Kaposi’s Varicelliform Eruption with Suspected Sexual Transmission

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Key words: Kaposi’s varicelliform eruption, sexually transmitted disease, herpes simplex virus


A 22-year-old woman presented with eruptions on and around the lips, a temperature of >38°C, and pharyngeal pain for 4 days. She had a history of atopic dermatitis. On examination, her temperature was 38.5°C and there were blisters with crusting (all at the same stage) on and around her lips and her right nipple (Picture 1 and 2). Kaposi’s varicelliform eruption was diagnosed. The patient was treated with valaciclovir hydrochloride (1,000 mg/day orally for 7 days) and her lesions were resolved.

Kaposi’s varicelliform eruption occurs when pre-existing skin disease is infected by herpes simplex virus (HSV) (1, 2). This patient had sexual intercourse 3 days before the onset of symptoms and the skin eruptions occurred at sites that were believed to have contacted the mouth of her sexual partner. It was therefore concluded that she had suffered percutaneous infection with HSV from saliva during sexual intercourse.

The authors state that they have no Conflict of Interest (COI).

References