

**Comment on “Association of subungual melanoma and subungual squamous cell carcinoma: A case series”**



*To the Editor:* We read with interest the paper published by Boespflug et al about the association of subungual melanoma with subungual squamous cell carcinoma.<sup>1</sup>

However, we think that the suggested diagnosis is not correct. Indeed, Figs 3 and 5<sup>1</sup> show well-differentiated, superficial small epidermoid lobules without obvious atypia that keratinize without stratum granulosum. These small cysts correspond to benign subungual epidermoid inclusions, also called onycholemmal cysts, and not to lobules of squamous cell carcinoma.<sup>2,3</sup> They are thought to result from a reactive process and correspond to bulbous elongations of the rete ridges. It is a common histopathologic finding observed in many nail conditions and even in normal nails. Both of us have observed these epithelial inclusion cysts in several cases of subungual melanomas.<sup>4</sup> From a clinical point of view, the pictures show longitudinal melanonychia without any subungual hyperkeratosis or nail plate dystrophy, as would be expected in subungual squamous cell carcinoma. We sincerely regret that such an erroneous interpretation has been accepted for publication in a high-quality journal like the *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*.

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*Funding sources:* None.

*Conflicts of interest:* None disclosed.

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaad.2018.08.065>