

IMAGES IN DERMATOLOGY

Nails half and half

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40-year-old male patient with 2-year-old chronic renal failure who is evaluated for presenting fingernail alteration.

On physical examination, onychopathy was found in all 10 fingernails, especially in the right hand, with two-colored nails, white in the proximal part and reddish in the distal part.

Half nails, also known as Lindsay's nails or brown arches, are an occasional but very specific finding of chronic kidney failure. They can be seen in 40% of patients with chronic kidney failure during the course of their disease.

They can be defined as a dark distal band extending over 20 to 60% of the nail, while the rest of the nail is white. Half nails are most commonly found in the hands, although they can also be seen in the toenails. The condition can affect one, several, or all of the fingernails and toenails.

There is no relationship between the width of the band and the degree of renal failure, proteinuria, or serum creatinine, urea nitrogen, total proteins, or albumin concentration. It has been reported that these bands disappear after several months, but they do not have any change with hemodialytic treatment. They have also been described in Kawasaki, cirrhosis and zinc deficiency.

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