INTERACTIVE GUIDE:

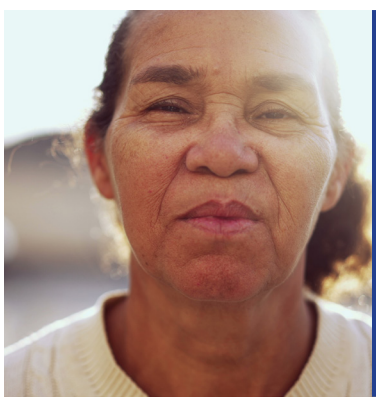
Evaluate and Treat a New Patient

This is an interactive PDF. Answer each question and reveal if you are correct!

Gastro Hub for Advanced Practice Providers

Case Study: Patient with alcohol use disorder and altered mental status

Meet Tori



Age: 67

Sex: Female

Medical history

- History of alcohol use disorder
- Has not consumed alcohol within the last 2 years
- Altered mental status following a gastric infection

Clinical observation

- Patient appears disoriented and confused with a resting tremor

Hypothetical patient.

Is Tori at risk for cirrhosis?

◯ **Yes** ◯ **Need more information**

Initial screening

Fibrosis-4 index (FIB-4)

Based on Tori's age and lab values from routine blood work, her FIB-4 score was 3.5

With a FIB-4 score of 3.5, should Tori be referred to a specialist?

◯ **Yes** ◯ **Need more information**

Specialist visit

Specialist confirmed cirrhosis via physical exam and elastography

Does Tori need additional screening for hepatic encephalopathy (HE)?

◯ **Yes, Tori should be screened for HE** ◯ **No, Tori should receive immediate cirrhosis care**

Cirrhosis and decompensation

Considerations for an HE diagnosis

Assessment for HE signs and symptoms should be performed routinely, especially in patients with cirrhosis with a previous episode or risk factors, and should consider the following steps[5-7]:

- Gather patient history
- Perform a physical examination
- Rule out similar conditions
- Identify and address precipitant factors
- Assess for malnutrition

Is there sufficient evidence that Tori has overt HE (OHE)?

◯ **Yes** ◯ **Need more information**

OHE is often recurrent, requiring proactive monitoring and management[5,6]

Tori's management plan[6]

Resolve precipitating factor (ie, gastric infection) → **Initiate XIFAXAN® (rifaximin) and lactulose to reduce the risk of OHE recurrence**

References: 1. Heidelbaugh JJ, Bruderly M. *Am Fam Physician*. 2006;74(5):756-762. **2.** Rinella ME et al. *Hepatology*. 2023;77(5):1797-1835. **3.** Cusi K et al. *Endocr Pract*. 2022;28(5):528-562. **4.** Garcia-Tsao G et al. *Hepatology*. 2017;65(1):310-335. **5.** Shawcross DL et al. *Eur J Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2016;28(2):146-152. **6.** Vilstrup H et al. *Hepatology*. 2014;60(2):715-735. **7.** Kumral D et al. *J Hosp Med*. 2019;14(3):157-160.

Salix Pharmaceuticals
400 Somerset Corporate Blvd., Bridgewater, NJ 08807

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