



SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS, HIV/AIDS

## AN OLD MAN WITH SCALY PLAQUES ON THE HEAD AND FACE

Qz Zheng<sup>(1)</sup> - Hc Cheng<sup>(1)</sup> - Qz Zhou<sup>(1)</sup>

*Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital, School Of Medicine, Zhejiang University, Department Of Dermatology, Hangzhou, China<sup>(1)</sup>*

**Background:** Syphilis is a sexual transmitted disease caused by the spirochete bacterium *Treponema pallidum*, which can also be passed from mother to child. Syphilis is increasing in the world. The primary stage of syphilis could be more clinically recognizable. However, the secondary syphilis showed both systemic symptoms and local organ involvement. The cutaneous manifestations usually mimic other diseases.

**Observation:** We report a case of a 71-year-old Chinese man who presented with scaly plaques on his head and face for about one month before he came to our outpatient clinic. Examination of the skin showed multiple scaly, non-tender red plaques on his head and face, especially around the mouth, nose, eyes and the ears. Ectropion of the right lower eyelid and congestion of conjunctiva were observed. The laboratory evaluation showed T pallidum particle agglutination (TPPA) was positive and tolulized red unheated serum test (TRUST) titre of 1:32. The final diagnosis is the secondary syphilis.

**Key message:** This patient have a maculopapulosquamous presentation and ocular syphilis. Ocular involvement in syphilis is rare. The patient presented with eyelid ectropion and conjunctival congestion, which is difficult to diagnose confidently. The empirical therapy can be used to assist in the diagnosis.

