[Translated article] Annular Plaques on the Foreskin and Scrotum in the Context of Secondary Reinfection Syphilis

Placas anulares en el prepucio y el escroto en el contexto de una sífilis secundaria reinfección

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A 40-year-old cis-gender homosexual man with a history of HIV infection (undetectable viral load, CD4 count within the normal range, receiving dolutegravir/ lamivudine) and 2 episodes of secondary syphilis in the past attended the clinic for assessment of a desquamative, asymptomatic, erythematous plaque with an annular pattern on the foreskin (Fig. 1A). Given the circinate appearance of the lesion, he was treated with antifungal and anti-inflammatory cream and screened for sexually transmitted infection.

At the follow-up visit, the lesion on the foreskin had not improved, and new asymptomatic lesions were identified on the scrotum (Fig. 1B) and on the dorsum of the tongue (Fig. 1C). Serology revealed immunoglobulin G and M against Treponema pallidum, with a rapid plasma reagin titer of 1:32. The other screening tests did not reveal pathological findings. Given the diagnosis of secondary reinfection syphilis (supported by the positive rapid plasma reagin results with pure serum 3 months earlier), we administered a single intramuscular dose of benzylpenicillin G benzathine (2.4 million IU). The lesions had improved 1 week after treatment.

The incidence of syphilis is growing, and clinical presentation can be very varied. Cases of reinfection are less well characterized and may present with more subtle cutaneous findings, as in the present case. We report a case of psoriasiform and annular syphilis. The low frequency of this form of syphilis led us to perform a differential diagnosis.

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