

PINCER NAIL DEFORMITY

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Pincer nail deformity affecting the toe nails in a boy was seen with similar involvement of nails traceable in two previous generations. The probable aetiology is discussed.

Key Word : Pincer nail deformity

Introduction

Pincer nail deformity is a type of onychodystrophy characterised by transverse overcurvature that increases along the longitudinal axis of the nail and reaches its greatest proportion at the distal part.¹ It may affect finger or toe nails and several nails may be involved.² It is attributable to either developmental or acquired causes.

Case Report

An 8-year-old boy born out of a non-consanguineous marriage presented with history of excessive and increasing curvature of all 10 toe nails since birth. He was otherwise asymptomatic. His mother and maternal grandfather had similar overcurvature of all toe nails.

Examination revealed increased transverse curvature in the long axis of all toe nails without penetration of epidermis (Fig. 1). Finger nails, hair, mucosa and patella were normal. There were no palmoplantar keratoderma or epidermal cysts. General and systemic examinations were normal.

Discussion

The various causes put forward for



Fig. 1. Close up view showing increased transverse curvature of nails without penetration of epidermis

overcurvature of nails leading to pincer nail deformity are psoriasis, ill-fitting shoes or developmental.³ Also most of the cases reported involvement of great toe only.

This case appears to be hereditary in nature with autosomal dominant pattern manifesting in 3 generations. This is correlated well by involvement of all toe nails as opposed to single nail involvement probably due to other causes.

References

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