

Worrying rash

A mother brings a 5 yr old boy to your ED because he has developed a non blanching rash and she is concerned it is meningitis. An FBC shows normal platelets. Clotting screen is normal.



Give 4 Symptoms or signs which would support a diagnosis of meningitis. (4 marks)

Fever

Neck stiffness (+ve Kernigs sign)

Systemic collapse

Headache/irritable

The diagnosis is not meningitis. What is it? (1 mark)

Henoch-Schonlein purpura

Give 3 features in the history which would support this diagnosis (3 marks)

Abdominal pain

Joint pain

Subcutaneous oedema

Why was the platelet count and clotting screen important? (2 marks)

Rule out Idiopathic Thrombocytopaenic Purpura (ITP)

Rule out Thrombotic Thrombocytopaenic Purpura (TTP)

<http://www.emedicine.com/emerg/topic845.htm>