

Persistent white patch on the tongue



Assume that today's date is 22 October 2026. You have just reviewed Mr Aumua. You are a dentist in general dental practice. Using the information in the case notes, write a letter of referral to Dr Akosua Amarasinghe, an oral medicine specialist, requesting urgent assessment and biopsy of Mr Aumua's tongue lesion. Address the letter to Dr Akosua Amarasinghe, Oral Medicine Specialist, Oral Medicine Unit, Dental Hospital, 150 Grattan Road. In your answer: expand the relevant notes into complete sentences; do not use note form; use letter format. The body of the letter should be approximately 180–200 words.

Choose one box per line: I = Include / C = Compress / O = Omit. Answers and reasons are on the webpage (scan QR).

Patient details

1. Name: Mr Sione Aumua
2. DOB: 14/03/1970 (56 yrs)
3. Address: Unit 4, 27 Harbour Street
4. Mobile: 0491 570 156
5. Pt of practice since 2019; irregular attender

Social background

6. Long-haul truck driver; often away 3–4 days at a time
7. Divorced, lives alone; adult daughter lives interstate
8. Smoker: 25 cigarettes/day since age 18 (approx. 47 pack-years)
9. Alcohol: approx. 4–5 standard drinks most evenings
10. Enjoys fishing on days off
11. Mentioned ongoing dispute with ex-wife over sale of house

Medical history

12. Hypertension: amlodipine 5 mg daily
13. Type 2 diabetes: metformin 500 mg BD; pt unsure of last HbA1c
14. Low-dose aspirin daily (GP-prescribed since TIA 2023)
15. Allergies: penicillin (rash)
16. Father died of lung cancer aged 64
17. Appendicectomy 1995

Dental history

18. Missed 2 recall appts in past 18/12; DNA hygiene appt 05/26
19. Heavy calculus, generalised gingival recession; multiple restorations

Initial visit 24/09/26

20. C/o roughness R side of tongue, noticed approx. 2/52
21. Fractured, sharp lingual cusp 46 adjacent to lesion

Initial visit 24/09/26

22. Non-wipeable white patch R lateral border tongue, approx. 15 × 8 mm
23. 46 lingual cusp smoothed and polished; review in 2/52 advised
24. Smoking cessation advice given; Quitline details provided — pt 'not ready'

Review 22/10/26

25. White patch R lateral border tongue persists 4/52 after cusp smoothed; unchanged, approx. 15 × 8 mm; predominantly white, slightly raised; small red area at anterior margin
26. Mild discomfort with spicy food; non-tender to palpation; no induration
27. No cervical lymphadenopathy palpable
28. No other mucosal lesions
29. Pt very anxious; asked repeatedly 'Is it cancer?'; worried because of father's death
30. Complained reception staff were 'rude and unfair' for charging fee for missed appt
31. Review originally booked 08/10/26 — DNA; practice phoned pt same day; rebooked for first date pt available (today) as away for work

Plan

32. Urgent referral to oral medicine for assessment and biopsy
33. Need for biopsy explained; pt agreed to referral
34. Pt asks to be contacted by phone on mobile — rarely checks post while away for work
35. Definitive restoration 46 to be planned after specialist review
36. Practice to phone pt in 1/52 to confirm he has received specialist appt