

OET Writing practice – Sample answer (Newton)

Dr. Jack Thomas
Gastroenterology Department
City Hospital
Main Road
Stillwater

21. February, 2015

Dear Dr Thomas,

Re: Patrick Newton, 25 years old

I would be grateful for your assessment and advice on the diagnosis of this patient who has symptoms and signs suggestive of inflammatory bowel disease.

Mr. Newton presented today with a four-month history of chronic mild diarrhoea and intermittent R lower quadrant abdominal pain. He has had poor appetite with weight loss of 3kg in the last four months, and has become increasingly embarrassed about his symptoms which have not responded to dietary modification and OTC medications, and have even caused him to withdraw from regular sport activities.

On examination today, he is afebrile with significant findings confined to a generally tender abdomen without hepatosplenomegaly, elevated white cell count (11.1), decreased red cell count (4.0), elevated ESR and CPR, and positive FOB.

My tentative differential diagnosis is either IBD or Crohn's, especially in light of his family history (his uncle has Crohn's). Mr Newton has therefore been counseled on IBD and advised to completely stop his current habit of smoking 10-15 cigarettes a day. He has no known allergies and only takes ibuprofen when needed.

Thank you in advance for your intervention, and do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Kind regards,

Doctor.

Body 194 words
Time 5 + 28 minutes