

New Laser Technology Zaps Toenail Fungus

A new laser treatment, with a success rate of 88 percent, is now available at the Agoura-Los Robles Podiatry Center in Agoura Hills (28240 Agoura Rd., Suite 101)—one of only three facilities in the Los Angeles area offering the treatment.

May 21, 2009 - [PRLog](#) -- Contacts:

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For Immediate Release: May 21, 2009

New Laser Technology Zaps Fungus
From Toenails

AGOURA HILLS, CALIF.--Dreading going barefoot this summer because of unsightly toenails? You are not alone. An estimated 35 million people in the United States suffer from toenail fungus, a disease that discolors, cracks and thickens toenails. A new laser treatment, with a success rate of 88 percent is now available at the Agoura-Los Robles Podiatry Center in Agoura Hills. The center is the first location to offer the laser treatment to Ventura County residents.

"Many toenail fungus sufferers use topical ointments to treat the problem, but the success rate is low. Oral medications are available but come with potentially dangerous side effects," says Dr. Michael Zapf, a podiatrist with the Agoura-Los Robles Podiatry Center. "The fungus has no real resistance to laser light. The laser beam harmlessly passes through the nail and skin on the toe and kills the fungus buried within the nail. The procedure is without pain or discomfort. It has been used on children as young as five without problems. The results are amazing."

The laser, known as the PinPointe FootLaser, is FDA approved for use in dermatology, plastic surgery and podiatric medicine. Podiatrists have been using the laser to treat fungal nails for more than a year. It requires one 40-minute procedure. Unlike other treatments, there are no side effects. Improvement to the look of the toenail is apparent as the damaged portion naturally grows and is removed.

Zapf says that toenail fungus is caused by a variety of reasons that damage the nail, which lead to fungal infection. These include physical activities such as running and tennis, genetics, poor circulation and certain medical conditions. Almost half of those age 70 and older are affected. Fungus can spread through common use of wet towels, improper foot hygiene or walking on contaminated floor surfaces and even from pedicures.

"The laser treatment gives people the ability to enjoy summer activities, free of worry because their

toenails are no longer an embarrassment," says Zapf.

Thousands of laser procedures have been performed and the laser has been featured on "Good Morning America." The Agoura-Los Robles Podiatry Center in Agoura Hills is one of only three facilities in the Los Angeles area equipped with the PinPointe FootLaser and the first facility serving Ventura County. For more information, go to www.lasermystoes.com.

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Source	Agoura-Los Robles Podiatry Center
City/Town	Agoura Hills
State/Province	California
Zip	91301
Country	United States
Industry	Health , Lifestyle , Medical
Tags	Foot Disease , Foot Fungus , Laser Treatment , Toenail Disease , Agoura-los Robles Podiatry Center , Ventura , Los Angeles
Link	https://prlog.org/10241503



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