



# Images In Medicine

## Subungual Glomus Tumor

Alan H Daniels, MD, and Arnold-Peter C Weiss, MD

**A 43-YEAR OLD MALE PRESENTED TO OUR HAND surgery office** complaining of 8 years of small finger pain and sensitivity. He had previously seen three physicians without an accurate diagnosis. We made the diagnosis of subungual glomus tumor based on his history and physical examination, which revealed exquisite tenderness of the fingertip and a bluish hue under his fingernail (Figure 1). The tumor was removed in the operating room (Figure 2) leading to immediate and complete relief of his symptoms. He has had no recurrence of symptoms at 1-year follow-up.

Glomus are benign vascular tumors that are found most commonly in the fingertip, frequently subungual, and often present with classic triad of symptoms: (1) hypersensitivity to cold, (2) paroxysmal pain, and (3) pinpoint pain in the finger. Patients often go undiagnosed or misdiagnosed because the tumors are small, usually not palpable, and have varying presentations. A combination of history, physical examination, and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) with gadolinium is used to support the diagnosis. Surgical excision is usually curative and provides complete pain relief. An awareness of the diagnosis is critical to prevent an unnecessary delay in treatment.

*Alan H Daniels, MD, is Chief Orthopaedic Surgery Resident at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.*

*Arnold-Peter C. Weiss, MD, is R. Scot Sellers Scholar of Hand Surgery, Professor of Orthopaedics, at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.*

### Disclosure of Financial Interests

The authors and/or their spouses/significant others have no financial interests to disclose.

### CORRESPONDENCE

Alan H Daniels, MD  
593 Eddy Street  
Providence, RI 02903  
phone: (401) 444-4030  
fax: (401) 444-6182  
e-mail: alan\_daniels@brown.edu

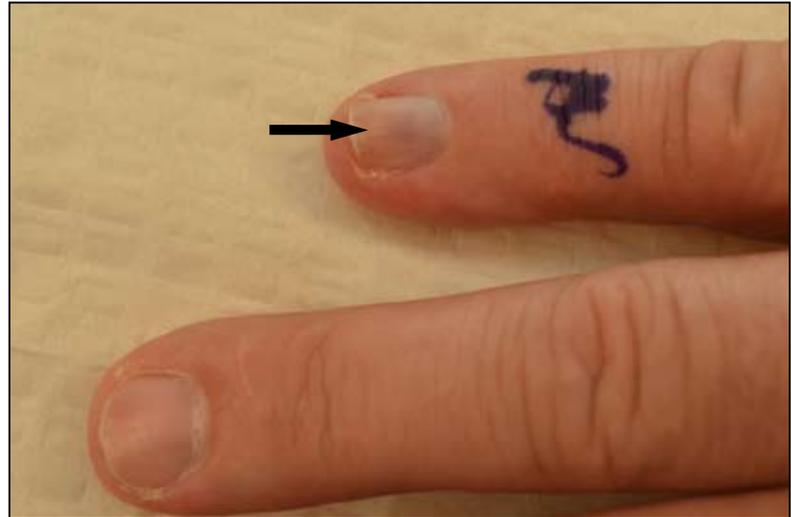


Figure 1: Small finger subungual bluish hue (arrow), indicating location of glomus tumor.

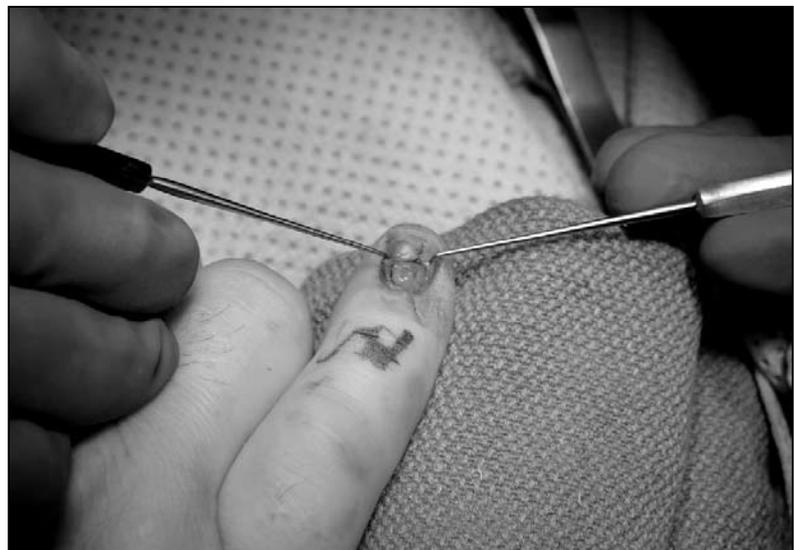


Figure 2: Intraoperative photograph showing well encapsulated subungual glomus tumor.