



A Pox on Both Your Houses

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A quiet Friday afternoon on the ID unit



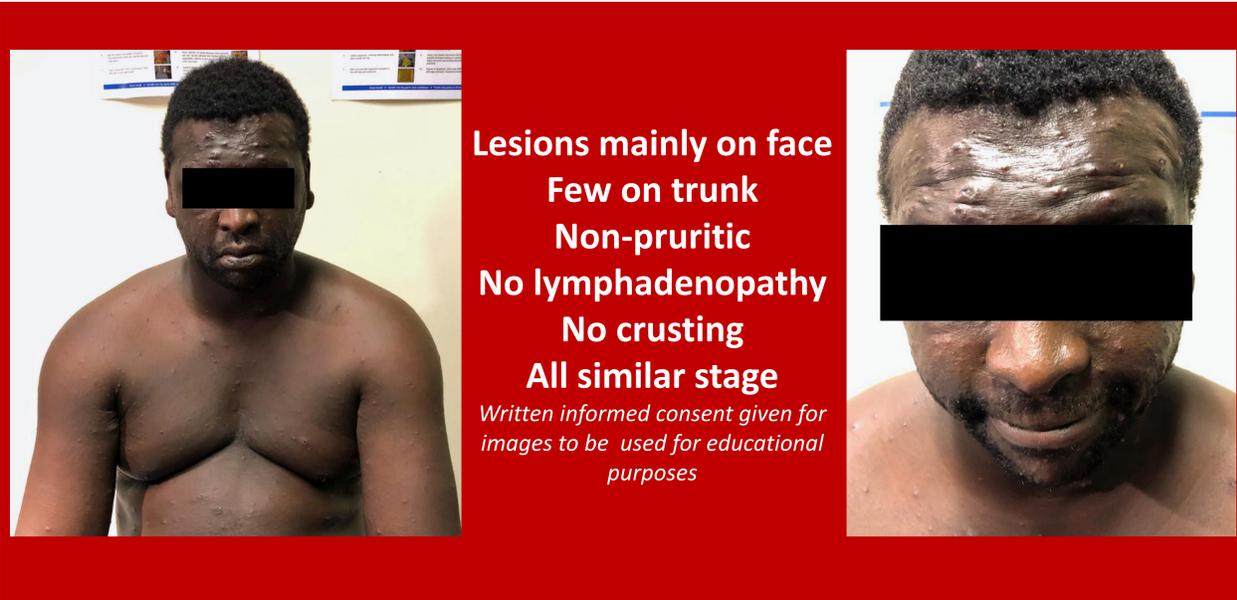
A GP phones for some advice...

- 26 year-old gentleman
- Fever, malaise, vomiting for 3 days
- Subsequent unusual papulopustular rash
- Travel history:



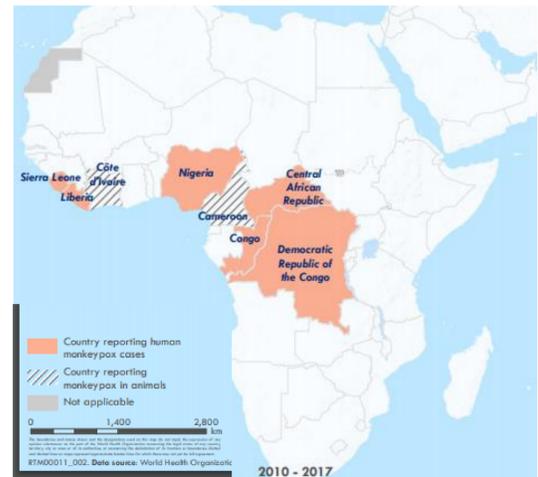
Recently visited rural Zambia (DRC border)

- Attended funeral
- No sick contacts
- Returned 12 days ago



Wide differential diagnosis, including...

Epidemiologic red flag:



Syphilis?

Monkeypox?



Chickenpox?

Public Health England

Imported Fever Service

Management

Cared for in full PPE on the

High Consequence Infectious Diseases Unit

- Swabs taken from several lesions
- Transported urgently to Porton Down
- Aciclovir given to cover varicella
 - Patient unsure if ever had chickenpox
- Hospital laboratory alerted regarding transmission risk from routine samples
- List of contacts compiled

Results (24hrs post-presentation)

Orthopoxvirus DNA **NOT** detected
Varicella-Zoster DNA **DETECTED**

- Routine bloods (incl malaria, blood-borne viruses) all unremarkable
- Discharged to complete course of aciclovir

Learning points

- Monkeypox and chickenpox can be clinically indistinguishable in their early stages
- Prompt clinical suspicion and co-ordination with the IFS minimised any potential public health risk and reduced duration of anxiety for patient's contacts
- Awareness of high consequence imported infections extends beyond viral haemorrhagic fever
- Infection prevention and control for high consequence infections benefits from carefully-considered protocols and dry runs with staff
- At the time, all parties involved agreed that this case represented excellent preparation for both local and national health services, in case a true case of monkeypox was ever diagnosed in the UK...

September 2018:

MONKEYPOX virus has been diagnosed in the UK for the first time, Public Health England confirmed. But what is the deadly viral infection, what are the symptoms, and how can you avoid infection?

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Monkeypox diagnosed in UK for first time

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The patient has been receiving treatment at the Royal Free Hospital.

Monkeypox has been diagnosed in the UK for the first time, a public health body warns.

References

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McCollum AM and Damon IK. Human Monkeypox. *Clinical Infectious Diseases* (2014)

Images from:

www.cdc.gov
www.who.int

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