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NOVELTIES OF TREATMENT OF ONYCHOCRYPTOSIS

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Frequency of onychocryptosis ("ingrown nail") remains quite great for today. Reasons and preconditions for origination of this disease are numerous, such as wrong cutting of a fingernail (the nail plate lateral part is cut off very shortly, the scissor come under the dermal beading fillet), platypodia, wearing of narrow shoes.

Clinical attributes of onychocryptosis are: pain and lameness. Sometimes sanious or pellucid liquid appears in the growing-in area of the fingernail. If an infection is added, purulent matter from under the dermal nail vallum, superfluous growth of granulations, and unpleasant ichorous odor are observed. The mentioned above clinical signs lead to an essential discomfort which, in turn, prevents normal work and adequate feeling in the society.

The conservative methods of treatment are more often used at the initial stages of disease. Such methods include: cautious leading of the gauze strips moistened by alcohol under the fingernail edge; applying of salve dressings; processing by antiseptics. This tactics of treatment has a temporary character and, as a rule, does not lead to convalescence. However, if the secondary infection (purulent matter discharge and growth of granulations) is added then there is the only way out left - an operation.

The surgeons from all over world have developed more than 50 modifications of operations of onychocryptosis treatment: from total ablation to implantation of an x-ray film under the fingernail. Since 1961 the physical devices operating by the principle of application of dispersive galvanic current, partial fulguration, laser evaporation of CO₂ matrix are used. However, none of these techniques ensures avoidance of relapse of the disease, which percent for today is quite great (15% - 50%).

In 1996, in the Open Company RMC "Medinkur", we for the first time in Russia applied the technique of surgical treatment of onychocryptosis with the help of radiowave device "Surgitron™" from the company "Ellman International Inc" (USA) which has been manufactured since 1980, and applied in Russia since 1995.

In 1988 Dr. Kendall applied the radio wave to the nail plate matrix coagulation, and the relapse of disease has made about 2%.

The technique of the operation conducting is the following: the finger and adjacent tissues are processed by an antiseptic, at the basis a tourniquet is imposed, the block anesthesia is performed, and after 20 minutes we delete granulation, as accurately and carefully as possible we perform the edge resection of the nail plate. Then by the special electrode H9 we carry out the matrix coagulation at the base of the resected nail plate. The settings are the following: mode - "Coagulation", power - "5", time - "4" seconds. The last stage of operation is application of the bandage with antibiotic ointment. This technique, in comparison with other surgical interventions, has a number of advantages: the postoperative wound practically does not bleed, does not hurt, the patient is able to go easily without discomfort, the cicatrisation happens much faster. The operation is carried out without sutures.

Since 1996 we have operated 636 patients in the age of 12 to 65 years. We performed edge resection of the nail plate and partial matrix coagulation by the radiowave device "Surgitron" to all patients. The successful treatment is executed to 623 patients. The relapse of disease - a repeated growing-in of fingernail, made 2%. In such cases repeated operations were performed, and no complications were observed in the postoperative period. The antibiotics therapy was not

prescribed. Sometimes antihistamine medications were recommended. Subjectively the patients were satisfied with cosmetic and functional results of the treatment.

Having a great clinical operational experience with onychocryptosis treatment, we recommend device "Surgitron™" to the surgeons for successful treatment of this pathology.