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A quiet Friday afternoon on the ID unit



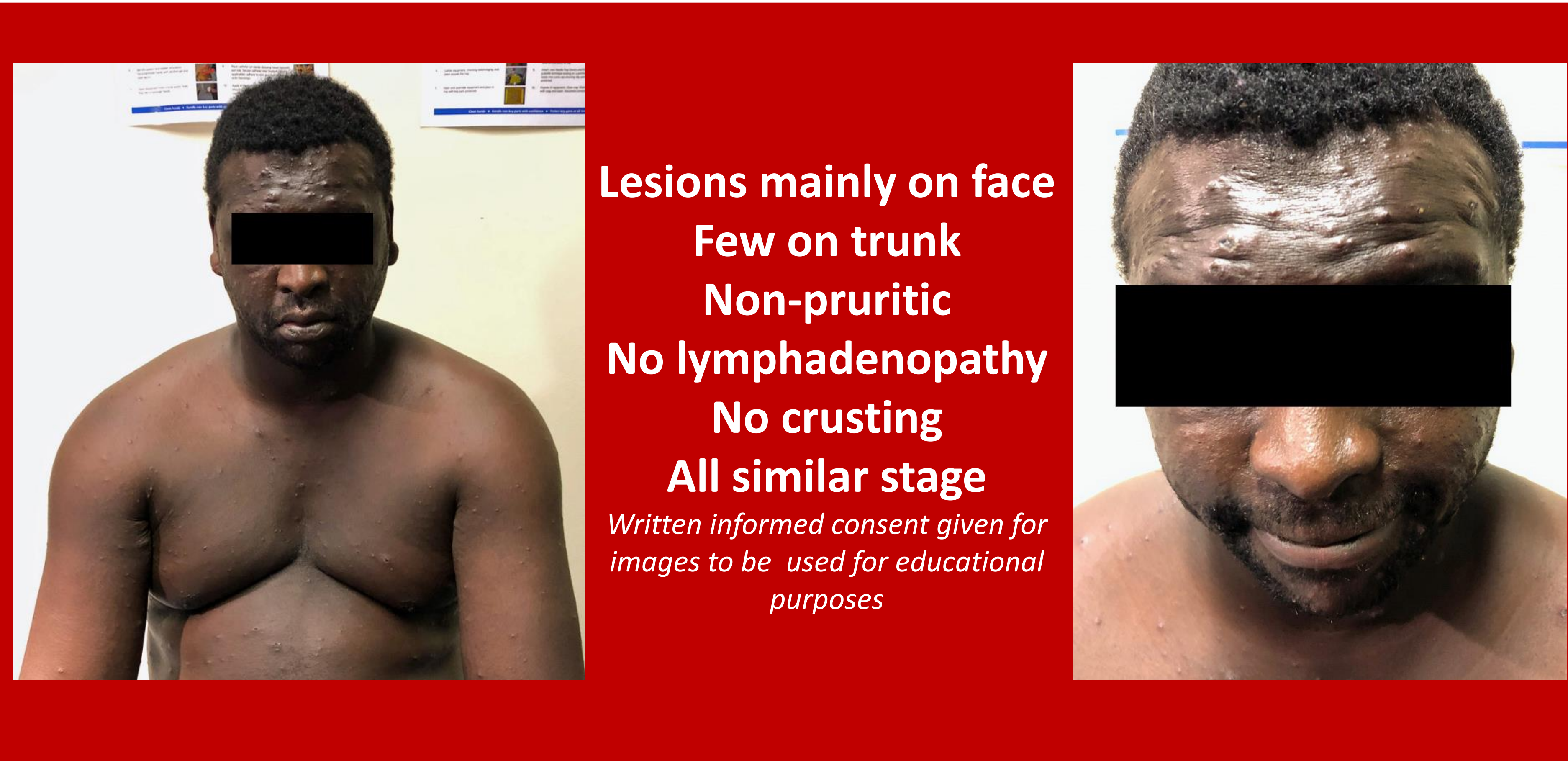
A GP phones for some advice...

- 26 year-old gentleman
- Fever, malaise, vomiting for 3 days
- Subsequent unusual papulopustular rash
- Travel history:



Recently visited rural Zambia (DRC border)

- Attended funeral
- No sick contacts
- Returned 12 days ago



Lesions mainly on face  
Few on trunk  
Non-pruritic  
No lymphadenopathy  
No crusting  
All similar stage

Written informed consent given for images to be used for educational purposes

Wide differential diagnosis, including...

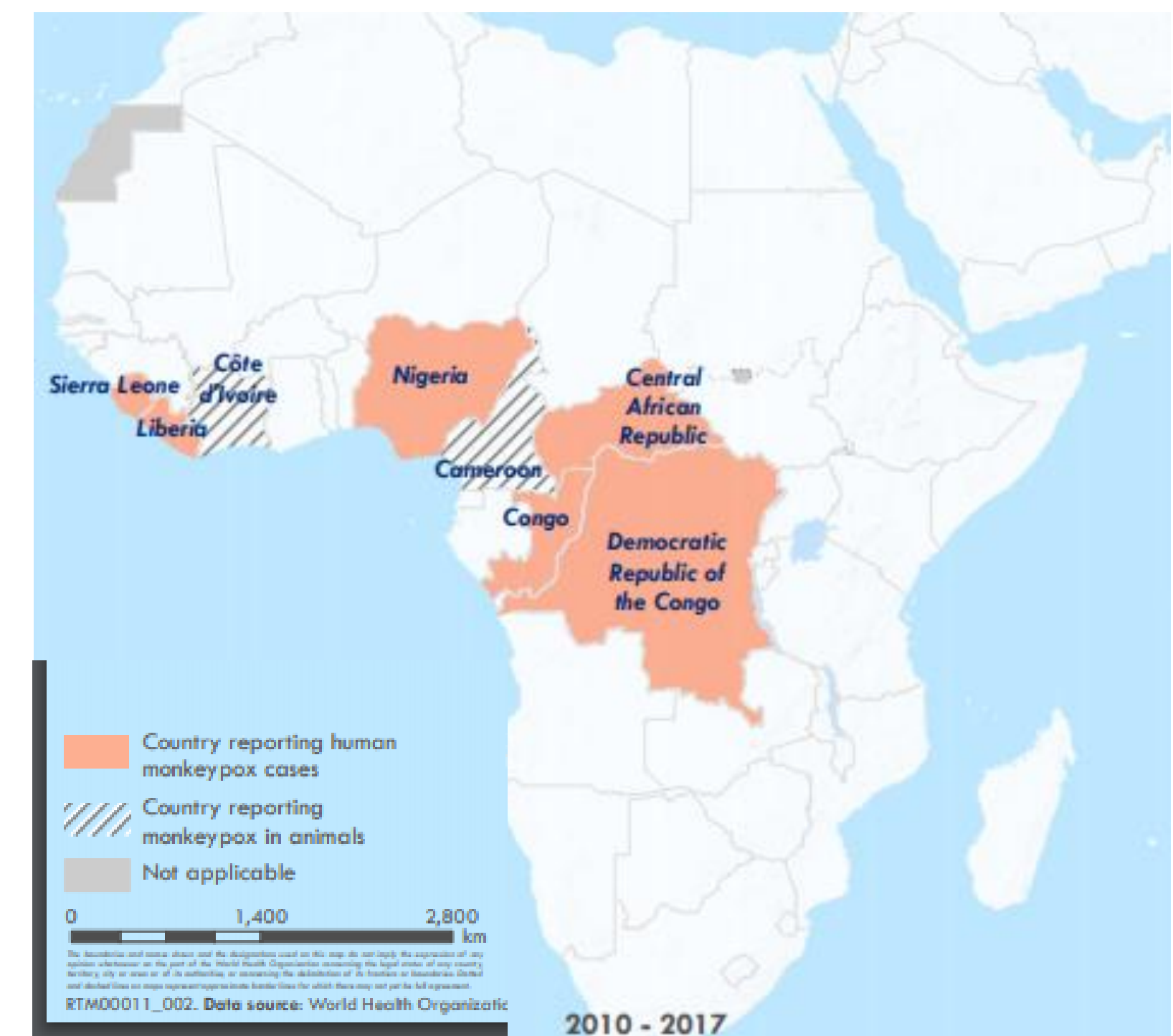
Epidemiologic red flag:



Syphilis?



Monkeypox?



Chickenpox?

Public Health England logo with a red telephone icon. Below it, a green box contains the text 'Imported Fever Service'.

## Management

Cared for in full PPE on the

**High Consequence Infectious Diseases Unit**

- Swabs taken from several lesions
- Transported urgently to Porton Down
- Aciclovir given to cover varicella
  - Patient unsure if ever had chickenpox
- Hospital laboratory alerted regarding transmission risk from routine samples
- List of contacts compiled

## Results (24hrs post-presentation)

Orthopoxvirus DNA **NOT** detected  
 Varicella-Zoster DNA **DETECTED**

- Routine bloods (incl malaria, blood-borne viruses) all unremarkable
- Discharged to complete course of aciclovir

## Learning points

- Monkeypox and chickenpox can be clinically indistinguishable in their early stages
- Prompt clinical suspicion and co-ordination with the IFS minimised any potential public health risk and reduced duration of anxiety for patient's contacts
- **Awareness of high consequence imported infections extends beyond viral haemorrhagic fever**
- Infection prevention and control for high consequence infections benefits from carefully-considered protocols and dry runs with staff
- At the time, all parties involved agreed that this case represented excellent preparation for both local and national health services, in case a true case of monkeypox was ever diagnosed in the UK...

## September 2018:

Clipping from The Sun newspaper: 'Hospital blunder gave me monkeypox'. The article mentions that the patient's husband has the virus.

Clipping from The Express newspaper: 'Monkeypox warning - how to avoid deadly infection after virus lands in UK'. The article discusses the diagnosis of monkeypox in the UK and provides advice on avoiding infection.

Screenshot of BBC News: 'Monkeypox diagnosed in UK for first time'. The article includes a photo of the patient at the Royal Free Hospital and mentions that the patient has been receiving treatment.