

Question 42 – May 28

A 55 year old woman is evaluated for a 4 month history of progressive fatigue and pruritis. She is otherwise healthy and takes no medications. Physical examination reveals mild hepatomegaly and excoriations of the skin. Her anti-mitochondrial antibody (AMA) is positive.

Which of the following laboratory panels would *most likely* be seen?

	Aspartate aminotransferase (AST) (U/L)	Alanine aminotransferase (ALT) (U/L)	Alkaline phosphatase (U/L)	Total bilirubin (mg/dL)	Direct bilirubin (mg/dL)
A	Normal	Normal	Normal	High	Normal
B	High	High	Normal	High	High
C	High	Normal	Normal	High	High
D	Normal	Normal	High	Normal	Normal
E	Normal	High	Normal	Normal	Normal

Answer: D

This patient has primary biliary cholangitis. An isolated elevation in alkaline phosphatase (often detected in asymptomatic patients) is the most common laboratory abnormality. The antimitochondrial (AMA) is positive in 95% of patients.

Reference

Lindor et al., AASLD Practice Guidelines: Primary Biliary Cirrhosis. July 2009.