

## Dermscopy of Subungual Wart

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**Key words:** dermscopy, wart, nail, onychoscopy

**Citation:** Subhadarshani S, Sarangi J, Verma KK. Dermscopy of subungual wart. *Dermatol Pract Concept*. 2019;9(1):22-23. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5826/dpc.0901a06>

**Published:** January 31, 2019

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**Funding:** None.

**Competing interests:** The authors have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

**Authorship:** All authors have contributed significantly to this publication.

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### Case Presentation

A 26-year-old man presented with a 6-month history of distortion of the right thumbnail and crusting under the nail. On examination, there was yellowish discoloration of the nail along with subungual hyperkeratosis with hemorrhagic spots visible through the nail plate (Figure 1). Dermscopy (Heine Delta 20T, polarized, 16×) of the nail plate showed yellowish white irregular discoloration of the nail bed along with broad, dark red clods suggestive of hemorrhage (Figure 2A), while that of the hyponychium showed yellowish brown keratotic areas with horizontal and vertical fractures, multiple dark red and black dots, some of which had white halo (Figure 2B). Histopathology showed hyperkeratosis, parakeratosis, papillomatosis, acanthosis, hemorrhage in the stratum corneum, and prominent keratohyalin granules compatible with a diagnosis of subungual wart.

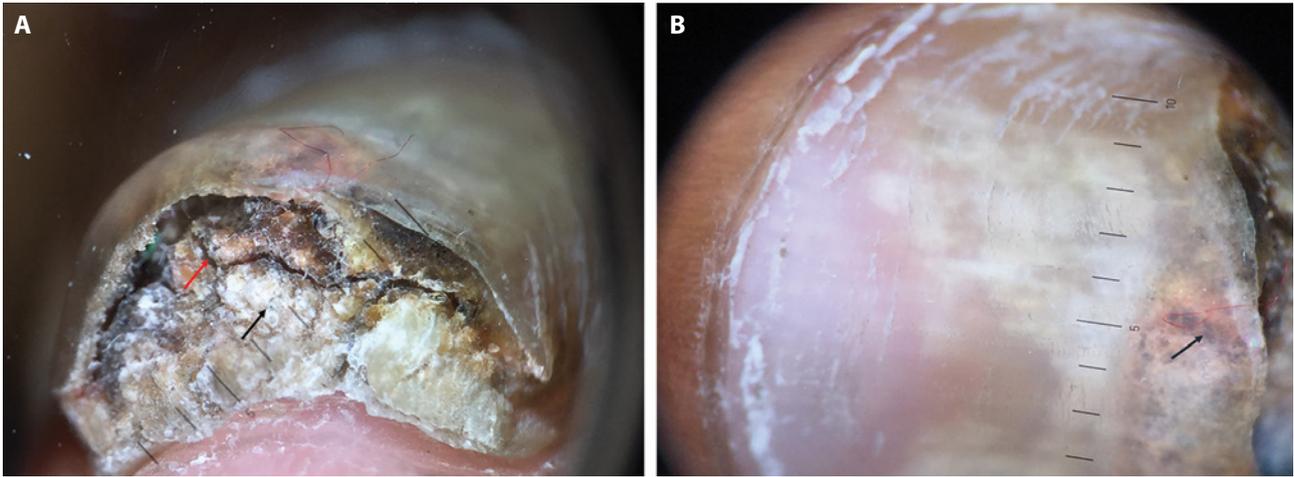
### Conclusions

Onychoscopy is a recent real-time diagnostic aid in the diagnosis of benign and malignant nail disorders and shows characteristic features of a specific dermatosis. Subungual



**Figure 1.** Yellowish discoloration of nail; subungual hyperkeratosis and hemorrhagic spots visible through nail plate. [Copyright: ©2019 Subhadarshani et al.]

wart can be seen on dermscopy as thick adherent white-yellow scales, fissures, and dotted dilated vessels (with intermingled hemorrhagic dots) which may be surrounded by a white halo [1,2]. It can be readily differentiated from other subungual pathologies on dermscopy such as subungual exostosis or infective conditions such as onycho-



**Figure 2.** (A) Dermoscopy (Heine Delta 20T, polarized, 16×) of nail plate shows yellowish white irregular discoloration of nail bed along with broad, dark red clods (black arrow) suggestive of hemorrhage. (B) Dermoscopy (Heine Delta 20T, polarized, 16×) of hyponychium shows yellowish brown keratotic areas with horizontal and vertical fractures (red arrow), multiple dark red and black dots (black arrow), some of which have white halo. [Copyright: ©2019 Subhadarshani et al.]

mycosis, which can result in subungual hyperkeratosis. Subungual exostosis shows hyperkeratosis, vascular ectasia, and ulceration, while onychomycosis shows a jagged edge of the proximal margin of the onycholytic area with sharp structures (spikes) directed to the proximal fold and aurora borealis pattern.

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