

Monkeypox infection presenting as genital lesions

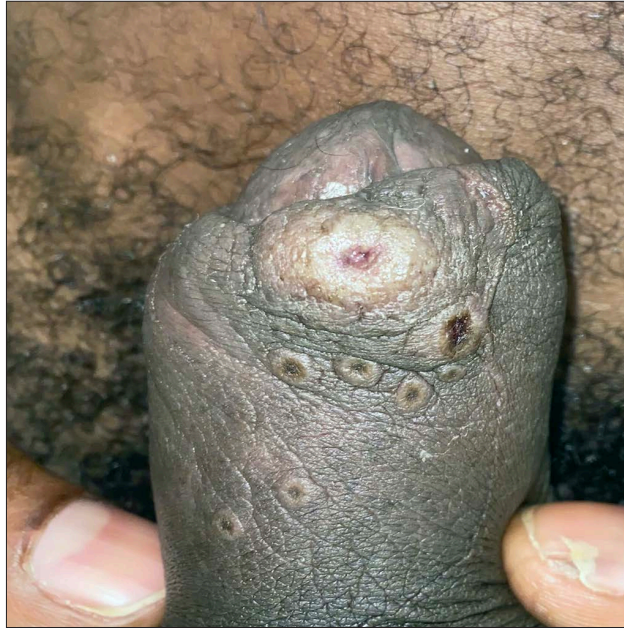


Figure 1: Painful papules with a central umbilication and ulcerated lesion affecting the genital area

A 40-year-old HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) positive man was admitted to our emergency department with a five day history of painful genital lesions, fever, myalgia, arthralgia and lower back pain. Ten days earlier, he had unprotected intercourse with other men as a sex worker. On physical examination, several umbilicated papules and one ulcerated lesion were observed affecting the genital area [Figures 1]. The patient also presented with painful bilateral inguinal lymphadenopathy. A swab was taken from the ulcer for sexually transmitted infections (polymerase-chain-reaction for *Chlamydia trachomatis*, *Haemophilus ducreyi*, syphilis and herpes virus) and the patient was initiated on empiric antiviral therapy with famciclovir for a possible herpes virus infection. Due to epidemiological context, clinical manifestations and a negative polymerase-chain-reaction for sexually transmitted infections, we suspected monkeypox infection. Polymerase-chain-reaction assays of swabs obtained from the lesions were positive for monkeypox. Seven days after the initial presentation, the distal ulcer had a superinfection by *Staphylococcus aureus* and was treated with amoxicillin/clavulanic acid and within six weeks after his initial presentation, the patient's lesions had abated with only a scar remaining in the distal lesion.

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Declaration of patient consent

The authors certify that they have obtained all appropriate patient consent.

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Conflict of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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