

### Question 10 – October 3

A 36 year old thirty-five week pregnant G3P2 female presents to the emergency room with abdominal pain, nausea and emesis. On exam, the patient was noted to have a temperature of 36.8, heart rate of 96, blood pressure of 162/92, a respiratory rate of 16, RUQ tenderness, and asterixis.

Laboratory values are notable for:

WBC: 13,000/uL

Hgb: 10.5 g/dL

Platelets: 152,000/uL

Differential negative for schistocytes

Glucose: 60 mg/dL

Urea Nitrogen: 50 mg/dL

Creatinine: 1.8 mg/dL

Urinalysis: +1 ketones, +3 protein, negative for blood

AST: 550 U/L

ALT: 455 U/L

Total Bilirubin: 15 mg/dL

Ammonia: 135 ug/dL

Prothrombin time: 21.6 seconds

Hepatitis A IgM negative

Hepatitis B surface Ag negative

Hepatitis B surface Ab positive

Hepatitis B core IgM Ab negative

Hepatitis C Ab negative

Which of the following should be part of the management plan?

- A. Plan for early delivery of the baby at 37 weeks.
- B. Initiation of patient on ursodeoxycholic acid 10-15 mg/kg.
- C. Molecular testing of the patient for long-chain 3-hydroxyacyl-coA dehydrogenase (LCHAD).
- D. Liver biopsy.
- E. Monitoring the baby for hyperketotic hyperglycemia.

**Answer: C**

This patient has acute fatty liver disease of pregnancy. Emergent delivery of the baby needs to be performed as well as molecular testing for LCHAD deficiency of both the mother and the

baby. Liver biopsy does not need to be performed because > 6 of the Swansea criteria have been met, which has 85% PPV and 100% NPV for hepatic microvesicular steatosis on the biopsy. The baby should be monitored for hypoketotic hypoglycemia, a known complication of LCHAD deficiency. Finally, USDA has been shown to be of benefit in patients with intrahepatic cholestasis of pregnancy.

**Reference:**

[http://www.nature.com/ajg/journal/v111/n2/full/ajg2015430a.html?WT.ec\\_id=AJG-201602&spMailingID=50716433&spUserID=MTIyMzY4MTA1NjIzS0&spJobID=862120780&spReportId=ODYyMTIwNzgwS0](http://www.nature.com/ajg/journal/v111/n2/full/ajg2015430a.html?WT.ec_id=AJG-201602&spMailingID=50716433&spUserID=MTIyMzY4MTA1NjIzS0&spJobID=862120780&spReportId=ODYyMTIwNzgwS0)