

Table 24-1: Factors Associated with Shortened Life Expectancy

Symptom or Sign	Comment
CD4 persistently low	Advanced disease: < 50 cells/mm ³
Viral burden remains > 100,000 copies/ml despite combination therapy	
Functional Status < 50 (Karnofsky Performance Status)	Spending > 50% of day in bed
Failure of optimized therapy	e.g., multi-drug resistance or failure
Desire to forego more therapy	May occur after multiple hospitalizations
Significant wasting	Loss of > 30% lean body mass
Progressive hepatitis C despite therapy	Hepatic failure; drug intolerance
Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML)	Progressive dependencies; dementia
Unresponsive Kaposi's sarcoma involving an organ	Progression despite therapy
End-stage organ disease	Renal, hepatic, or cardiac failure
Persistent diarrhea > 1 mo.	No response to treatment
Unresponsive lymphoma/ other malignancy	Progression despite therapy
Desire of patient for death	Acknowledgment by patient & family of poor prognosis

Adapted from Moore⁸, NHO⁹