Dear Editor,

I read the article by Büyükcam et al. (1) titled “Nail Matrix Arrest during the Course of Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease: Evaluation of Onychomadesis Cases” with great interest.

Hand, foot, and mouth disease (HFMD) is an infection caused by various enterovirus types affecting especially the children under 5 years of age, mostly children aged between 2-10 (2). Treatment is not required in non-serious cases that are tended to heal spontaneously. HFMD epidemics have increased in recent years and cases with more serious progress have been prevalent (3).

Onychomadesis is characterized by a periodic idopathic shedding of the nails beginning at the proximal end, possibly caused by the temporary arrest of the function of the nail matrix, and may develop as a result of systemic diseases, malnutrition, trauma, periungual dermatitis, chemotherapy, drugs and infections. Cases emerging 4-8 weeks (4, 5) after the HFMD have been reported. They were found as high as 60% after epidemics (6).

HFMD related cases have been increased in our country since 2011, onychomadesis was reported as case reports as was published by Büyükçam et al in your journal (1). Limited number of cases, development of onychomadesis in the late period, admission of the patients to the dermatology polyclinics, failure to give detailed information to the patients are some of the reasons of this condition.

Considered from this particular point of view informing the patients with HFMD in regards to onychomadesis, examining the patients 3-4 weeks later and taking detailed history of patients with onychomadesis may determine the true prevalence of the disease.

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References