



Technique of Nail Photography in Neonates

Inamadar AC¹, Uttmani B² and Inamadar A^{3*}

¹Department of Dermatology, Venereology & Leprosy, Sri B.M. Patil Medical College, Hospital & Research Center, BLDE University, India

²Department of Dermatology, Sri B.M. Patil Medical College, Hospital & Research Center, BLDE University, India

³Department of Pediatrics, M S Ramaiah Medical College, India

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***Corresponding author:** Arun Inamadar, MD, DVD, FRCP (Edinburgh), Professor & Head, Dept. of Dermatology, Venereology & Leprosy, Sri B.M. Patil Medical College, Hospital & Research Center, BLDE University, Vijaypur, Karnataka, India, Tel: +91-8352-262770; Fax: +91-8352-263019; Email: aruninamadar@gmail.com

Abstract

Nail photography technique in adults is well established. In this communication nail photography is explained using Grasp reflex as its basis

Keywords: Nail photography; Palmar Grasp reflex; Neonate; Epidermolysis bullosa (EB)

A one week old female neonate was referred for the skin lesions since birth. History and cutaneous examination were suggestive of a clinical diagnosis of Dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa (DEB). Nail abnormalities are a common feature in most subtypes of epidermolysis bullosa (EB), and they recently have been included among the criteria for scoring EB severity [1].

Due to fragility of the skin and frequent movements of the limb in neonate, it's difficult to click picture of all the nail changes at a time. There is no technique mentioned in the literature except the position to photograph nail in other age group like Inamadar and Palit's all-inclusive nail position [2,3].

We thought of using palmar grasp reflex where in the neonate tightly holds on to the examiner's finger after the palm is stroked or an attempt to hold is made [4]. The grasp reflex helped us to click a pic showing the nail changes clearly without any limb or digits movement (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Palmar grasp reflex - a neonate tightly holding on to the examiner's finger with clear picture of all the five digit nail.

We conclude that palmar grasp reflex may be effectively used to take nail photography in neonates. Documentation of such photo pics can be of use in scoring of EB, certain other genodermatosis with prominent nail involvement like pachyonychia congenita, nail – patella syndrome and study of neonatal nail conditions.

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