A 26-year-old woman presented with a 9-month history of nail deformities, a 6-month history of morning stiffness, and a 3-month history of fever. Physical examination revealed polyarthritis, and transverse and longitudinal convexity, resulting in prominent ridged nail deformities in index (Picture A) and small fingers. Laboratory examination revealed leukopenia, low complement levels, and positive reactions for serum antinuclear, anti-double-stranded DNA, anti-Sm, and antiphospholipid antibodies. Systemic lupus erythematosus was diagnosed. After the diagnosis, headache and altered mental status developed. Magnetic resonance imaging revealed multiple infarctions in the cerebrum and cerebellum. Treatment with systemic glucocorticoids for central nervous system lupus resulted in an improvement without neurological deficit. After the treatment, nail deformities improved (Picture B, C, 3 and 5 months after treatment). Six months after treatment nail deformities had almost disappeared (Picture D). Although several nail abnormalities have been described in patients with SLE (1, 2), nail deformity such as in the present case has not previously been reported.
The authors state that they have no Conflict of Interest (COI).

References