The patient’s lab testing confirmed syphilis but did NOT clarify the stage. The serologic 1:1 RPR testing and absence of local or systemic infection initially led to suspicion for late latent syphilis

Discovery of the chancre-like lesion at a later visit redirected focus to primary syphilis which **reduced treatment duration**

The finding of the chancre helped explain the unusual titer level as it takes 1-3 weeks after chancre formation for RPR titers to become more strongly positive

The patient’s phone call to the office after their dose of IM penicillin and description of symptoms raised worry for a systemic infection. When put together with recent treatment, a Jarisch-Herxheimer reaction was suspected

The patient was counseled over the phone and advised to use ibuprofen. His symptoms improved by the following day

**This recognition saved the patient an ED visit**

**REFERENCES**

1. STD Surveillance 2020. CDC Division of STD Prevention and National Center for HIV