

The Woozy Smoker: Problem Handouts



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The Woozy Smoker

Part 1

Symptoms:

David, a 76-year-old male with a history of heavy cigarette smoking, has developed a progressive gait disorder. He complains of frequent balance loss, staggering and unsteadiness.

Patient History:

For the past month the patient has noticed progressive difficulty in walking. He noticed that, upon standing, he felt "woozy", and he described his gait as feeling like he was drunk, stating "My legs go one way, and I go the other." His spouse adds further information, stating that he frequently loses his balance, with staggering and unsteadiness.

Preliminary Examination:

A preliminary examination by the family physician yielded the following:

- Patient is 76-years-old, 5 foot 4, 165 lbs.
- The patient has smoked between one and two packs of unfiltered Camels per day for as long as he can remember.
- The patient's chest is clear upon auscultation. Chest x-rays are abnormal, demonstrating possible lung cancer.
- Patient's blood pressure is slightly elevated (140/95)
- Exam was unremarkable, except for a wide-based, unsteady gait, tending to fall to the left, specially with tandem walking.
- There was no ataxia on finger-to-nose or heel-to-shin testing, and rapid alternating movements were normal. There was no history of alcohol intake.

It was determined that George should be referred to a neurologist. A preliminary diagnosis of possible inner ear infection was made, and a course of antibiotics was prescribed.

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Part 2

Physical Exam:

A physical exam by the neurologist provides the following information:

- Further questioning by the neurologist demonstrates that the patient has been having frequent headaches that seem to be present in the morning upon awakening and go away after a few hours, and these seem to be getting worse.
- The neurologist confirms truncal ataxia, with normal upper extremity coordination and mild impairment of heel-shin and rapid movements with the feet (*i.e.* foot tapping).

Utilizing sound logic, consider the following questions:

1. Is the initial diagnosis by the family physician correct or incorrect? If his diagnosis is incorrect, list your reasons and give your rationale for such a decision. What are the key signs and symptoms?
2. What is your diagnosis for this patient?
3. Give a detailed explanation (involving tracts and muscle groups involved) that would account for this patient's symptoms.
4. What feed-back or feed-forward processes are disturbed by this patient's condition?
5. Is the patient's condition related to the possible thoracic abnormality? If so, what would be the mechanism (route) of metastasis?

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Team and Self Assessment Form

Your name: _____

Please use the rating scale below to describe how you and your team members performed on each of the tasks listed associated with your PBL group's activities. The purpose of the grading is not to divide groups but to reward those making above average effort and to encourage those not giving their fair share to the group overall effort.

5 if Always 4 if Very Often 3 if Sometimes 2 if Rarely 1 if Never

PBL Group Number: _____

Please fill in PBL Group Members' *Last* Names (including your own)

Names _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

Completed assigned tasks _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

Contributed valuable
information to the group _____ _____ _____ _____

Attended group meetings _____ _____ _____ _____

Was honest in reporting
progress about his/her
assigned tasks _____ _____ _____ _____

Participated in writing
final report _____ _____ _____ _____



Now, ***please circle*** the rating below that you feel you would best describe your group's overall performance:

Very good

Good

Barely Acceptable

Poor

Very Poor



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PBL Self Evaluation Form

This evaluation form will not be utilized in assigning any grades. However, it is beneficial to reflect on any progress that you might have made in various areas as a result of participating in a PBL course. Therefore, please evaluate yourself utilizing the following scale.

Scale:

- 5 = Strongly agree
- 4 = Agree
- 3 = Neutral
- 2 = Disagree
- 1 = Strongly disagree

Your name: _____

As a result of my participation in PBL in Human Anatomy I feel that I have improved in the areas of:

1. Effective group participation _____
2. Effective group communication _____
3. Evaluation of myself (self evaluation) _____
4. Evaluation of others (peer evaluation) _____
5. Acquiring information to solve complex problems _____
6. Evaluation of the quality of information needed
to solve complex problems _____
7. Working effectively with others _____



8. Higher-order, critical thinking skills _____

Overall improvement rating of yourself: _____

5 = excellent; 4 = good; 3 = average; 2 = needs work; 1 = poor

