

**INTRODUCTION  
AND  
AIM OF THE WORK**

## I N T R O D U C T I O N

The chief function of the nail is that of protection . It protects the delicate terminal phalanx, and greatly helps in the appreciation of fine touch aids in picking up small objects and also, for scratching . It is important also, from the cosmetic point of view (Samman, 1978) .

Deranged morphology of the finger nails is observed in many severe systemic disorders largely through the mechanism of interference with the normal nutritional and growth properties of the nail. Alterations in the appearance and structure of the nail attend a variety of generalized disorders such as anaemic states, dietary deficiencies, infectious diseases, dysendocrinisms, drug or chemical toxicity , circulatory disorders and certain degenerative conditions . The colour of the nail is considered to be the mirror which reflects many local and systemic diseases (Berry, 1963) .

The purpose of this work is to study the common causes of nail pigmentation and its relationship to dermatological and systemic diseases .