Evaluate a Rash Illness Suspicious for Smallpox

Caution: Use this tool only when there is no release or circulation of smallpox.

1. **Answer all questions.** If a question does not apply to your patient, or if you cannot answer the question, click "No", or "Unknown".

2. After you complete the questions, **press the "Evaluate Risk" button**.

**Type of Rash Illness**

1. Does the patient have an **acute, generalized rash** on the body, with **vesicles** or **pustules**?

   - ☐ Yes  ☐ No

   If **yes**, institute **airborne and contact precautions**.

   If **no**, and there is no known release or circulation of smallpox, there is no basis for calculating risk for smallpox.

**Major Smallpox Criteria** [more information]

2. Does the patient have **classic smallpox lesions** (i.e., deep-seated, firm/hard, round well-circumscribed vesicles or pustules)?

   - ☐ Yes  ☐ No classic smallpox lesions

3. Are the vesicles or pustules in the **same stage of development**? For example, on any part of the body (e.g., face or arm) are lesions all **vesicles** or **pustules**?

   - ☐ Yes  ☐ No

4. Did the patient develop a fever of 101°F or greater 1-4 days before rash onset?

   - ☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ High fever, but not measured  ☐ Unknown

5. Did the patient have any of the following symptoms 1-4 days before rash onset?

   - ☐ Prostration  ☐ Headache  ☐ Backache
Minor Smallpox Criteria [more information]

6. Does the patient have symptoms meeting minor criteria? Check all that apply.

- Lesions are distributed centrifugally, with greatest concentration of lesions on face and distal extremities.
- First lesions occurred on the oral mucosa or palate, face, or forearms.
- The patient appears toxic or moribund.
- Lesions evolve slowly, from macules to papules to vesicles to pustules, with each stage lasting 1-2 days.
- Lesions appear on the palms of the hands and soles of the feet.
- No minor smallpox criteria.

Taken from: http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/smallpox/diagnosis/riskalgorithm/