

CASE 27-2

A 2-year-old child presents with a 2-week history of rash. Erythematous, juicy papules are predominantly located on the arms, legs, and buttocks. The toddler is otherwise asymptomatic.



What is the one most likely diagnosis?

- (A) Scabies
- (B) Chicken pox
- (C) Gianotti–Crosti syndrome
- (D) Folliculitis
- (E) Dermatitis

The correct answer is (C) Gianotti–Crosti syndrome.

Gianotti–Crosti syndrome is a viral exanthem that has a predominantly acral distribution. A variety of viruses manifest in this pattern, but most common in the United States is Epstein–Barr virus. Hepatitis B is most common in developing countries. Testing to determine the etiology is not required. The rash may be mildly pruritic, but is usually asymptomatic. Oral antihistamines can be used as needed. It resolves without treatment, but can last up to 6 to 12 weeks.

Scabies is very pruritic and burrows are usually seen. Children with chickenpox typically have malaise and fever and trunk lesions. Folliculitis and a papular presentation of dermatitis are uncommon in toddlers.