

EVIDENCE SUMMARY

Paronychia (Infection Beside the Nail)

Overview

- In chronic paronychia, *C. albicans* involvement was found in the outer epidermis with mycelium present, but there was no involvement of the dermis [1].
- In recalcitrant cases of chronic paronychia, surgical treatment may include en bloc excision of the proximal nail fold or an eponychial marsupialization, with or without nail plate removal [2].
- *Candida albicans* was recovered in about 15% of paronychia cases [3].

Anatomy & Pathophysiology

MICROBIOLOGY & HISTOPATHOLOGY

- In chronic paronychia, *Candida albicans* involvement is characterized by mycelium in the outer epidermis without involvement of the dermis [1].
- *Candida albicans* was recovered in approximately 15% of paronychia cases [3].

SURGICAL ANATOMY & PATHOLOGY

- In recalcitrant chronic paronychia, surgical treatment may include en bloc excision of the proximal nail fold or eponychial marsupialization, with or without nail plate removal [2].
- The dorsal integument of the distal phalanx is a unique cutaneous unit characterized by the presence of the nail bed and its matrix [17].
- The eponychial folding flap provides statistically superior apparent nail-plate exposure compared to rectangle recession, with a mean difference of 0.61 mm (95% CI, 0.35–0.87 mm; $P < .001$) [7].

Classification

- In chronic paronychia, *C. albicans* involvement is present in the outer epidermis with mycelium, but there is no involvement of the dermis [1].

Clinical Presentation

- In chronic paronychia, *C. albicans* involvement was found in the outer epidermis with mycelium present, but without involvement of the dermis [1].

Investigations

- In chronic paronychia, *C. albicans* involvement was found in the outer epidermis with mycelium, but there was no involvement of the dermis [1].

Treatment

OPERATIVE

- In recalcitrant cases of chronic paronychia, surgical treatment may be resorted to [2].
- Surgical treatment for recalcitrant chronic paronychia includes en bloc excision of the proximal nail fold [2].
- Surgical treatment for recalcitrant chronic paronychia includes eponychial marsupialization [2].
- Surgical treatment for recalcitrant chronic paronychia may be performed with or without nail plate removal [2].

Key Evidence

- [L4] Each lesion studied had *C. albicans* involvement with mycelium in the outer epidermis but no involvement of the dermis. [1] ([10.1001/archderm.1962.01590090066015](https://doi.org/10.1001/archderm.1962.01590090066015))
- [L4] In recalcitrant cases, surgical treatment may be resorted to, which includes en bloc excision of the proximal nail fold or an eponychial marsupialization, with or without nail plate removal. [2] ([10.4103/0019-5154.123482](https://doi.org/10.4103/0019-5154.123482))
- [L4] *Candida albicans* was recovered in about 15% of the cases. [3] ([10.1016/0266-7681\(93\)90063-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/0266-7681(93)90063-1))
- [L4] The eponychial folding flap demonstrated statistically superior outcomes in terms of apparent nail-plate exposure (mean difference 0.61 mm; 95% CI, 0.35–0.87 mm; $P < .001$), aesthetic satisfaction, and postoperative pain, without compromising scar quality or functional recovery. [7] ([10.1016/j.jhsg.2026.101101](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhsg.2026.101101))

References

- [1] Chronic Paronychia. *Archives of Dermatology*. 1962. DOI: [10.1001/archderm.1962.01590090066015](https://doi.org/10.1001/archderm.1962.01590090066015)

- [2] Management of chronic paronychia. *Indian Journal of Dermatology*. 2014. DOI: 10.4103/0019-5154.123482
- [3] Paronychia: a Mixed Infection. *Journal of Hand Surgery*. 1993. DOI: 10.1016/0266-7681(93)90063-1
- [7] Comparative Outcomes of Rectangle Recession Versus Eponychial Folding Flaps for Nail-Plate Length After Fingertip Amputation. *Journal of Hand Surgery Global Online*. 2026. DOI: 10.1016/j.jhsg.2026.101101
- [17] Exam Of The Hand Wrist 2Ed. Functional cutaneous units.