

Monkeypox infection presenting as genital lesions

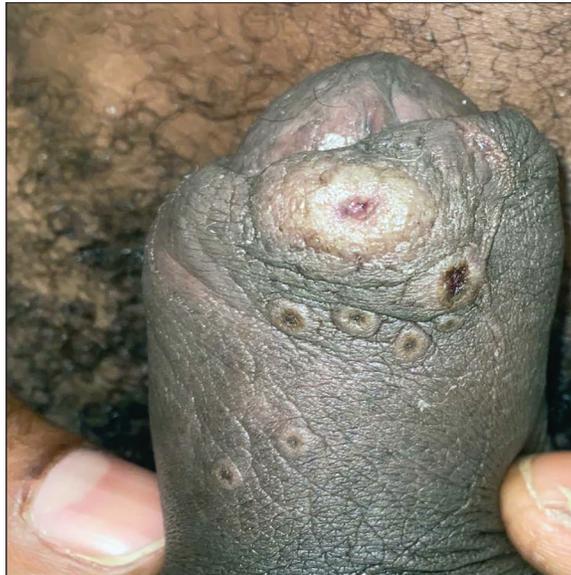


Figure 1: Painful papules with a central umbilication and ulcerated lesion affecting the genital area.

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 [Figure 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.

Declaration of patient consent

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

Financial support and sponsorship

Nil.

Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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How to cite this article: Rivera-Ruiz I, Corona-Mata D, Camacho-Espejo A. Monkeypox infection presenting as genital lesions. Indian J Dermatol Venereol Leprol. 2024;90:95. doi: 10.25259/IJDVL_790_2022

Received: September, 2022 **Accepted:** December, 2022 **Epub Ahead of Print:** February, 2023 **Published:** December, 2023

DOI: 10.25259/IJDVL_790_2022 **PMID:** 37067135

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