

## IMAGES IN CLINICAL MEDICINE

## Subungual Exostosis



**A** 12-YEAR-OLD GIRL WITH AN UNREMARKABLE HISTORY WAS EVALUATED for a nodule of the lateral nail fold on the right hallux that had been present for 3 months (Panel A). The lesion, which was initially believed to be a wart, was treated with a topical salicylic acid preparation, with no improvement. The nodule measured 10 mm in diameter, and the distal nail plate showed onycholysis and had been destroyed. A radiograph revealed a calcifying projection on the dorsolateral part of the distal phalanx, continuous with the underlying bone (Panel B), the features of which were consistent with a subungual exostosis. The exostosis was resected, and light-microscopical studies of the resected tumor showed a mature trabecular bone covered by hyaline fibrocartilage tissue (Panel C). Subungual exostosis is a benign osteochondrogenous tumor. It occurs predominantly in children and young adults and often affects the great toe. It has been thought to reflect a reactive metaplasia resulting from microtrauma, but its exact pathogenesis is unclear. In this patient, no clinical problems were detected after 3 years of follow-up.

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