

Question 8 – September 23

A 10 year old presents with severe hepatitis; transaminases are 5000s, bili 10, CBC normal. Extensive w/u reveals no viral hepatitis, normal ceruloplasmin, negative ANA, aSMA, LKM, negative tox screen, etc. Hepatitis gradually resolves spontaneously but a month later the family calls because of easy bruising.

What is the likeliest cause of the easy bruising?

- A. Vitamin K deficiency
- B. Aplastic anemia
- C. Liver failure
- D. Leukemia
- E. Portal hypertension

Answer: B

Severe non-A, non-B, non-C hepatitis can be followed by aplastic anemia as much as 10-20% of the time; the mechanism is thought to be immunological. The child with resolving hepatitis would not have Vitamin K deficiency, liver failure, or portal hypertension.

Reference:

1. B Rauff et al. Hepatitis associated aplastic anemia: a review. *Virology Journal* 2011, **8**:87