

**SIXTH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON
ADVANCES IN LEGAL MEDICINE**

Hamburg, Germany, 19-24 September 2005



Syphilis
an uncommon sexual
abuse diagnosis

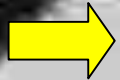
[Jerónimo Fonte Santa](#); C. Cordeiro; A.P. Sousa; G. Santos Costa; D.N. Vieira



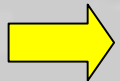
Instituto Nacional de Medicina Legal – Delegação de Coimbra

Portugal

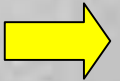
SEXUAL ABUSE



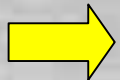
To diagnose sexual abuse is often a difficult task



In many cases no significant findings are present



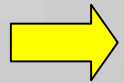
Sexually transmitted diseases (STD) are important pathognomic findings



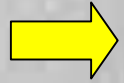
They're not frequently observed in sexual abuse situations

CASE REPORT

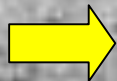
First examination



Eleven-year-old female



Suspicion of sexual abuse

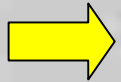


Genital and perineal maculo-papulous lesions

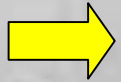


CASE REPORT

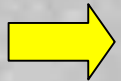
First examination



Painful and bleeding lesions



Encopresis

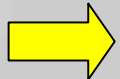


Hymenal examination not possible

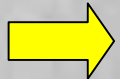


CASE REPORT

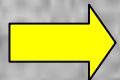
Second examination



Three days later



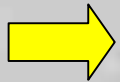
Anaesthesia



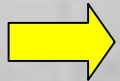
Maculo-papulous lesions, ulcerated, with raised and indurated borders – labia majora, perianal region

CASE REPORT

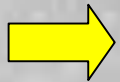
Second examination



Hymenal examination: annular hymen, with no signs of traumatic lesions



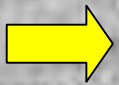
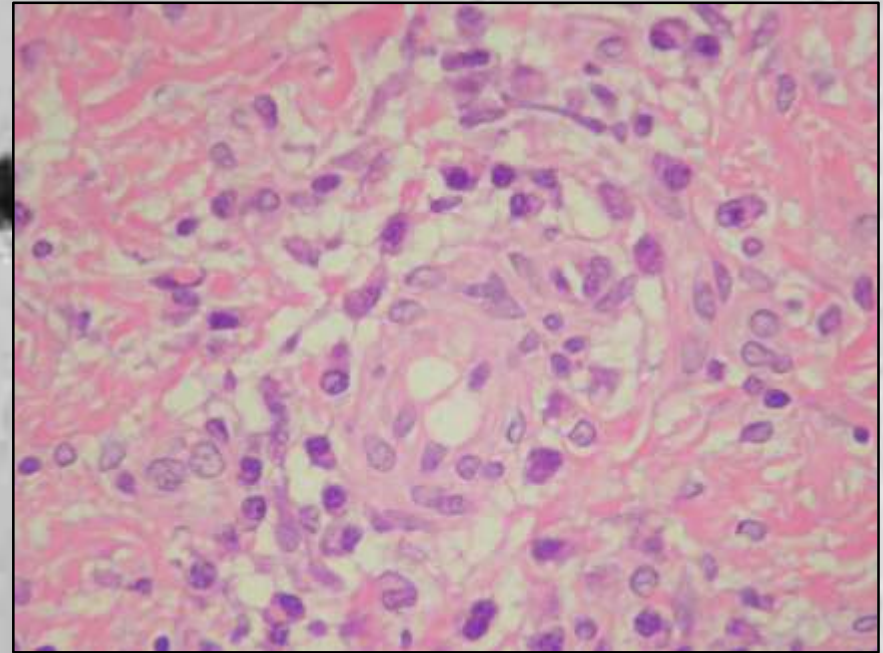
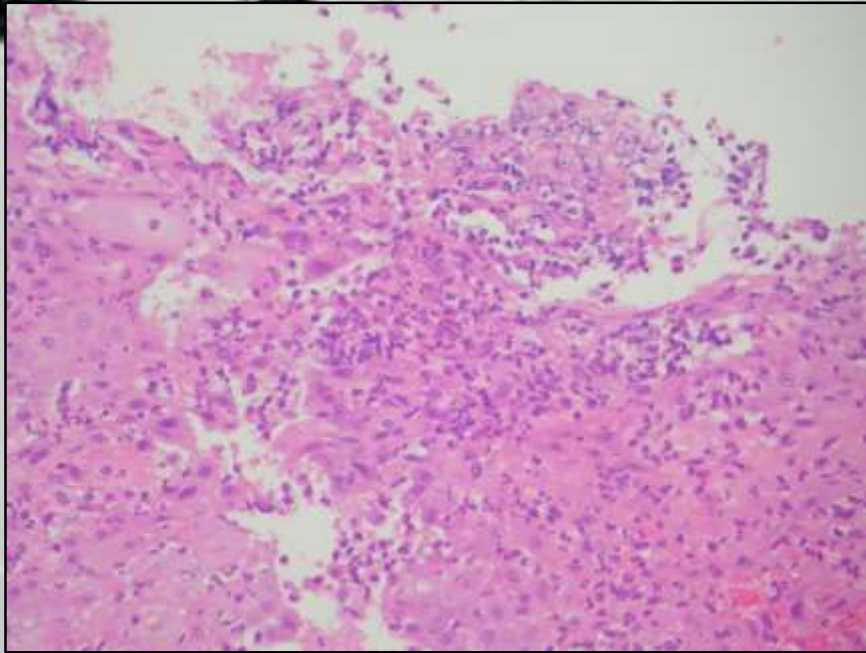
Biopsy – histopathologic exam



Blood samples – serological and microbiological exams

COMPLEMENTARY EXAMS

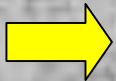
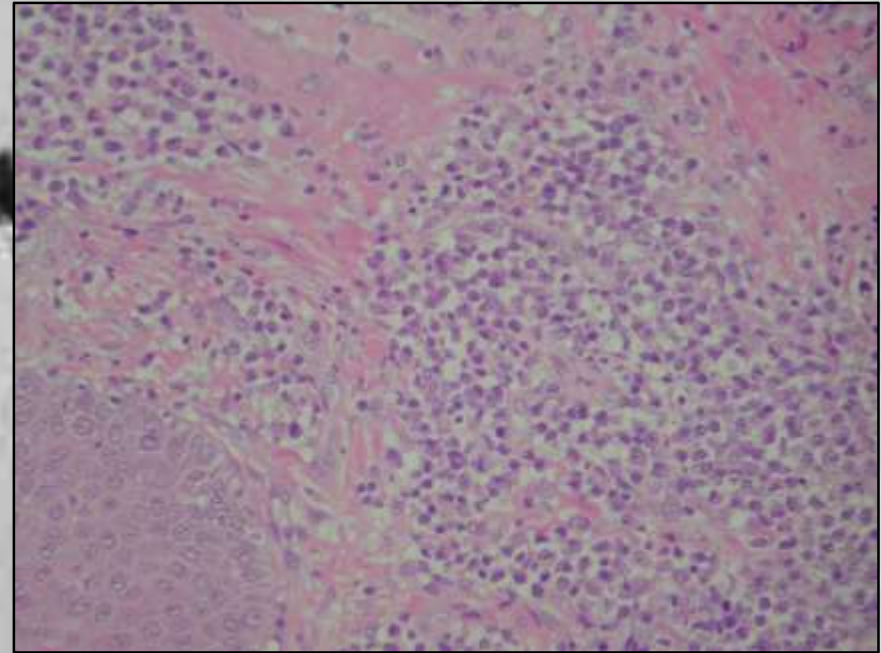
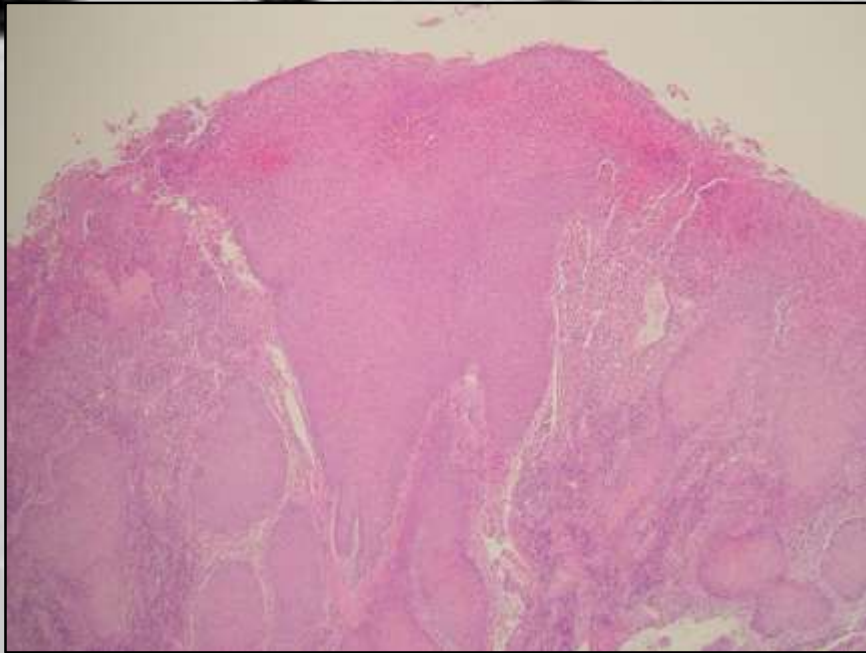
Histopathology



Vulvar mucosa - ulcerated lesions with fibrosis and plasmocytary inflammatory infiltration; vasculitis

COMPLEMENTARY EXAMS

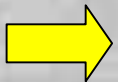
Histopathology



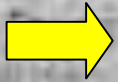
Skin – hyperplasia of the epidermis; hyperkeratosis; fibrosis of the dermis; plasmocytary inflammatory infiltration

COMPLEMENTARY EXAMS

Histopathology



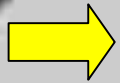
Warthin-Starry staining - negative



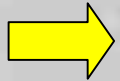
Conclusion: Ulcerated lesions compatible with syphilis

COMPLEMENTARY EXAMS

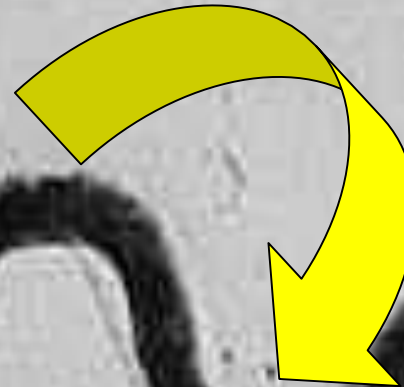
Serology



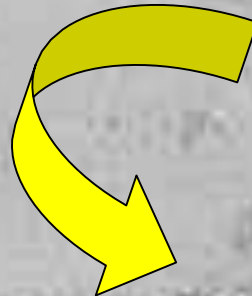
VDRL - Positive



TPHA – Positive (> 5,120)

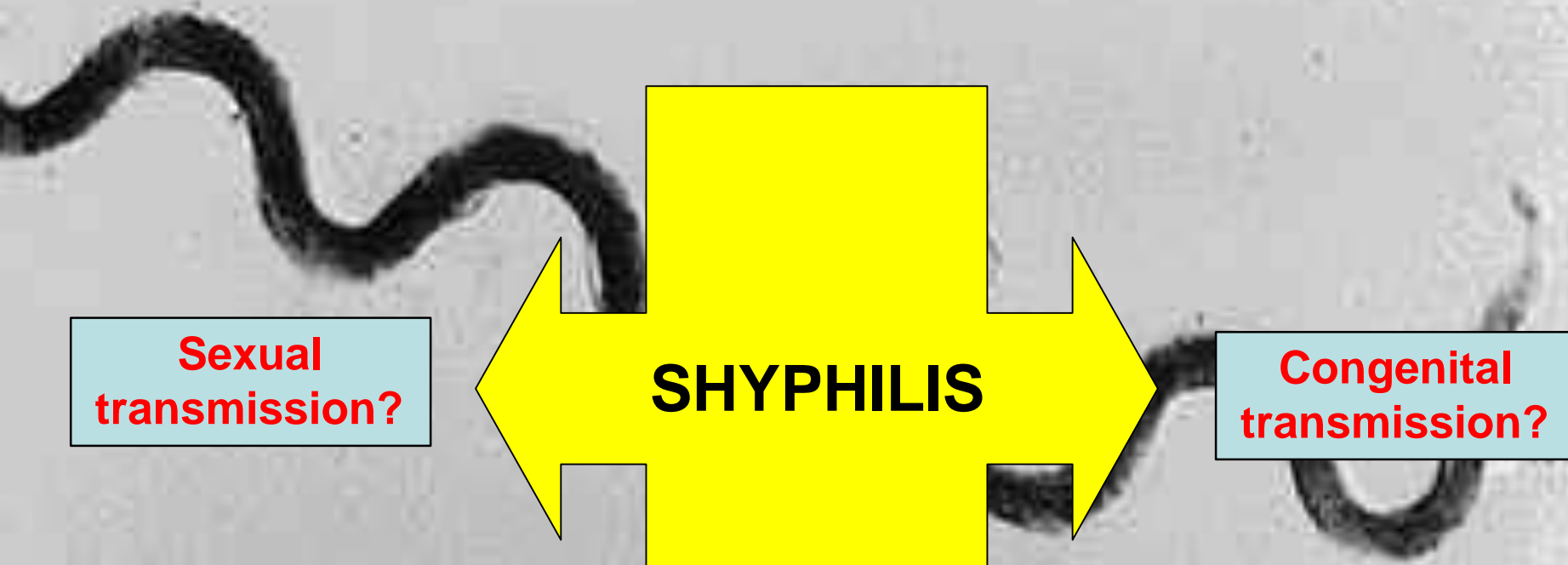


Penicillin Benzathine



Complete remission of the lesions and VDRL value decreasing after 45 days

DIAGNOSIS



**Sexual
transmission?**

SHYPHILIS

**Congenital
transmission?**

CONGENITAL TRANSMISSION

Transplacental transmission in the last two trimesters of pregnancy – septicemic stage (primary or secondary)

CONGENITAL TRANSMISSION

Signs and symptoms after 2 years old – Late syphilis or tertiary stage

Patient's signs and symptoms – secondary stage

CONGENITAL TRANSMISSION

Mother's obstetric files:

No infections during pregnancy

Negative serological exams



CONCLUSION



Syphilitic infection

Sexually transmitted

Sexual abuse



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