

Nail Matrix Arrest during the Course of Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease: Evaluation of Onychomadesis Cases

Dear Editor,

I read the article by Büyükcım at el. (1) titled "Nail Matrix Arrest during the Course of Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease: Evaluation of Onychomadesis Cases" with great interest.

Hand, foot, and mouth disease (HFMD) is an infection caused by various enterovirus types affecting especially the children under 5 years of age, mostly children aged between 2-10 (2). Treatment is not required in non-serious cases that are tended to heal spontaneously. HFMD epidemics have increased in recent years and cases with more serious progress have been prevalent (3).

Onychomadesis is characterized by a periodic idiopathic shedding of the nails beginning at the proximal end, possibly caused by the temporary arrest of the function of the nail matrix, and may develop as a result of systemic diseases, malnutrition, trauma, periungual dermatitis, chemotherapy, drugs and infections. Cases emerging 4-8 weeks (4, 5) after the HFMD have been reported. They were found as high as 60% after epidemics (6).

HFMD related cases have been increased in our country since 2011 ,onychomadesis was reported as case reports as was published by Büyükcım et al in your journal (1). Limited number of cases,development of onychomadesis in the late period,admission of the patients to the dermatology policlinics,failure to give detailed information to the patients are some of the reasons of this condition.

Considered from this particular point of view informing the patients with HFMD in regards to onychomadesis, examining the patients 3-4 weeks later and taking detailed history of patients with onychomadesis may determine the true prevalence of the disease.

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Evaluation of Knowledge, Opinions, and Attitudes of Hospital Staff Except Physicians and Nurses Regarding Seasonal Influenza Vaccine

Dear Editor,

I read the article by Karadağ Öncel et al. (1) "The Evaluation of Knowledge, Opinions and Attitudes of Hospital Staff except Physicians and Nurses about the Seasonal Influenza Vaccine" with great interest (1). Seasonal influenza is a disease that affects people of all ages causing morbidity and mortality especially in immunosuppressive patients and elderly people. Seasonal influenza vaccine is recommended by the ACIP (Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices) and AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics) for all children over 6-month old and all adults (2, 3). Since health care personnel are the medium especially in infecting the disease, they are regarded among the risk groups. In Karadağ Öncel et al.'s (1) study, they found that vaccination rate was very low (18.4%); 54.5% of the vaccinated personnel reported that they had the vaccine not to infect the patients they served for. In the same study, all the study group participants answered the question "I protected the others from influenza when I have the influenza vaccine" 36.9% correctly. This study has demonstrated that the knowledge of hospital staff except physicians and nurses about the seasonal influenza infection and vaccine is below the expected level. In a study done in a pandemic period with the participation of 807 physicians and nurses at Ege University, it was similarly found that the rate of seasonal vaccination rate in the previous year was 19%;

vaccination in pandemic period is 30.4% (4). It was thought that all the publication about vaccination in the visual and print media was effective.

In conclusion, this study is important given the fact that it calls attention to the insufficient level of knowledge of the health care personnel about influenza and its vaccine and low rates of vaccination. This study emphasized one again that all the personnel working at especially Pediatric Hospitals, and Hematology and Transplant Units where immunosuppressive children and adult patients were treated needed to be informed about influenza and other contagious diseases through in-service training. There is currently compulsory influenza vaccination for the health care personnel in the states of the United States of America. There is a need to organize in-service training programs before and during the influenza season for the health care personnel in our country as well in order to increase their level of knowledge about influenza and other contagious diseases, and vaccination of health care personnel should be prioritized.

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