A Case of Beau’s Lines at Even Intervals and Onycholysis Caused by Chemotherapy

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Abstract: We report a case of Beau’s lines at even intervals and onycholysis caused by chemotherapy. The patient with a diffuse large cell B cell lymphoma (DLBCL) stage A underwent combination chemotherapy consisting of R-CHOP (Rituximab, cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, vincristine, prednisolone) every three weeks (21-day intervals) six times. As he was treated with R-CHOP, he noticed each Beau’s lines (transverse groove) on all 20 nails each time. In addition, he had onycholysis caused by cyclophosphamide and doxorubicin treatment. Two months after discontinuation of chemotherapy, Beau’s lines disappeared.

Fig. (1). Transverse grooves (Beau’s lines) at even intervals and paronychial erythema were observed.
In the present case, we evaluated history of previous drug therapy and anamnesis. We speculate that Beau’s lines are attributable to doxorubicin and cyclophosphamide. Interestingly, Beau’s lines at even intervals were observed at each cycle of chemotherapy. Since our patient had diabetes mellitus, prednisolone was prescribed 20mg. Prednisolone is usually prescribed 100mg. The low dose of prednisolone may be insufficient to prevent the formation of Beau’s lines because of anti-cytotoxic effect on nail matrix and nail bed.

REFERENCES