A Traveler Returning from South Africa with Rash and Genital Ulceration
(See pages 908–9 for Answer to Photo Quiz)

A 35-year-old white man presented with a 5-day history of malaise, headache, fever, and regional lymphadenopathy with severe asthenia. Three weeks previously, he had traveled to South Africa for 1 week, where he was a participant in an adventure race in the rural Transvaal region.

On examination, we found a genital ulceration (figure 1) and painless inguinal adenopathy, and a maculopapular rash (figure 2). The WBC count was 5400 cells/mm³ with 3870 neutrophils. The C-reactive protein level was 38 mg/L (normal value, <3 mg/L). Results of liver function tests were slightly elevated, with an alanine aminotransferase level of 105 U/L (normal value, <65 U/L), an aspartate aminotransferase level of 65 U/L (normal value, <45 U/L), a lactate dehydrogenase level of 531 U/L (normal value, <390 U/L), an alkaline phosphatase level of 94 U/L (normal value, <109 U/L), and a γ-glutamyltranspeptidase level of 147 U/L (normal value, <70 U/L). Blood cultures were sterile. The results of serological tests for syphilis and HIV ELISA with p24 antigen assay were negative.

After initiation of appropriate therapy, the patient had resolution of fever within 2 days, and the maculopapular rash and genital ulceration disappeared 5 days later. One month later, the patient was free of any symptoms.

What is your diagnosis?