A man with drowsiness and abdominal pain

M Krishnamurthy, R V Desai, H Patel

Answers on p 557.

A 26 year old man with abdominal pain and drowsiness was brought to the emergency department by a group of young men who left before any further questioning. He said that he had flown to New York from Equador the previous day and had a party with his friends, where he drank some alcohol but denied using any illicit substances. His physical examination revealed pinpoint pupils. He had no focal neurological deficits and his abdominal examination was benign. Within an hour he went into respiratory distress and slipped into coma, necessitating intubation. His blood work was essentially normal and his urine toxicology was positive for opiates. Chest radiography was normal. Arterial blood gases before intubation showed pH 7.2, carbon dioxide pressure 6.93 kPa (52 mm Hg), oxygen pressure 9.86 kPa (74 mm Hg), bicarbonate 20 mmol/l, and oxygen saturation 94%. Abdominal radiography (fig 1) and computed tomography of the abdomen (fig 2) were done.

QUESTIONS

(1) What is the diagnosis?
(2) What are the radiological abnormalities seen?
(3) What are the management options?

doi: 10.1136/pgmj.2003.014746

Authors’ affiliations
M Krishnamurthy, R V Desai, H Patel, Department of Internal Medicine, Wyckoff Heights Medical Center, Brooklyn, New York, USA

Correspondence to: Dr Desai, ravivdesai@yahoo.com

Submitted 12 September 2003
Accepted 1 October 2003
A man with drowsiness and abdominal pain

M Krishnamurthy, R V Desai and H Patel

Postgrad Med J 2004 80: 555
doi: 10.1136/pgmj.2003.014746

Updated information and services can be found at:
http://pmj.bmj.com/content/80/947/555

These include:

Email alerting service

Receive free email alerts when new articles cite this article. Sign up in the box at the top right corner of the online article.

Notes

To request permissions go to:
http://group.bmj.com/group/rights-licensing/permissions

To order reprints go to:
http://journals.bmj.com/cgi/reprintform

To subscribe to BMJ go to:
http://group.bmj.com/subscribe/