

Week 6 response:

Peptic Ulcer Disease (PUD) is a condition where ulcers form in the lining of the stomach or duodenum, caused by a disruption in the balance between factors that protect the stomach and those that damage it. Key causes include *Helicobacter pylori* infection, which damages the stomach lining, and the use of NSAIDs, which reduce protective prostaglandins. Stress, smoking, and excess alcohol can also contribute by increasing stomach acid. The resulting damage leads to ulcers and can cause pain, bleeding, or infection.

In Bayani's case, several symptoms can be tied to PUD. The abdominal pain he is experiencing is a classic symptom, as ulcers often cause a burning or gnawing pain in the stomach, which can be worse when the stomach is empty. The fact that the pain might improve with food or antacids is also typical of PUD. However, Bayani's increased thirst and urination, along with foul-smelling urine, don't fit neatly into the PUD picture. These symptoms are more commonly associated with diabetes or a urinary tract infection (UTI), which suggests that Bayani may have additional conditions complicating his case. His mild confusion could be due to dehydration or a possible systemic infection, either from his PUD or a UTI.

While abdominal pain aligns with PUD, Bayani's increased thirst, urination, and foul-smelling urine hint at something else, like diabetes or a UTI, which need to be ruled out. The presence of these symptoms means it's important to consider all possibilities and not assume PUD is the sole diagnosis.

To figure out what's really going on, the healthcare team would likely run several tests. They'd want to check for *H. pylori* infection through a urea breath test, stool antigen test, or blood test. A complete blood count (CBC) would be useful to see if there's anemia from potential bleeding in the ulcer. Endoscopy, where a camera is inserted into the stomach, would be the best way to see if there's an ulcer and assess its severity. Imaging tests like an ultrasound or CT scan could help rule out other causes of his symptoms, while a urinalysis would check for a UTI. If Bayani has PUD, we'd expect to