**Single Best Answer**

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| **Teaching Block** – Emergency Medicine and Critical Care | | **Teaching Topic** - Emergency Medicine | |
| **Presenting Complaint and Common Conditions** -  Acute abdomen and Intra-abdominal emergencies: perforation, inflammation-infection, obstruction | | **Fundamental Unit** - ICF2 Initial assessment of patient | |
| **Author** – Phua Dong Haur | **Complexity** - 2 | **Resource Needed** - Nil | Choose an item. |

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| EM: | A 67-year old gentleman complained of five days history of abdominal pain and distension. He also complained of constipation, initially he still passed gas, but this had since ceased over the last three days. He complained of nausea but no actual vomiting.  Clinical examination revealed a distress gentleman with abdominal distension and high pitched bowel sound. There was no obvious mass or shifting dullness.  An erect abdominal X-ray was performed:  What laboratory abnormality would you most expect to find in this patient? | |
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|  | (A) | Respiratory acidosis |
|  | (B) | Metabolic acidosis |
|  | (C) | Hypokalaemia |
|  | (D) | Hypocalcaemia |
|  | (E) | Hypoglycaemia |

**Correct Response: B**