The Great Masquerader

Protean manifestations and an extremely broad differential characterize this disease. If left untreated, it can lead to cardiac and neurologic complications; can you identify it?

Which diagnosis matches all the photos?

- Granuloma annulare
- Lyme disease
- Lupus
- Secondary syphilis
- Hand-foot-mouth disease

1. Several weeks ago, this 56-year-old man noticed numerous asymptomatic round macules and papules on his palms and soles, many with scaly peripheral margins. Similar lesions are noted on the penile corona and glans. There is a faint but definite morbiliform, blanchable pink rash covering most of the patient's trunk, taking on a "shawl" distribution across the shoulders. The patient is exclusively homosexual and recently engaged in high-risk sexual activity.

2. When it manifested a month ago, this rash was confined to the patient's abdomen; it subsequently spread. The blanchable, erythematous papules and nodules are fairly dense, uniformly covering most of his skin but sparing face and soles. Two 7-mm scaly brown nodules are seen on his right palm. There are no palpable nodes in the usual locations. More than 10 years ago, the patient was diagnosed with HIV, which is well controlled with medication. Homosexually active, he denies having any new sexual contacts.

3. A 43-year-old man presents with a rapidly enlarging ulcerated nodule on the right ankle with a necrotic and crusted center. He also has multiple red-brown papules on the trunk and extremities. Some of these lesions have central erosions, while others have surface scale. He is known to be HIV positive but has no lymphadenopathy.


For the correct answers, go to www.clinicianreviews.com/articles/picture-this.html.