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ANSWERS

1. (A) T, (B) T, (C) T, (D) F, (E) F; 2. (A) T, (B) T, (C) F, (D) T, (E) T; 3. (A) T, (B) T, (C) T, (D) F, (E) T; 4. (A) T, (B) T, (C) T, (D) T, (E) F; 5. (A) T, (B) T, (C) F, (D) T, (E) T; 6. (A) T, (B) F, (C) T, (D) T, (E) F; 7. (A) T, (B) T, (C) F, (D) F, (E) T; 8. (A) T, (B) T, (C) F, (D) F, (E) F.

IMAGES IN MEDICINE.....

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latrogenic arsenic induced Mees' lines

A 43 year old white man, with acute myeloid leukaemia, resistant to induction (cytarabine + daunorubicin) and reinduction chemotherapy (cytarabine + daunorubicin + etoposide), accepted "a last resort" treatment with arsenic trioxide (0.15 mg/kg/day, intravenously; 14 mg/day). Arsenic treatment was started four weeks after reinduction chemotherapy. Before beginning arsenic treatment, the patient was in a poor general condition and suffered from a motor peripheral neuropathy because of chemotherapy. On the seventh day of his treatment, after having received 84 mg of arsenic, a Mees' line was first noted on the right middle fingernail.¹⁻³ Within 10 days Mees' lines became visible on other fingers of the right hand and within 14 days on the left fingernails. The picture was taken 18 days after the start of treatment, by which time he had received a total of 266 mg of arsenic. Blood concentrations of arsenic were not monitored. The patient continued to deteriorate and succumbed to his primary disease.

Figure 1 Typical appearance of Mees' lines presenting as a single transverse broad band of white discoloration of the nails.

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