

Using a transparent plastic cup over a nail clipper to facilitate nail sampling



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CLINICAL CHALLENGE

Nail clipping is one of the diagnostic methods used in dermatology, mainly to take nail samples for the diagnosis of onychomycosis. One potential problem is losing the sample while cutting because of the strong force applied by the nail clipper. This problem could be partially solved by placing the hand or a piece of gauze over the nail clipper. However, this often obscures the view and does not allow for accurate sampling.

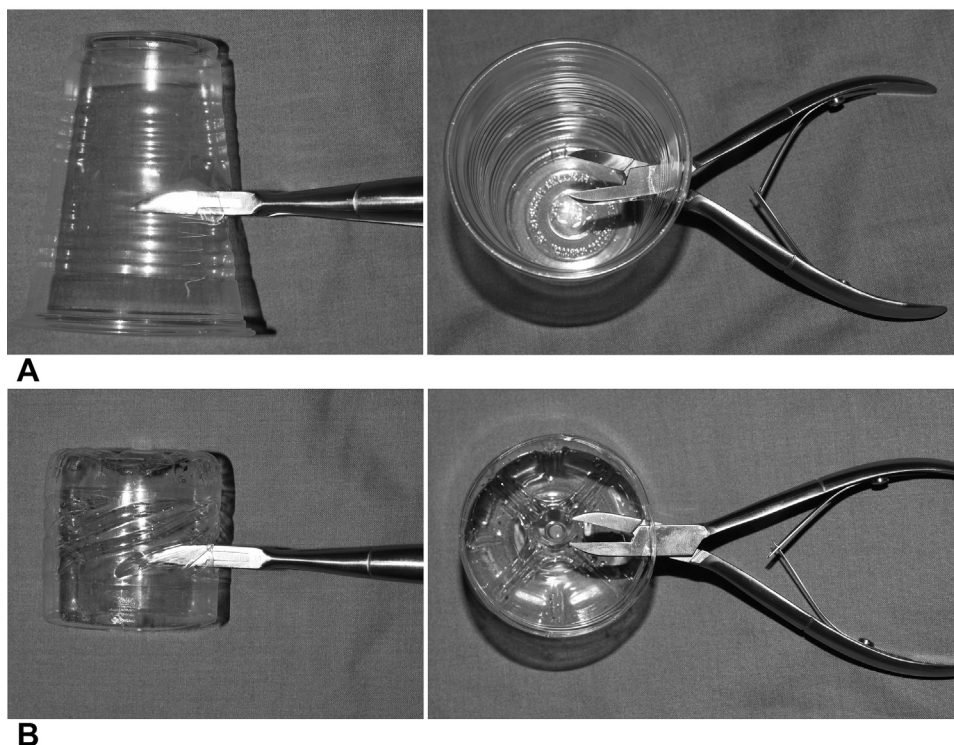


Fig 1. The nail clipper is inserted from the side into (A) a transparent plastic cup or (B) part of a water bottle (lower row).

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SOLUTION

To overcome this, a transparent plastic cup is used. The nail clipper is inserted into the cup from the side (Fig 1). The same can be done by using the lower part of a plastic water bottle. The digit is introduced into the cup through the open end (Fig 2). When the nail is being cut, the cup will help capture the nail sample into the created cavity (Fig 2).

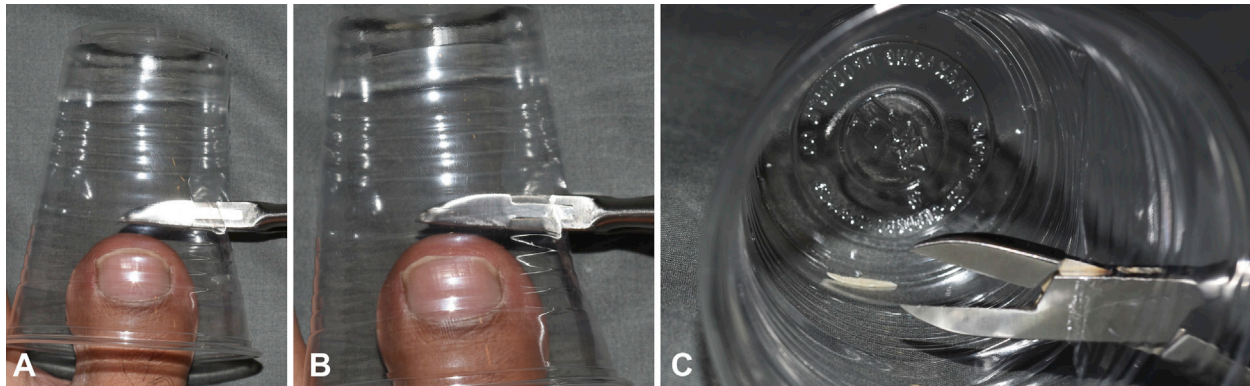


Fig 2. **A**, The toe is introduced through the open end of the cup. **B-C**, After cutting, the nail sample is trapped in the created cavity.