

Beau's Lines and Clubbing

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Clinical Image

Our patient has two nail findings: Clubbing and Beau's lines. Together, these signs strongly point towards lung cancer as the primary pathology. This is because clubbing is commonly seen in lung cancer and Beau's lines are a tell-tale effect of chemotherapy. The characteristic nail curvature of clubbing in lung cancer is multifactorial in aetiology. It always raises suspicion in high risk patients for lung cancer. Our patient completed Cisplatin and Pemetrexed for lung adenocarcinoma three months before the photographs were taken. Chemotherapeutics may inhibit cell division in the nail plate. Indeed, she described the transverse Beau's lines migrating distally as her nail resumed growth. These findings help physicians finger a diagnosis, and are valuable to those who appreciate physical signs.