

# GENITAL HERPES ZOSTER

Dated February, 2008

## HISTORY

- 22 year old heterosexual man
- In a 4 year monogamous relationship
- Presented with 2 days of penile rash and R groin pain
- 4 days previously had noticed R buttock discomfort

## EXAMINATION



Unilateral small crusted ulcers suggestive of recurrent herpes

## INVESTIGATIONS

- Multiplex PCR: Varicella zoster virus DNA detected

## DIAGNOSIS:

- Genital herpes zoster

## THE LESSON

Of specimens submitted to the Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory, VZV is detected in nearly 3% of virus positive genital specimens.<sup>1</sup> This demonstrates that herpes zoster needs to be considered in the differential diagnosis of genital herpetic lesions.

1. Birch CJ; Druce JD; Catton MC; MacGregor L; Read T. Detection of varicella zoster virus in genital specimens using a multiplex polymerase chain reaction. *Sex Transm Infect* 2003; 79(4):298-300