Here are two versions of a recent student post in 519. The first version is copied from Word and then uses the paste from Word function in the Moodle Compose editor. There is a brief audio commentary.

The second version is copied and pasted from a Google doc, again with a brief audio commentary. The Google doc approach is easy to do and the student never loses any work as Google Drive keeps track and autosaves.

**Paste from Word version**

Hello colleagues,

I recently encountered a rather tragic situation in which a twenty-nine year old patient at the cancer centre was coming in for palliative radiation for metastatic nasopharyngeal cancer. Reading this young man’s oncology consultation, the oncologist noted that this particular patient screened positive for Epstein Barr-Virus DNA. This made me wonder what the correlation is between the Epstein Barr-Virus and nasopharyngeal cancer. Jack posed the question “What is the association between EBV and cancer?” I specifically focused my research on EBV and nasopharyngeal cancer and I will share my findings with you:

Studies have shown that there are several risk factors for the development of nasopharyngeal cancer including exposure to carcinogens, genetic predisposition, and prior infection with Epstein Barr-Virus (EBV) (Chu, Wu, Tunkel, & Ishman, 2008). The exact mechanism in which EBV contributes to nasopharyngeal cancer is not entirely understood, however researchers convey that there is a significant correlation between people previously infected with EBV and cancer development (Chu et al, 2008).

There is a substantial amount of evidence supporting the relationship between EBV and nasopharyngeal carcinoma. EBV has shown to be a primary etiologic agent in the growth and development of nasopharyngeal cancer (Hui, E. & Chan, A., 2013). Interestingly, EBV DNA and EBV gene expression has been detected in precursor cells and tumor cells of nasopharyngeal cancer (Hui, E. & Chan, A., 2013). This poses the question, is EBV responsible for the pathologic mutation that results in nasopharyngeal cancer? Increased EBV DNA levels, abnormal anti-EBV antibody profiles, and distinct EBV gene expression within nasopharyngeal tumor cells support the strong etiologic link between EBV infection and nasopharyngeal cancer (Hui, E. & Chan, A., 2013). These findings have prompted researchers to investigate the reliability of EBV DNA testing as a non invasive diagnostic test, a screening tool for high risk populations, and monitoring levels post treatment to detect disease reoccurrence.  Once nasopharyngeal cancer is diagnosed, Hui & Chan (2013) suggests that plasma EBV DNA levels are obtained prior to treatment as part of staging evaluation and a prognostic indicator.

I thought this was a very fascinating correlation between EBV infection and nasopharyngeal cancer occurrence. Seeing this in practice triggered my curiosity and researching the topic was very interesting. It does makes me wonder.... if EBV DNA testing for nasopharyngeal cancer can be used as a screening, diagnostic, and monitoring tool; will it be similar to the Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) testing they use for prostate cancer? I’m sure with more research and evidence, time will tell.

References

Chu, E., Wu, J., Tunkel, D., & Ishman, S. (2008). Nasopharyngeal carcinoma: The role of the Epstein-Barr virus. *The Medscape Journal of Medicine, 10*(7), 165. Retrieved from http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2525461

Hui, E. & Chan, A. (2013). Epidemiology, etiology, and diagnosis of nasopharyngeal carcinoma. *UptoDate.* Waltham, MA: UpToDate Inc.

Audio commentary: 

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References

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Audio commentary: 