

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/>

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