March 2018
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

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...

Monkeypox?
Syphilis?
Chickenpox?

Epidemiologic red flag:

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
• Aiclovir 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:

Monkeypox warning – how to avoid deadly infection after virus lands in UK

References
Blanchard T. Poxvirus Infection. BMJ Best Practice http://bestpractice.bmj.com (last updated September 2018)
McCollum AM and Damon IK. Human Monkeypox. Clinical Infectious Diseases (2014)

Images from:
http://www.cdc.gov
http://www.who.int