

Chronic Abdominal Conditions – Possible Signs

Chronic liver disease

- Flapping tremor
- Clubbing
- Leukonychia
- Palmar erythema
- Dupuytren's contracture
- Jaundice
- Spider naevi
- Gynaecomastia
- Loss of axillary hair
- Distended abdominal veins
- Hepatomegaly (but often small in cirrhosis)
- Ascites

Signs of aetiology: Afro-Caribbean (sarcoid), slate-grey pigmentation/capillary glucose monitoring marks (haemochromatosis), tattoos (hepatitis C), xanthelasma (PBC), goitre/middle-age female (autoimmune), emphysema (α 1-anti-trypsin deficiency)

Signs of decompensation: encephalopathy, jaundice, ascites

Transplanted kidney

- AV fistula
- Rutherford-Morrison scar (usually RIF)
- Smooth mass underlying scar (transplanted kidney)

Signs of aetiology: fingertip capillary glucose monitoring marks (diabetes), hearing aid (Alport syndrome), collapsed nasal bridge (granulomatosis with polyangiitis), butterfly rash (SLE), sternotomy (renovascular disease), flank masses (PKD)

Functionality: flap/excoriations (uraemia), active marks in AV fistula, pale conjunctiva (anaemia), fluid retention

Previous renal replacement therapy: AV fistula, central line and peritoneal dialysis scars

Complications of immunosuppression: tremor (calcineurin inhibitor), cushingoid/bruising (steroids), skin lesions/excisions (immunosuppression)

Hepatosplenomegaly

- Hepatomegaly/splenomegaly/both

Signs of hepatomegaly aetiology: signs of chronic liver disease, lymphadenopathy (malignancy/lymphoma), peripheral oedema/raised JVP (right ventricular failure)

Signs of splenomegaly aetiology: hand deformity (RA), signs of chronic liver disease, pale conjunctiva (leukaemia/myeloproliferative/haemolytic anaemia), lymphadenopathy (lymphoma)

Liver transplant

- Signs of chronic liver disease (but most resolve)
- Mercedes Benz modification scar

Signs of aetiology: Afro-Caribbean (sarcoid), slate-grey pigmentation/capillary glucose monitoring marks (haemochromatosis), tattoos (hepatitis C), xanthelasma (PBC), goitre/middle-age female (autoimmune), emphysema (α 1-anti-trypsin deficiency)

Complications of immunosuppression: tremor (calcineurin inhibitor), cushingoid/bruising (steroids), skin lesions/excisions (immunosuppression)

Combined kidney-pancreas transplant

- Left iliac fossa scar (renal graft)
- Right iliac fossa scar (pancreas graft)
- Smooth mass underlying LIF scar (transplanted kidney)

Signs of diabetic complications: visual aids (retinopathy), Charcot joints, toe ulcers/amputations, neuropathy

Renal graft functionality: flap/excoriations (uraemia), active marks in AV fistula, pale conjunctiva (anaemia), fluid retention

Pancreas graft functionality: fingertip capillary glucose monitoring marks, insulin injection marks

Previous renal replacement therapy: AV fistula, central line and peritoneal dialysis scars (but transplant may have been done pre-emptively)

Complications of immunosuppression: tremor (calcineurin inhibitor), cushingoid/bruising (steroids), skin lesions/excisions (immunosuppression)

Polycystic kidneys

- AV fistula (if undergoing dialysis)
- Hypertension
- Pale conjunctiva (anaemia)
- Flank scar (if either kidney has been removed)
- Bilateral ballotable flank masses
- Hepatomegaly (hepatic cysts)

Polycythaemia rubra vera

- Dusky cyanosis
- Hypertension
- Facial plethora
- Splenomegaly

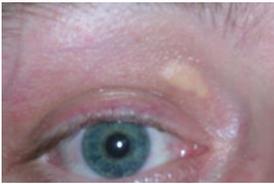
Hereditary spherocytosis

- Pale conjunctiva
- Jaundice
- Splenomegaly

Primary biliary cirrhosis

- Middle aged female
- Icteric
- Increased skin pigmentation
- Excoriations
- Xanthelasma
- Hepatomegaly

Signs of complications: signs of chronic liver disease



Xanthelasma: lipid deposits around the eyelids

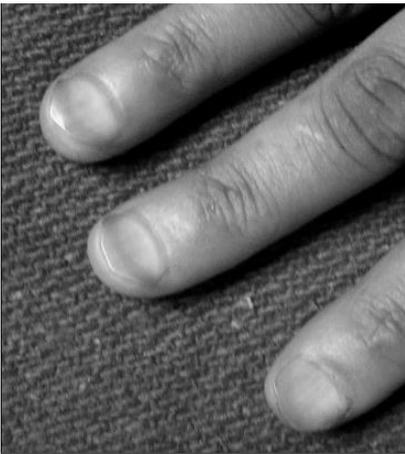
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Nail Clubbing

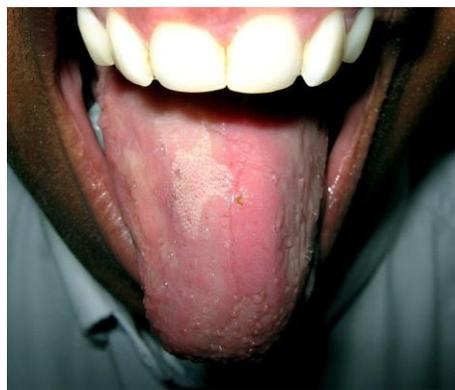


Dupuytren's Contracture



Koilonychia: spoon shaped nails

Used with permission from: Kumar V, Aggarwal S, Sharma A, Sharma V. Nailing the diagnosis: koilonychia. Perm J. 2012; 16(3):65.



Glossitis: inflammation of the tongue surface



Spider nevus: central red spot with telangiectasia radiating outwards. When pressed, the radiating veins refill from the centre



Massive ascites



Gynaecomastia



Inguinal hernia



Jaundice



Striae