

On Longitudinal Melanonychia after Healing of Lichen Planus

Sir,

In a short paper published in *Acta Dermato-Venereologica* (1989; 69: 338) we reported on a patient with lichen planus of the fingernails. After a period of normal fingernail appearance she displayed longitudinal bands of melanonychia, mainly involving the thumbs. At that time we speculated that the red lunulae which accompanied the longitudinal melanonychia represented a low-grade or a specific type of inflammation which stimulated pigmentation.

About 18 months after our case report was sent for publication we saw the patient again, and she then had normally coloured lunulae and no longitudinal

melanonychia. The onycholysis that we had noted on the thumb nail was still present, with a greenish tinge due to *Pseudomonas*. This case strengthens the view that longitudinal melanonychia may be equivalent of the transitory pigmentation observed when skin lesions of lichen planus are healing.

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