Response to the Letter by Professor Grosshans

Sir,

Professor Grosshans's letter raises interesting points about the nature of congenital leukonychia totalis as presented in our case (1). We gave the patients a thorough examination: there was no sign or symptom of any associated ectodermal dysplasias in either brother. Some authors have found evidence of leukonychia totalis – associated disorders inconstantly affecting hair shafts, hair sheats, eye lashes, and stratum corneum of palms and soles (2 – 4). The hypothesis of congenital familial leukonychia totalis as one main symptom of a more complex ectodermal dysplasia in keratinizing structures is a promising idea which must be further substantiated by analysing the genetic background too.

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Lars Detlev Köhler, MD, Matthias Möhrenschlager, MD, and Johannes Ring, MD.
Department of Dermatology and Allergy Biederstein, Technical University of Munich, Biedersteiner Str. 29, D-80802 Munich, Germany.

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