

## **COLD SORES**

*Please read this information sheet. If you have any questions, particularly about the treatment or potential side-effects, please ask Professor.*

- These are common
- They are not inherited
- They are caused by a virus (*Herpes simplex*) which lives in nerves
- They are infectious and the virus can be transmitted by kissing
- They may be precipitated by sun-exposure, stress, injury or immune problems
- They have no long-term consequences
- Blood tests or biopsy *may* be required
- Cold sores may be controlled by some antiviral creams (e.g. *Vectavir* or *Zovirax*) or tablets, best used *early* on.
- Useful website

[http://openseason.com/annex/library/cic/X0033\\_fever.txt.html](http://openseason.com/annex/library/cic/X0033_fever.txt.html)

*A patient has the right under common law to give or withhold consent to medical examination of treatment. This is one of the basic principles of health care. Patients are entitled to receive sufficient information in a way they can understand about the proposed treatments, the possible alternatives and any substantial risk or risks which may be special in kind or magnitude or special to the patient, so that they can make a balanced judgement. (UK Health Dept.19.2.99. HSC 1999/031)*

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