Diagnosis of leprosy - Part II.

The 1st cardinal signs of leprosy

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Leprosy mailing list, October 2011
The 1\textsuperscript{st} cardinal sign of leprosy

“Skin patch with loss of sensation”
Testing for loss of sensation

Courtesy of B. Naafs

LML October 2011 - The diagnosis of leprosy - Part II. 1st cardinal sign
Testing for loss of sensation

1. **Explain**

2. **Demonstrate**

3. **Test when the patient comprehends fully**

*Courtesy of: S Noto*
• Hypopigmentation
• Distribution
• Margins
• Streaming and satellite lesions

Loss of sensation? Yes

Leprosy
• Distribution
• Margins
• Streaming and satellite lesions
• Surface is dry

**Loss of sensation? Yes.**

**Leprosy**

*Courtesy of: S Noto*
Addendum

The sweat and histamine tests
Loss of sweating in hypopigmented leprosy macules

Borderline leprosy
The big leprosy lesion (arrow) is definitely dry while the normal skin is shiny from the reflection from the moisture of the sweat.

Courtesy of Grace Warren
Loss of sweating in hypopigmented leprosy macula

On the right side of the slide a round dry hypopigmented leprosy lesion.
On the left normally pigmented skin with drops of sweat.
The histamine test

Normal response (redness) to injection of histamine = normal skin

Diminished response (reduced redness) to injection of histamine = leprosy lesion

Courtesy of J A da Costa Nery