

## IMAGING DIAGNOSIS

# Plaques muqueuses fauchées—Oval patches of the tongue during secondary syphilis

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### KEYWORDS

STI, syphilis

## IMAGING DIAGNOSIS

A 36-year-old woman presented with symptomless, erythematous, oval plaques on the tongue. These appeared 2 months ago and are increasingly progressive. In the preceding months, she had unprotected oral and genital sexual intercourse with changing male sexual partners. The patient had no history of sexually transmitted infections (STI). The serological examination showed positive for TPHA, VLDR and *Treponema pallidum* IgM and IgG. Oral lesions are associated with secondary syphilis and several clinical forms are described, whilst the most common are plaques muqueuses.<sup>1</sup> These are painless, 1.0–2.0 cm large, slightly elevated-type plaques on the tongue, the buccal mucosae or on the hard/soft palate. Other STIs such as chlamydia, gonococci, mycoplasma, and HIV were excluded. According to the guidelines, the patient was successfully treated with Tardocillin 2,4 Mio IU i.m.<sup>2</sup>

Syphilis clinically manifests itself in a myriad of presentations, mimicking several diseases and could be therefore challenging for physicians.<sup>3</sup> In case of ulcerative oral lesions, also in nonrisk groups, as in our



**FIGURE 1** The tongue shows oval patches as a sign of secondary syphilis.

patient's case, syphilis should be considered in the differential diagnosis (Figure 1).<sup>1,3</sup>

## AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Sarah Preis wrote the manuscript. Alexander Zink revised the manuscript and Tilo Biedermann supervised the final publication.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Open Access funding enabled and organized by Projekt DEAL.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

## DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The authors confirm that the data supporting the findings of this case report are available within the article. Raw data that support the findings are available from the corresponding author upon request.

## ETHICS STATEMENT

All patients in this manuscript have given written informed consent for participation in the study and the use of their deidentified, anonymized, aggregated data and their case details (including photographs) for publication. Ethical Approval: not applicable.

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**How to cite this article:** Preis S, Biedermann T, Zink A. Plaques muqueuses fauchées—Oval patches of the tongue during secondary syphilis. *J EADV Clin Pract*. 2024;3:341–342. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jvc2.315>