



DERMOSCOPY AND SKIN IMAGING

IMPORTANCE OF NAIL PLATE DERMOSCOPY IN THE DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS OF TUMORS OF THE HYPONYCHIUM

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Background: Dermoscopy is a noninvasive diagnostic technique increasingly used for the early diagnosis of nail diseases, including tumors and inflammatory conditions. Tumors of the hyponychium region may eventually lead to longitudinal melanonychia. The color of the band indicates whether it is caused by activation (gray bands) or proliferation (brown-black bands). The prominent dermatoscopic features of melanoma are coloration with longitudinal lines from brown to black, irregular spacing and thickness and showing a loss of parallelism. The melanonychia with gray color is suggestive of melanocytic activation. Previous studies have suggested that dermatoscopic features are useful in differentiating between melanoma and other disorders. Our image compares two dermatoscopic observation of different pathologies, which suggests a correlation in each of the observations. This may aid in the differential diagnosis of a disease as severe as nodular melanoma and subungual exostosis.

Observation: Two female patients 40-year-old presented with a four-year history of a tumor in the hyponychium of their right hallux. Despite the fact that dermoscopy of the tumor was non-specific, nail plate dermoscopy allows the differential diagnosis. Case 1 showed a regular gray pigmentation compatible with melanocytic activation, probably triggered by the lifting of the nail plate secondary to subungual exostosis. Nail plate dermoscopy of the second case revealed irregular brown pigmentation, compatible with subungual melanoma.

Key message: These reports demonstrate the importance of nail plate dermoscopy in the diagnosis of tumors of the hyponychium which affect the subungual region.

