

Shingles Strikes With a Vengeance

Herpes zoster (HZ) is usually a straightforward clinical diagnosis. It can, however, be more difficult to identify in those likely to have atypical presentations—children, younger adults, and the immunocompromised. Can you tell which is HZ?

Match the diagnosis to the photo by letter

- a. Irritant contact dermatitis
- b. Impetigo
- c. Herpes zoster
- d. Poison ivy

1. A 16-year-old girl presents with a rash manifesting several weeks ago that became enlarged and more symptomatic after she applied hydrogen peroxide and scrubbed with antibacterial soap. Large, annular, honey-colored crusts are focally located around the left eye, and faint pinkness is noted peripherally around the lesions. Modest but palpable adenopathy is detected in the pretragal and submental nodal areas.



2. A 38-year-old man presents with an itchy, blistery rash that usually appears in the summer, getting worse each year. The lesions are collections of vesicles with faint underlying erythema that crisscross his legs in linear configurations. Smaller but similar lesions are scattered over his arms and trunk.



3. For several months, a 69-year-old woman has had a rash around her eyes. It is terribly symptomatic, burning and itching regardless of any type of OTC treatment. She finally requests referral to dermatology from her primary care provider.



4. A 58-year-old man seeks care for burning in his right eye and a skin eruption on his forehead and scalp with progressive worsening over the past 10 days. The patient has decreased vision in his right eye, as well as fever, chills, photophobia, and headache. A physical exam reveals vesicles on an erythematous base on his right scalp, forehead, upper and lower eyelids, dorsum of his nose, and cheek distributed along the ophthalmic branch of the trigeminal nerve.

Photo courtesy of Orlando Veterans Affairs Medical Center

For answers, see next issue; for discussion, go to www.medge.com/clinicianreviews/picture

Answers to November's "Picture This" (*Clinician Reviews*, 2016;26[11]:37): 1c, 2d, 3a, 4b