

Partial leukonychia

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Dear Editor,

A 59-year-old man was admitted in the emergency room with head trauma. He fell in the street after heavy drinking. During medical examination, he had behaved violently due to drunkenness. His left foot showed a sharply demarcated pinkish red band of 30% of the distal nail bed and a whitish ground glass-like appearance obscuring the lunula (so-called Lindsay's nails; **Figure 1**).

Lindsay's nails, also known as half-and-half nails, were first described in 1967 as red, pink, or brown bands occupying 20 to 60% of the nail bed [1]. If the distal bands are less than 20% of the total nail length, the term 'Terry's nails' is used [2]. Lindsay's nails are detected in approximately in 10 to 30% of patients with end-stage renal disease [2]. In addition, they have been reported in several other diseases, including hepatic cirrhosis, Behcet's disease, Crohn's disease, Kawasaki's disease, and pellagra [2]. The exact etiology is still unclear; however, the distal reddish-brown band might be associated with increased melanin deposition owing to an increased concentration of β -melanocyte-stimulating hormone [3]. Although there is no specific therapy [3], Lindsay's nails caused by renal failure sometimes disappear after successful renal transplantation [2].

Routine inspection of the nails may inform physicians on the patients' clinical conditions. In the present case, further tests revealed alcohol-related cirrhosis, but he was later lost to follow-up.



Figure 1. The patient's left foot showing a sharply demarcated pinkish red band of 30% of the distal nail bed and a whitish ground glass-like appearance obscuring the lunula

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