Diving under Nail Plate

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Question

A 43-year-old Bolivian woman presented with nail dystrophy involving the right fifth toe of 4 years' duration. It had become painful only a few weeks earlier. She was otherwise healthy and denied other significant medical history. Physical examination revealed xanthonychia, diffuse longitudinal thickening with transverse overcurvature, and mild periungual erythema. The nail plate was removed and a filamentous tumour arose from the matrix (Fig. 1). It was histologically analyzed (Fig. 2).

What is your diagnosis?

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Fig. 1. Clinical appearance. Filamentous tumour arose from the matrix. Longitudinal cavities were dug within the nail plate.

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Fig. 2. Matrical tumor with a superficial cellular layer with fibrillary collagen and a deep, less cellular layer filled with dense collagen bundles.

Answer

Onychomatricoma.

Description

Onychomatricoma is considered a rare benign tumour of the nail matrix with no more than 80 cases reported in the literature. The overwhelming majority of cases are reported in fingernails of white adults [1]. The diagnosis is made because of typical clinical features, and nail avulsion provides the exposure of the villous tumour. Dermoscopy helps in showing the woodworm perforations at the distal edge of the nail [2], and ultrasonic examination seems promising [3].

Surgical removal of the tumour is the only treatment option. The tumour should only be shaved from the underlying matrix. Finally, diagnosis confirmation came out with histological analysis [4]. The prognosis is excellent.

References

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Statement of Ethics

The patient's consent for publication of this article was obtained.

Disclosure Statement

The authors have no conflicts of interest to disclose. There was no funding source for this work.

Keywords

Onychomatricoma · Nail plate · Matrix