

TOPHUS
TOPHUS

Patricia Chang

*Dermatologist Hospital General de Enfermedades IGSS y Hospital Ángeles
Guatemala***Corresponding author:** Patricia Chang, MD PhDpchang2622@gmail.com

Our Dermatol Online. 2012; 3(2): 131-133

Date of submission: 07.03.2011 / acceptance: 19.12.2011

Conflicts of interest: None

Tophus is a Latin word means „stone”, in plural is called tophi is a deposit of monosodium urate crystals in people with longstanding high levels of uric acid in the blood. Tophi are most commonly seen in conjunction with the disease of gout, and most people with tophi have already developed gouty symptoms previously [1].

Even though tophi are most commonly found as hard nodules around the fingers, at the tips of the elbows, and around the big toe, tophi nodules can appear anywhere in the body. They have been reported in unexpected areas such as in the ears, vocal cords, or around the spinal cord [2].

The pathognomonic lesion of gout, which appears grossly

when preserved in alcohol or other non-aqueous solution as a nodular mass of white chalky, pasty material composed of crystalline and amorphous urates—eg, monosodium urate monohydrates, surrounded by mononuclear cells, fibroblasts and a foreign body-type giant cell reaction with epithelioid histiocytes [3].

Tophi may appear in the articular cartilage of joints and also in the periarticular ligaments, tendons and soft tissues including the olecranon and patellar bursae, Achilles tendons, and ear lobes. Less frequently they may appear in the kidneys, nasal cartilages, skin of the fingertips, palms and sole. Superficial tophi can lead to large ulcerations of the overlying skin [4].

**Figure 1. Tophus on finger and toes****Figure 2. Tophus on fingers**



Figure 3. Tophus in the proximal nail folds of finger



Figure 4. Tophus in the proximal nail folds of toes



Figure 4. Tophus on toes



Figure 5. Close up Tophus



Figure 7a,b. Tophus on hands



REFERENCES

1. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tophus>
2. <http://medterms.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=5821>
3. <http://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/tophus>
4. <http://histopathology-india.net/GoTo.htm>