

Collapse with long prodrome



This 65 yr old woman is brought to your department. She has been found on the floor, after only a few minutes. She lives with her husband who says she has been increasingly withdrawn and depressed, with poor memory and concentration over the past few months. Her weight has increased considerably.

She has recently been started on antidepressants and a Atorvastatin by her GP .

On examination GCS is 11, HR 40, BP 90/65, T = 32 degrees

ABG on 2L O₂

pH	7.1
pO ₂	12
pCO ₂	7
BE	0.8

U+E on ABG

Na ⁺	121
K ⁺	3.5
Gluc	3.5

What is the underlying problem? How do you arrive at this conclusion? (5 marks)
Hypothyroid coma

Hyperlipidaemia

Altered mental state, Weight gain, Low temp, Hyponatraemia, Hypoventilation

Typical facies

What two therapies are required? (2 marks)

Thyroxine (t3 or t4)

Corticosteroids

What could you ask the husband to confirm your diagnosis? (2 marks)

Other features of hypothyroidism: large tongue, hair loss, yellow skin, cold intolerance, hoarseness, myalgia, goitre

What is the mortality of this condition? (1 mark)

50%