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Raynaud Phenomenon With Lingual Involvement in a 6-year-old Female

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Raynaud phenomenon (RP) may affect the tongue as has previously been reported in cases of secondary RP[1,2,3]. We are not aware of lingual involvement being previously described in individuals with primary RP, particularly in children.

A 6-year-old prepubertal, previously healthy female was referred for rheumatological assessment. Following cold exposure, she described a typical triphasic RP of the fingers. After initial episodes involving the digits, she subsequently experienced episodes of nonpainful blanching of the anterior left one-third of the tongue associated with tingling. These episodes were precipitated by exposure to cold weather with an open mouth, but not ingestion of cold liquids or foods. Exact episode duration is unknown, though there was rapid resolution after mouth closure. There was no history of lingual ulceration or other associated symptoms. Lingual and digital episodes did not occur concurrently (Figures 1A,B).

History and examination, including nailfold capillaroscopy were normal. Laboratory workup revealed positive antinuclear antibodies (ANA; titer of 1:2560 in a mitotic pattern). Extractable nuclear antigen (ENA) panel was negative. The patient was evaluated 9 months later, with repeat ANA revealing a titer of 1:160 (mitotic). ENA remained negative. There was no evolution in symptoms to suggest secondary RP.

Retrospective data have shown that ANA positivity in chil-

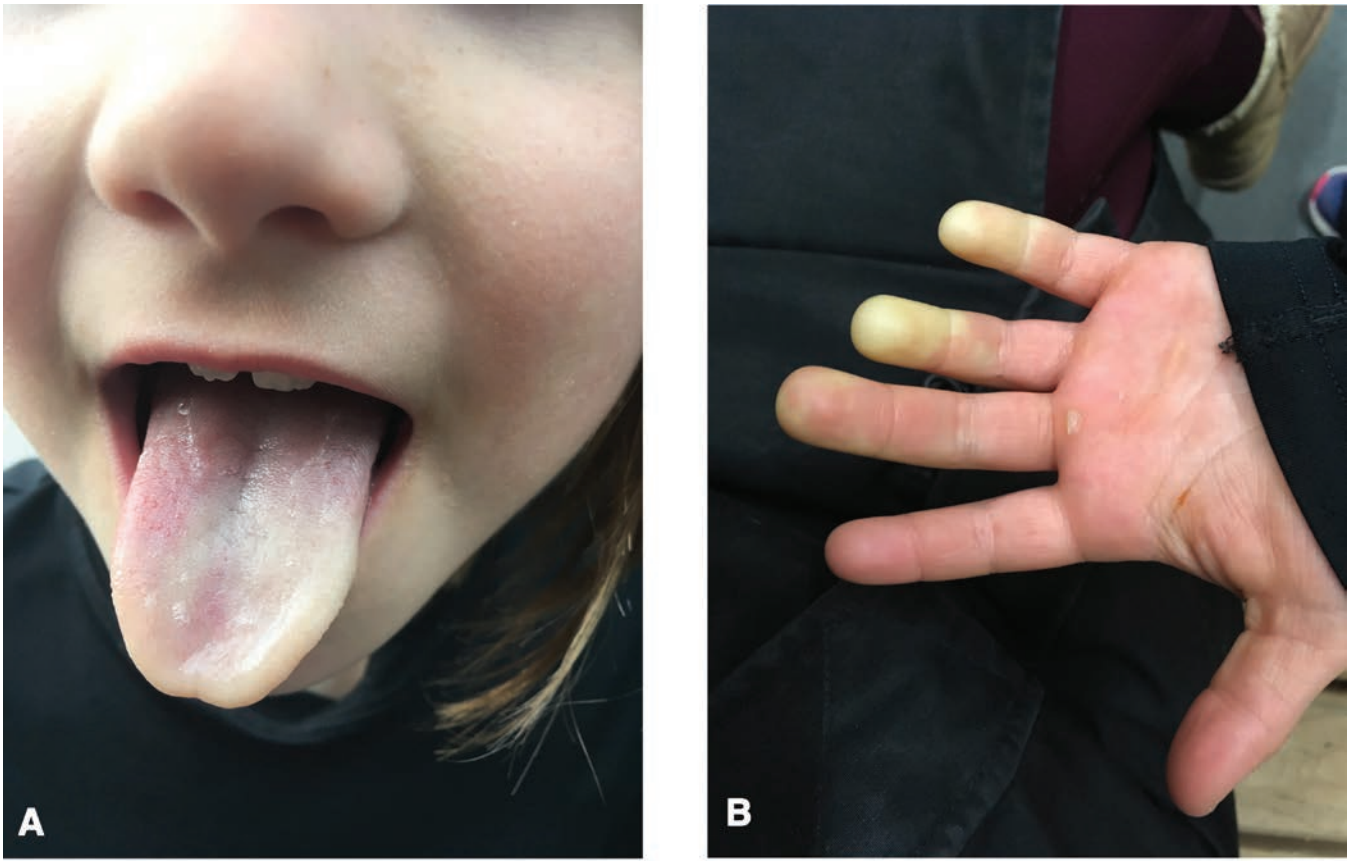

Figure 1. A 6-year-old female with a history of blanching and tingling of fingers developed anterior predominantly left-sided tongue discoloration consistent with lingual RP. (A) Superior surface of the tongue. (B) Typical blanching of the fingers as seen in RP. RP: Raynaud phenomenon.

dren with RP is associated with evolution to involve other features of a systemic autoimmune disease[4]. Despite not having secondary RP at the time of assessment, given this patient's elevated ANA and unusual lingual presentation, she will be followed closely for development of an associated rheumatic disease.

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