Dental Student PBL II

A 23-year-old female came with her male companion and was seen in the dental school’s emergency clinic for extreme pain in the oral cavity. You are on rotation in the emergency clinic and are assigned the patient to conduct a work-up of the case. Oral examination presented a number of findings. White lesions were noticed on the lateral regions of the tongue. There were large ulcerations of the palate and gingival mucosa. The patient was also found to have large purple discolorations (possibly due to Kaposi’s sarcoma) in the oral cavity. On the medical history, the patient reports that she has been feeling tired and run down lately. She also reports getting “colds” more frequently, and that they last longer before resolving. The patient was suspected of having contracted the AIDS virus.

1. What is the significance of white lesions on the tongue of this patient?

2. What factors, disease(s) might cause ulcerations of the palate and gingival mucosa?

3. The patient was tested for hemangioma and coagulation defects. What would the rationale for these tests?

4. The patients had lesions that were identified as Kaposi’s sarcoma. What is Kaposi’s sarcoma and is it related to AIDS infection?

5. Please describe the life cycle AIDS virus.

6. What blood tests can be done to confirm AIDS infection in this patient?

7. What drugs are currently prescribed for controlling AIDS infection and what is the mode of their of action?

8. If the patient had AIDS, why would she get “colds” frequently?

9. What course of treatment would you suggest to improve oral health in this patient?

10. How would you handle the oral health of this patient over the long-term?

# Reading Material

<http://www.cellsalive.com/hiv0.htm>

<http://hivinsite.ucsf.edu/InSite?page=kb-04&doc=kb-04-01-14>