

CRITICAL THINKING ACTIVITY

Case study:

Your patient is 66 years old, and she wears a denture for many years. She received her new denture recently; however, she told you that she did not like the new denture. "It hurts my palate!" You remove her denture and see many papillary projections on the hard palate. She also tells you that her granddaughter is thinking about getting the HPV vaccine, but she doesn't know much about it. She thinks it's so much that her grandson will not be affected by the HPV. The Patient drinks wine often because she thinks that will do good for her.

1. What can you do to help this patient with her new denture?

Answer: the lesion could be papillary hyperplasia. If it is due to the new denture, the denture may need to be fixed by a dentist.

2. What can you say about the HPV vaccine as a dental hygienist?

Answer: HPV can affect many parts of our body. Some oral cancers seem to have associations with HPV. The best time to get an HIV vaccine is 9-26 years old, but you can still get it after 27 years old.

3. Is it true that HPV does not affect males?

Answer: No. HPV can infect both males and females, and young white males are at higher risk of some oral cancer.

4. What else do you need to inform the patient?

Answer: It will be better if she can stop drinking wine. Alcohol can be a risk factor for many cancers.