Imperial College London



Dermatology Lectures: Hair & Nails



• Pathology of the Nail

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Objectives

- Hair Function
 Nail Function
- Structure of hair
 Nail Structure
- How does it grow
- Pathology of Hair

Hair



Hair?

- What is hair?
- Protein (Keratin) product of the hair follicle (miniorgan)

Where can it be found ?

- Everywhere except mucous membranes, palm/soles
- Only 5% on the scalp

When does hair growth begin ?

- 3rd Trimester in utero

































External Influences : Telogen Effluvium • Premature Diffuse Hair Loss Causes

- termination of anogen → Telogen
- Regrowth over 3-6
 months



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Function

• Protection (weapon) – Chemical, physical



- Touch
 Manual dexterity
- · Communication socially

Structure

- Mostly hard "hair" keratin
- · calcium

Strong
 Longitudinal Ridging

- Curvature



















Nail in Systemic Disease

Videocapillaroscopy



 Systemic Sclerosis - Giant capillaries - microhaemorrhages

Further Applications

- Drug Monitoring/Diagnosis - Cystic Fibrosis (chlorine)

 - Prescribed drug compliance
 - Illicit drug intake (cocaine, amphetamines)
 - Environmental exposure (heavy metals, nickel)

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