

HIV Diagnosis and the Oral Cavity



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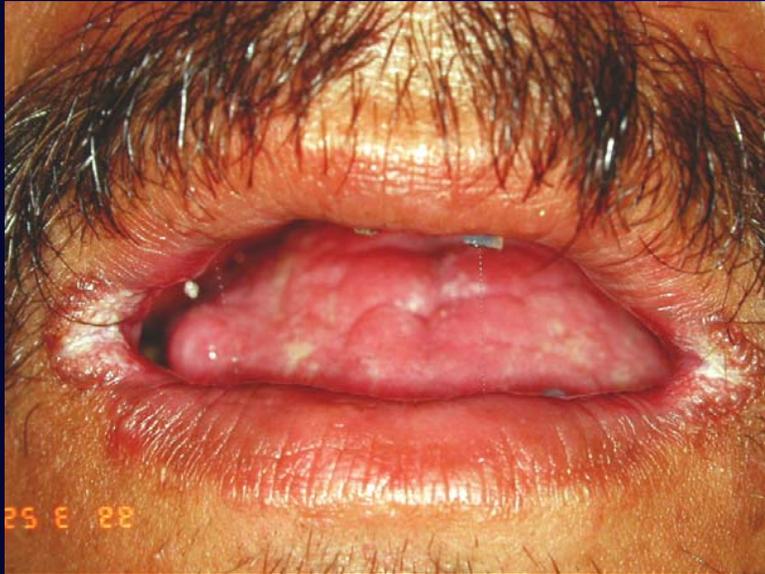
HIV Diagnosis and the Oral Cavity

- There are situations when the oral manifestation of a disease may lead one to suspect of HIV infection
- Oral Candidiasis in a patient otherwise healthy, not taking antibiotics, not undergoing immunosuppressive therapy for cancer, or not taking corticosteroids is one example

HIV Diagnosis and the Oral Cavity

- The following patient came to the dental clinic because he felt there was something wrong with his mouth.
- He was having severe discomfort, could not eat well or drink water, chew and swallow.
- He complained food was not tasting normal

Candidiasis / Caries / HIV+



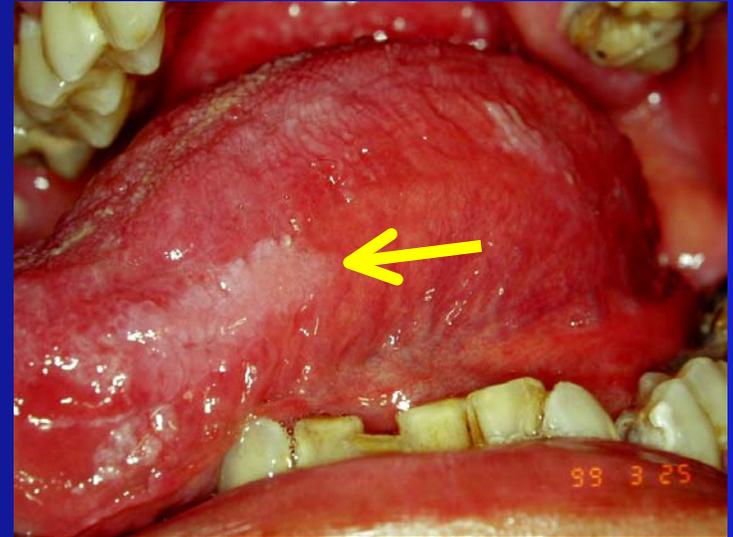
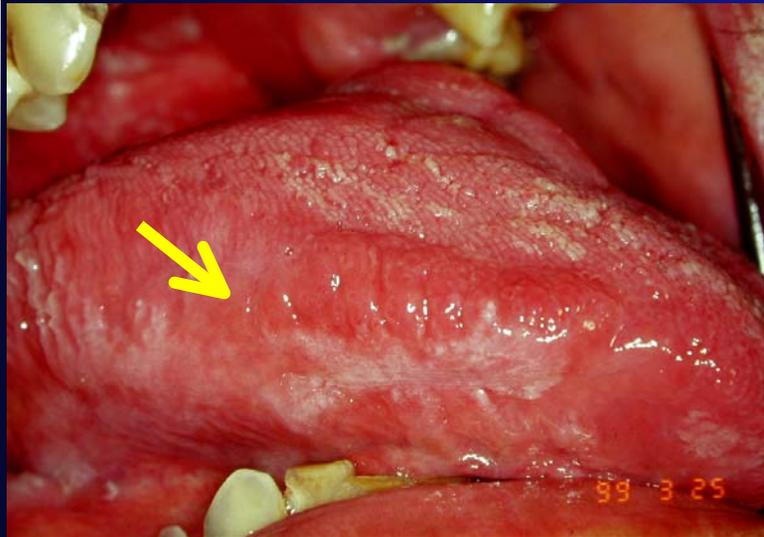
- Note cracking of the corners of the lips, making difficult to open the mouth.
- A wide bite on a sandwich would make the areas bleed

Candidiasis / Caries / HIV+



- Note severe decay making it impossible and painful to chew
- Note white patch on the buccal vestibule

Candidiasis / Caries / HIV+



- Note white patches on the lateral borders of the tongue
- Oral mucosal tissues are red, not pink

HIV Diagnosis and the Oral Cavity

- In this case, the cracking of the corners of the lips, the white patches and the general redness of the oral tissues strongly suggest oral candidiasis
- The patches may be removed by wiping the area with gauze or a tongue depressor

HIV Diagnosis and the Oral Cavity

- The patient may be treated with an antifungal to improve the oral condition
- The patient has to be followed for recurrent candidiasis. A new infection after discontinuation of therapy is a strong indication of immune suppression

HIV Diagnosis and the Oral Cavity

- The patient can be questioned about risk behavior for HIV and STDs
- HIV testing can be recommended at this point

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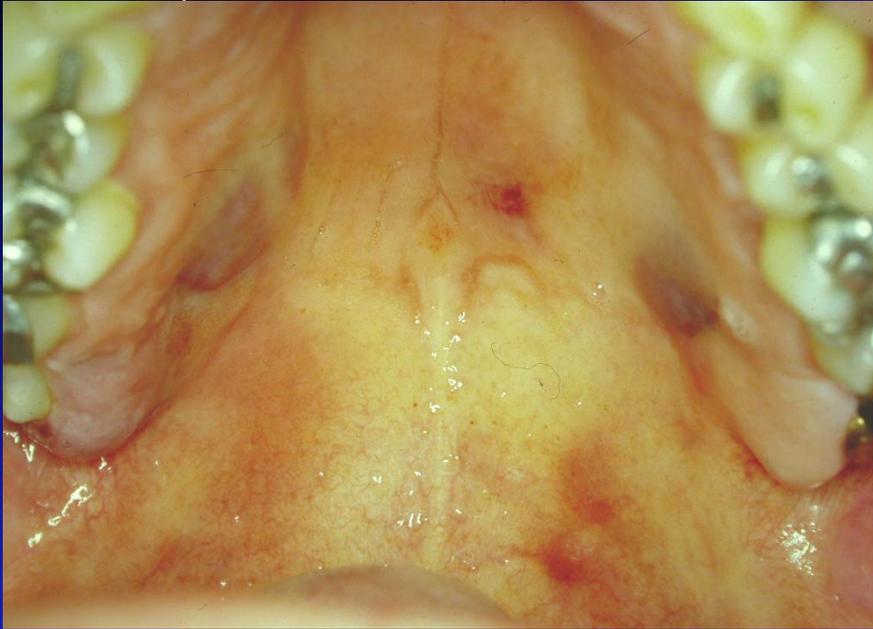
- Several other diseases of the mouth could be an indicator of HIV infection
- See some examples:

Hairy Leukoplakia



Kaposi's Sarcoma

Palate: most common site



HIV/STD and the Oral Cavity

- HIV and STDs are co-morbidities that can affect individuals who practice unsafe sex
- One of the epidemiological features of syphilis in the United States is the association with HIV infection

HIV/STD and the Oral Cavity

- Syphilis may manifest in the oral cavity presenting with an ulcer-like lesion
- The lesion may be painful and the only clinical manifestation of the STD
- See one example:

HIV+ with a Syphilitic Lesion on the Labial Mucosa



HIV/STD and the Oral Cavity

- The following patient came to the clinic complaining of severe gingival pain and a sore throat. He had oral sex with his partner a few days before. He found out later that his partner had genital gonorrhoea

HIV+ with Oral Gonorrhoea



Gingival tissues are swollen and necrotic

Soft palate is red and painful

