

A New Surgical Technique for Correcting Onychogryphosis

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ABSTRACT

Onychogryphosis is an extreme form of irregular, distorted, thickened and discolored, yellow to brown nails on a hyperkeratotic, hyperplastic and onycholytic nail bed usually in the great toe nails. It may rarely occur as a developmental abnormality in young and middle aged and is transmitted as an autosomal dominant trait. Traditional treatment of onychogryphosis is either radical or palliative.

Conservative management is especially useful in feet, at high risk patients with peripheral vascular disease and diabetes. Radical treatment consists of surgical remove of the nail and matricectomy by phenolization, Co2 laser and so on.

We decided to repair the onychogryphotic toe nail to nearly normal shape by a unique treatment by combination of partial nail matrix phenolization, nail bed widening by longitudinal cuts in the nail bed, onycholysis treatment and displacing the nail matrix and nail bed to opposite direction of nail deviation.