The role of reflectance confocal microscopy in the diagnosis of secondary syphilis of the vulva and anus: A first case report. [Article in French]


ABSTRACT

PATIENTS AND METHODS: Herein we report the case of an 18-year-old pregnant patient presenting with plantar and ano-genital lesions of syphilis, pharyngitis, erythematous and scalynasolabial intertrigo and angular cheilitis. REFLECTANCE CONFOCAL MICROSCOPY: In vivo reflectance confocal microscopy examination (Vivascope 3000®; Caliber Inc, Rochester, NY, USA, distributed in France by Mavig, Munich) of ano-genital lesions enabled us to identify hyper-reflective elongated rods in the papillary dermis suggesting spirochetes. The diagnosis was confirmed by TPHA and VDRL as well as immunohistological examination. COMMENTS: We identified for the first time rod shaped structures in ano-genital lesions of secondary syphilis, regularly alternating hyper-reflective and non-reflective areas corresponding to helix-shaped treponemes visualized by darkfield microscopy, which may not be confused with other cell structures. Copyright © 2016 Elsevier Masson SAS. All rights reserved.

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