

Lunula laser offers hope to cure toenail fungus

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One would never imagine how difficult it is to eradicate a seemingly minor problem such as a toenail fungus. But those who have ever developed such an unsightly issue know how nearly impossible it is to cure.

For the approximately 35 million people who seek treatment, there may be hope beyond the usual topical creams and oral, antifungal medications.

Last October, the Erchonia Corporation introduced the FDA-approved Lunula portable laser device to the public. The machine is the first and only low-level laser to receive FDA clearance for targeting nail fungus (onychomycosis).

Prior to FDA 510(k) approval, the product went through four clinical trials, which recorded no known side effects, according to Charlie Shanks, vice president of marketing for the Erchonia Corporation.

“The 510(k) is a premarketing submission to the FDA that demonstrates that the device marketed is safe and effective,” said Shanks. “Lunula is the most rigorous type of device marketing application accepted by the FDA.”

According to Dr. Kerry Zang, a lead researcher behind the Lunula laser, clinical trials showed 67 percent of patients had three millimeters of clear nail growth within approximately six months of treatment.

“Lunula is the future of treating onychomycosis,” said Zang, founder of the Arizona Institute of Footcare. “The results seen in the clinical trial are spectacular and we are eager to provide Americans with the opportunity to treat this nail fungus with an effective product.”

Patients who participated in the Lunula laser study were between 18 and 70 years old and received treatments once a week for four weeks, according to Robert Sullivan, another leading researcher behind Lunula.

Sullivan said none of the subjects experienced side effects, which is unlike many other nail fungus treatments on the market. Patients may feel a slight warming sensation or an occasional pinprick feeling. Pain medication is never required and there is no recovery time.

“Nail fungus is a big problem and the toxicity of the available drugs is almost as bad,” said Sullivan. “Lunula gives doctors a viable treatment option: no blood tests, no pain and no mess.”

Lunula laser treatments cost around \$600 for four treatments, according to the company, which is the usual amount needed to clear up the fungus. An entire treatment session, including preparation of the nail, application of the light, and buffing the nail, typically takes around 10-15 minutes to complete.

Ideal candidates display symptoms, such as a change in nail shape after an injury, weak, brittle, or cracking nails, splitting nails, horizontal ridges across the nails and/or discoloration.

Lunula laser is available at Dr. Michael Uro Foot Care, 87 Scripps Drive, Suite 320 , in Sacramento. To schedule a free consultation, call (916) 920-9292 or toelaser.com.

For more information about the Lunula Laser, visit toelaser.com