

## Surgical images: musculoskeletal

### Hook nail in a pediatric patient

A 7-year-old girl presented 3 years after a large tip amputation, which had been treated with an attempt at closure. The eventual outcome was a painful finger with a rounded or “hook” nail deformity (Fig. 1). During this closure, the treating physician had mobilized the volar surface with a midaxial incision (small arrows in Fig. 1). One treatment for this is an Atasoy or antennae procedure. Several variants of the actual procedure are in usage. The figures represent one option.

We removed the nail, liberated the excess nail matrix from the underlying bone and trimmed to limit it to the top of the finger. We used k-wire(s) to sup-

port the matrix in position. We incised the volar skin and brought the pulp area around to meet the matrix. We used a

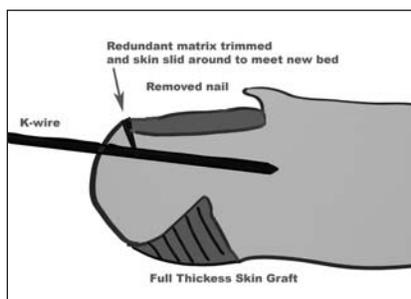


FIG. 2. Diagram showing the placement of the k-wire and the placement of the skin graft.

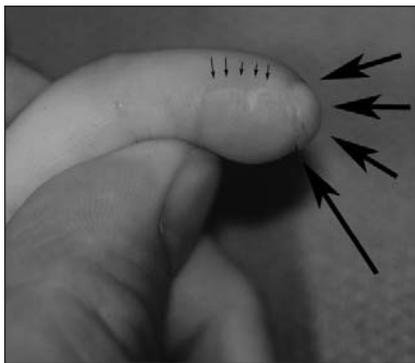


FIG. 1. Typical hook nail deformity. The large arrows represent the nail that now has grown around the tip of the finger. Small arrows indicate the location of the midaxial incision.

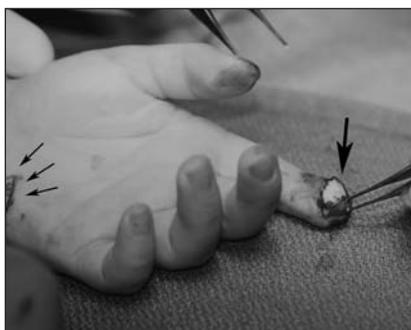


FIG. 3. Full-thickness skin graft harvested from the hypothenar eminence (small arrows), placed into the defect on the volar surface (large arrows).

port the matrix in position. We incised the volar skin and brought the pulp area around to meet the matrix. We used a full-thickness skin graft to fill the resultant defect (Fig. 2).

We harvested a full-thickness skin graft from the hypothenar eminence and placed it into the defect on the volar surface (Fig. 3). In a pediatric patient, this option is better than a cross finger flap. Figure 4 shows the final surgical result with the skin graft in place and the k-wire holding the transposed pulp in place as well as supporting the newly reconstructed matrix.

Competing interests: None declared.



FIG. 4. Skin graft (large arrow) and the k-wire holding the transposed pulp in place as well as supporting the newly reconstructed matrix.

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