

Say Ahh...

The tongue has many stories to tell. Sometimes they're benign, sometimes not. Can you tell which is which?

- Match the lesions to the photo by letter**
- a. Recurrent aphthous ulcers
 - b. Leukoplakia
 - c. Squamous cell carcinoma
 - d. Black hairy tongue
 - e. Strep pharyngitis



1. A painless white, thick lesion with fissuring has been on the side of this 57-year-old man's tongue for the past seven months. He says he drinks two to three beers in the evening and smokes one pack of cigarettes per day.



2. This nonhealing painful lesion on the side of her tongue has recently increased in size, and the patient, a 56-year-old homeless woman, is worried because her dad died of oral cancer. She has smoked since she was 11 and acknowledges being a heavy drinker.



3. A 58-year-old man seeks care for painful sores that have been in his mouth, on and off, for a year. The ulcers erupt on his tongue, gums, buccal mucosa, and inner lips, making it painful to eat. The patient is not taking any medications.



4. A 60-year-old man, smelling of alcohol and tobacco, complains of black discoloration of his tongue and an occasional gagging sensation. He smokes one to two packs of cigarettes and drinks six to eight beers daily. On physical exam, his teeth are stained and his tongue shows elongated papillae with brown discoloration.



5. A 5-year-old girl has a temperature of 102.4°F, a sore throat, and a red tongue with prominent papillae. The posterior pharynx is also erythematous, with slight exudate visible. The anterior cervical lymph nodes are mildly tender and somewhat enlarged, and no rashes are noted.

For the correct answers, go to www.clinicianreviews.com/articles/picture-this.html.

These cases were adapted from Usatine R, Smith M, Mayeaux EJ, et al, eds. *Color Atlas of Family Medicine*. 2nd ed. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill; 2013. You can now get the second edition of the *Color Atlas of Family Medicine* as an app for mobile devices by visiting: usatinemedia.com.