

Condylomata lata are moist, weeping papules or wart-like lesions in the anal and genital area. They are the characteristic lesions of secondary syphilis and are present in about one third of people who had signs of primary syphilis.

## Latent Stage

### Asymptomatic

#### Thumbs-up

During the latent stage of syphilis, patients are often asymptomatic. This stage can last throughout the person's lifetime with a fourth of persons developing late syphilis, in some cases many years later.

## Tertiary (Late) Stage

### Aortitis

#### A-orca-on-fire

Aortitis occurs secondary to obliterative endarteritis as *Treponema pallidum* bacteria destroys the vessels walls. This can cause aortitis or aortic dissection in the most severe cases. Aortitis is characteristic of tertiary syphilis and presents after years of untreated illness.

### Neurosyphilis

#### Neurons-sisyphus

Presenting in a variety of ways, syphilis can attack both the brain and spinal cord, resulting in permanent, severe disability. Syphilis testing is a routine screening for patients with atypical dementia. A type of neurosyphilis that can develop is known as tabes dorsalis. This condition is characterized by the destruction of the dorsal column in the spinal cord. Patients will show changes in proprioception, as well as ataxia.

### Gummas

#### Granny-llama in Gum

Gummas are granulomatous skin lesions that present as a non-cancerous growth. Gummas can also present on internal organs as well. It is a characteristic lesion of tertiary syphilis and results from obliterative endarteritis. They reflect coagulative necrosis of the area and are non-infectious.

## Interventions

### Penicillin

#### Pencil-villain

Penicillin is often given as a treatment for syphilis and other spirochete infections.

### Jarisch-Herxheimer Rash

#### Jewish Hercules

This is a severe reaction after the administration of antibiotics, particularly penicillin which presents similarly to septic shock with fever, chills, hypotension, tachycardia and hyperventilation. This reaction is associated with penicillin treatment of syphilis infections and is hypothesized to be the result of spirochete toxins released after death by antibiotic.