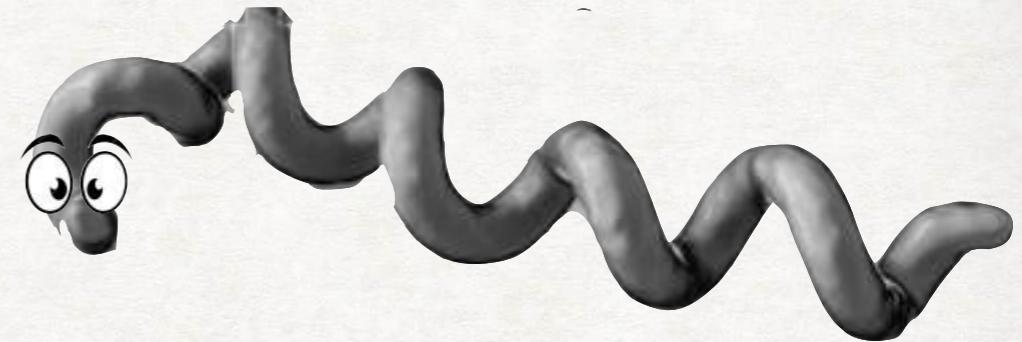




# SYPHILIS

DR DOROTA NOWICKA

# SYPHILIS



- Systemic bacterial infection- *Treponema pallidum*
- Incubation period: 3-4 weeks (10-90 days) -> primary lesion (chancre)
- Spontaneous regression-> asymptomatic periods

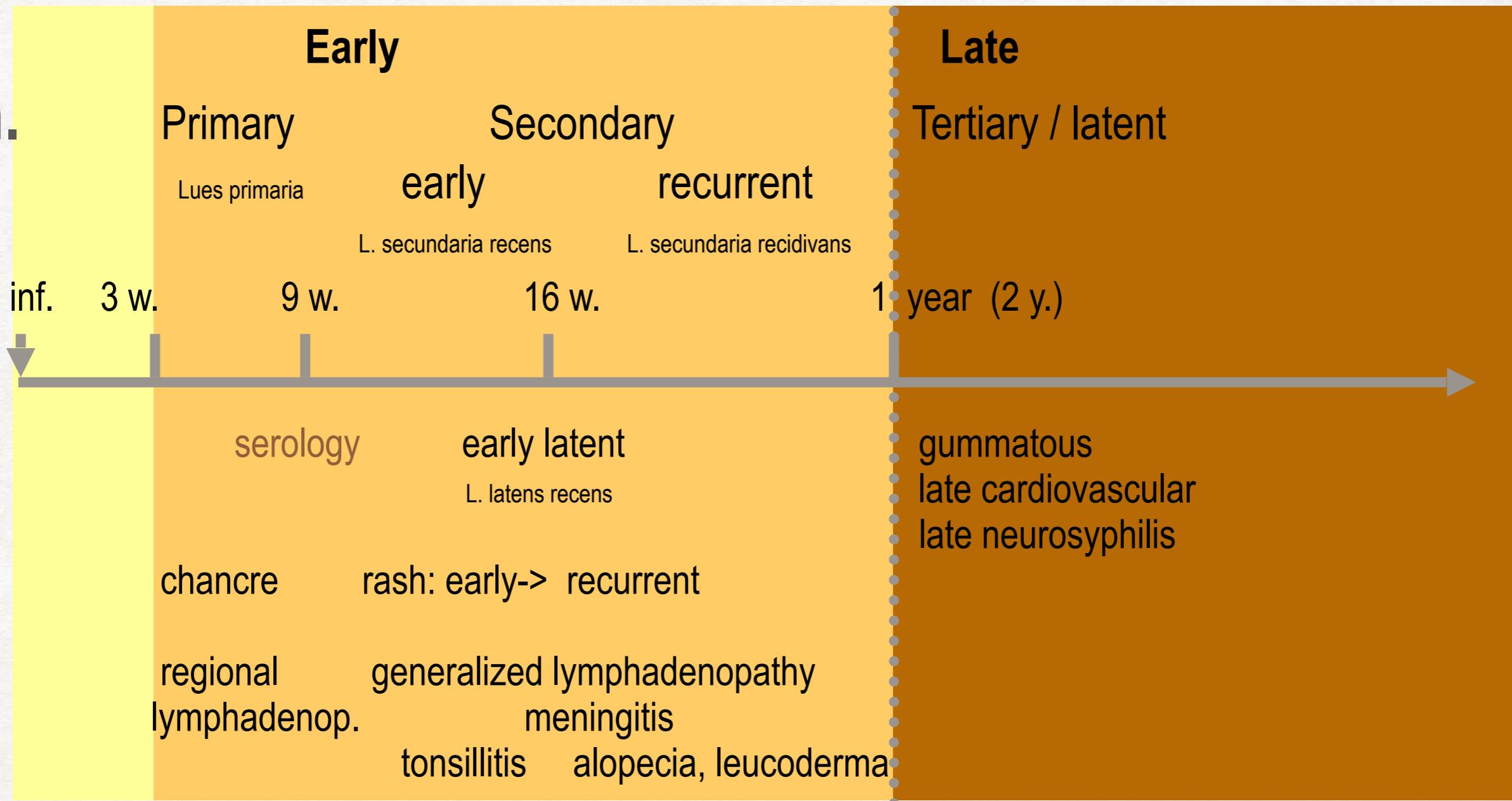
# SYPHILIS

- Systemic disease with complex manifestation:
  - Primary infection with ulcer (chancre) at the entry site
  - Secondary infection with skin rash, mucocutaneous lesions, lymphadenopathy
  - Tertiary- late stage of infection with e.g. cardiac or ophthalmic, neurologic manifestations, auditory abnormalities, gummatous lesions
  - Latent infection- lacking clinical manifestation, detected by serologic testing

- The phases may overlap
- The infectious potential is highest within 1-2 years after the onset of the disease.
- European Center for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) defines early syphilis as syphilis acquired < 1 year previously
- World Health Organization (WHO) as syphilis acquired < 2 years previously

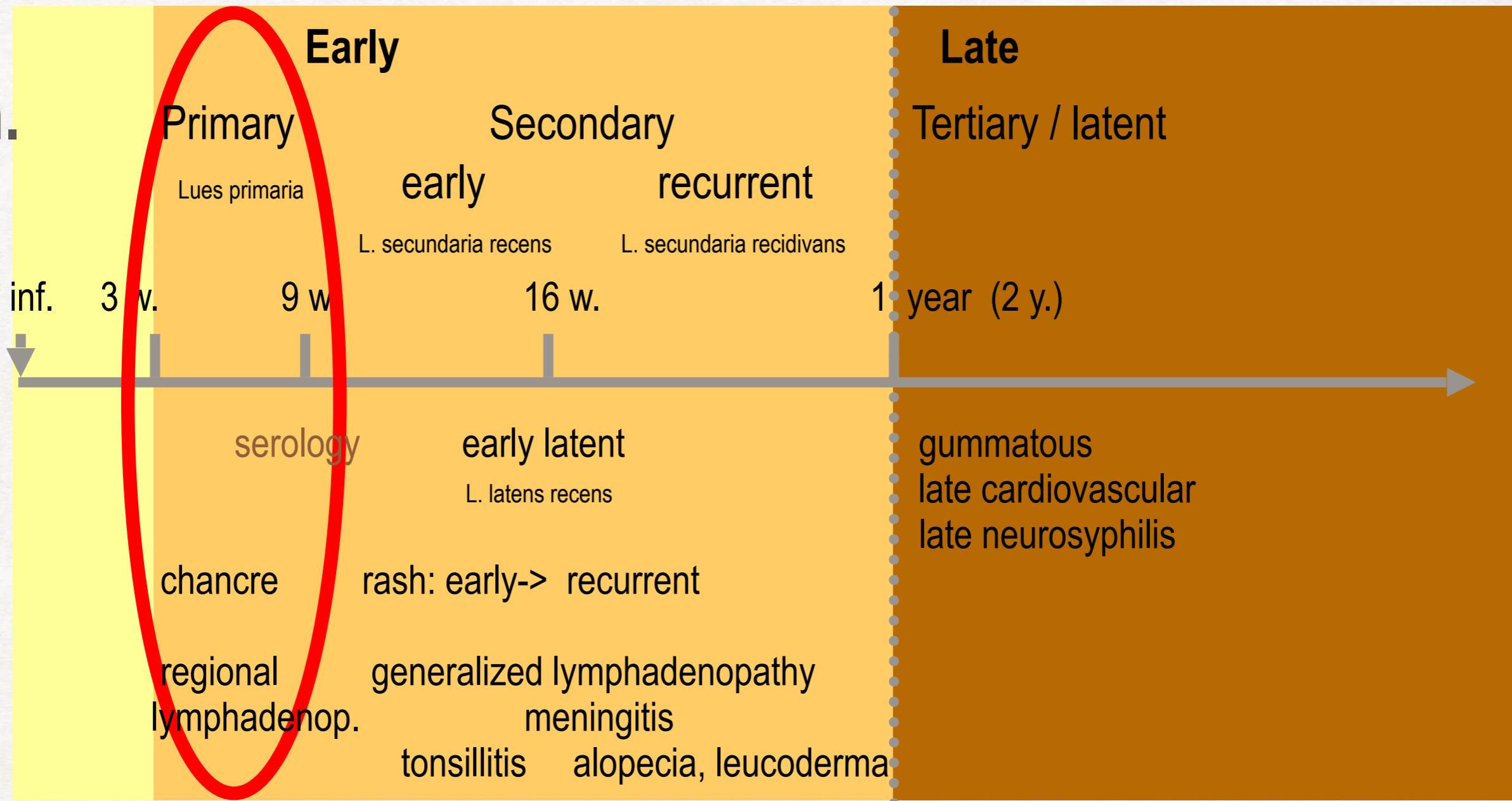
# course of syphilis

Syph.



# course of syphilis

Syph.



# PRIMARY LESION (CHANCRE)

- Within 3-4 weeks
- Usually single lesion
- Painless
- 5-15mm
- Well marked borders
- Round
- Hard on palpation
- Heals spontaneously within 3-4 weeks, usually without scarring
- Enlargement of regional lymph nodes











# ATYPICAL PRIMARY LESION

- Multiple
- Small / gigantic
- Balanitis / vulvitis
- Necrotic
- Exogenous

# MULTIPLE PRIMARY LESIONS



RESULT OF SHAVING

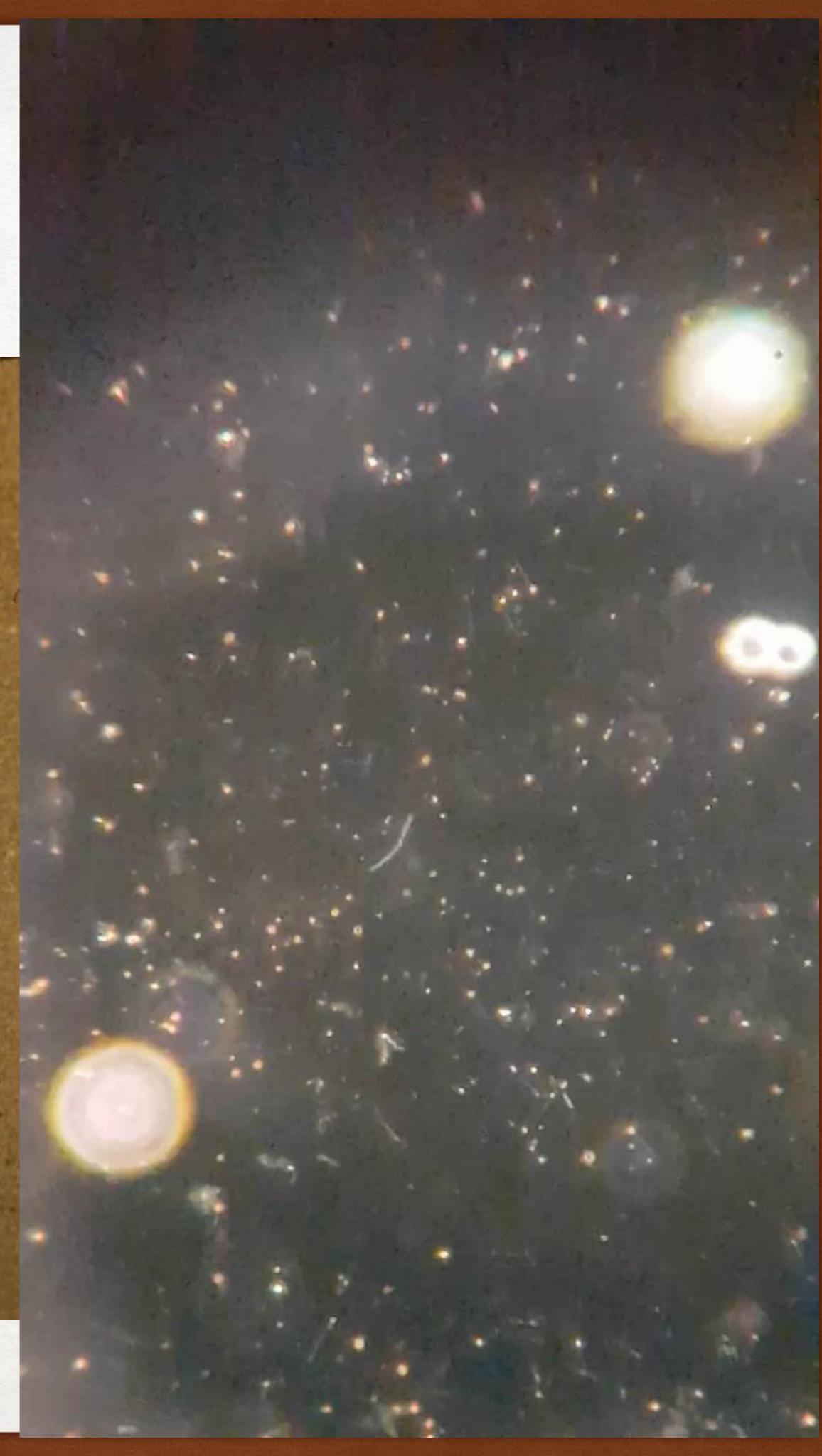
# SYPHILITIC BALANITIS



## PLEASE KEEP IN MIND:

In any case of ulcer in anogenital region  
primary lesion of syphilis should be taken into consideration

# DARK FIELD MICROSCOPY



# PCR

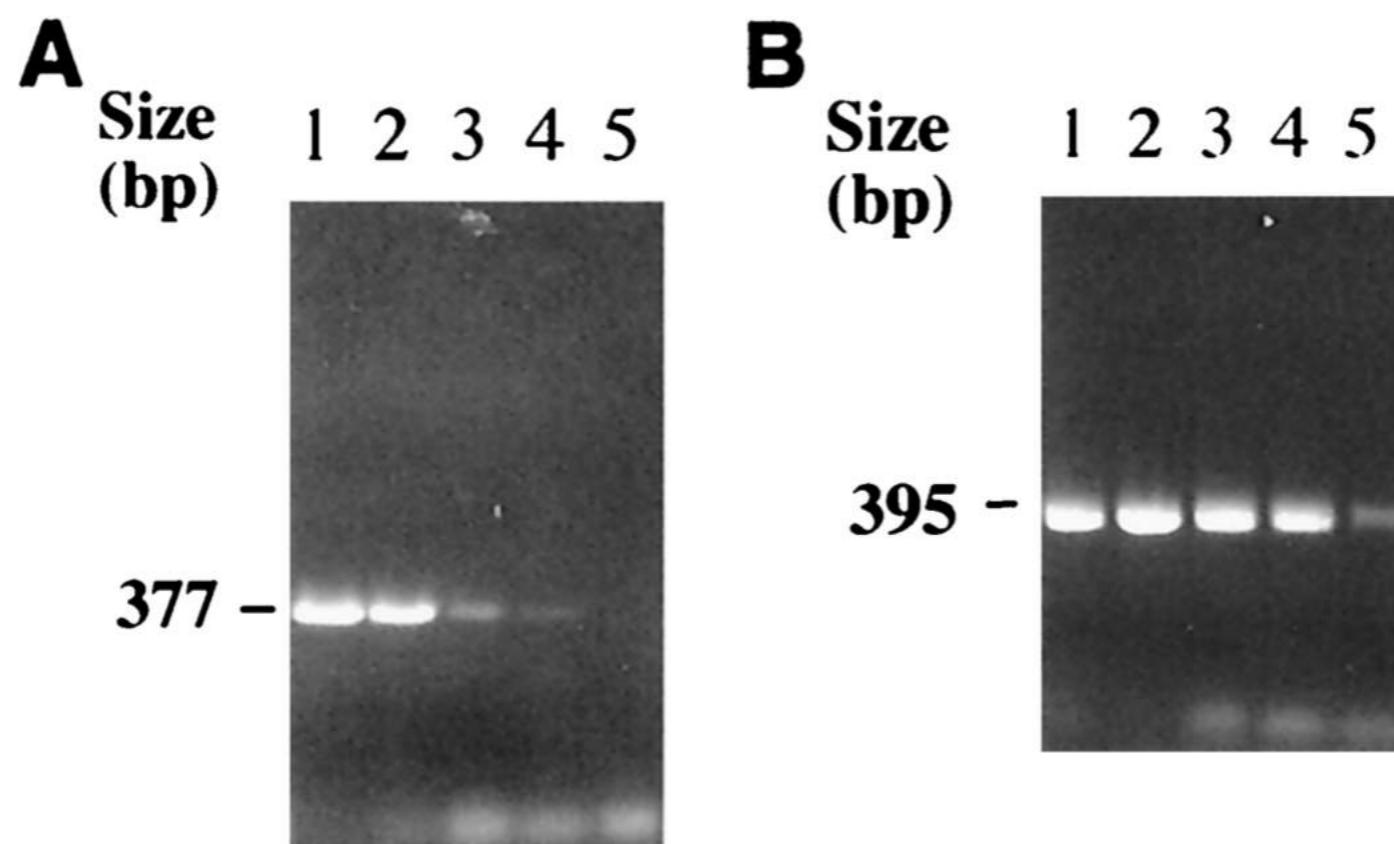


FIG. 2. Results of agarose gel electrophoresis of *polA* PCR from serial dilutions of known concentrations of *T. pallidum* DNA extract. (A) Primer set I. The arrow indicates a 377-bp product. (B) Primer set II. The arrow indicates a 395-bp product. Lanes 1,  $2 \times 10^4$  *T. pallidum* organisms per reaction; lanes 2,  $2 \times 10^3$  organisms per reaction; lanes 3,  $2 \times 10^2$  organisms per reaction; lanes 4,  $2 \times 10^1$  organisms per reaction; lanes 5,  $2 \times 10^0$  organisms per reaction.

# COMPLICATIONS OF PRIMARY LESION

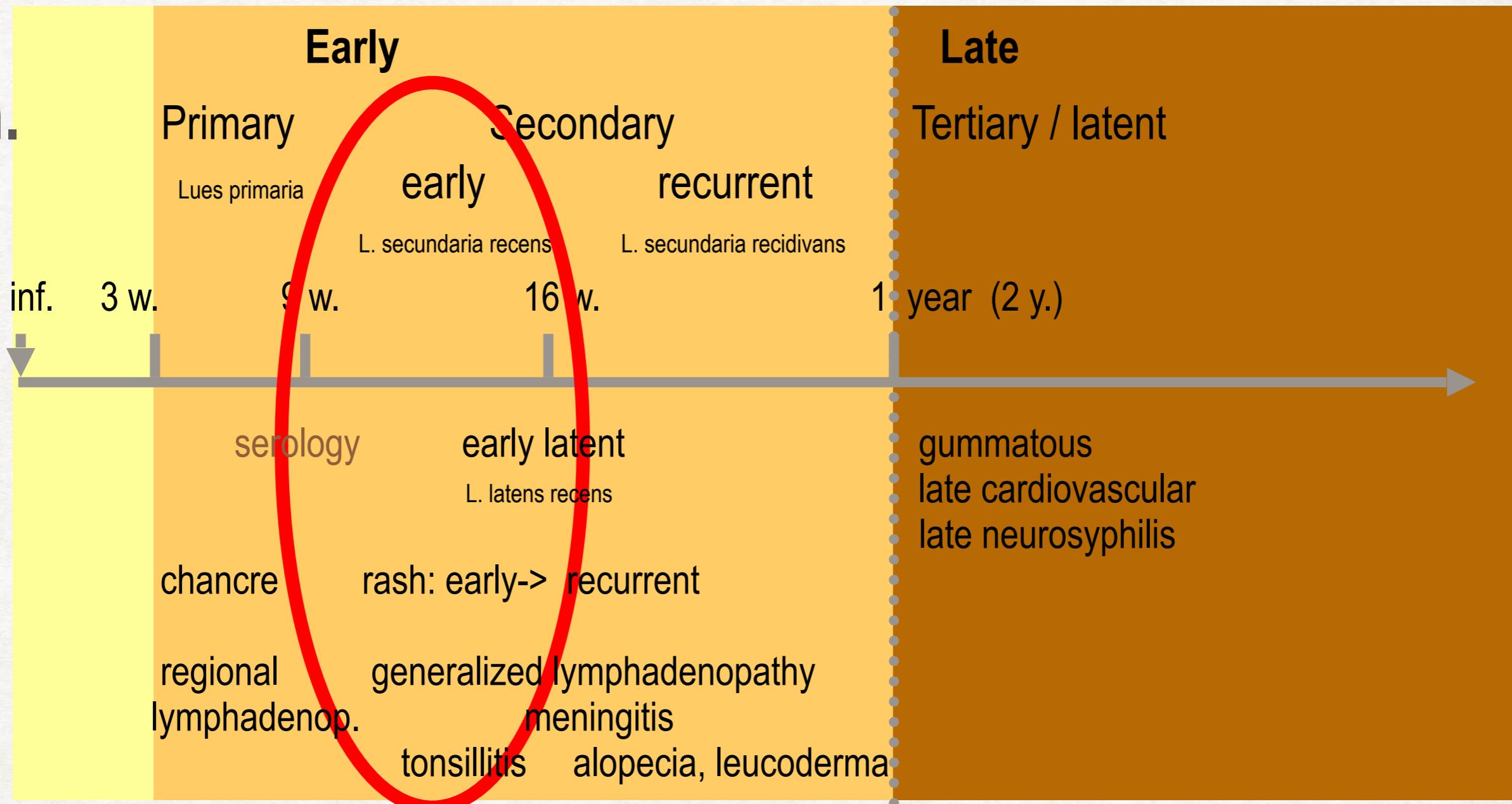
- Phimosis
- Paraphimosis
- Oedema induratum
- Secondary infections

# DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS OF PRIMARY LESION

- Herpes
- Balanitis
- Squamous cell carcinoma
- Ulcerative tuberculosis
- Lymphogranuloma venereum
- Chancroid

# course of syphilis

Syph.



# EARLY SECONDARY SYPHILIS

## LUES SECUNDARIA RECENS

- After 9 weeks, up to 16 weeks
- Skin and mucosal lesions
- Internal organ involvement
- Generalised lymphadenopathy
- Positive serology
- Leukocytosis, headache, increased SR

# EARLY SECONDARY SYPHILIS

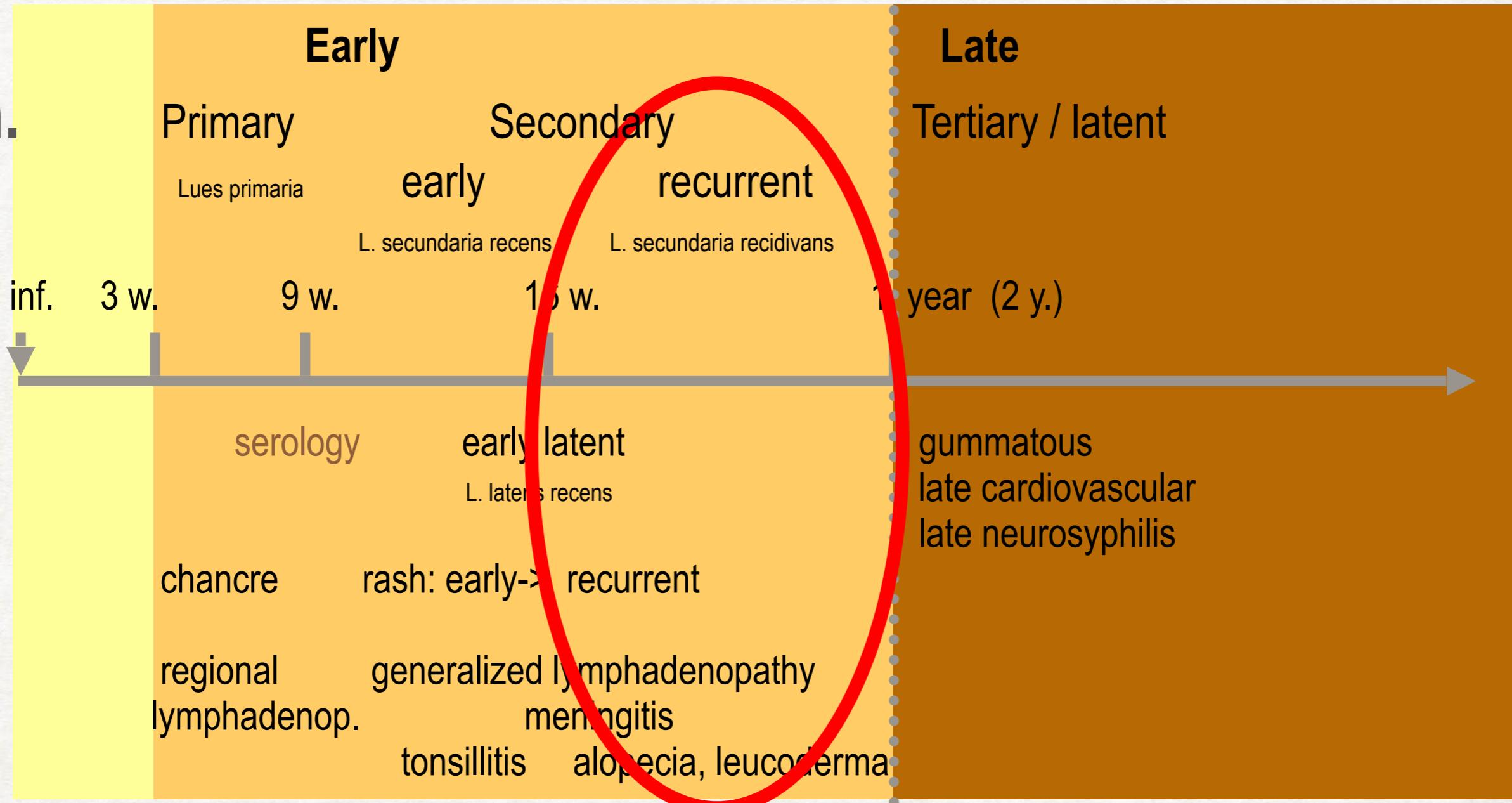
## LUES SECUNDARIA RECENS

- Discrete macular rash on the trunk



# course of syphilis

Syph.



# RECURRENT SECONDARY SYPHILIS

## LUES SECUNDARIA RECIDIVANS

- 16 weeks -> 1 year
- Maculo-papular rash
- Psoriasis- like
- Lichen planus- like
- Impetigo- like
- Ulcerative
- Pustular
- Hypertrophic
- Condylomata lata

# **RECURRENT SECONDARY SYPHILIS**

## **LUES SECUNDARIA RECIDIVANS**



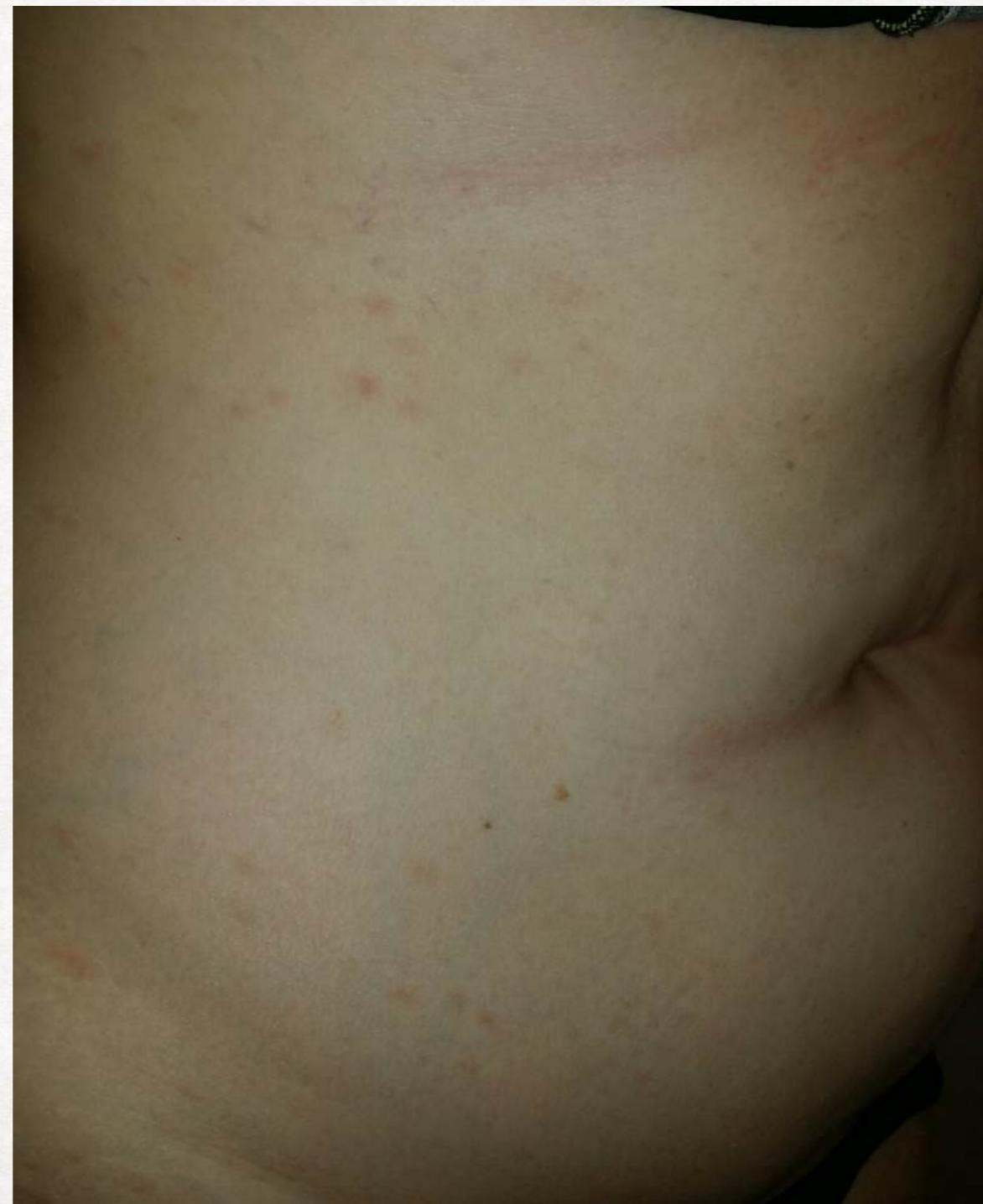
# **RECURRENT SECONDARY SYPHILIS**

## **LUES SECUNDARIA RECIDIVANS**



# **RECURRENT SECONDARY SYPHILIS**

## **LUES SECUNDARIA RECIDIVANS**



# RECURRENT SECONDARY SYPHILIS

LUES SECUNDARIA RECIDIVANS



# RECURRENT SECONDARY SYPHILIS

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# RECURRENT SECONDARY SYPHILIS

LUES SECUNDARIA RECIDIVANS



# RECURRENT SECONDARY SYPHILIS

LUES SECUNDARIA RECIDIVANS



# DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SKIN LESIONS IN SECONDARY SYPHILIS

- Early secondary syphilis  
(early skin lesions)

- Monomorphic

- Macules, papules

- Numerous and widespread

- Symmetric

- Non-confluent

- Resolve without desquamation

- Recurrent secondary syphilis  
(recurrent skin lesions)

- Polymorphic

- Macules, papules, pustules

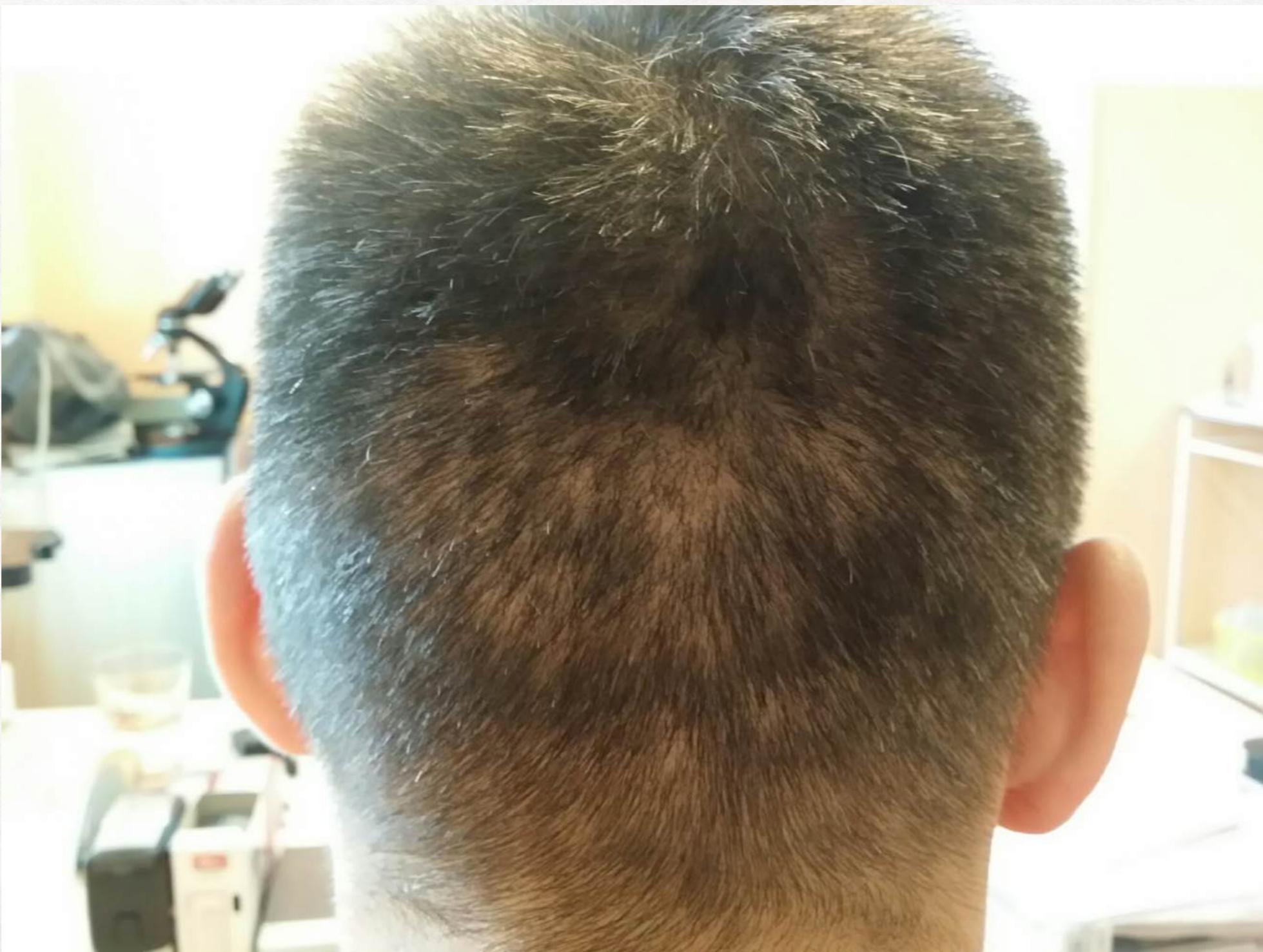
- In subsequent recurrences less numerous and less spread

- Less symmetric

- Frequently confluent

- Frequent desquamation and postinflammatory hiperpigmentation

# SYPHILITIC ALOPECIA



# ALOPECIA SYPHILITICA

- Usually after 6 months
- Sometimes the only symptom of syphilis
- Multifocal or diffuse
- Lasts for 6-12 months
- Spontaneous regression

# SYPHILITIC LEUCODERMA



# LEUCODERMA SYPHILITICA

- Macular, oval depigmentations
- 4 months - 2 years after the infection
- On the neck and shoulders
- Spontaneous regression after 4-6 months

# DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS OF SYPHILITIC SKIN RASH

- ▶ Allergic reaction
- ▶ Pityriasis rosea Gibert
- ▶ Pityriasis versicolor
- ▶ Erythema multiforme
- ▶ Skin rash in infectious diseases
  - ▶ Mononucleosis
  - ▶ Scalet fever
  - ▶ Measles
  - ▶ Rubella
- ▶ Rash in acute retroviral disease (HIV)
- ▶ Livedo
- ▶ Lichen planus
- ▶ Psoriasis
- ▶ Plantar/palmar warts

**Serology!**