



Picture Prognosis

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A 47-year-old male presents with chronic diarrhea, abdominal distention, and muscle wasting. Lab results show macrocytic anemia, low albumin, and recurrent ascites managed with paracentesis. Small bowel endoscopy reveals erythematous and edematous mucosa. Biopsy confirms abundant PAS-positive macrophages in the lamina propria. What's your diagnosis?

1. Celiac Disease
2. Crohn's Disease
3. Whipple's Disease
4. Ulcerative Colitis



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Answer: Whipple's Disease

Whipple's Disease is a rare bacterial infection presents with malabsorption, diarrhea, weight loss, and can involve the small bowel with characteristic PAS-positive macrophages. Treatment with antibiotics leads to rapid clinical improvement, emphasizing early recognition for effective management. Celiac Disease typically presents with small bowel mucosal changes consistent with villous atrophy and is associated with specific serological markers (anti-tTG) and Crohn's Disease more commonly presents with skip lesions, transmural inflammation, and fistula formation, not the diffuse mucosal involvement seen here. Ulcerative Colitis predominantly affects the colon with continuous mucosal involvement and crypt abscesses, not typical for this presentation.