Early Congenital Syphilis

This photograph depicts the face of a newborn infant, as the baby was displaying pathologic morphology indicative of congenital syphilis, caused by the bacterium, *Treponema pallidum*.

*Content Provider: CDC/ Dr. Norman Cole*


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This image depicts a plantar view of an infant’s feet, revealing the presence of syphilitic lesions, which resulted from a case of congenital syphilis. If not immediately treated, babies may become developmentally delayed, have seizures, or die. Symptoms may not become initially apparent, but can develop within a few weeks. These signs and symptoms can be very serious.

*Content Provider: CDC*


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Late Congenital Syphilis

This image depicts a close view of the right eye of a patient revealing the pathologic changes in her cornea known as interstitial corneal keratitis, which was due to a congenital syphilitic infection, and is a chronic progressive keratitis of the corneal stroma, i.e., connective tissue matrix, often resulting in blindness and frequently associated with congenital syphilis.

*Content Provider: CDC/ Robert Sumpter*

This close-up view demonstrates the dentition within the oral cavity of a young African-American female patient, revealing the triangular-shaped deformity of her right lateral incisor, and the left central incisor, which is known as Hutchinson incisors, and is caused by a congenital syphilitic infection. In this particular case, at the time of her birth, one of this woman’s parents tested positive for syphilis.

Content Provider: CDC/ Robert E. Sumpter

This is a photograph of a patient exhibiting saber shin of the right lower leg, or osteoperiostitis of the tibia, due to congenital syphilis.

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