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SYPHILIS PAPULOSA (CONDYLOMATA LATA)

SYPHILIS SECUNDARIA.

Syphilis papulosa. (Condylomata lata).

In moist warm regions, especially where the skin is subjected to more or less friction, that is where there are opposed surfaces as about the genitals and anus, between the toes, at the angles of the lips and beneath pendulous breasts, syphilitic papules usually become macerated, softened and abraded. At first they have a brownish red, raw appearance, but later the branny scaling which sometimes characterizes the dry lesions may be represented by a gray adherent pseudo-membrane. The lesions usually broaden and the borders of each papule often become elevated above the central portion. This is the appearance of the typical moist papule, the first stage in the development of the condyloma latum. At the corners of the mouth such papules frequently become fissured and quite painful. Where the friction is greater contiguous patches coalesce and a papillary overgrowth occurs which gives the surface an irregular, warty or even cauliflower-like formation. Such vegetations may cover considerable surface and sometimes completely surround the anus or vulva. There is usually much muco-purulent excretion which, together with the

macerated epithelium may give rise to a very offensive odor. This excretion is rich in spirochetes and therefore highly infectious. Further friction and maceration often result in ulceration between the papillary growths. Moist papules are one of the most common manifestations of syphilis in its active stage, and are frequently present when other forms of eruption are scanty or absent. Consequently they are of great diagnostic value, and in any doubtful case it is of the first importance to examine all the regions in which they may occur. **DIAGNOSIS:** The characteristics of the typical moist papule are well defined and absolutely pathognomonic of syphilis. They are simulated by no other skin disease. A verrucous condyloma might be confused with verruca acuminata, but the former is so commonly associated with the typical moist papules or other syphilitic symptoms that examination of the secretion for the presence of *Spirochaeta pallida* is rarely necessary: **TREATMENT:** In addition to the general mercurial treatment the proper local procedure is to keep the parts scrupulously clean and dry and well dusted with calomel.