CASE REPORT

Dermatoscope of primary localized cutaneous nodular amyloidosis on hallux nail bed

Yong Jian Cheng, MBBS,a Yihan Li, MD,b Kok Hing Lim, MD,b and Choon Chiat Oh, MBBS, MSc, MCI, MRCPa

Key words: amyloidosis; dermoscopy; hallux nail bed; nodular amyloidosis; primary cutaneous; primary localised cutaneous nodular amyloidosis.

INTRODUCTION

Primary localized cutaneous nodular amyloidosis (PLCNA) is the rarest form of cutaneous amyloidosis with a predilection for acral sites.1 To our knowledge, PLCNA of the nail bed has not been reported. Here, we present a case of PLCNA arising from the left hallux nail bed and describe the dermoscopic features seen.

CASE REPORT

An 89-year-old male with a history of diabetes mellitus presented to us with 1 week of left hallux toenail swelling. He had initially presented to the podiatrist for a right foot injury and was incidentally noted to have a left hallux nail bed nodule. The patient was referred for further assessment of this nodule. Examination showed a 0.7 cm × 0.8 cm pink, irregular tender nodule over the distal left hallux nail bed with onycholysis and destruction of the overlying nail plate (Fig 1). Dermatoscope under polarized light (HEINE DELTAlone) showed shiny white lines on a pink-orange background (Fig 2).

An excision biopsy was performed, and histopathology showed a nodular area of eosinophilic, amorphous extracellular deposits in the dermis, subcutaneous tissue, and blood vessel walls. Some lymphohistiocytic infiltration in the dermis was present (Fig 3). Congo red staining highlighted the extracellular deposits in salmon red color. Under polarization, these deposits demonstrated a bright apple-green birefringence appearance (Fig 4).

The patient did not demonstrate any other features of systemic amyloidosis. His serum creatinine, serum and urine protein electrophoresis, and immunofixation results were normal. The diagnosis of PLCNA was established based on clinical and histological features and the absence of systemic manifestations of amyloidosis.

CASE DISCUSSION

We describe a case of PLCNA arising from the nail bed. This rare condition has a predilection for the face and acral sites. Among the published cases, there have been multiple case reports of lesions on the lower limbs as well as the fourth toe web space,2 but nail bed involvement has not been reported. A list of conditions that can present as a nail bed nodule (and their associated dermoscopic features) is summarized in Table I.

There is limited literature regarding the dermoscopic findings of PLCNA. Chuang et al3 reported that dermatoscope could be a useful tool to aid in the diagnosis of primary cutaneous amyloidosis and presented the dermoscopic findings of 35 patients with PCA. However, none of them had nodular amyloidosis.

It is interesting to note that our patient had dermoscopic findings of shiny white lines and an orange-pink background, similar to the case presented by Rongioletti et al.4 Sonagara et al5 postulated that the yellowish-orange background may be correlated with deposits of amorphous material

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Abbreviation used:
PLCNA: primary localized cutaneous nodular amyloidosis

From the Department of Dermatology, Singapore General Hospital, Singapore, Singapore a; and Department of Anatomical Pathology, Singapore General Hospital, Singapore, Singapore b.

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Correspondence to: Choon Chiat Oh, MBBS, MSc, MCI, MRCP, Department of Dermatology, Singapore General Hospital, Outram Road, Singapore 169608. E-mail: oh.choon.chiat@ singhealth.com.sg.

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within the deep dermis and subcutaneous tissue. Similar conclusions were made by Atzori et al,6 explaining the yellow-orange roundish structures described in their case reports. This is most likely the reason for the orange-pink background in our case (Fig 2), as confirmed by the presence of amorphous eosinophilic deposition in the stroma and within vessel walls (Figs 3 and 4). Skin lesions with an altered composition or orientation of collagen will often reveal shiny white lines under polarized dermatoscope.7 We postulate that this is the same reason we see shiny white lines in our case (Fig 2). Some authors4,6 described hemorrhagic changes and telangiectasias, but these findings were not present in our patient.

Several treatment options have been reported for PLCNA, but there is no consensus on the most effective treatment option.1 Proposed treatment options include surgical excision, electrodesiccation and curettage, carbon dioxide laser, and pulsed dye laser therapy.1,8 Our patient underwent surgical excision of the lesion with good nail bed healing on review 2 months later.

To our knowledge, this is the first reported case of primary cutaneous amyloidosis at the nail bed. This case demonstrates that nodular amyloidosis should be considered as a differential diagnosis for nodules arising from the nail bed and dermatoscope may be a
useful aid in the diagnosis. Our case adds to the growing literature on the dermoscopic findings of PLCNA, but further studies will be required to establish a definite correlation between clinical, dermoscopic, and histopathological features of PLCNA.

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**Conflicts of interest**

None disclosed.

**Table I.** Differential diagnosis of nail bed nodules and their dermoscope findings

| Differential diagnosis of nail bed nodules | Dermoscope findings |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Glomus tumor                              | Discrete linear vascular structures |
|                                           | Ramified telangiectasia on nail bed and matrix |
|                                           | Pinkish or bluish hue |
| Onychomatrichoma                          | Longitudinal parallel white lines |
|                                           | Splinter hemorrhages |
|                                           | Free-edge nail pitting |
|                                           | Thickening of the free edge |
| Amelanotic melanoma                       | Vessels: dotted, hairpin, irregular-linear, polymorphous |
|                                           | Pink areas or globules |
|                                           | Multiple blue-gray dots |
|                                           | Shiny white lines |
|                                           | Blue-white veil |
| Squamous cell carcinoma                   | White, yellow, light brown structureless areas |
|                                           | White circles |
|                                           | Vessels: glomerular, hairpin, irregular-linear |
|                                           | Ulceration |

**Table II.** Differential diagnosis of nail bed nodules and their dermatoscope findings

| Differential diagnosis of nail bed nodules | Dermoscope findings |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Glomus tumor                              | Discrete linear vascular structures |
|                                           | Ramified telangiectasia on nail bed and matrix |
|                                           | Pinkish or bluish hue |
| Onychomatrichoma                          | Longitudinal parallel white lines |
|                                           | Splinter hemorrhages |
|                                           | Free-edge nail pitting |
|                                           | Thickening of the free edge |
| Amelanotic melanoma                       | Vessels: dotted, hairpin, irregular-linear, polymorphous |
|                                           | Pink areas or globules |
|                                           | Multiple blue-gray dots |
|                                           | Shiny white lines |
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| Squamous cell carcinoma                   | White, yellow, light brown structureless areas |
|                                           | White circles |
|                                           | Vessels: glomerular, hairpin, irregular-linear |
|                                           | Ulceration |