boards' fodder

Nail Disease

Amy Reinstadler, MD and Nazanin Saedi, MD. (Updated July 2015*)

Disorder	Location of Defect	Definition	Associated Conditions	Image
Beau's lines	Proximal matrix	Transverse indented furrow from growth arrest of nail matrix	Mechanical trauma, dermatologic disease of proximal nail fold, systemic disease/ stressful event	0
Blue Iunula	Distal matrix		Argyria, antimalarials, AZT, busulfan, Wilson's, hemochromatosis	
Brachyonchia	Nail plate	Short nails (width>length) Racquet thumbs	Congenital: Rubenstein-Taybi, trisomy 21 Acquired: nailing biting, hyperparathyroidism, psoriasis	
Clubbing	Proximal and distal matrix	Greater than 180-degree angle between proximal nail fold and nail plate	Bilateral: Pulmonary or CV (bronchiectasis, emphysema, pneumonia, pulmonary lym- phoma, CHF), IBD, liver cirrhosis. Unilateral: vascular abnormality (fistula, aneurysm), Pancoast tumor, erythromelalgia Hereditary: primary hypertrophic osteoar- thropathy	<u> </u>
Distal notching	Nail bed		Darier, lichen planus	
Dolichonychia	Nail plate	Long nails (Length/width >1)	Ehler's Danlos syndrome, Marfans, hypopituitary	
Habit tic deformity	Cuticle and nail plate	Horizontal parallel ridges; absent cuticle	Trauma to the cuticle	
Heller median canaliform dys- trophy	Nail plate	Longitudinal fissures with oblique lines, "Christmas tree pattern"	Idiopathic	R
Koilonychia "spoon nails"	Proximal and distal matrix	Thinned concave nails	LEOPARD, ectodermal dysplasia, nail- patella, trichothiodystrophy, Plummer- Vinson, Iron deficiency, hemochromatosis, physiologic in children	\bigcirc
Apparent Ieukonychia	Nail bed	White discoloration that fades with pressure	Nephrotic syndrome, Hypoalbuminemia, chemotherapy	G
True leukonychia	Distal matrix	Punctate: small opaque white spots Striate: multiple transverse white parallel lines Diffuse: completely or almost completely white	Trauma, hereditary, infection, anemia, low calcium, heart/renal disease, drugs	Pressure
Lindsay's nails (half and half)	Nail bed	Distal 1/2 of nail normal, proximal 1/2 of nail is white	Chronic renal failure	
Longitudinal melanonychia (melanonychia striata)	Proximal or distal matrix	Longitudinal pigmented bands extending from the proximal nail fold to the distal margin.	Nevus/melanoma of matrix, Laugier- Hunziker, Peutz-Jegher, AZT, AIDS, normal variant in dark skinned individuals, trauma	
Macronychia	Nail plate		Neurofibromatosis 1, Tuberous sclerosis, Proteus syndrome	
Mee's lines	Proximal matrix	Transverse white lines that affect all nails	Arsenic poisoning, rheumatic fever, congenital heart failure, leprosy	
Muehrcke's lines	Nail bed	Double white transverse lines from abnormal vascular bed (not grooved like Beau's lines); Disappear with squeezing of the nail	Nephritic syndrome, low albumin, liver disease, malnutrition	



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Disorder	Location of Defect	Definition	Associated Conditions	Image
Oil spots	Nail bed	Brownish macules beneath the nail plate	Psoriasis	drop 001
Onychogryphosis	Nail plate	Ram's nail; long, curving	Neglect, trauma	
Onycholysis	Nail bed	Distal separation; appears white because of the presence of air in the subungual space	Psoriasis, trauma, drugs, contact derma- titis	
Onychomadesis "nail shedding"	Proximal and distal matrix	Detachment of the nail plate from the proximal nail fold	PCN, TEN, SJS, syphilis, pemphigus, radiation; Medications: carbamazepine, lithium, doxycycline (photo-onychomade- sis)	0
Onychorrhexis	Proximal matrix	Longitudinal ridging and fissur- ing of the nail plate	Lichen planus, impaired vascular supply, trauma	0
Onychoschizia	Nail plate	Distal horizontal splitting	Dehydration of the nail plate as a result of environmental factors such as frequent handwashing	
Pachyonychia	Nail bed	Thickened nails with an increased transverse curvature due to severe nail bed hyper- keratosis	Pachyonychia congenital	
Pitting	Proximal nail matrix	Punctate depressions of the nail plate surface	Psoriasis, alopecia areata, eczema, paro- nychia	lio qub
Pincer nails	Nail plate	Transverse excessive curvature from widened base of terminal phalanx	Hereditary, trauma from shoes, osteoarthri- tis, psoriasis, Pachyonychia congenita	
Dorsal pterygium	Proximal nail fold	Scarring of the proximal nail fold	Lichen planus, acrosclerosis, Lesch-Nyhan syndrome, chronic GVHD, SJS/TEN, cicat- rical pemphigoid	
Ventral pterygium	Distal nail plate	Adherence of the ventral sur- face of the distal nail plate to the hypochium	Systemic sclerosis, congenital	Y
Red lunula	Distal matrix		Alopecia areata, psoriasis, carbon monox- ide poisoning, cardiac failure, SLE, rheu- matoid arthritis, COPD, cirrhosis	
Red spotted lunula	Distal matrix		Alopecia areata, psoriasis, lichen planus, rheumatoid arthritis, SLE	
Splinter hemor- rhage	Nail bed	Dark red thin longitudinal lines	Endocarditis, vasculitis, trauma, psoriasis, trichinosis	
Terry's nails	Nail bed	Nails are evenly white except for the distal 2 mm	Cirrhosis, congenital heart failure, diabetes	D
Trachyonychia (20 nail dystrophy, "sandpaper nails")	Proximal matrix	Excessive longitudinal ridging producing nail roughness	Alopecia areata, lichen planus, psoriasis	
Triangular lunulae	Distal matrix		Nail-patella syndrome	
Yellow nail syn- drome		Slow growth, absent cuticle/ lunulae, transverse ridging	Pulmonary disorders; Medications: D-penicillamine, bucillamine	

References:

1. Bolognia J, Jorizzo j, Rapini R. Dermatology, 2nd Edition. Mosby Publishing, 2007.

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*Reviewed and updated July 2015 by: Alina Goldenberg, MD, Emily deGolian, MD, and Sharon Jacob, MD

