

CC: A 73 year old male presented to the ED with **dizziness** and **fatigue**

HPI: Referred to the ED from regular follow-up **3 months before which he was apparently normal:** had a COVID infection, post which started experiencing **dizziness**, **lightheadedness** and **fatigue**, the symptoms are Episodic in nature with no specific pattern, relieved by eating/drinking something, the symptoms have been **waking him up at the middle of the night**

ROS: denied sensation of room spinning, loss of balance/coordination, Decreases in appetite, no specific abdominal pain, palpitations, urinary/bowel incontinence, no neurological deficit

PMH: No relevant PMH

Fam Hx: Type 2 Diabetes in Mother

Soc Hx: no alcohol/smoking/drugs Lives with wife

Meds: OTC multivitamin

Allergies: no

Vitals: T: Afebrile **BP:**150/72 **HR:**70 **RR:**17 **SpO2:**98%

Exam: no orthostatic hypotension

Gen: no acute distress

HEENT: wnl

CV: no JVD, no murmurs

Pulm: wnl

Abd: soft, NTND, no organomegaly

Neuro: wnl, no focal neurologic deficit,

Extremities/skin: wnl

Notable Labs & Imaging:

Hematology:
Hgb:13.5 WBC:10.1 Plt: 324

Chemistry:
Na: 131 |K:5.1 |Cl:94 |HCO3:27 |BUN:18 |Cr:1.05 |AST: 48 |ALT:47 |Alk-P:121 |T.Bili:0.6 |Albumin: 3.2
CoVID:negative |Hba1c:5.2 |Glucose:127→30(within 2 hours)
Insulin:59.6 (3-25) |C-peptide :elevated |ketones:nl |ACTH:nl, cortisol:nl

Imaging:
EUS FNAC biopsy pancreas: immunostaining positive for **neuroendocrine tumor** in primary pancreatic lesion; staining positive for synaptophysin and chromogranin
CT Abdomen/Pelvis: **pancreatic mass at the tail of pancreas, hypodense lesions in the liver(without contrast)**

Dx: **Insulinoma**



Problem Representation:
73 M with dizziness, fatigue with fasting episodic hypoglycemia with High insulin, C-peptide.CT abdomen showing mass in tail of pancreas on HPE consistent with Neuroendocrine tumor(insulinoma)

Teaching Points (Vijay + Deb):

- **CC:** Is dizziness causing fatigue or opposite. Dizziness: Neurologic, vascular. Fatigue: Objective weakness vs asthenia
- **COVID:** Post COVID complications(autonomic,cardiac, Multisystem). **Long covid** → can miss a lot of things! Don't say is "long covid" without checking other diseases. You can miss an important disorder.
Ddx: Cardiomyopathy, hepatitis, malignancy, MIS-A.
- Baseline functional status: Is it new, how is the patient activities daily. Neurologic signs suggest CNS involvement: HINTS(if Symptomatic), Dix hallpike, Cerebellar
- **Episodic** improvement with eating: Look for hypoglycemia. Neuroendocrine tumors, adrenal insufficiency.
- **Normal exam** makes us think of **metabolic** (Liver, renal, adrenal)
- Pseudohypoglycemia(CBG falsely low), Reduced food intake.
- **Labs:** AI: 1ry:Low Na, NAGMA, **HyperK**, Hyperpigmentation, Weight loss (Prototype may not be present). MCC: Autoimmune(US), TB(outside) Cortisol <5: AI,5-15: ACTH stimulation test.>15: rules out AI
The hyponatremia is a secondary process, can be caused by polypsia, alcohol intake, adrenal insufficiency.
- **Hypoglycemia:** Confirm with Whipples triad.
- PEARL:** Hypoglycemia labs **DURING** hypoglycemia episode!
- DM vs Non-DM. Endogenous vs Exogenous Hyperinsulinemia.Fasting vs post-prandial
Labs: Insulin, C-peptide, cortisol, CECT AP
If labs suggest endogenous hyperinsulism with normal imaging → EUS Liver lesion: with peripheral enhancement concerning for metastasis
Insulinoma: High C-peptide, High Insulin, Low Betahydroxybutyrate. Look for MEN-1 syndrome when insulinoma diagnosed.
Post surgery hyperglycemia common