

KAPOSI'S SARCOMA

Kaposi's sarcoma, while common in Africa, was rare in the United States until recently, and now AIDS-associated Kaposi sarcoma has become common. Purplish papules and tumor masses and macules appear in the palate and on the skin, with oral lesions present in 50 percent of patients.

Microscopically, numerous vascular slits and usually considerable hemorrhages are present. Small columns of erythrocytes not lined by endothelial cells are seemingly held in place by tightly compacted spindle cells.

Mitoses are common.

Kaposi's sarcoma. A highly cellular population of spindle cells is separated by vascular slits with extravasation of red cells. This image is much too cellular for any hemangioma.

