

HIV (11/03)

HIV disease. Patton LL. Dent Clin N Am 2003;47:467–492.

HIV/AIDS is an evolving epidemic in developed countries, where prevention and early detection efforts continue to be important in control of the disease. Occupational transmission of HIV in the dental office has never been documented from patient to dentist and has been reported only once from dentist to patient. Use of potent combination antiretroviral therapies, available since the mid-1990s, has meant preservation or restoration of immune function for many adults. Oral diseases have become less prevalent. Dental treatment complications are unlikely and minor when they occur. In the era of highly active antiretroviral therapy, however, the dental provider must be increasingly cognizant of the potential for drug toxicities and interactions while providing care for HIV-infected patients.



DIS Comment: The author states much has been learned about HIV disease during its first 20 years of existence in North America, however the number of HIV-infected patients under dental care is expected to increase in the future. The article presents an overview of the epidemiology, transmission, pathogenesis, diagnosis, and medical management of HIV/AIDS patients. Also, discussed are HIV-associated oral mucosal lesions and periodontal disease including dental management of these conditions. Common or important potential drug interactions that will likely be encountered when providing dental care of HIV-infected patients are also presented.