

Is this the price for my tattoo?

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Case history

A man, 56 years of age, was found to have hepatitis C. Risk factor for viral hepatitis was significant for intravenous drug use over 20 years (last 'shot' was 12 years ago). He had a tattoo 14 years ago and had been drinking for 25 years (he quit 12 years ago). Past medical history includes acute pancreatitis and osteoarthritis. A few weeks ago he developed abdominal discomfort and general tiredness. A MRI of the abdomen was performed.



Question 1

What does the MRI show?

Question 2

What is the diagnosis?

Question 3

What is the treatment?

ANSWERS TO MARCH BRAIN TEASER

Answer 1

Dystrophy with scaly split at the distal nail plates, periunguim inflammation and ulceration.

Answer 2

The diagnosis is chronic onychophagia. Onychophagia is the clinical term for nail biting. This student admits that he bites his fingernails frequently, especially during the semester exam period.

Answer 3

This condition is associated with underlying emotional stress, anxiety and rarely, obsessive compulsive disorder.

Answer 4

Complications include increased risk of nail bed infection, persistent deformed nail, and gingivitis.

