

## Dyskeratosis Congenita: Nails and Hands

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Dyskeratosis congenita is a rare form of ectodermal dysplasia that is characterized by distinctive dermatological features including dystrophic nails, hyperpigmentation, and oral leukoplakia. In addition, approximately 50% of affected individuals also manifest bone marrow failure. Although an X-linked recessive inheritance pattern appears to account for most cases (linkage analysis has mapped the trait to chromosome Xq28), the presence of affected females suggests at least some degree of genetic heterogeneity.

Four images are shown, each of which depicts the nails

of individuals with dyskeratosis congenita. The various features that are shown include: (image A) small fingernails with shiny, tight skin on the fingers; (image B) very small nails with longitudinal ridges; (image C) disappearing nails; and (image D) ridged and irregular nails.

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