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QUESTION 1

The microscopic features shown here represent Scopulariopsis species. In most instances, particularly if a patient does not have underlying immunologic or hematologic disease, Scopulariopsis species should be considered a contaminant

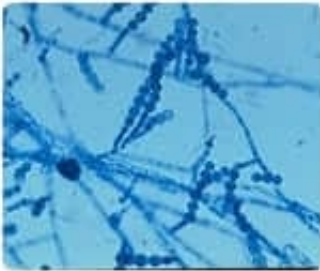
when recovered from a sputum specimen. However, if there is clinical or X-ray evidence of mycotic pulmonary infection, additional daily induced sputum specimens should be obtained.

If Scopulariopsis species or any other hyaline mold is recovered from two or more successive specimens, its potential as a pathogenic agent should be considered. Scopulariopsis species have been reported as the agents of pulmonary

fungus ball infections in patients with preexistent cavities and as a cause of pneumonia in patients with leukemia.

Invasive pulmonary disease by this agent has not been reported.

The fungus illustrated in this photomicrograph was recovered from an induced sputum specimen from a 74 year old man with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. This isolate is most likely:



- A. The cause of chronic bronchitis
- B. The cause of invasive pulmonary disease
- C. The cause of allergic bronchopulmonary disease
- D. A contaminant

Correct Answer: D

QUESTION 2

Although any one of the answers might be considered correct, a report of gram-positive cocci in chains provides sufficient information without going beyond what the observation might allow. In off-the record conversation with the physician, a technologist might divulge that the picture is consistent with Streptococcus; however, enterococci may have a similar Gram stain appearance, potentially leading to the wrong choice of empiric antibiotic agents.



The image shows the Gram stain prepared from the positive blood culture. What is the MOST appropriate report?

- A. Gram-positive cocci
- B. Gram-positive cocci in chains
- C. Gram-positive cocci consistent with Streptococcus
- D. Gram-positive cocci consistent with Enterococcus

Correct Answer: B

QUESTION 3

Unconjugated bilirubin is a byproduct of RBC breakdown, or hemolysis. It would be expected to see an increase in unconjugated bilirubin when hemolysis is occurring at an increased rate. The liver enzymes would not remain at normal levels if

there were a viral infection of the liver, chemical damage to the liver, or obstruction of bile ducts.

Chemistry

A patient presents with an elevation of unconjugated bilirubin, normal serum alkaline phosphatase, normal liver enzymes, and no bilirubin in the urine. This combination would suggest:

- A. Viral infection of the liver.
- B. Chemical damage to the liver.
- C. Increased rate of hemolysis
- D. Obstruction of common bile duct

Correct Answer: C

QUESTION 4

Ammonium biurate crystals are typically round, irregularly spined and yellow-brown in color.

A microscopic examination of a normal urine pH 8.0 shows 2+ yellow-brown thorny spheres which are MOST probably:

- A. ammonium biurate crystals



- B. ampicillin crystals
- C. amorphous urate crystals
- D. crenated red cells
- E. waxy casts

Correct Answer: A

QUESTION 5

Serological diagnosis of active or recent infection generally requires the demonstration of IgM antibody, or the demonstration of a fourfold rise in the titer of specific IgG antibody. Which of the following would be considered most significant as it relates to serological testing:

- A. Presence of an antibody titer is generally diagnostic
- B. Rise of antibody titers is diagnostic
- C. Concentration of antibody is diagnostic
- D. Cross reactivity is not significant

Correct Answer: B

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