

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DYSTROPHIA MEDIANA CANALIFORMIS AFFECTING ALL TEN FINGER NAILS

To the Editor,

A 35-years-old man was admitted in Military Hospital, Meerut in February 1989 with complaints of itching, scaling and erythema over scalp, face and groin for the last two years, which had aggravated for last 15 days. Patient was also having nail involvement affecting all the ten finger nails in the form of elevated longitudinal ridge in the centre of the nail plate with splitting distally at its free margins thus forming a groove (Fig. 1). The degree of grooving varied from nail to nail. Diagnosed as a case of seborrhoeic dermatitis with dystrophia mediana canaliformis, the patient was treated for seborrhoeic dermatitis.



Fig 1. Proximal ridge and distal grooving affecting finger nails in dystrophia mediana canaliformis.

Dystrophia mediana canaliformis also described as median nail dystrophy,¹ dystrophia unguis mediana canaliformis¹ and solenonychia² is characterised by longitudinal splitting or canal formation in the midline of the nail. In the case seen by us there was an

elevated longitudinal ridge proximally with splitting and groove formation at the distal free edge. We have not come across any disease of the nail with similar presentation.^{1,2} Trauma has been described as the chief cause of this condition.¹ In our case there was no such history except for the trauma of scratching in an itchy dermatosis. Further this condition usually involves the thumb nails.³ In this case all the ten finger nails were involved.

MPS Sawhney
Jalandhar

References

1. Diseases of the Skin Appendages : Median Nail Dystrophy. In : Andrews Diseases of the Skin, Clinical Dermatology (Arnold H L Jr, Odom R B, James W D, eds), 8th edn, Philadelphia : W B Saunders Company, 1990; 918-9.
2. Sutton R L Jr. Solenonychia (canaliform dystrophy of the nail). South Med J 1964; 58 : 1143.
3. Daniel R. Appendix 1 : Glossary. In : Nails : Therapy Diagnosis, Surgery (Scher R K, Daniel C R, eds), Philadelphia : W B Saunders Company, 1990; 295.

PEMPHIGUS VULGARIS AND PREGNANCY

To the Editor,

Pemphigus vulgaris (PV) with pregnancy is extremely rare condition for west but it is seen occasionally in our patients as Indians suffer from PV at younger age. Infants of mother with PV are likely to have been exposed in utero to maternal IgG pemphigus antibodies by transplacental transfer.¹

A case of neonatal pemphigus vulgaris was reported where diagnosis was confirmed by immunofluorescent studies and skin lesions healed within 2 weeks as the level of maternal