Monkeys In Pennsylvania During The Multinational Outbreak: A Case Series

Asma Mohammadi1, Padma Sri Katikaneni1, Ricardo Arbulu2
1 Department of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Mercy; 2 Division of Infectious Diseases, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

BACKGROUND
• A multi-national outbreak of monkeypox is ongoing since May 2022 in non-endemic countries.
• The first case was described in Pennsylvania on June 2. As of October 11, 7,966 cases have been reported in the state.
• The clinical characteristics during this international outbreak differ from those of endemic monkeypox.
• We describe three cases at our center through August 2022, and compare them with the published cohorts.
• All cases were confirmed by the locally-developed Monkeypox PCR assay (MP-PCR).
• Per protocol, HIV 1 & 2 and VZV PCR were concurrently tested on the lesions.
• Cases were identified retrospectively and followed up telephonically at four weeks. Verbal consent was obtained.

**CASE 1**
**Date of presentation** Early July 2022
**Age, Sex, Race** 29, Male, White
**HIV status** HIV on ART
**Sexual history** Not elicited
**Travel history** None
**Presumed event where transmission occurred** Close contact with an asymptomatic male who later tested positive for monkeypox
**Days of illness on presentation** 2
**Clinical features on presentation** Maculopapular and pustular rash on the back
**Site of positive MP-PCR sample** Back
**HSV 1 & 2 and VZV PCRs** Negative
**Testing for other STIs** None
**Course after discharge from the emergency room** Rectal pain on day 4 of illness; resolved by day 11
**Phone follow-up** Week 3
**Diagnosis** Monkeypox

**CONCLUSIONS**
• In three patients presenting in the early months of the 2022 epidemic in Pittsburgh, PA, the clinical characteristics reproduced those reported in a large international cohort.
• Our findings highlight the importance of obtaining a sexual history and actively looking for concurrent STIs.

**REFERENCES**