In contrast to the usual histopathological features of CMNs, in which the dermal component predominates, subungual and periungual CMNs are characterized mainly by junctional melanocytic proliferations. In our case there were also isolated intraepidermal melanocytes.

The differential diagnosis must include disorders of various origins, including melanocytic lesions (ungual lentigo, nevus of the nail matrix, subungual blue nevus, ungual melanoma), racial pigmentation, drug-induced pigmentation, endocrine disorders, trauma, and hemorrhage. Histology of the nail plate is a simple and nontraumatic way to differentiate between melanic and hematic origins of the pigment deposits in the nail. In subungual CMNs, the early presence of proximal periungual pigment may be erroneously interpreted as a positive Hutchinson or pseudo-Hutchinson sign, observed respectively in acral melanomas and nail matrix nevus. However, the absence of mottled striate melanonychia and the presence of pigmented globules are features more commonly associated with a diagnosis of CMN.

It is often impossible to exclude melanoma histologically in acral and subungual melanocytic lesions, particularly in children, due either to the use of partial biopsies or the unusual characteristics of acral melanocytic nevi in children, which can present isolated nuclear atypia and even a pagetoid distribution of some of the melanocytes. In cases of melanonychia in which malignancy is suspected (a broad band of pigment, Hutchinson sign, irregular dermoscopic features, a dark-skinned patient), the lesion must therefore be completely excised.

The management of pigmented nail lesions will therefore depend on whether the rare but very serious childhood acral lentiginous melanoma is suspected. Dermoscopic and clinical follow-up should be reserved for lesions with low-risk features (narrow bands, uniform dermoscopic characteristics, no changes over time). In such cases, meticulous periodic follow-up (by dermoscopy and a photographic record) would appear to be the most suitable option, as it would avoid the potential cosmetic and functional sequelae of excision or biopsy.

In conclusion, we have presented the third case of subungual and periungual CMN to be reported in the literature. Knowledge of this entity can help to prevent aggressive treatments (wide excision, amputation) due to the overdiagnosis of childhood acral lentiginous melanoma.

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References


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Varicella Complicated by Rhabdomyolysis

Varicela complicada con rabdomiólisis

To the Editor:

Primary varicella-zoster virus (VZV) infection usually occurs in childhood and in the majority of cases runs a self-limiting course. In infants, adults, and immunocompromised individuals, however, the infection can be serious if certain complications develop.

We report the case of an immunocompetent adult patient with VZV infection complicated by rhabdomyolysis.

The patient was a 29-year-old man, with no relevant past medical history, who presented at the emergency department with pruritic skin lesions. He said that the lesions, which were not initially filled with fluid, had erupted in successive crops over the previous 24 hours, causing intense itching. He also reported fever of 39°C, a lack of strength and energy, and loss of appetite. He had experienced general malaise for a week and had also had low-grade fever and muscle pain. Physical examination revealed a rash, mainly

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CASE AND RESEARCH LETTERS

449

Influenza

In the absence of suggestive signs or symptoms such as abnormal urine color, weakness, or intense muscle pain, as was the case with our patient.

In conclusion, rhabdomyolysis should be considered as a possible complication in patients with primary VZV infection as this will help to ensure prompt initiation of appropriate treatment to prevent potentially serious complications.

References


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