
The Best of the Best

Top Accessed Article: Dermoscopic Examination of Nail Pigmentation


Accurate diagnosis of nail pigmentation can be a challenge. In the above article, Ronger and colleagues describe the dermoscopic features that are associated with melanoma, melanocytic nevus, ungula lentigo, drug-induced pigmentation, and subungual hemorrhage. For nail apparatus melanoma, the most useful diagnostic criterion is the presence of irregularly colored line areas, with nonuniformed spacing between the lines and disruption of parallelism. In contrast, melanocytic nevus has lines that are regular in thickness, spacing, color, and parallelism. The main features of drug-induced pigmentation are a grayish coloration of the background and the presence of thin gray lines with regular thickness. Subungual hemorrhage can be recognized by the presence of blue to black structureless blood spots with rounded edges. These blood spots are commonly found in the periphery of the pigmentation. Armed with these specific dermoscopic patterns and clues, clinicians can increase the diagnostic accuracy of nail pigmentation associated with benign and malignant lesions. Finally, it is important to emphasize that dermoscopic examination does not replace histologic diagnosis. Biopsy should be performed in cases involving suspicious lesions.

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