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Reuse of old, existing, and cheap pharmaceutical agent: Benzathine penicillin in treatment of primary cutaneous actinomycosis

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A case of primary cutaneous actinomycosis was diagnosed on clinical and bacteriological grounds. A fifty-five year woman presented with multiple discharging sinuses on both legs since nine years with slowly progressive course from rural area in Kurdistan region, Iraq had bacteriological study including macroscopical and cultural examination of the discharge and crust taken deep from the lesions revealed actinomyces as the causative organism. The most fruitful basis for the discovery of a new drug is to start with an old drug. Therefore, a good response with complete healing was noticed after 4 months of treatment with benzathine penicillin. Primary cutaneous actinomycosis is a rare variety of actinomycosis and this is the first case reported in Iraq. Good awareness of the full clinical spectrum of the disease aided by bacteriological study is needed to minimize the misdiagnosis of the case.