



INFECTIOUS DISEASES (BACTERIAL, FUNGAL, VIRAL, PARASITIC, INFESTATIONS)

## EXTRAGENITAL PRIMARY SYPHILIS

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**Background:** Syphilis is a chronic infectious disease caused by the bacterium *Treponema pallidum*. It is most commonly acquired through sexual intercourse without the use of preservatives. Its primary form is characterized by the appearance of an indurated chancre in the genital area, approximately 10 to 90 days after inoculation. Although rare, it may also appear in extragenital areas such as the anal region, mouth, tongue, breasts and fingers.

**Case Report:** A 30-year-old black male patient attends the Sanitary Dermatology service complaining of "foot wound". He reports a one-month old ulcer in the right ankle with purulent drainage that has increased in size over time. The prior care was in a general outpatient clinic, treated with oral trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole without much improvement of the ulcer. Dermatological examination: A single erythematous indurated ulcer, approximately 3 cm in diameter, present an exudative granulomatous fundus and edges with fibrin located in the right lateral malleolus. Serological testing results were: VDRL reagent 1/32 and anti-HIV 1 and 2 non-reagents. The main diagnostic hypothesis was confirmed: Extragenital primary syphilis, treated with Doxycycline 200mg per day for 21 days; due to penicillin allergy. After 1 month, he presented the complete resolution of the ulcer and 3 months later VDRL was non-reagent.

**Key Message:** Syphilitic chancre appears at the site of inoculation, such an ulcer that usually occurs on the genitalia, but some patients may manifest this lesion in atypical regions of inoculation. The most common locations of extragenital chancre are lips, anus, fingers, tongue and tonsils. However, in our case report the lesion appeared in the leg topographically making diagnosis difficult, although typical characteristics of chancre. We conclude that the importance of the case is to exclude Syphilis in any type of ulcer, regardless of its topography.

