**CHANCROID AT A GLANCE**

A sexually transmitted acute ulcerative disease.

- **Clinical Findings**
  - **Chancre**
    - Begins as a soft papule surrounded by erythema.
    - Single lesion extends peripherally and shows extensive ulceration.
    - Multiple small ulcers occur in a follicular distribution.
  - **Bubo**
    - Painful inguinal adenitis (bubo) occurs in up to 50 percent of patients within a few days to 2 weeks.
    - Buboes can become fluctuant and may rupture spontaneously.
  - **Urethritis**
    - Untreated, causes purulent urethritis.

**Epidemiology**

- **Geography**
  - Endemic in the Americas, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.
  - In resource-poor settings, the disease is common.
  - In the United States, the disease is rare.

- **Etiology**
  - **Pathogen**
    - *Haemophilus ducreyi*
    - Gram-negative, facultative anaerobic coccobacillus
    - Nonmotile
    - Sporeforming
    - Distends toxin: cytolethal distending toxin

- **Transmission**
  - Sexual contact
  - Trauma

- **Prevalence**
  - Lower-class prostitutes appear to be a reservoir in all reported outbreaks of this disease.
  - Men have a markedly higher incidence of infection than women.
  - In all cases, extragenital manifestations have been reported on the breasts, fingers, thighs, and inside of the mouth.

- **Pathogenesis**
  - Three major factors seem to be important in the pathogenesis of *H. ducreyi*.
  - Trauma and self-induced genital ulcers and fixed drug eruptions may be due to *H. ducreyi* infection.

- **Prevention**
  - Use of condoms
  - Avoiding sexual contact

**Diagnosis**

- **Laboratory Testing**
  - Tissue biopsy
  - Staining with *H. ducreyi*
  - Isolation of *H. ducreyi*
  - Serologic testing (rarely effective)

- **Molecular Methods**
  - A multiplex PCR assay has been developed for the simultaneous amplification of *C. trachomatis* and *H. ducreyi*.

**Treatment**

- **Recommended Treatment Regimens**
  - Single-dose treatment: Erythromycin base 500 mg orally bid for 3 days or Doxycycline 100 mg orally bid for 10 days.

**Complications**

- When treatment is delayed, various complications may occur (Table 202-2).

**Prognosis**

- Infection does not confer immunity, and re-infection is possible.
- Local pain may persist for years.
- Terminal metastatic lymphadenopathy may cause death.

**Management**

- Pulmonary disease may occur with AIDS.

**References**

- Alameda, CA: Roche Molecular Systems.