Penile Cellulitis Related to Mpox Genital Lesions

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Acta Med Port (In Press) • https://doi.org/10.20344/amp.19832

Keywords: Penile Diseases; Monkeypox virus; Monkeypox
Palavras-chave: Doenças do Pênis; Variola dos Macacos; Vírus da Variola dos Macacos

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Recebido/Received: 27/02/2023 - Aceite/Accepted: 03/05/2023 - Publicado Online/Published Online: 05/06/2023
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A 40-year-old man presented to the emergency department with a five-day history of a genital papular rash. He had had unprotected sex with multiple male partners in the previous four weeks. A probable diagnosis of herpes simplex virus infection was assumed, and he was discharged with valacyclovir 1 g twice daily for seven days. However, four days later, he returned with an aggravation of his condition. The physical examination showed several lesions in the patient’s genital area, upper and lower limbs at different stages of evolution, namely papules with central umbilication, pustules and edema of the penis (Fig. 1) with associated local pain. No fever was detected. Nucleic acid amplification tests for mpox virus were positive. In our institution, some cases of penile cellulitis related to mpox virus infection have been observed (Fig. 2), all with favorable evolution under antibiotic therapy, as the majority of the reported cases.1 In a scenario of penile cellulitis of unexplained cause, particularly in men that have sex with men, testing for mpox virus infection is recommended.2

Figure 1 – Penile edema related to papules with central umbilication and pustules in the genital area

Figure 2 – Monkeypox lesions and penile edema leading to phimosis that required catheterization
AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS
FOS: Data acquisition, analysis and interpretation. Writing of the manuscript.
AJC, JN: Critical review and approval of the manuscript.

PROTECTION OF HUMANS AND ANIMALS
The authors declare that the procedures were followed according to the regulations established by the Clinical Research and Ethics Committee and to the Helsinki Declaration of the World Medical Association updated in 2013.

DATA CONFIDENTIALITY
The authors declare having followed the protocols in use at their working center regarding patients’ data publication.

PATIENT CONSENT
Obtained.

COMPETING INTERESTS
The authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

FUNDING SOURCES
This research received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

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