Which of the following statement regarding abnormalities of the lunula is true?

A. Absence of the lunula may suggest performing a complete blood count
B. A pyramidal lunula is seen in cases of excessive manicure or trauma
C. A pale blue lunula suggests systemic lupus erythematosus
D. A red discoloration of the lunula has no significance
E. The lunula is part of the nail bed
Answer: A. Absence of the lunula may suggest performing a complete blood count

From possible malignancy to nutritional status, a significant amount of information pertaining to the patient's overall health can be obtained from examination of the fingernails. To get the most information, clinicians should undertake examination of the nail at each assessment and be sure to perform all nail examinations in adequate light.

**Information Available From Examination of the Fingernails**

- Overall vitality
- Inner emotional state
- Cerebral dominance (your dominant thumb nail is usually slightly larger than your nondominant thumb nail)
- Occupations and hobbies
- Medical history
- Nutritional status
- Cardiovascular function
- Possible malignancy
- Kidney disease
- Liver disease
- Rheumatic conditions
- Dermatologic problems