Paronychia and onychomadesis due to pemphigus vulgaris

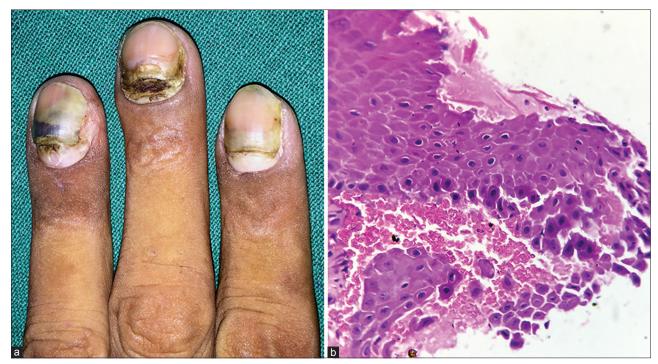


Figure 1: (a) Onychomadesis affecting multiple fingernails. (b) Nail bed showing acantholysis (H and E, ×400)

A 35-year-old man with pemphigus vulgaris developed erythema, edema and pustules on the proximal and lateral nail folds of several fingernails and toenails. Onychomadesis affecting multiple digits was noted [Figure 1a]. Gram-stain and potassium hydroxide preparations of nail drainage were negative. A biopsy specimen of the nail bed of the right great toe revealed acantholysis [Figure 1b]. Biopsy from proximal nail fold revealed suprabasal split. Thus, a diagnosis of paronychia and onychomadesis due to pemphigus vulgaris was made. Nail unit involvement in pemphigus vulgaris is rather common and is associated with both increased duration and severity of disease.

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