

Approach to the Patient with Genital Ulcers

Group 7

Rationale for Guideline Selection:

- UpToDate, World Health Organization (WHO).

The selection of the guidelines is based on a comprehensive diagnosis and treatment approach to the infectious agents of Genital Ulcer Disease (GUD):

- Herpes (Herpes simplex virus 1 and 2) Syphilis (Treponema pallidum), Lymphogranuloma Venereum (Chlamydia trachomatis), Chancroid (Haemophilus ducreyi) and Granuloma Inguinale (Klebsiella granulomatis).
- Herpes is the most prevalent infectious cause of GUD, followed by Syphilis.

Both guidelines express the importance of recognizing epidemiological disease patterns with the purpose of recognizing the most common cases and outbreaks based on the geographical region and over time.

The WHO guidelines provide a more syndromatic approach which is valuable in scenarios with limited laboratory based diagnosis. In this cases the guide promotes timely treatment (based on clinical history and careful physical examination), since the following scenarios can present:

1. Laboratory results are not available on the same day.
2. Available tests with low sensitivity.
3. No available diagnostic tests.

This has the purpose of improving outcomes reducing the spread of infections. Both guidelines offer treatment options (useful in diverse healthcare settings) and follow up recommendations, including cases where the patient did not respond to the empiric treatment.

Healthcare Need:

Genital ulcer diseases are a public health concern and can often be misdiagnosed (up to 50% of cases), The CDSS aim is to address the following.

- Evidence-based diagnosis and treatment guidance.
- Include latest diagnosis and treatment options
- Visual and Information aids to help in the comparison of the GUD presentation.
- Follow up recommendations to ensure patient monitoring.

Patients with untreated GUD can experience severe complications, including:

- Increased risk of acquiring or transmitting HIV.
- Infertility / Sexual dysfunction.
- Secondary bacterial infections.
- Transmission to sexual partners or in pregnancy.
- Systemic complications.

Main goals: preventing complications, reinfection and reducing transmission rates, by providing diagnostic guidance, prompt treatment and follow up recommendations.

References:

- Tuddenham, S., & Ghanem, K. G. (2022). Approach to the patient with genital ulcers. UpToDate. Retrieved from <https://www.uptodate.com/contents/approach-to-the-patient-with-genital-ulcers>.
- World Health Organization. (2021). Genital ulcer disease syndrome. In Guidelines for the management of symptomatic sexually transmitted infections (pp. 63–75). Geneva, Switzerland.