

Condylomata Lata Mimicking Buschke-Löwenstein Tumor

Condilomata Lata Mimetizando Tumor de Buschke-Löwenstein



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Figure 1 - Violaceous exophytic mass in the perianal area

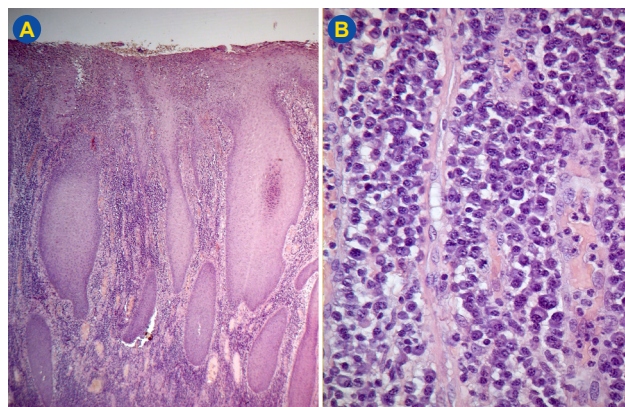


Figure 2 - Pathology of lesion biopsy: A) Pseudocarcinomatous hyperplasia; B) Predominantly plasmocytic infiltrate in the dermis.

A 36-year-old male presented a six month violaceous exophytic mass, with a velvety surface, covered with a greyish mucous exudate, involving the perianal perimeter and extending to the buttocks and scrotum with smaller satellite lesions (Fig.1).

Pathology showed pseudocarcinomatous hyperplasia with a predominantly plasmocytic infiltrate (Fig.2). Syphilis screening (CLIA) was positive, serum RPR 1:32 and HIV serology was negative.

These findings were in favour of *condylomata lata*,¹ a presentation of secondary syphilis.

He was prescribed doxycycline 100 mg bid for 14 days due to unavailability of G penicillin in the market, and after three months he had complete resolution of lesions and a serum RPR 1:4.

In the case depicted, the clinical picture mimicked Buschke-Löwenstein tumor (giant *condylomata acuminata*),^{2,3} but this differential diagnosis was ruled out by positive syphilis serology,⁴ histopathological findings⁵ and resolution with syphilis oriented therapy.⁴ This case again reminds us of Sir William Osler's description of syphilis as the 'great imitator'.

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