

Beriberi (Thiamine Deficiency)

Beriberi develops due to thiamine (B1) deficiency. Beriberi is described as dry or wet. Dry beriberi is characterized by symmetric polyneuritis affecting both sensory and motor components of the distal extremities leading to symmetrical extremity muscle wasting. Wet beriberi has additional cardiac involvement including cardiomegaly, dilated cardiomyopathy, congestive heart failure, and peripheral edema.



PLAY PICMONIC

Mechanism

Thiamine Deficiency

Thigh-man Tied-up

Thiamine (B1) deficiency can lead to beriberi and Wernicke-Korsakoff syndrome. Thiamine deficiency is more common in alcoholics and people from third world countries solely eating polished rice.

Assessment

Dry Beriberi

Berries on dry land

Dry beriberi is characterized by symmetric polyneuritis affecting both sensory and motor components of the distal extremities, leading to symmetrical extremity muscle wasting.

Polyneuritis

Poly-nerve-tree

A neurological disorder that occurs when multiple nerves throughout the body are damaged simultaneously. Polyneuritis is a key component of dry beriberi.

Muscle Wasting

Muscle Waste-basket

Symmetrical loss of muscle mass is commonly seen in dry beriberi.

Wet Beriberi

Wet Berries

Wet beriberi is the term used for thiamine deficiency with cardiovascular involvement.

Dilated Cardiomyopathy

Dilated Heart and mayo-jar with party-hat

Dilated cardiomyopathy is a condition in which the heart becomes weakened and enlarged and cannot pump blood efficiently throughout the body.

Edema

Edamame

Edema is an abnormal accumulation of fluid beneath the skin or cavities of the body that produces swelling. Edema is a common manifestation of wet beriberi.