

CASE 39-3

A 30-year-old woman presents with a 5-day history of painful rash with vesicles on an erythematous base on her left thigh.



What is the one most likely diagnosis?

- (A) Candidiasis
- (B) Herpes simplex
- (C) Molluscum contagiosum
- (D) Hidradenitis suppurativa
- (E) Allergic contact dermatitis

The correct answer is (B), herpes simplex.

Herpes simplex presents with small, painful vesicles on an erythematous base. In the female genital area, it typically occurs on the labia, but it also commonly occurs on the buttocks and less commonly on the thighs.

Candidiasis and molluscum are not painful. The lesions of hidradenitis suppurativa may be tender, but they are cystic or nodular, not vesicular. Allergic contact dermatitis is usually pruritic, not painful.