

A soldier with a fever and a rash

Peter A Leggat

IN MARCH 2005, a male soldier presented with a sudden onset of fever, mild headache, ocular pain and injection, and myalgia. His temperature had been as high as 40.5°C. On examination, the patient had a widespread rash, particularly on the trunk, and a small black lesion just above his ankle (A). There was also a slightly tender adenopathy in the region of the eschar. The rash was initially papular and became more maculopapular in nature with time (B, C).

There was no history of overseas travel, but the soldier had been in the Cowley Beach Training Area near Innisfail, North Queensland.

What is the lesion? What is the possible diagnosis? (see page 91)

