

Cynosure Acquires Exclusive Rights to Distribute PinPointe for Onychomycosis Tx

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Toenail before Tx



Toenail eight months after PinPointe Tx
Photos courtesy of Hamish Dow, Podiatry UK

In October 2011 Cynosure, Inc. (Westford, Mass.) obtained exclusive worldwide distribution rights to the PinPointe FootLaser from NuVolve, Inc. (Chico, Calif.). With roughly 36 million people in the U.S. and 10% of the world's total population afflicted by onychomycosis, this FDA cleared device uses a 1064 nm Nd:YAG laser with a unique pulse structure to destroy fungus under the nail without causing damage to the nail or surrounding skin.

According to a 12 month, multi-site, retrospective study involving more than 250 sequential patients, a single session with PinPointe – typically lasting 20 minutes – resulted in 71% of patients achieving continuous improvement in clear nail area.

Daniel Waldman, D.P.M., F.A.C.F.A.S., a podiatrist in private practice in Asheville, N.C., who has been using the PinPointe FootLaser for about three years, has seen comparable results. “The vast majority of my patients – over 80% – have had wonderful outcomes, with clearing of their infected toenails.” He noted that the current standard of care for onychomycosis includes oral drugs and topical medications, which are often not as effective and carry the potential for significant side effects (foremost, liver toxicity, but also months of sensory loss of taste and smell, as well as rare blistering skin lesions).

With the PinPointe FootLaser, “no drugs are needed, except for topical medication for the toes and feet to keep the area fungal free after laser treatment,” Dr. Waldman said. “After treating thousands of patients, I have seen no adverse medical effects.”

Successful outcomes depend on the extent of the fungus; how long the

condition has existed; and the need for simple foot hygiene. “If the fungus is limited to the tips and / or outer surface of the toenail, then clearing can happen in a few weeks or months,” Dr. Waldman noted. “However, cases where the fungus encompasses the entire toenail can take 9 to 12 months or longer. For these tough cases, more than one laser treatment is advised, normally spaced one to two months apart.” Likewise, the earlier treatment begins, “the easier it is to clear.”

Dr. Waldman digitally photographs the toes before treatment, then the toenails are trimmed and smoothed using sterile instruments. “This removes a lot of the fungus affected toenail immediately,” he explained. Next, the PinPointe FootLaser is used over each affected toenail. “The laser's beam is just over one millimeter; therefore, to cover an entire nail can take a while. It is vital to cover the entire nail from tip to root to zap away the microbes.” Some heat is felt by the patient, but treatment is comfortable so no anesthesia is required.

Patients often return to Dr. Waldman's office after one to three months to confirm they are following simple hygiene steps and that their nails are sufficiently improving. “Although enhancement treatments are rare, most patients return for evaluation every three months.”

The affordable PinPointe FootLaser has three speeds and three energy settings (two 4 watt settings and one 6 watt setting). “This is a laser that should be in every podiatrist's office,” said Dr. Waldman, who charges between \$500 and \$1,200 for a single treatment, depending on severity and number of toes treated. Enhancement treatments, if needed, are offered at a substantially reduced fee.