

Special Feature:

Half-and-half nail

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“Half-and-half nails” is a term applied to a unique systemic onychopathy in chronic kidney disease (CKD). This condition is characterized by the proximal portion of each nail bed being whitish and the distal portion red, pink or brown but always sharply demarcated, which does not fade with pressure. The distal band occupies about 20% to 60% of total nail length.^{1,2} There is no tendency of the half and half pattern to grow out with the nail.¹ They are also called red and white nails or Lindsay's nails.^{3,4} The reported prevalence of this entity in CKD patients was 16% to 50.6%.^{4,5} Even though complete normalization of this condition following successful transplantation, has been described,^{6,7} the condition, is usually unchanged by dialysis therapy. We report the occurrence of "half-and-half nails" in a patient with CKD on maintenance haemodialysis (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Clinical photograph showing half-and-half nails in a patient with chronic kidney disease on maintenance haemodialysis

We report this rare physical examination finding to increase the awareness of clinicians regarding recognizing this nail change as a valuable clue to underlying CKD and also to stress the importance of general physical examination in the clinical medicine.

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