

## **ONYCHOPAPILLOMA**

### **What are the aims of this leaflet?**

This leaflet has been written to help you understand more about onychopapilloma. It tells you what it is, what causes it and what can be done about it.

### **What is onychopapilloma?**

It is a rare benign tumour of the nail (matrix and nail bed) that usually causes no symptoms.

### **What causes onychopapilloma?**

It is not known what causes onychopapilloma. It usually affects one digit (the thumb is the commonest, followed by the index finger nail).

### **What does onychopapilloma look like?**

It presents with a narrow (0.3-1.5mm) red, white or brown line, sometimes with the appearance of small remnants of dried blood on the outer part of the nail. Most importantly, it presents with a white dry collection under the outer part of the nail (keratotic papule) causing that part of the nail to detach itself from the nail bed and get a breakage in the shape of a V notch. Although it commonly causes no symptoms, some patients report mild pain or difficulties with handling objects. Some patients are concerned of the cosmetic appearance of the nail.

### **How is onychopapilloma diagnosed?**

Clinically with the aid of dermoscopy (hand-held lens used for skin surface microscopy and visualisation of lesions). Serial photography is also used. However, if any diagnostic doubt, a biopsy is necessary.

### **How can onychopapilloma be treated?**

If no symptoms are present, no treatment is necessary. When a surgical removal is performed and is complete, it cures this benign tumour. However, irreversible nail changes are a risk, as with any nail surgery.

### **Self care (What can I do?):**

No particular self-care is required.

### **Where can I get more information?**

Web: <https://dermnetnz.org/topics/onychopapilloma/>

## **BRITISH HAIR AND NAIL SOCIETY PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET PRODUCED JANUARY 2020**

This leaflet is produced by Dr Athina Fonia for the British Hair and Nail Society