SUMMARY

The major objectives in carrying out nail surgery are to obtain diagnosis, therapeutic or prognostic information by nail biopsy, treatment of nail tumours, for pain relief, and to repair or correct congenital and traumatic deformities.

The nail apparatus consists of nail plate, proximal nail fold, lateral nail folds, lunula, nail matrix and hyponychium.

Finger nails grow at 1cm per 3 months and toenails 1/3cm per 3 months.

The main function of the nail apparatus is to produce a strong, keratinous nail plate over the dorsal surface of the end of each digit.

Surgical disorders of the nail apparatus are acute and chronic paronychia, benign tumours, malignant tumours, repeated injuries as ingrowing toe-nail and developmental anomalies.

Clinical diagnosis in nail tumour is often difficult because of traumatic factors, presence or absence of pigmentation and also common tumours well recognized in other sites are difficult in diagnosis in nail apparatus.

In this reason X-ray should be carried out on all swellings in or around the nail apparatus.

Magnetic resonance imaging with high and very high resolution help in resolving several existing diagnosis.

Surgical procedures in nail apparatus varies according to the type of the disease and the aim of the surgery which may be nail biopsy, partial nail removal, avulsion of the nail plate, excision of tumours, drainage of collected pus and surgical treatment of ingrowing toenails.

The best method and hase the least reccurance rate is wedge resection and segmental phenolization.