

Genital Bullous Impetigo

Dated December, 2008

History

- 29 year old man
- Itchy rash in groin for 4 days

Examination



Thin-walled pustular vesicles, some of which have ruptured

Microscopy of vesicle fluid:

- **+++ polymorphs**
- **gram positive cocci in clusters**

Clinical/Microscopic diagnosis

Staphylococcal bullous impetigo

Clinical course

He was treated with flucloxacillin, together with valaciclovir pending result of Herpes simplex PCR.

At review a week later, the lesions had healed. HSV PCR was negative and culture of vesicle fluid resulted in a heavy growth of Staphylococcus aureus.

The lesson

Staphylococcal genital infections are fairly common, and usually present as furunculosis or crusting impetigo. Bullous impetigo is seen occasionally, and may be difficult to distinguish from other vesiculating rashes, such as those caused by herpesviruses and vesiculating dermatoses.

In this case, a gram stain of vesicle fluid showed organism with typical staphylococcal morphology, thus allowing a (fairly) confident diagnosis to be made at presentation, with prompt introduction of specific antibiotic therapy.