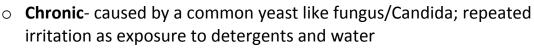
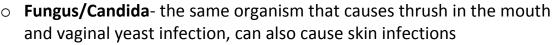
## **Paronychia-Finger**

## What is it?

- Paronychia Finger an infection of the skin around the finger nail
  - Acute-caused by bacteria (streptococci or staphylococcus; trauma to the skin as a hand nail, ingrown nail or nail biting







• **Symptoms**- painful finger infection, cuticle becomes red and swollen, tender to touch, red, warm, painful swelling of the skin; may have a formation of pus that separates the skin from the nail; lymph nodes in the armpit of elbow may swell, skin around the nail may be boggy, may have a green discoloration due to the pseudomonas infection

## Facts:

- **Caused by** nail biting, finger sucking, a splinter, injury to the area, pus accumulates, the infection can spread deeper into the finger even to the bone
- Most Common- hand infection in the United States
- More Extensive Infections- diabetes, poor circulation and those with a compromised immune system as AIDS or long term corticosteroid use
- Prevention- avoid biting nails and cuticles, avoid soaking hands in water, and avoid sucking fingers

## What can I do?

• See your Health Care Provider- for more information; an antifungal lotion or cream; a culture of the pus may be taken; a potassium hydroxide/KOH test of a smear from the nail fold can sometimes reveal a virus

