



Nail Image Quiz

Absent nails

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CASE DETAILS

A 42-year-old male presented with a congenital absence of the nail on the right middle finger and short, thickened nails on the left middle and ring fingers [Figure 1]. There was no history of previous trauma or greenish discoloration of nails. There was no family history of any nail deformity. On examination, there was onychia over the right middle finger along with micronychia over the left middle and ring fingernails. There

was no deformity of any of the toenails. The rest of the cutaneous and systemic examination was within normal limits. Onychoscopy did not show any specific structural changes. Radiography of the hands revealed an absent terminal phalanx of the right middle finger and hypoplastic terminal phalangeal bones of the left middle and ring fingers.

QUESTION

What is your diagnosis?



Figure 1: A 42-year-old male patient with absent nail over the right middle finger along with small nails over the left middle and ring fingernails.

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DIAGNOSIS

Isolated congenital aplasia and hypoplasia of fingernails.

DISCUSSION

Congenital onychodysplasia is a rare malformation that may be associated with complex underlying syndromes such as nail-patella syndrome, ectodermal dysplasia, and brachydactyly.^[1] In congenital onychodystrophy of the index fingers or Iso-Kikuchi syndrome, nail dysplasia of only the index fingers is associated with underlying bone abnormalities. However, congenital dysplasia of other fingernails without any structural bony abnormalities is a rare finding.

The findings in this patient did not fit into any of the known entities. Thus, this rare case of isolated congenital aplasia and hypoplasia with corresponding phalangeal bones' hypoplasia supports the theory of bone-dependant nail formation.^[2]

Authors' contributions

Concept, design, the definition of intellectual content: Dr. Anil Patki. Literature search, clinical studies, experimental studies, data acquisition, data analysis, statistical analysis: Dr. Monal Sadhwani. Manuscript preparation, manuscript editing, and manuscript review: Dr. Tejaswini Salunke.

Ethical approval

The Institutional Review Board approval is not required.

Declaration of patient consent

The authors certify that they have obtained all appropriate patient consent.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

Use of artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted technology for manuscript preparation

The authors confirm that there was no use of artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted technology for assisting in the writing or editing of the manuscript and no images were manipulated using AI.

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