



From Department of Dermatology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN.

Yellow Nails

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A 57-year-old man presented with a 1-year history of yellowish discoloration and increased brittleness affecting his fingernails and toenails, with spontaneous avulsion of left toenail. On review of systems, he reported a history of progressive shortness of breath, fatigue, and chronic cough of 2 years duration, with unintentional weight loss. He denied use of tobacco or other drugs. Dermatological examination revealed diffuse yellow discoloration of all fingernails and toenails (Figure 1). Nail clipping sent for Grocott-Gömöri silver (GMS) staining showed negative results for fungal hyphae, excluding onychomycosis. The patient had no clinical lower-limb edema, a finding confirmed by normal lymphoscintigraphy studies.

A maxillofacial computed tomography (CT) scan showed severe bilateral frontal and ethmoid disease as well as mild maxillary sinus disease. Chest CT showed multifocal endobronchial plugging, tree-in-bud nodules, and bronchial-wall thickening, as well as bronchiectasis (Figure 2).

Based on yellow discoloration involving all nails, coupled with chronic sinusitis and bronchiectasis, the patient was diagnosed with yellow nail syndrome.



FIGURE 1. Yellow discoloration of all fingernails, with increased curvature.

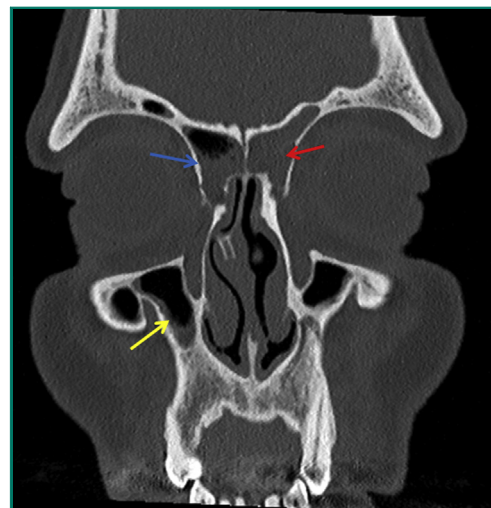


FIGURE 2. Coronal sinus computed tomography scan demonstrates complete opacification of the left frontal sinus (**red arrow**), moderate mucosal thickening in the right frontal sinus (**blue arrow**), and mild to moderate mucosal thickening in the right maxillary sinus (**yellow arrow**).

of nail manifestations correlates with better control of recurrent sinopulmonary disease.³

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We thank Dr. Vance T. Lehman, Division of Neuroradiology, Mayo Clinic, who supplied the CT image and accompanying figure legend.

Potential Competing Interests: The authors report no competing interests.

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