

**IMAGES IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE**

## Infectious Disease

# A man with a rash

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## 1 | PATIENT PRESENTATION

A 34-year-old male with a medical history of hepatitis C presents to the emergency department (ED) from prison for lower extremity edema and a diffuse rash. He states that over the last 6 months he had worsening maculopapular rash that is purple in color. This has been associated with worsening bilateral lower extremity edema and tenderness to palpation. Physical examination shows violaceous plaques diffusely spread on his face, chest, abdomen, and extremities. A rapid HIV test in ED is reactive (Figures 1, 2, and 3).

**FIGURE 1** Violaceous lesions on the trunk**FIGURE 2** Violaceous lesions on the face

## 2 | DIAGNOSIS

### 2.1 | AIDS-related Kaposi's sarcoma

Kaposi's sarcoma (KS) is a vascular tumor associated with human herpes virus 8 (HHV-8).<sup>1</sup> KS is generally associated with HIV/AIDS, with those with lower CD4 counts having a higher incidence of disease.<sup>2</sup> KS can be seen cutaneously as well as on a variety of visceral organs. Although the diagnosis can be made clinically, definitive diagnosis of KS is obtained via biopsy. Staging of KS, developed by the AIDS

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**FIGURE 3** Violaceous lesions on the lower extremity

Clinical Trials Group Oncology Committee, involves CD4 count, tumor distribution, and severity of illness.<sup>3</sup> Treatment involves starting the patient on a combination antiretroviral therapy and possibly initiation of local and/or systemic chemotherapy.<sup>4,5</sup>

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