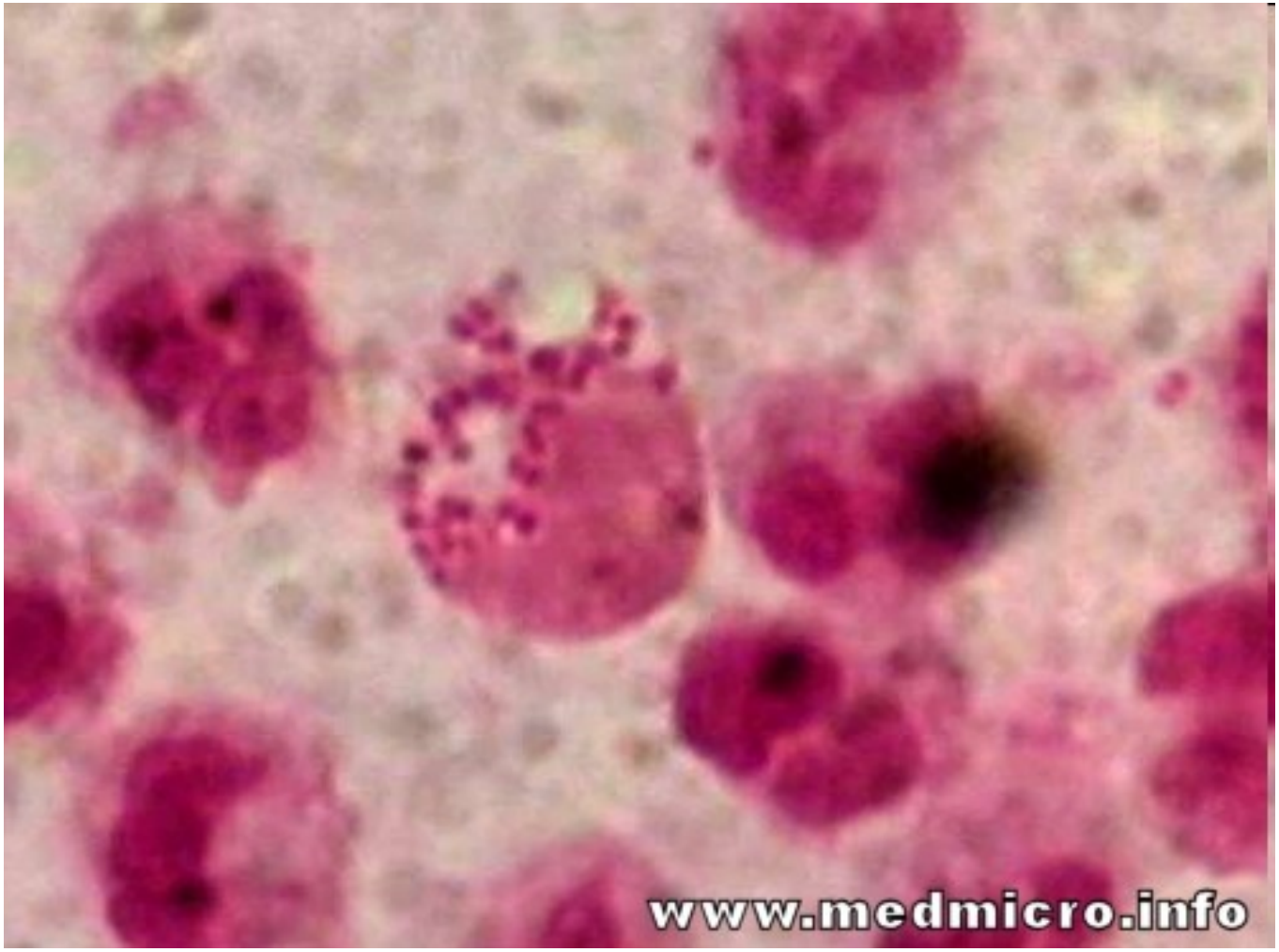
Institute for Microbiology, Medical Faculty of Masaryk University
and St. Anna Faculty Hospital in Brno

Agents of classical venereal infections

Classical venereal infections

- **Gonorrhoea**
  Neisseria gonorrhoeae
- **Syphilis (in Central Europe also: lues)**
  Treponema pallidum
- **Chancroid (soft chancre, ulcus molle)**
  Haemophilus ducreyi
- **Lymphogranuloma venereum**
  Chlamydia trachomatis L_1, L_2, L_{2a}, L_3

Neisseria gonorrhoeae

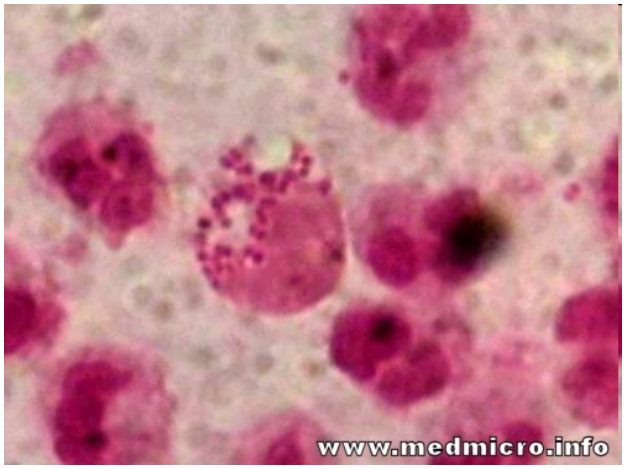


Clinical forms of gonorrhoea

- Infections of lower parts of urogenital tract
- Infections of upper parts of urogenital tract
- Other localized infections
- Rare gonococcal infections: disseminated ones (skin, arthritis, meningitis, endocarditis)

GO: infections of the UGT

- Urethritis
- Epididymitis



- Cervicitis
- Urethritis
- Bartholinitis
- Endometritis
- Salpingitis, adnexitis (PID, pelvic inflammatory disease) → sterility!

GO: other localized infections

and :

proctitis

pharyngitis

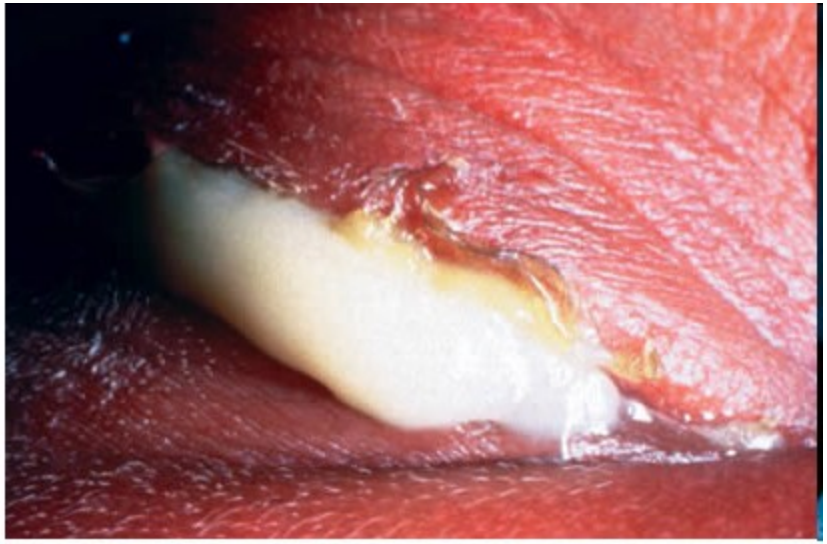
blenorrhoea neonatorum

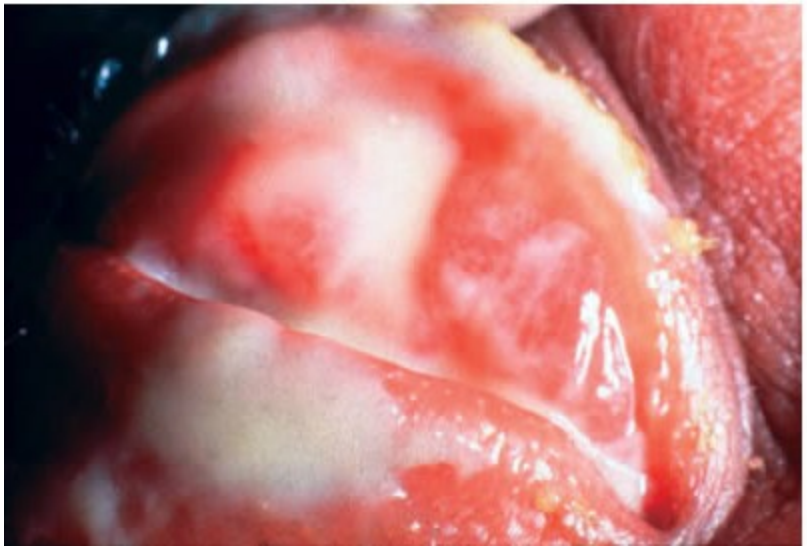
:

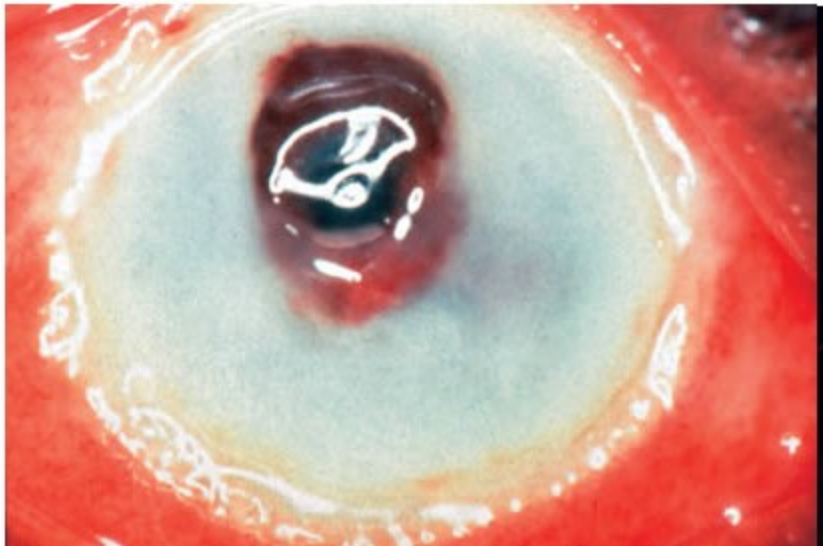
peritonitis (Fitz-Hugh syndrome)

perihepatitis (Curtis syndrome)

Blenorrhoea neonatorum







www.cehjournal.org/extra/ts04_13.htm

GO: complications

:

prostatitis

periurethral abscesses

:

cervicitis chronica

tuboovarial abscess

adnexitis chronica → sterility

graviditas extrauterina

GO: laboratory diagnostics – I

Direct detection only:

microscopy

culture

molecular biology tests

Sampling places:

urethra

cervix, urethra, rectum, pharynx (if necessary)

GO: laboratory diagnostics – II

Way of sampling:

- always 2 swabs

  the first one directly on media (warmed, not from the fridge), or put it into a transport medium, transport it at ambient temperature, from the second one a film on the slide

Microscopy (Gram):

important in acute gonorrhoea in males, symptomatic gonorrhoea in females


www.medmicro.info

GO: laboratory diagnostics – III

Media for gonococci:

Combine non-selective chocolate agar

with a selective medium with antibiotics

Always fresh (moist), with added CO_2 (candle jar), read after 24 and 48 hrs

Identification:

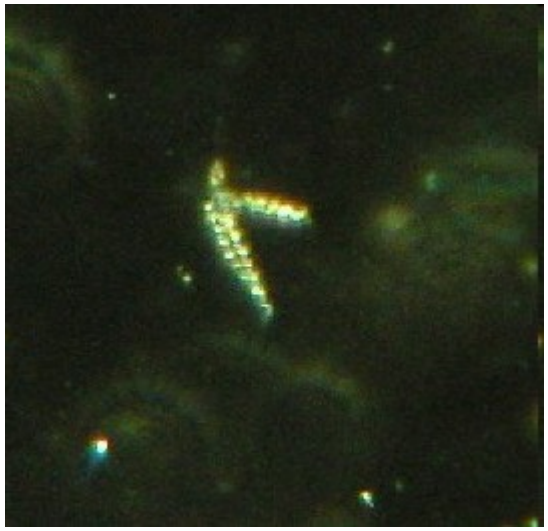
- **biochemistry (oxidase +, glucose +, maltose -)**
- **serology (slide agglutination)**
- **molecular biologic confirmation tests**

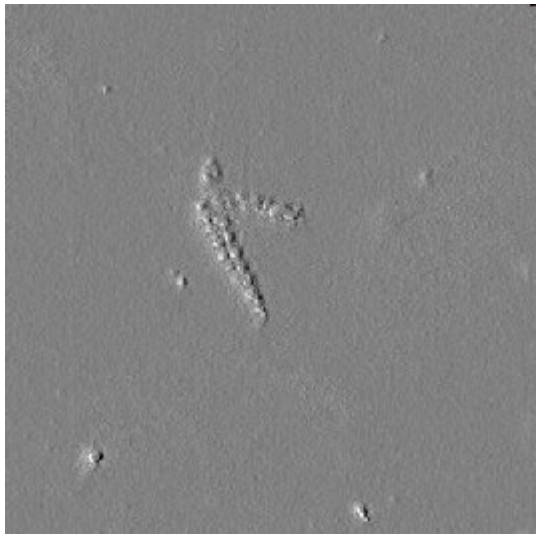
GO: therapy

Ceftriaxone or ciprofloxacin

usually in a single dose,
because of potential concurrent *Chlamydia trachomatis* infection: in a combination with doxycycline or azithromycine

Nowadays, many strains of *N. gonorrhoeae* are resistant to penicillin & tetracyclines





Author: MUDr. Petr Ondrovčík

The course of syphilis

From the very beginning systemic disease!

A) Early syphilis: primary (ulcus durum)
secondary (mostly rash)
early latent

B) Late syphilis: latent
terciary (gummas, aortitis,
paralysis progressiva,
tabes dorsalis)

C) Congenital syphilis: early and late
- Hutchinson s teeth
- mulberry molars

Syphilis: therapy

„One night with Venus, the rest of life with Mercury“

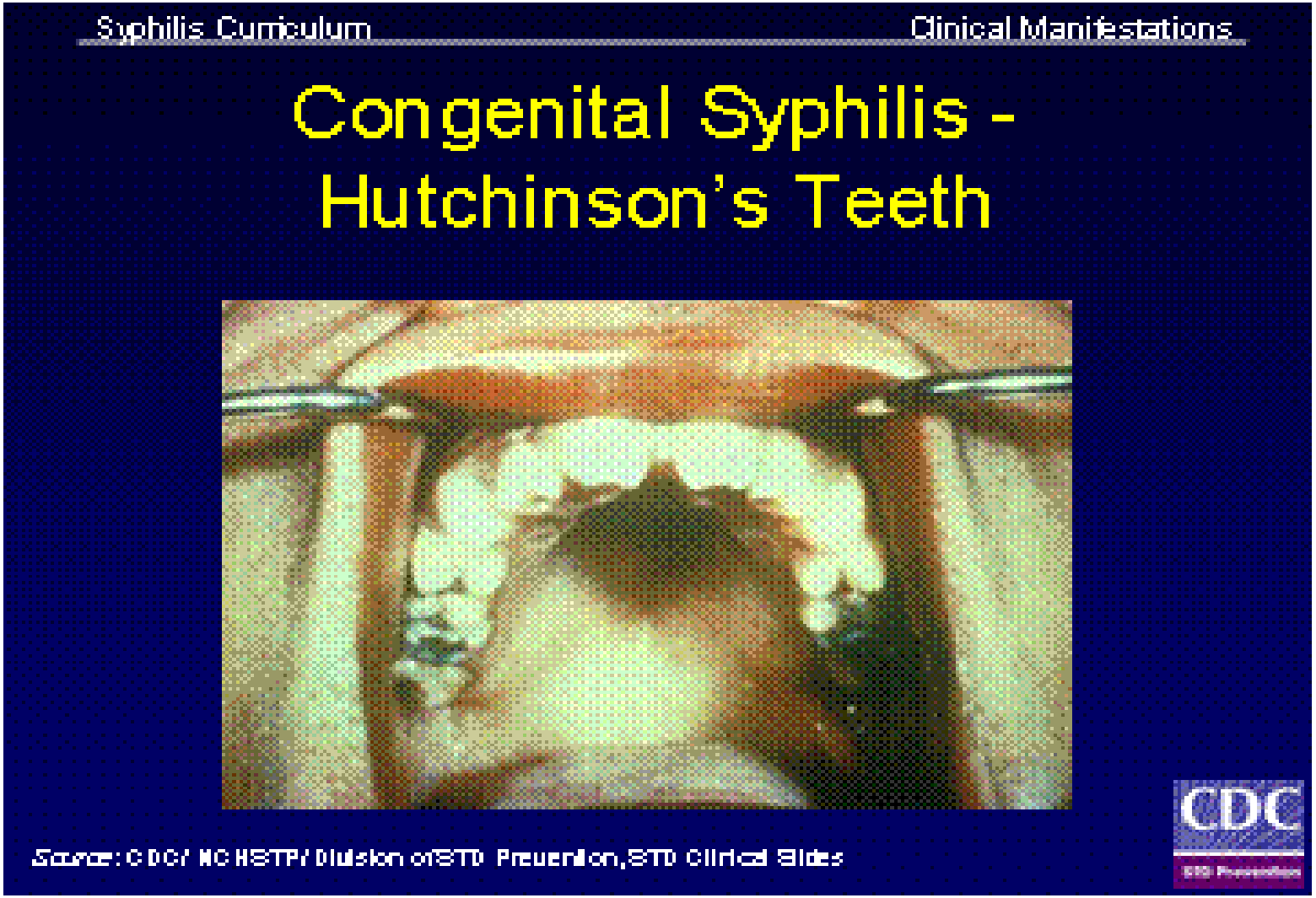
Nowadays, the drug of choice is penicillin

Primary syphilis:
benzathin penicillin (2,4 MIU) 1 dose

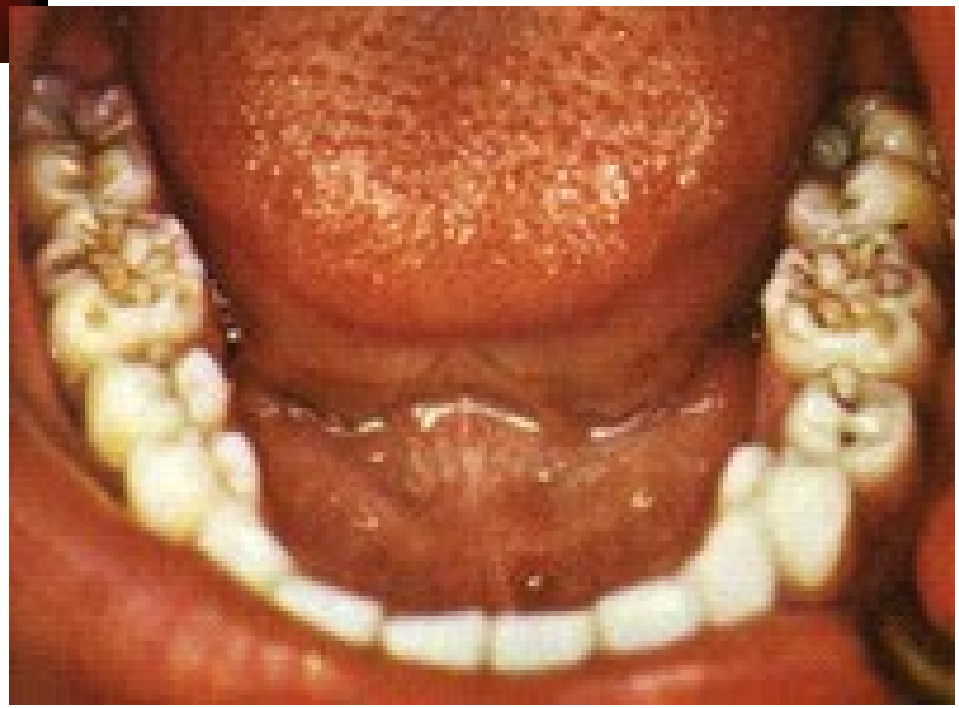
Secondary and late syphilis:
benzathin penicillin (2,4 MIU) 3 times 7 days apart

Hutchinson incisors

screwdriver-shaped central incisors seen in congenital syphilis



Hutchinson incisors (left)



mulberry molars (right)

- a first molar tooth whose occlusal surface is pitted due to congenital syphilis with nodules replacing the cusps

Photo: Křemenová S, Zákoucká H, Křemen J. Problematika vrozené syfilis v posledních dvaceti letech. II. Klinický obraz. Klin mikrobiol inf lék 2006;12(2):50-57

Syphilis: laboratory dg – I

Direct detection

From exudative lesions only (mostly from ulcus durum)

- **darkfield examination**
- **PCR**
- **immunofluorescence**

Indirect detection (serology)

= mainstay of laboratory diagnostics of syphilis

Two types of serologic tests:

- **with nonspecific antigen (cardiolipin)**
- **with specific antigen (*Treponema pallidum*)**

Syphilis: laboratory dg – II

Tests with cardiolipin (nontreponemal):

RRR, VDRL, RPR

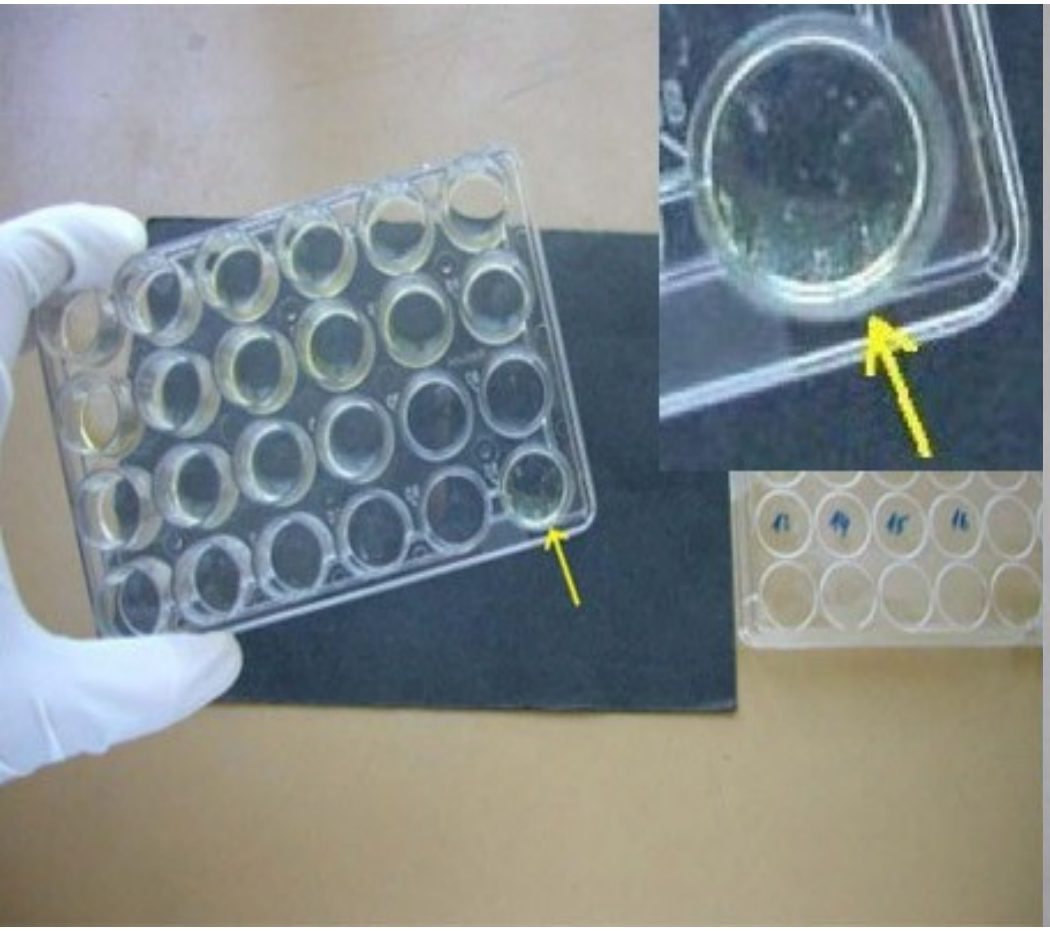
fast, cheap, positive early, reflecting the activity, but often falsely positive

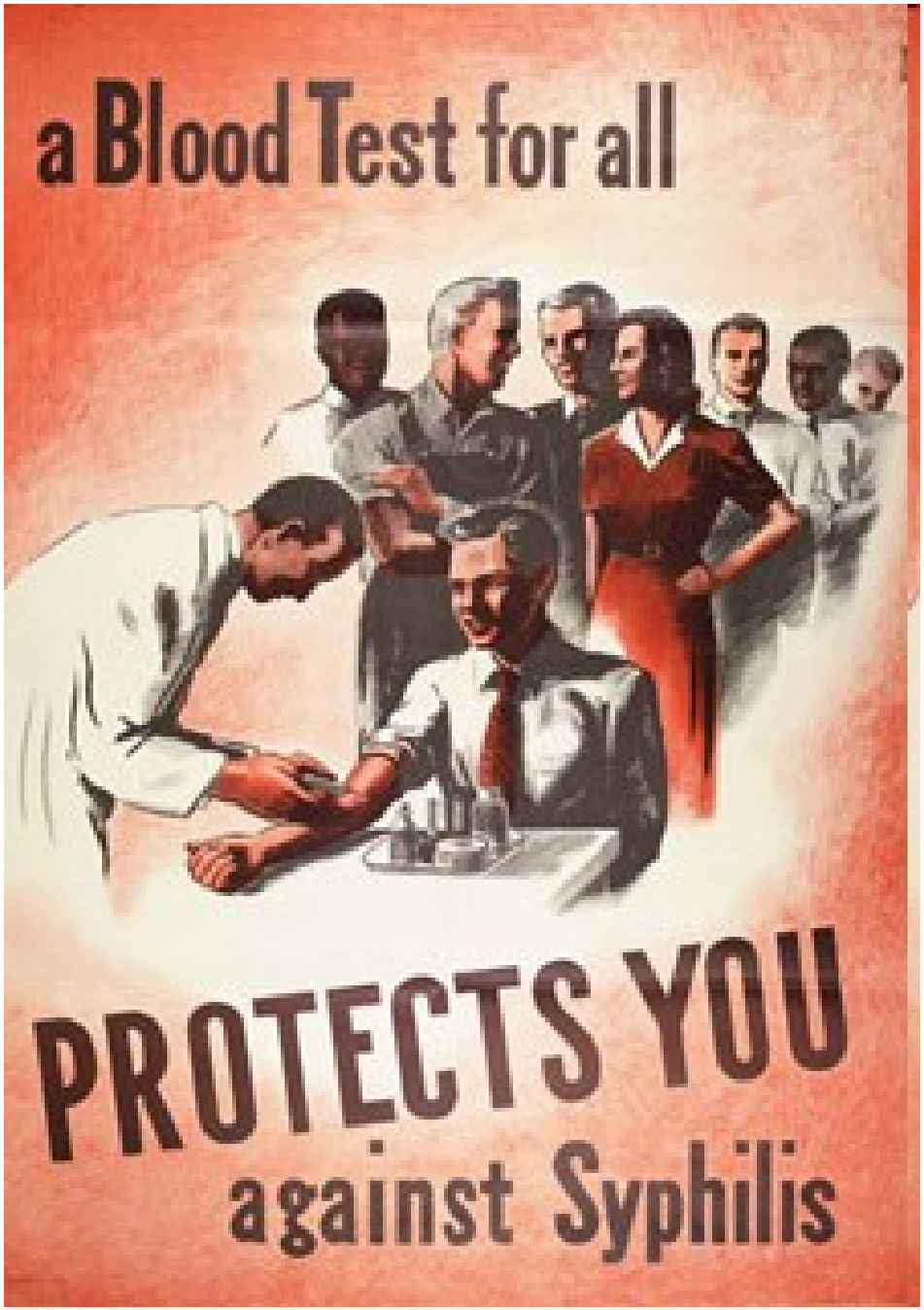
Treponemal tests:

TPHA, ELISA, WB, FTA-ABS, TPIT

sensitive, more expensive, more specific, but positive later, remaining positive for life

Screening: **cardiolipin test** (RRR) + **TPHA**





Poster, 1940

Soft chancre (chancroid)

Agent of ulcus molle: *Haemophilus ducreyi*

Occurrence: the tropics

Course: genital ulcerations (easier transmission of HIV) & purulent lymphadenitis

Dg: only culture on enriched media (chocolate agar with supplements), 3 days at 33 C in 10% CO_2

Lymphogranuloma venereum

Agent of LGV: *Chlamydia trachomatis* serotypes L_1, L_2, L_{2a}, L_3

Occurrence: the tropics and subtropics

Course: purulent lymphadenitis (tropical bubo) & lymphangoitis with fistulae & scars devastating the pelvic region in females

Dg: mostly serology – CFT with the common antigen of chlamydiae

FIGURE 64.—Typical inguinal bubo in a patient with lymphogranuloma venereum. (Courtesy, Col. John J. Deller, Jr., MC.)

Gerrit van Honthorst (1590-1656): Dentist (1622)