

## SAQ 2 with answers

A 54 year old woman presents to the ED with three days of painful swelling in her left wrist and hand. A clinical image of the patient's forearms is shown on the next page.

### a. Describe and interpret the clinical image (6 Marks)

Describe - 1/2 mark each up to 3 marks

- IV cannula right forearm
- Vasculitic lesions to right hand all digits & 3rd MCPJ
- Left hand swollen
- Erythema left hand and forearm
- Scar/wound to radial aspect left wrist
- Bilateral symmetrical polyarthropathy
- Boutonniere deformity to all fingers
- Wasting small muscles of the hand - most notable right 1st web space
- Ulna deviation wrist & MCPJs more evident on right hand
- Z deformity to right thumb

Interpretation - 1 mark each for 3 marks

- Give cause of bilateral symmetrical polyarthropathy
  - Rheumatoid arthritis- preferred answer will accept from examples below:
  - Connective tissue disease e.g. SLE
  - Gouty arthropathy
  - Psoriatic arthropathy
- Immunocompromised patient - secondary disease +/- treatment
- Left upper limb infection - cellulitis / joint infection

Answer adapted from examiner's report

### b. Outline your investigations & rational for investigation in this patient (4 Marks)

1 Mark for any example under each of the four following heading - 1/2 mark for test & 1/2 mark for rational

- Bedside
  - Urinalysis - ? blood - renal injury or SBE ? proteinuria - renal injury ? evidence of infection
  - ECG - baseline, ? evidence of cardiomyopathy or effusion, ? 1st degree AV block with SBE
  - BSL - ? diabetic
- Bloods
  - Fbc - Marker of infection
  - UEC - baseline renal function or evidence of renal impairment
  - CRP / ESR - marker of infection, track response to Tx
  - Blood cultures - if febrile
- Radiology
  - Wrist / forearm x-ray - ? evidence of OM, ?extent of arthropathy, ?metal work following surgery
- Special Investigation
  - USS Wrist / forearm - ? evidence of collection, ? joint effusion
  - Wrist aspiration - ? evidence of septic joint
  - ECHO - ? endocarditis or valvular lesion

Question taken from FACEM VAQ question 2006.1.7

Image taken from <http://lifeinthefastlane.com/quiz-clinical-010/>