

Visual Treats in Dermatology

Median canaliform dystrophy of Heller

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A 12-year-old boy presented with a longitudinal midline depression of the left great toenail with transverse furrows extending laterally in an inverted fir-tree pattern [Figure 1] for the past 2 years. The proximal nail fold was hyperpigmented and thickened. There was no history of pain or tenderness and he had not received any treatment for the same. There was no history of habitual nail rubbing. There were no tumors or warts present on the proximal nail fold. Based on the characteristic examination findings, a diagnosis of Median canaliform dystrophy of Heller was made. Median canaliform dystrophy presents with a longitudinal split in the nail with transverse fissures giving the appearance of an inverted fir tree. It results from a temporary defect in the nail matrix. Treatment options with variable response include topical corticosteroids, topical calcineurin inhibitors, and topical retinoids.^[1]

Declaration of patient consent

Patient's consent not required as patients identity is not disclosed or compromised.



Figure 1: A longitudinal midline depression of the left great toenail with transverse furrows extending laterally in an inverted fir-tree pattern.

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Conflicts of interest

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REFERENCE

1. Kota R, Pilani A, Nair PA. Median nail dystrophy involving the thumb nail. *Indian J Dermatol* 2016;61:120.

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