



DERMOSCOPY AND SKIN IMAGING

## DERMOSCOPY A USEFUL AID IN THE DIAGNOSIS OF SUBUNGUAL GLOMUS TUMOR.

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**Background:** Glomus tumor is a rare benign neoplasm that arises from the neuroarterial structure known as glomus body. It represents approximately 1 to 5% of the soft tissue tumors of the hand. As glomus tumors rarely cause changes in color or deformity in the nail plate, diagnosing glomus tumors with naked eye is difficult many times. Hence these patients suffer a lot without a conclusive diagnosis and treatment. Dermoscopy has been found to be a useful tool which helps us to localise the tumor and also facilitates the delimitation of the surgical margins before surgery.

**Observation:** We present a case of a 24 year old female who had been visiting surgery and dermatology departments of different hospitals with pain over the nail of right ring finger for 2 years. With the diagnosis of paronychia she was given oral antibiotics many times and even incision of the lateral nail fold was done twice. On naked eye examination hardly anything could be visualised but she complained of excruciating pain disproportionate to the sign. So a dermoscopic examination was done which showed oval red to blue homogenous tumor. Excision of the tumor was done after nail avulsion and histopathological examination of the growth confirmed the diagnosis of glomus tumor. This case is being reported to highlight the importance of dermoscopy in diagnosing diseases like glomus tumors where diagnosis with naked eye is difficult.

**Key message:** Dermoscopy is a useful aid in diagnosing glomus tumors of nails when it is difficult to visualize with the naked eye.

