



# Painless finger cyst

A 60 year old woman presented with a painless cyst which was growing slowly over the dorsal aspect of her right index finger.

## Question 1

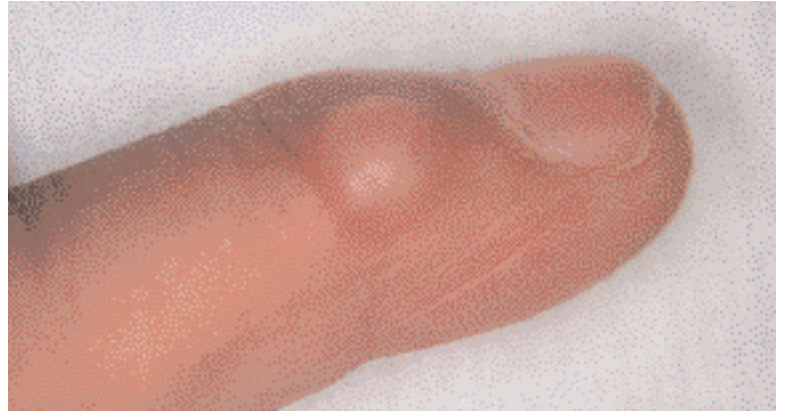
What is the diagnosis?

## Question 2

What is the significance of this cyst?

## Question 3

What is the treatment?



Jerzy K Pawlak

## Answer to last month's brain teaser



form of true leukonychia and is characterised by white spots of 1–3 mm in diameter almost exclusively on the finger nails. These white spots occur singly or in groups and move distally with the nail plate. They may disappear before reaching the margin because of the persistence of active DNA and RNA-ase enzymes

within the keratinised nail plate.

## Answer 1

The diagnosis is leukonychia.

## Answer 2

In true leukonychia the nail plate appears opaque and white because of the light diffraction from parakeratotic cells in the lower nail plate. True leukonychia is caused by diseases that produce a fault in the keratinisation of the distal nail matrix. Punctate leukonychia is the common

## Answer 3

Leukonychia punctata is most likely secondary to repetitive minor trauma. It can accompany a severe systemic disease such as cirrhosis of the liver, hypoalbuminemic states, chronic renal disease and uremia, and in poisoning cases involving heavy metals such as arsenic.

AFF

**Send your answers to arrive by 5 April. A voucher for medical books or medical equipment to the value of \$100 will be awarded for the first correct entry drawn. The winner will be notified by mail and the answer published in the April 2003 issue.**

**Address entries to:  
March Brain Teaser  
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1 Palmerston Crescent  
South Melbourne  
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**The winner of the December 2002 Brain teaser is Dr Christina Port, Deniliquin, NSW**