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Multiple pigmented papules on the vulva

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This picture (fig 1) shows bowenoid papulosis caused by infection with human papillomavirus.

The patient was an otherwise healthy 33 year old woman with multiple asymptomatic hyperpigmented flat papules on the labia majora, labia minora, posterior commissure of the labia majora, and perianal area, which had slowly increased in both size and number over six months.

Differential diagnoses include genital warts, lichen planus, pigmented condylomata acuminata, and seborrhoeic keratosis.

A diagnosis of bowenoid papulosis was made on the basis of the clinical and histopathological findings.

The patient was a non-smoker. She had not been vaccinated against human papillomavirus, which is a key risk factor.

It is important to differentiate this condition from vulval intraepithelial neoplasia to avoid overtreatment because bowenoid papulosis can regress spontaneously or with conservative management.



Fig 1|

Patient consent obtained.