

# **Diagnosis of leprosy - Part II.**

## **The 1<sup>st</sup> cardinal signs of leprosy**

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**Leprosy mailing list, October 2011**

# **The 1<sup>st</sup> cardinal sign of leprosy**

**“Skin patch with loss of sensation”**

## Testing for loss of sensation



Courtesy of B. Naafs

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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

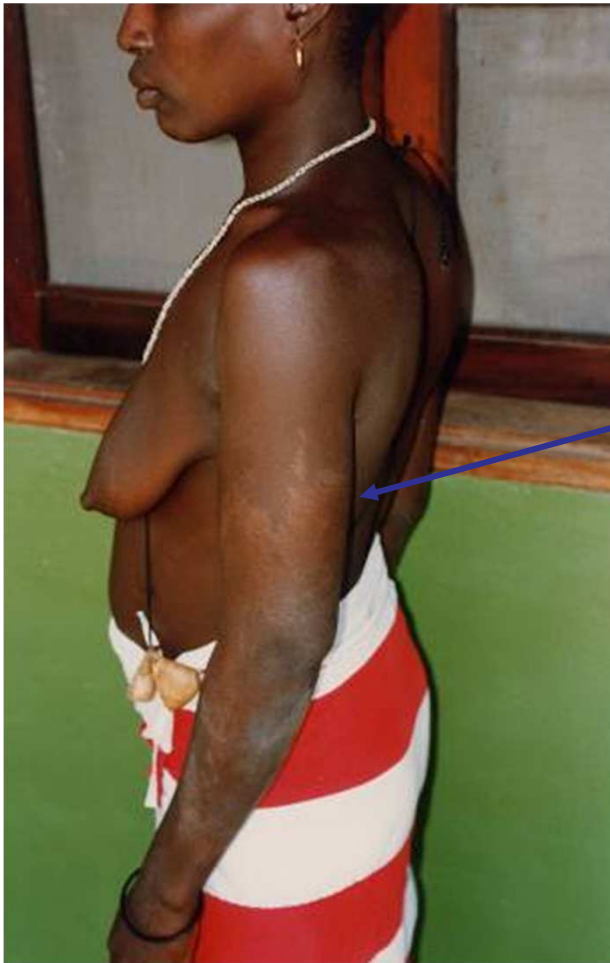
**Loss of sensation? Yes**

**Leprosy**

**Courtesy of: S Noto**

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- Distribution
- Margins
- Streaming and satellite lesions
- Surface is dry

**Loss of sensation? Yes.**

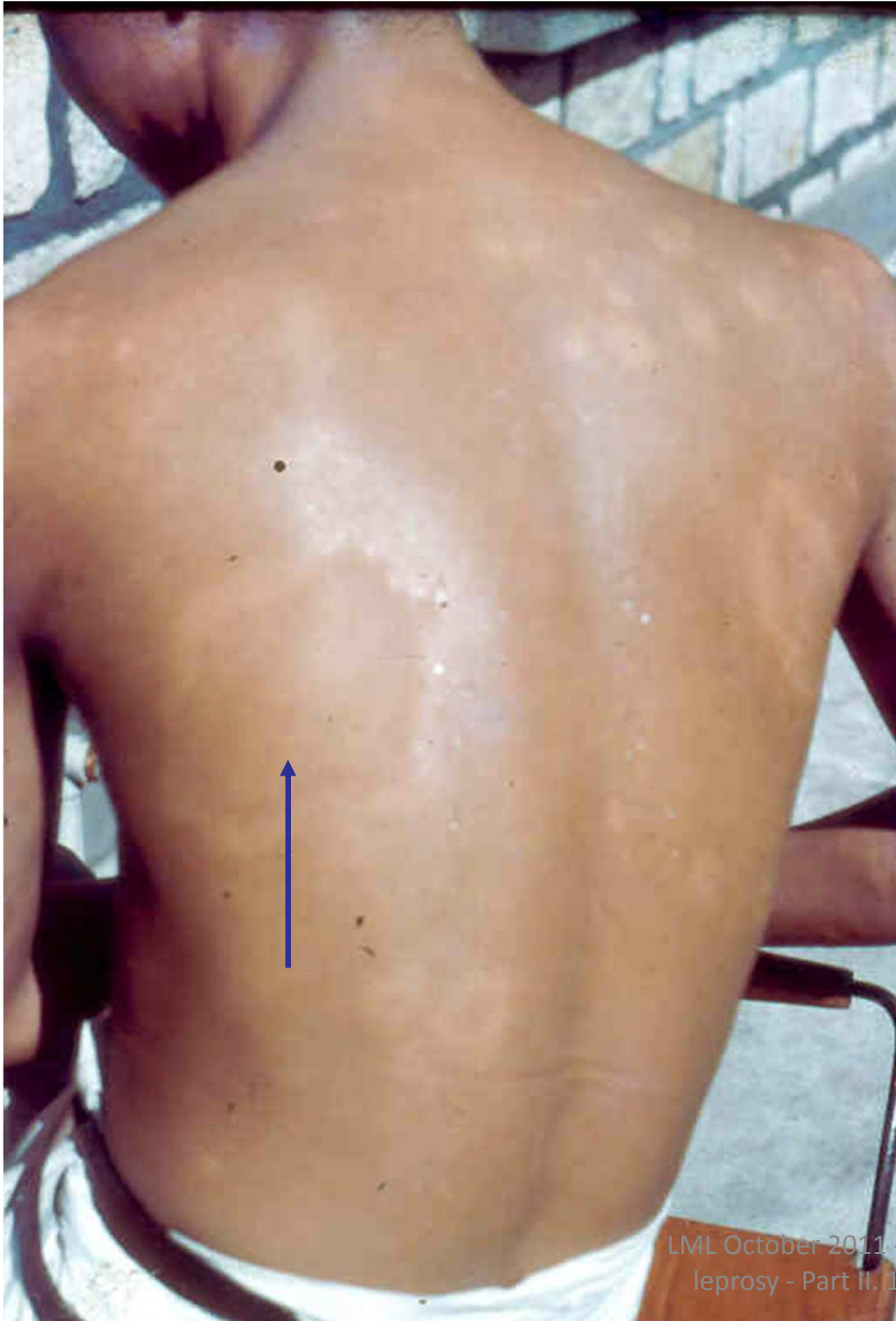
**Leprosy**

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## **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





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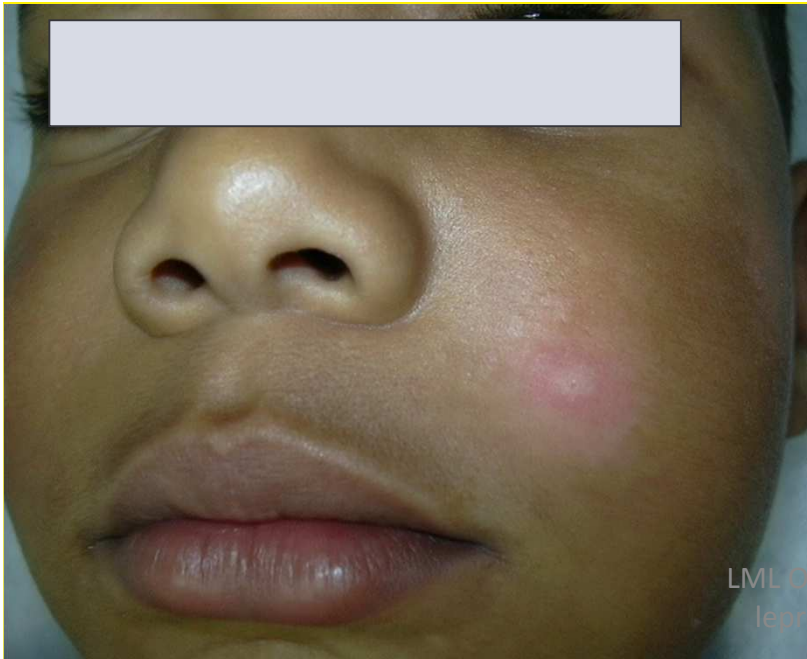
### Loss of sweating in hypopigmented leprosy macula

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