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Medical imagery

Periungual desquamation in a Japanese adult recovering from severe COVID-19



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ABSTRACT

We report a case of a 50-year-old Japanese male who developed periungual desquamation in hands and feet during the recovery phase of severe COVID-19. Because coronary lesions have been reported during the recovery phase of severe COVID-19 in children, as well as for Kawasaki disease, caution may also be necessary in adults.

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A 50-year-old Japanese man was admitted to our hospital with a 14-day history of fever and sudden dyspnea. The patient was diagnosed with severe coronavirus disease (COVID-19) based on positive test results of RNA polymerase chain reaction for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus. He was started on mechanical ventilation and extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO). He received ECMO for 23 days and was tracheostomized on hospital day (HD) 37. His general condition improved by HD 54. On HD 61, periungual desquamation appeared on the fingers of his left hand (Figure 1A), left palm (Figure 1B), and both feet (Figure 1C). He satisfied the diagnostic criteria for Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) other than age (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2020). There were no other

conditions that potentially present the periungual desquamation, such as Kawasaki disease (KD) and toxic shock syndrome, during hospitalization. His results for bedside echocardiography, electrocardiogram, and chest X-ray revealed no abnormalities within 4 months of admission.

Severe COVID-19 in children has been reported to present with KD-like symptoms, MIS-C, and some of these have periungual desquamation during the recovery period (Feldstein et al., 2020; Shaigany et al., 2020). Coronary artery lesions (CALs) have been reported during recovery from MIS-C (Dufort et al., 2020; Feldstein et al., 2020). Therefore, it may be necessary to thoroughly assess adults with severe COVID-19 and periungual desquamation for CALs.



Figure 1. Periungual desquamation in an adult patient with severe COVID-19. Periungual desquamation appeared in the fingernails (A) and palm (B) of the left hand and in both feet (C).

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Ethical approval

The patient provided consent for the publication of his clinical case details.

Conflict of interest

The authors state that they have no conflict of interest.

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Takato Nakamoto^a
Masahiro Ishikane^{a,*}

Ryo Sasaki^b
Norio Ohmagari^a

^a*Disease Control and Prevention Center, National Center for Global Health and Medicine, Tokyo, Japan*

^b*Department of Emergency Medicine and Critical Care, National Center for Global Health and Medicine, Tokyo, Japan*

* Corresponding author at: 1-21-1 Toyama, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162-8655, Japan.

E-mail address: mishikane@hosp.ncgm.go.jp (M. Ishikane).

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