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Jeffrey M. Weinberg¹, Evelyn K. Koestenblatt¹, Philip C. Don¹, Soren M. White¹, Mark N. Stein¹ and Mahrukh Bamji²
Departments of ¹Dermatology and ²Pediatrics, New York Medical College-Metropolitan Hospital Center, New York, NY 10029, U.S.A.

Ring-induced Nail Pitting?

Sir,

Nail pitting is a common feature of abnormal texture in nail plates. Here we describe a 24-year-old male Caucasian patient who noticed abnormalities on the surface of the nail plate of his right fourth finger after wearing a new silver ring. Dermatological examination disclosed small, shallow pits in a mainly linear, single row arrangement extending from the lunular to the free margin of the nail plate (Fig. 1). Apart from the cosmetic aspect, the pits caused no apparent inconvenience.

Similar lesions had occurred earlier on his left fourth finger after wearing a new gold ring, which disappeared after removal of the ring. The medical history of the patient and extended family was completely unremarkable.

Volker Grimm, Matthias Möhrenschrager, Harald Bruckbauer, Lars D. Köhler and Johannes Ring

Department of Dermatology and Allergy Biederstein, Technical University of Munich, Biedersteiner Str. 29, D-80802 Munich, Germany.



Fig. 1. Small, shallow pits presenting in a mostly linear, single row arrangement extending from the lunular to the free margin of the nail plate of the right fourth finger while wearing a ring.