

Chloronychia: Fox–Goldman syndrome

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A 48-year-old woman came to our clinic with a symptomatic greenish discoloration of the nail plate of the left thumb that had occurred spontaneously 6 months previously. The patient has a history of diabetes mellitus and arterial hypertension. Her current occupation is as a dishwasher in a restaurant. She informed us that the discoloration had appeared 2 months after starting her job (the association between humidity and *Pseudomonas* is known). Physical examination showed distal onycholysis and greenish discoloration of the nail plate (Fig. 1). Bacteriological culture of nail scrapings was positive for *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. Fungal coinfection was excepted by potassium hydroxide preparation and culture. The clinical diagnosis was green nail syndrome caused by *P. aeruginosa* (chloronychia) or Fox–Goldman syndrome.

The chloronychia is a work-related illness of homemakers, hospital employees, and others often with wet fingers [1]. This malady is caused by *P. aeruginosa* and is characterized by onycholysis and greenish blue (chloronychia) or white (leukonychia) or red (retronychia) discoloration of the nail [1,2]. Our patient responded satisfactorily to oral ciprofloxacin. After 3 weeks, the nail plate returned to its normal coloration [3].

However, we should consider:

- Worker education is fundamental in the prevention of chloronychia
- Chloronychia is an occupational disease, caused by *P. aeruginosa*
- Chloronychia could be relayed by health-care workers.

CONSENT FOR PUBLICATION

Written informed consent was obtained from patient for the publication of this case report and all associated images.



Figure 1: Persistent greenish pigmentation of the nail plate (chloronychia)

AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

All authors contributed to the completion of this work. The final manuscript was read and approved by all authors

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Funding: None; Conflicts of Interest: None Stated.

How to cite this article: Salas-Alanís J, Moreno-Treviño MG, Rivera-Silva G. Chloronychia: Fox–Goldman syndrome. *Yemen J Med*. 2024;3(1):63.

Access this article online	
Received - 13 October 2023 Initial Review - 17 October 2023 Accepted - 29 January 2024	Quick Response code 
DOI: 10.32677/yjm.v3i1.4317	

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