

# Laser Treatment of Nails

## How does the laser treatment work?

Our doctors use a Q-Switched NdYAG laser which is one of the most advanced dermatologic lasers currently available. In 3-10 billionths of a second, impulses of high power laser energy pass through the nail to the nail bed and nail growth area with typically no damage to the nail or surrounding skin. At the time of the procedure no visible change is seen until the nail begins to grow out. In a few months, a more normal nail is expected to appear with complete regrowth of the nail taking up to 9-12 months.

## What is the recovery period?

No post treatment pain has been reported. You may resume all normal activities immediately. If you have any problems or questions, please contact our office.

## Is the procedure painful?

Most people do not feel any pain. Some patients may experience slight warmth or occasional snapping sensation during the procedure. If you have any pain during the procedure, the laser power can be decreased slightly to eliminate any pain. No anesthesia is needed.

## How long does the procedure take?

The amount of time varies on the degree of involvement of the nails. Very thick nails are mechanically reduced to a more normal thickness with specialized equipment. The laser is then applied typically taking only a few minutes. Overall, a visit for consultation and treatment will usually take about 30 minutes.

## Can the nail not improve?

The nail is expected to improve with just one treatment. Clinical reports to date have been encouraging with most patients noticing significant improvement. As with all medical procedures, a 100% guarantee is not possible. Your doctor can recommend other strategies to maintain healthy nails. Changing socks and shoes frequently is helpful, as well as controlling excessive perspiration if present.

## Can I polish my nails or have a pedicure?

You can apply polish to the nail immediately after the laser treatment. However it is important to remove all nail polish prior to your treatment.

## Is the laser treatment covered by my health insurance?

No, the procedure is considered cosmetic, and is not covered by health insurance.

## How much does laser treatment cost?

The cost varies depending on the number of nails involved and severity of the infection. The national average for laser treatment is between \$500 and \$1200. However, since our practice offers the most state-of-the-art laser equipment, we can provide the most effective treatment in less time, and at a reduced cost. Our fees range between \$295 and \$945. A free consultation is provided to determine if you are a good candidate for laser treatment. Please refer to our fee schedule for costs. The charges are based on the number of nails with obvious involvement. Follow up visits are provided during the first year at no charge.

Payment plans are available.

