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Dr Meer is a senior specialist consultant and senior lecturer in the Division of Oral Pathology, School of Oral Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand. She is a dental graduate of the University of the Western Cape (1988) and obtained a Master of Dentistry in the field of Oral Pathology from the University of Witwatersrand in 2001. In addition to teaching, diagnostic service rendering and research in oral pathology at the University, Shabnum practices as a private oral pathologist at Lancet Laboratories in Johannesburg. Her special interests are HIV, soft tissue and salivary gland pathology. Dr Meer is currently researching the molecular pathology of oral HIV lymphomas.