
JANUARY IOTADERMA #299

Do you know what a “glass tongue” is, and with what disease it is classically associated?

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Answer will appear in the JAAD Online section of the February issue of the Journal.

DECEMBER IOTADERMA (#298)

Question: Most of us know that musicians can frequently develop a variety of skin conditions such as violinist’s chin, harpist’s fingers, or trumpeter’s lip (amongst many) caused by constant instrument usage. What, then, is a saxophone penis?

Answer: A saxophone penis has nothing whatsoever to do with playing or handling a saxophone (unlike the conditions mentioned in the Question)! It refers, instead, to a marked swelling and curvature of the penile shaft due to significant edema and trauma from several causes, including therapeutic (mis)adventures (such as topical 5-fluorouracil or imiquimod) and tuberculosis.¹⁻⁴ The term is a purely descriptive clinical one. The affliction, while alarming to the patient, is temporary and usually clears quickly as the inflammatory process resolves. It is not permanent as is a similar deformity found in penile Peyronie disease.

REFERENCES

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4. Vidal NY, Farah RS, Wanat KA. Dramatic saxophone penis as a result of topical imiquimod use. *JAMA Dermatol*. 2014;150(12):1370-1371.

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