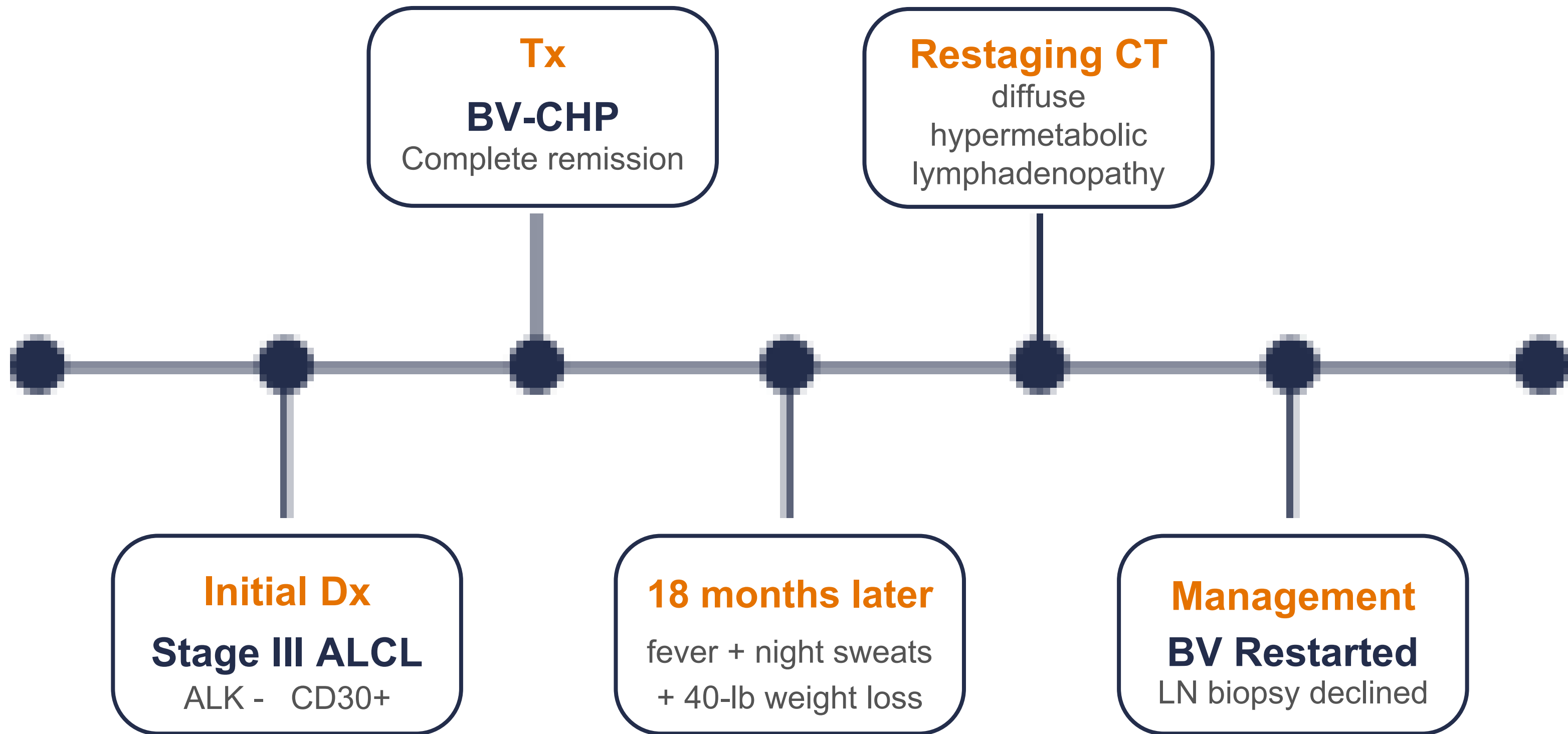

Syphilis Masquerading as Recurrent Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma

A clinicopathologic mimic in a patient with hematologic malignancy

Maya Hagander | University of Virginia School of Medicine

A CONVINCING STORY FOR RECURRENCE



4 months later: new cutaneous eruption



SKIN REINFORCED THE HYPOTHESIS

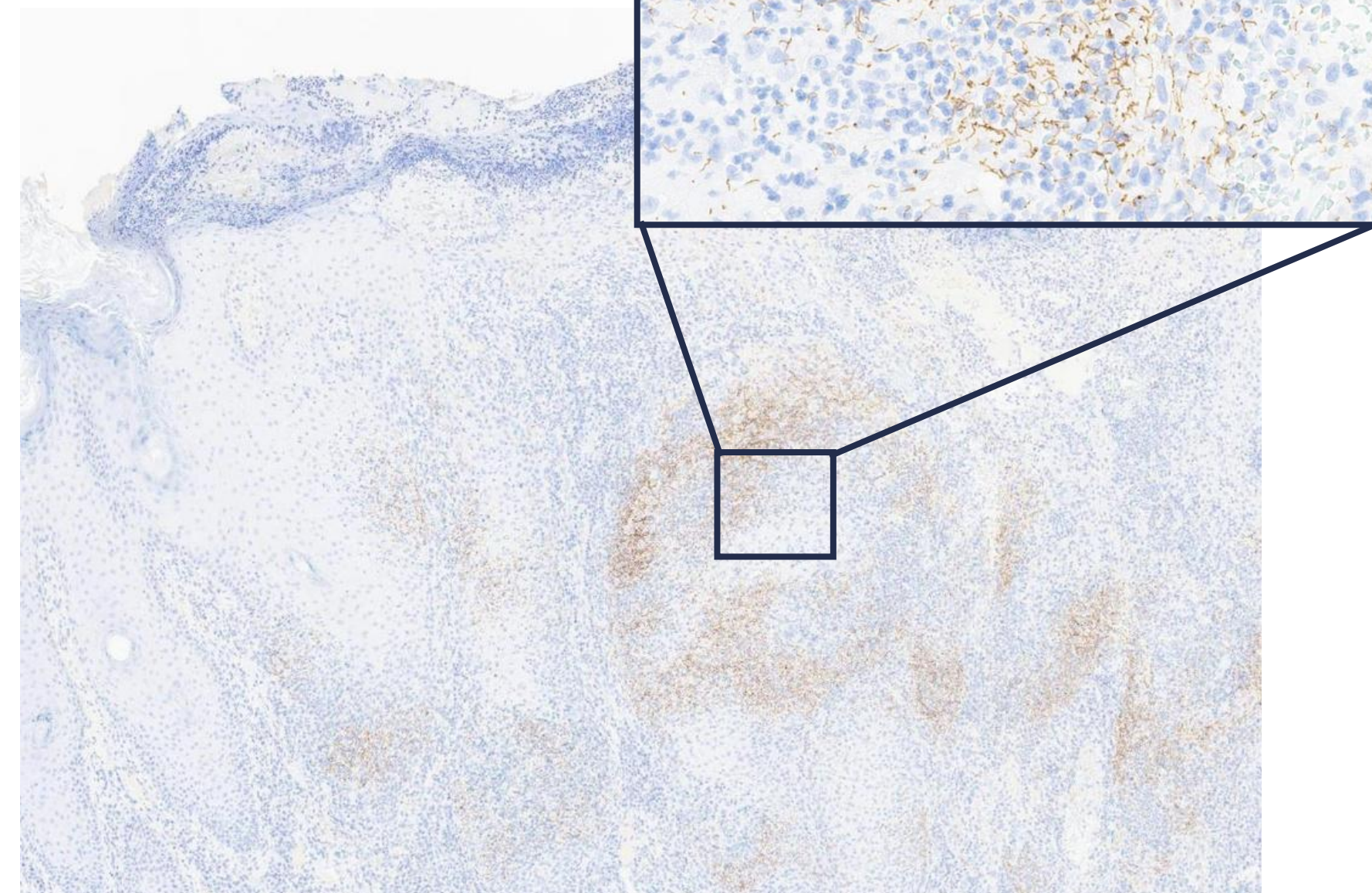
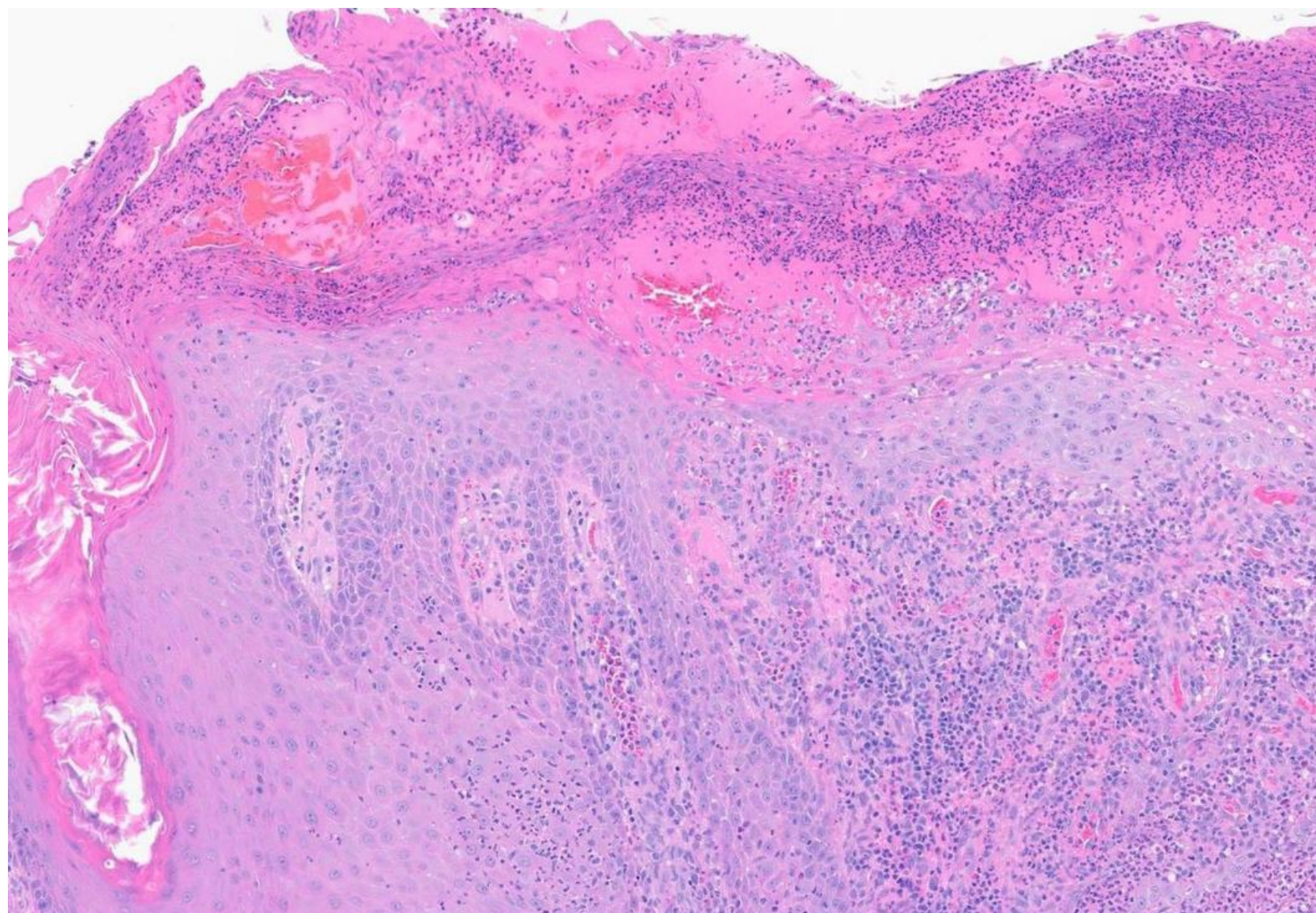


Oncologic history
+
B symptoms
+
Lymphadenopathy

**Recurrent
ALCL?**



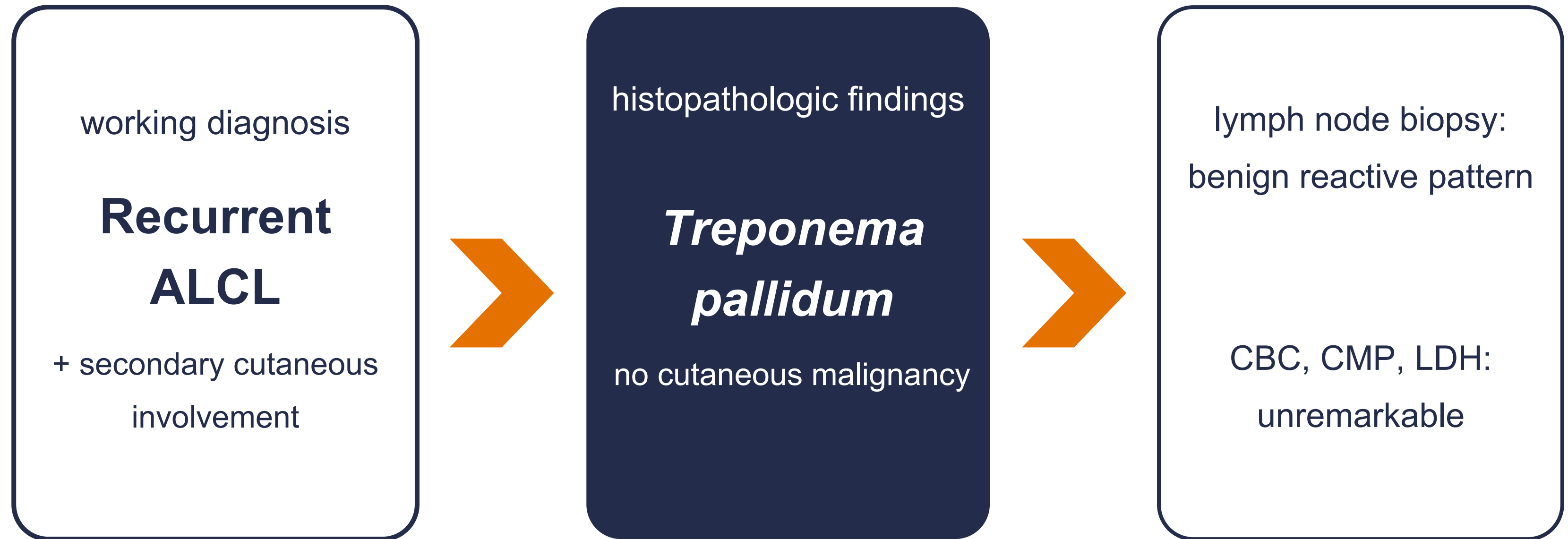
BIOPSY CHANGED THE DIAGNOSIS



“No evidence of cutaneous malignancy”



A DIAGNOSTIC RESET: CLINICOPATHOLOGIC CORRELATION



Clinical diagnosis favored gummatous / tertiary syphilis

WHY THIS CASE IS DIAGNOSTICALLY CHALLENGING

01

mimics malignancy

**B symptoms
FDG-avid nodes
ulceronodular skin**

02

ICH $\neq$ stage

**organisms on
histology confirm
tissue infection, not
disease stage**

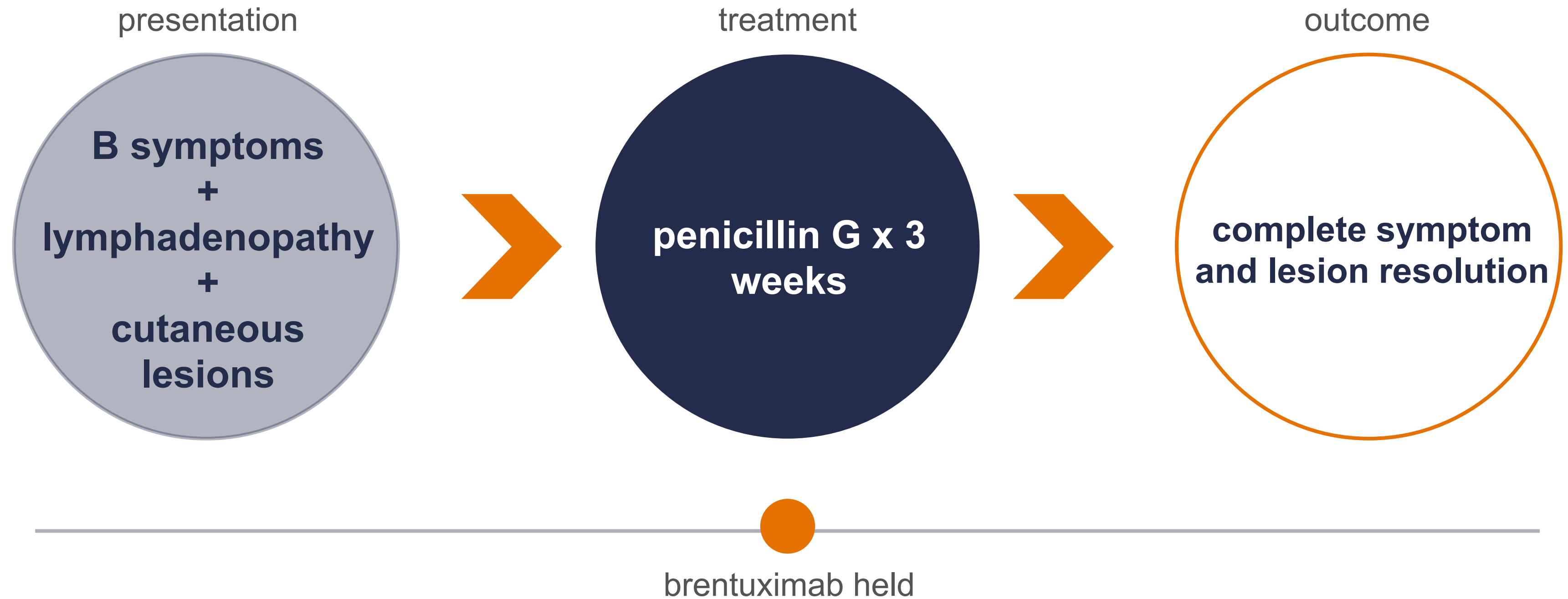
03

host matters

**atypical /
overlapping
phenotypes can blur
presentation and
classic stages**



MANAGEMENT & RESOLUTION



TAKE-HOME POINTS

01

challenge the anchor

prior malignancy makes recurrence more likely - not inevitable

02

let tissue *redirect* the differential

when pathology contradicts the expected diagnosis, reset the differential but do not replace clinical judgement

03

stage syphilis clinically

history & examination + histology + serology + systemic evaluation determines stage



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & REFERENCES

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Dermatopathology

Danielle Nelson, MD - dermatopathology consultation & histopathology images

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