

Longitudinal Melanonychia

Clinical Features Increasing Suspicion for Nail Melanoma

- Age of onset **> 50**
- Brown/black melanonychia **> 3 mm in width**
- Evolution of band with + variegation of pigmentation
- **Single digit involved** (in order of decreasing frequency)
 - thumb > hallux > index finger > single nail > multiple nails
- Extension of pigment to periungual skin (**Hutchinson sign**)
- Pre-existing melanonychia that becomes darker/wider or demonstrates blurred borders



Epidemiology of longitudinal melanonychia

- 1% in lightly pigmented skin
- 11% of Japanese population
- 58% of patients with skin phototype IV - VI
- Up to **70% in darkly pigmented skin**
 - **most cases of longitudinal melanonychia are a benign condition**



Differential Diagnoses

- Subungual hematoma
- Splinter hemorrhage
- Benign physiologic melanonychia
- Systemic conditions
(e.g. Addison Disease, Hyperthyroidism)
- Dermatological conditions
 - psoriasis
 - lichen planus
 - verruca vulgaris
 - onychomycosis
 - localized scleroderma
 - SLE
- Medications (e.g. Minocycline)