

IMAGES IN DERMATOLOGY

Onicosquicia

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A 50-year-old female patient with no family or personal history of importance consulted for a localized onychopathy of the nails of the ring, middle and right index finger, consisting of a separation of the distal layers of the nails.

Onychoschizia is the detachment in layers or lamination of the free edge of the nails also called onychoschizia or lamellar dystrophy. It occurs in 27–35% of the normal population and is a common onychopathy especially in adult women and can also be seen in children. It can be associated with constant humidity, there are 2 types of onychoschizia, proximal and distal; proximal onychoschizia can be caused by psoriasis, lichen planus and oral retinoids. Distal onychoschizia can be caused by chemicals, in the elderly, constant humidity causing hydration and dehydration, X-linked chondrodysplasia punctata and polycythemia vera. It may be related to factors that damage the intercellular adhesion of the corneocytes of the nail plate, expressed by damage to the adhesive factors of the nail.

Electron microscopy has shown that onychoschizia occurs between cell layers that may be the result of repeated trauma with decreased adhesion between cell layers secondary to dissolution of the intercellular cement by excessive washing, use of detergents, solvents, soaps and nail polish. The diagnosis of this onychopathy is clinical, important for treatment is the protection, hydration of the hands and the elimination of triggering factors.

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