

SUMMARY

S U M M A R Y

Careful attention to the nail pigmentation is often a valuable aid to the dermatologist in diagnosing many dermatological and systemic diseases .

Generally, anomalies of colour depend on the transparency of the nail, its attachments and the character of the underlying tissues. Colour is also affected by the state of the skin vessels and the composition of the blood .

The colour of the nail may be altered in many ways, chromonychia may be due to exogenous exposures dermatological causes or due to endogenous causes .

Exogenous causes of pigmentation may be due to topical industrial stains, topical cosmetics, or to therapeutic agents which include either external application of topical drugs e.g. brownish discolouration occurs with potassium permanganate, or due to local therapeutic radiotherapy . Infections either by dermatophytes, candida, or by pseudomonas also play an important role in the nail pigmentation . Traumas are the commonest cause of blackish discolouration of the nail due to subungual haemorrhages.