A Cancer Scare

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A 53-year-old man presented with a long history of an asymptomatic purple papule on his left lower lip (Figure 1). He is a smoker and wonders whether he might have lip cancer.

1. What is the most likely diagnosis?
   a) Lichen planus
   b) Kaposi’s sarcoma
   c) Venous lake
   d) Pigmented basal cell carcinoma
   e) Melanoma

2. What is the main concern with this purple papule?
   a) A sign of chronic sun exposure
   b) Local spread
   c) Metastases
   d) Suggests that patient may be hepatitis C-positive
   e) Suggests that patient may be HIV-positive

3. How could you treat this purple papule?
   a) Laser
   b) Cryotherapy
   c) Electrodessication
   d) Excision
   e) All of the above

Figure 1. A purple papule on the lower left side of the lip.

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Answers: 1-c; 2-a; 3-e