

Keep your English up to scratch!...

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Dear readers,

Are you ready to brush up your dermatological English? It is our very great pleasure to present the twenty-fifth English corner based on **Kaposi's sarcoma**. Don't forget you can use a dictionary to help you with the text, and of course, you should visit our website at <http://anglaimedical.u-bourgogne.fr/> to work on your pronunciation or build your medical vocabulary. The site also includes a talking dictionary, medical videos, exercises, clinical cases, words and expressions for specialists...

Kaposi's sarcoma

Kaposi's sarcoma is a skin cancer that occurs¹ in people with a weakened² immune system. It is associated with herpes virus infection – Kaposi sarcoma-associated herpes virus (KSHV). There are various forms, including classical, or Mediterranean KS, a very rare skin cancer confined mainly³ to older men of Mediterranean, Eastern European or Jewish⁴ origin. Classical KS develops slowly and tends not to spread⁵. The second form is an endemic form occurring mainly in people living in Equatorial Africa, where malnutrition, malaria and chronic infections take their toll⁶ on the body's natural defences. African KS tends to affect younger people, women and children especially. Another form, iatrogenic KS, occurs in people who have undergone⁷ organ transplant surgery and whose immune system has therefore been suppressed⁸ to prevent rejection of the graft⁹. Those with KSHV infections may develop KS. In such patients, reducing the dose of the immune-suppressing drugs may cause¹⁰ the lesions to

shrink¹¹ or even disappear. Today, most people have heard about Kaposi's sarcoma because of its association with the AIDS pandemic. Indeed, it is an AIDS-defining illness, meaning that when a person with HIV infection develops KS, he or she is officially recognised as having full-blown¹² AIDS. The onset¹³ of the KS is still due to KSHV, but the immune system has been weakened by the HIV infection. In these patients, highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) can inhibit the development of KS. In the absence of HAART, KS is rapidly progressive in people with AIDS.

Kaposi's sarcoma develops from cells that line¹⁴ the lymph or blood vessels and the lesions usually appear on the skin or the mucosa, especially inside the mouth. They can also affect the lymph nodes, the gastrointestinal tract or the lungs¹⁵. Internal lesions may cause bleeding¹⁶.

KS lesions on the skin are pinkish¹⁷ brown, raised¹⁸ and sharply¹⁹ defined nodules which can occur anywhere, but are more frequently found on the legs or face. If they occur on the legs or in the groin²⁰ area, they may cause painful swelling²¹ of the legs or feet, but otherwise²² they are symptom-free²³.

For localized KS, if detected early, radiotherapy is an effective²⁴ treatment. In more advanced cases, chemotherapy may be needed. In people with AIDS, although KS is the defining illness, it is rarely the cause of death.

1. appear (= se produire)
2. enfeebled (= affaibli)
3. principally (= surtout)
4. followers of Judaism (= juif)
5. propagate (= se propager)

6. damage (= endommager)
7. endure (= subir)
8. inhibited (= inhiber/déprimer)
9. transplanted tissue (= griffon, greffe)
10. make (= faire/provoquer)
11. diminish in size (= diminuer)
12. veritable AIDS (= SIDA caractérisé)
13. start (= début)
14. cover (= tapisser)
15. main respiratory organs (= poumons)
16. haemorrhage (= saignement)
17. light red (= rosâtre)
18. elevated (= surélevé)
19. clearly defined (= bien défini)
20. inguinal area (= l'aîne)
21. enlargement (= gonflement)
22. if not (= sinon)
23. without symptoms (= sans symptômes)
24. efficacious (= efficace)

1. Make coherent sentences using the jumbled words below.

1. read / you / last week's / Have / *British Journal of Dermatology*?
2. an incurable / 's / disease. / is / Alzheimer
3. operation. / tomorrow / is / The surgeon / of / certain / of / the success / 's
4. 'd / to check / a colleague / I / of / like / the lab results / mine. / with
5. doctor / The old man / does not / he'll / think / 's / survive.
6. mother's / birthmark / 's / untreatable. / 's / Terry

1. Have you read last week's *British Journal of Dermatology*?
2. Alzheimer's is an incurable disease.
3. The surgeon is certain of the success of tomorrow's operation.
4. I'd like to check the lab results with a colleague of mine.
5. The old man's doctor does not think he'll survive.
6. Terry's mother's birthmark's untreatable.

English corner

1. Spider angioma
2. Down(s) syndrome
3. Lyme disease
4. Graves' disease
5. Butterfly rash
6. Kaposi(s) sarcoma
7. cat-scratch disease
8. Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome
9. restless legs syndrome

2. Translate the following with a medical dictionary, if necessary.

1. l'angiome stellaire
2. la trisomie 21
3. la maladie de Lyme
4. la maladie de Basedow
5. l'érythème en papillon
6. le sarcome de Kaposi
7. la maladie des griffes du chat
8. le syndrome de Wolff-Parkinson-White
9. le syndrome des jambes sans repos

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