

### Question 42 – Week of May 27

48 year-old male with a history of AIDS presents with several months of watery diarrhea associated with lower crampy abdominal pain. Labs are notable for CD4 count of 126. CBC shows a WBC 6.2, Hgb 12.5, HCT 36, plt 162, MCV 103, INR 1.02. Stool culture, giardia antigen, O & P and c.diff toxin assay are negative. Enteroscopy and colonoscopy were macroscopically normal. Biopsies from the jejunum show trophozoites on the surface of enterocytes. What is the cause of the diarrhea?

- A. TB
- B. Isospora
- C. Cryptosporidiosis
- D. Tropical sprue
- E. Microsporidia

**Answer: C**

Cryptosporidia causes 10% of diarrhea in HIV, especially when CD4 count is  $< 180$ . Keys here are high MCV, indicating involvement of the terminal ileum. Two causes of TI involvement in HIV are Cryptosporidia and TB. The only cause of intraluminal (versus intracellular) trophozoites are the key to the diagnosis here.

Reference:

Soave R. Cryptosporidiosis and isosporiasis in patients with AIDS. *Infect Dis Clin North Am.* 1988 Jun;2(2):485-93.