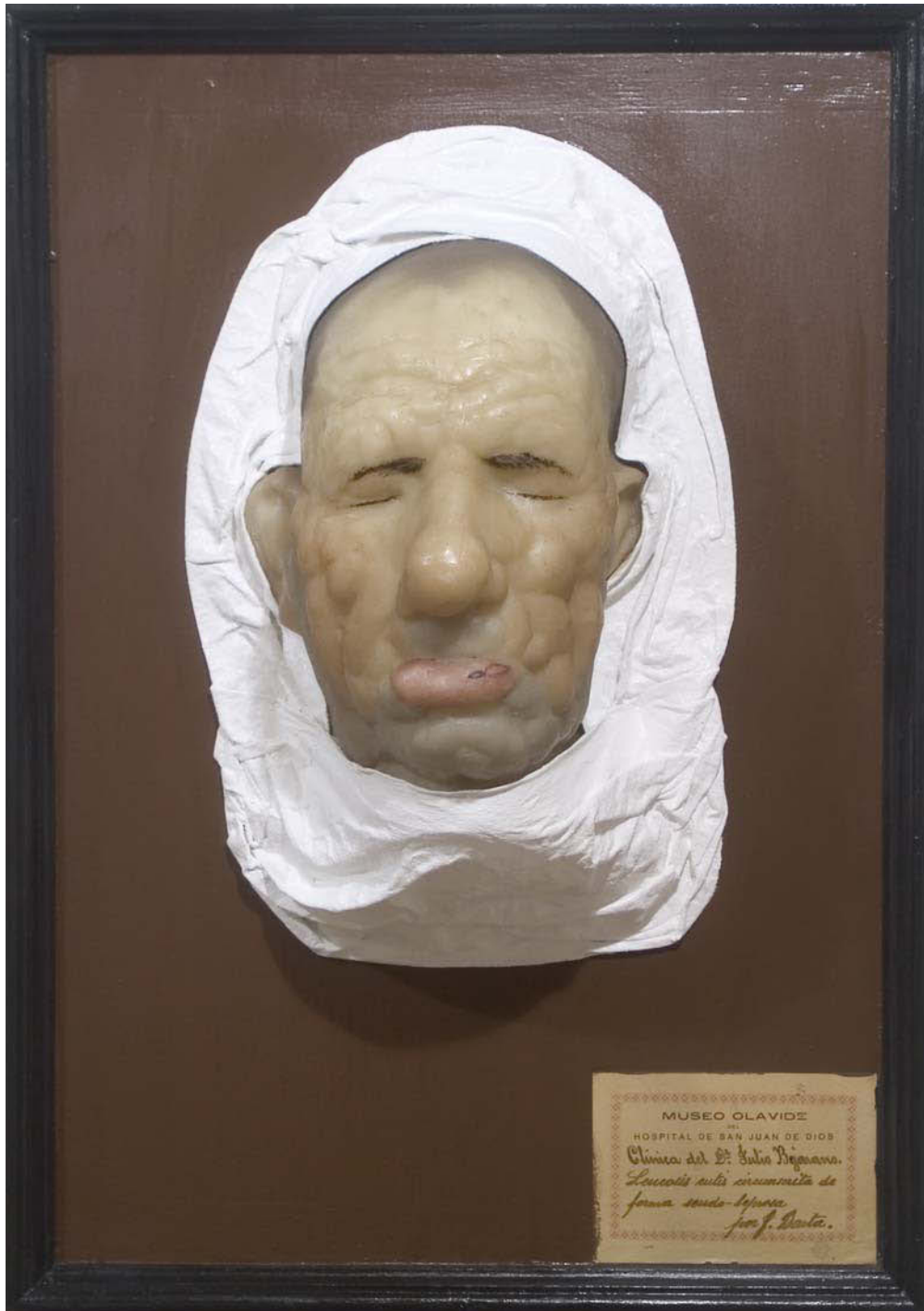


OLAVIDE MUSEUM

Circumscribed Leprosy-like Leukemia Cutis

Sculptor: J Barta. Clínica del Doctor Bejarano



Comment

Although the model lacks a clinical history, we do find information concerning this case in published sources. In their book *Elementos de Dermatología (Elements of Dermatology)*, Sánchez-Covisa and Bejarano discuss the case:

“Leonine facies is difficult to mistake for anything else, but here we should stress a possible source of confusion insufficiently remarked upon in many works on leprosy. The skin changes that sometimes accompany leukemia and lead to the appearance of circumscribed nodules (circumscribed leukemia cutis or pseudoleukemia cutis) may bear a striking clinical resemblance to cutaneous lepromas, producing facial alterations extraordinarily similar to the leonine facies seen in leprosy patients. The existence of confluent nodules separated by furrows of varying depth and located on the forehead, cheeks, and auricles gives the face a distinctly leprous appearance. The findings that pointed the way to the correct diagnosis

were the consistent failure to culture the bacillus from the lesions, changes in blood counts, and the particular nature of the infiltration of the lesions seen in biopsy. Enterría and Bejarano have published a report of a case of circumscribed leukemia cutis with a truly extraordinary resemblance to leprosy.”

(Sánchez-Covisa J, Bejarano J. *Elementos de Dermatología*. Madrid: Unión Poligráfica; 1936. p. 450-2.)

The case to which Sánchez-Covisa and Bejarano refer is the same one represented in the model. The book includes a photogravure in which the resemblance can clearly be seen. The case history reviewed in the above quotation shows that the authors considered the possibility of lepromatous leprosy, but ruled it out when they were repeatedly unable to culture the bacillus that causes it.

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