examination reveals a 2-cm soft, nontender, fluctuant mass in the left lateral neck. This is located at the anterior border of the sternomastoid, midway between the mastoid and clavicle. For the above patient with a neck mass, select the most likely diagnosis.

- A. thyroid carcinoma
- B. cystic hygroma
- C. acute suppurative lymphadenitis
- D. thyroglossal duct cyst
- E. lipoma
- F. carotid artery aneurysm
- G. mixed parotid tumor (pleomorphic adenoma)
- H. laryngeal carcinoma
- I. parathyroid adenoma
- J. branchial cleft cyst
- K. tuberculosis

Correct Answer: J

The location of this mass and its cystic nature are typical for a second branchial cleft remnant. Surgical excision is recommended, including the associated tract, which traverses between the carotid bifurcation and ends at the tonsillar fossa.

QUESTION 3

A 12-month-old patient has allergies to multiple foods. The child's mother has eliminated the foods from the diet and wants to know if these allergies will be lifelong. You tell her that some allergies do get better if the food is eliminated for 12 years. In which of the following is the allergy most likely to resolve, with elimination of the food from the diet?

- A. peanuts
- B. milk
- C. nuts
- D. fish
- E. shellfish

Correct Answer: B

Cow's milk allergy may occur in 23% of infants and toddlers. After elimination from the diet, by age 3, 85% no longer have symptoms on food challenge. Older children and adults may also lose sensitivity to an offending food when it is eliminated from the diet for 12 years. The exceptions are IgE-mediated allergies to peanuts, nuts, fish, or shellfish.

QUESTION 4

A couple consults you because each has neurofibromatosis and wish to know what their reproductive possibilities are.

You should tell them which of the following?

- A. The disease is lethal and results in spontaneous abortion of homozygous fetuses.
- B. 25% of the females will be affected.
- C. 50% of all offspring will be homozygous for the abnormal gene.
- D. 75% or more of their offspring will have the disease.
- E. 25% of their offspring will be unaffected.

Correct Answer: D

This is an autosomal dominant disorder. Both parents are carriers of the abnormal gene (N), which is on chromosome 17. If each parent is a heterozygote (Nn, where n is the normal gene), 25% of their offspring will have a normal genotype, nn. Fifty percent of their offspring will be affected heterozygotes (Nn), and the remaining 25% will be homozygous affected (NN). If either parent or both are homozygous for the abnormal gene (NN), 100% of the offspring will be affected. As an autosomal disorder, there is no sex predilection; males and females are affected with equal frequency. Prenatal diagnosis is available.

QUESTION 5

A 55-year-old man with a 50 pack-year history of smoking presents with hemoptysis. CXR shows a left upper lobe mass and laboratory evaluation reveals hypercalcemia. Which of the following is the most likely diagnosis?

- A. small cell lung cancer
- B. tuberculosis
- C. squamous cell lung cancer
- D. adenocarcinoma of the lung
- E. metastatic testicular cancer

Correct Answer: C

Although 51% of patients with lung cancer are identified while they are asymptomatic, most patients present with signs and symptoms including cough, hemoptysis, wheeze, stridor, shortness of breath, and postobstructive pneumonia. Paraneoplastic syndromes are common among patients with lung cancer. Endocrine paraneoplastic syndromes are seen in 12% of patients. Hypercalcemia may result from ectopic production of PTH or PTH-related peptides by squamous cell carcinomas. Small cell cancers may secrete ACTH or excessive amounts of ADH leading to hyponatremia and SIADH. Other nonendocrine paraneoplastic manifestations may include anorexia, cachexia, weight loss, fever, suppressed immunity, peripheral neuropathy, and the myasthenic Eaton-Lambert syndrome.

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