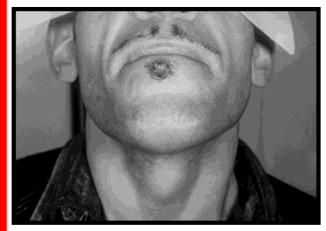
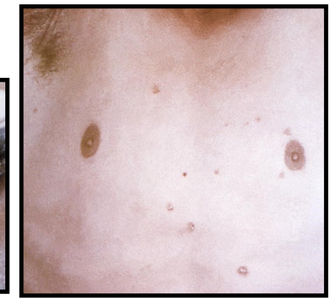
Consider Syphilis with Every Patient

Think.



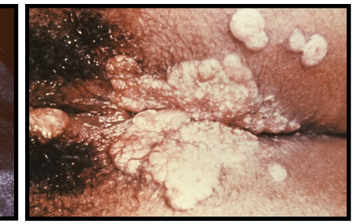
Primary **chancre** can be on lips, mouth, genitals or area of direct contact

Ocular Syphilis. May present with symptoms including: floaters, flashing lights vision loss, other ocular symptoms.



Rash on palms of hands, bottoms of feet, trunk or any part of the body.

Lesions on hands.



Condylomata lata lesions. Appearance can mimic genital warts.

Alopecia

Test.

Traditional Screening

Nontreponemal (RPR or VDRL) with titer → **Reflex to treponemal (TPPA or FTA-ABS)**

- Obtain same non-treponemal titer used for screening again on day of initial treatment and at 6 and 12 months following treatment, or more frequently/longer duration as case requires.
- If neuro, ocular or tertiary syphilis is suspected, also obtain CSF specimen to assess for neurosyphilis.

Treat.

Presumptive

Patients who have had sexual contact with an individual diagnosed with early syphilis.

If last contact within 90 days or if last contact over 90 days ago and follow up not certain:

Treat presumptively for early syphilis regardless of lab results with benzathine penicillin G 2.4 million units IM once

Early Syphilis

If signs/symptoms of primary or secondary syphilis or history *within past 12 months of:*

- 4-fold increase of non-treponemal titer (i.e. 1:2 to 1:8) or greater. Also consider treatment failure.
- Previous symptoms consistent with primary or secondary syphilis
- Exposure to partner with early syphilis
- Sexual debut

Treat with benzathine penicillin G 2.4 million units IM once

Late or Unknown Syphilis

If the patient is asymptomatic and does not meet the early syphilis criteria:

Treat with benzathine penicillin G 2.4 million units IM once per week for 3 weeks

Health and Human Services Agency

Syphilis is a Title 17 mandatory reportable condition. Report within 1 working day by phone, fax, mail, or CalREDIE. In Shasta County you can fax the Confidential Morbidity Report (CMR) to (530) 225-5074.

For questions see treatment guidelines at CDC.gov or CDPH.ca.gov, or contact the STD Clinical Consultation Network stdccn.org or (510) 620-3400.
Shasta County HHSA - Public Health at 225-5591. **www.STD530.com**

Photos courtesy of Public Health Image Library, CDC/ Richard Deitrick, CDC/ Susan Lindsley, VD, CDC/J. Pledger, CDC/ Robert Sumpter

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