



NAIL DISORDERS

BOWEN'S DISEASE OF THE NAIL PRESENTING AS LONGITUDINAL MELANONYCHIA: A CASE REPORT

Tatiane Benini⁽¹⁾ - Elizabeth Leocadia⁽¹⁾ - Maria Luiza Mussi⁽¹⁾ - Luciana Couto⁽¹⁾ - Isadora Lopes⁽¹⁾ - Denise Steiner⁽¹⁾

Universidade De Mogi Das Cruzes, Dermatology, Mogi Das Cruzes, Brazil⁽¹⁾

Background: Bowen disease is a squamous cell carcinoma in situ and a common condition of the skin. It can occur at any location on the body and usually presents as a scaly erythematous plaque. Bowen disease can be induced by sun exposures, trauma, radiation, chronic arsenic exposure, immunosuppression and infection of human papillomavirus. Rare cases of presentation as lesions on the nail unit with longitudinal melanonychia have also been described. We report a case of Bowen disease presenting as longitudinal melanonychia of the lateral side of the fingernail.

Observation: Female, fifth decade, presented nail lesion for six months. Dermatological exam presented dark brown melanonychia with subungual hyperkeratosis of the same shade in the third right fingernail. Dermatoscopic exam presented a dark brown longitudinal line that extends to the periungual region, with the presence of structureless area and with dark brown and black clods in the subungual region at the distal edge of the 3rd right fingernail. A excisional biopsy of the nail bed and the proximal and lateral nail fold was performed. Histopathological exam revealed acanthosis, hyperkeratosis and full thickness atypia of epidermal keratinocytes, and melanin in the lower epidermis. A diagnosis of Bowen disease was made.

Key message: Bowen's disease (BD) is an in situ squamous cell carcinoma of the skin and mucous membranes that typically presents as a red plaque with scales. Pigmented Bowen's disease (PBD) is an unusual form which generally presents as a hyperpigmented, well-demarcated plaque with a scaly or hyperkeratotic surface. Few cases of PBD located on the finger, like longitudinal melanonychia have been described in the literature. Dermoscopy is a useful tool for diagnostic of BD. In PBD, brown dots and clods and/or homogeneous pigmentation can be seen. Despite its rarity, PBD should be included among those lesions that may simulate cutaneous melanoma.

