

# SYPHILITIC ALOPECIA

Dated November, 2007

## HISTORY

- 24 year old bisexual man
- 6 weeks previously had unprotected oral sex with male
- Subsequently told that this man had syphilis
- In the 2 weeks before presenting, he noticed a painless penile lesion and was losing his hair!

## EXAMINATION



## INVESTIGATIONS:

Dark-ground examination: negative  
*Tr pallidum* PCR positive  
RPR: 256

## CLINICAL PROGRESS

- Treated with a single IM dose of benzathine penicillin
- Reviewed a week later, when he reported myalgia following the penicillin dose, improvement in his hair loss and rapid healing of the penile lesion:



## DIAGNOSIS:

Secondary syphilis, presenting with alopecia and a penile mucous patch

### *Links to other case reports of alopecia in syphilis:*

Psychological impact of alopecia

Don't forget syphilis

<http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/331/7524/1084-b>