

Table 2-5: Conditions Suggestive of Less Than Six Months Prognosis in Patients with AIDS

LABORATORY MARKERS

CD4 + T-lymphocyte count < 25 cells / mm³

HIV RNA > 100,000 copies / ml

serum albumin < 2.5 gm / dl

CLINICAL CONDITIONS

CNS lymphoma

PML

cryptosporidiosis

severe wasting

disseminated MAC

visceral Kaposi's sarcoma

advanced AIDS dementia

toxoplasmosis

severe cardiomyopathy

chronic severe diarrhea

life-threatening malignancies

advanced end-organ failure (e.g., liver failure, congestive heart failure, COPD, renal failure not on dialysis)

Note: All of these factors may potentially be over-ridden in the setting of effective antiretroviral therapy.

Source: Adapted from National Hospice Organization. *Guidelines for Determining Prognosis for Selected Non-Cancer Diagnoses*. Alexandria, VA: National Hospice Organization, 1996.