

Health, Beauty and Fitness

Apex Cardiology Laser treatment to clear blocked arteries in legs given a "boost" with new catheter availability

By Mason Weiss, M.D., FACC

Committed to providing patients with innovative, safe and effective treatment options, I'd like to announce the availability of the only laser ablation treatment approved to clear blockages in arteries above the knee which is FDA approved. Apex Cardiology and Centinela-Freeman Medical Center are some of the first facilities in the country using Spectranetics' new TURBO-Booster™ catheter to treat Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD) and restore blood flow to the legs and feet.

PAD is a vascular disease that restricts or blocks blood flow in the legs, affecting approximately 12 million people in the U.S. If left untreated, the condition can lead to sores that do not heal, or heal slowly, and ultimately in gangrene and amputation. Those suffering from PAD are at increased risk for heart attack, aortic aneurysms and stroke, therefore, it is important to recognize early symp-



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toms and seek treatment.

Early warning signs may include dull or cramping pain in the buttocks, hips, thighs or calf muscles, or numbness or tingling in the legs, feet or toes. Approximately 75 percent of those suffering go undiagnosed. Many don't seek medical attention, as the symptoms are overlooked as a typical part of the aging process.

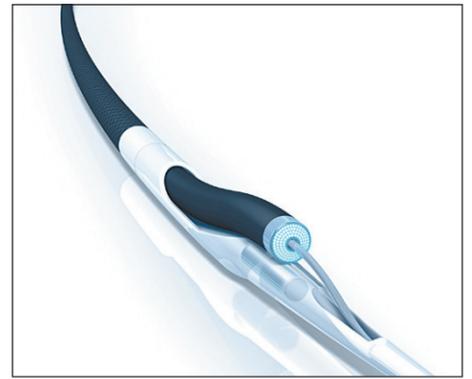
Up until now, there was no safe way to remove the large amounts of plaque accumulation that can develop in the large arteries above the knee. We are now able to address this problem with a

minimally-invasive, proven-effective laser treatment that helps patients quickly get back to an active lifestyle. Anyone experiencing symptoms of PAD should seek out their doctor for further evaluation and/or treatment. There is no need to suffer from symptoms that lessen the day-to-day quality of one's life.

The TURBO-Booster™, offered by Colorado Springs-based Spectranetics Corporation, is used with a TURBO elite™ line of laser catheters for the removal of large amounts of plaque material within the superficial femoral artery (SFA) and popliteal arteries by producing pulsed bursts of ultraviolet (UV) light energy that vaporize blockages in the arteries into tiny particles that are easily absorbed into the blood stream.

The use of the TURBO-Booster™ allows the creation of a much larger channel (hence the "boost") than that which could be achieved with the previous laser catheters alone, in both a safe and minimally invasive fashion. This also may lead to a lessened need to place stents within the artery and may reduce the overall recurrence rate of the plaque itself in long-term ongoing studies now under way.

Mason Weiss, M.D., FACC is a triple board certified physician with certification in internal medicine, general cardiology and interventional cardiology. He has prac-



TURBO-BOOSTER-ELITE™

ticed medicine for 23 years and is a physician partner with the highly regarded Apex Cardiology team of physicians.

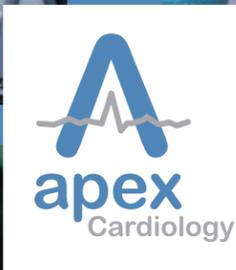
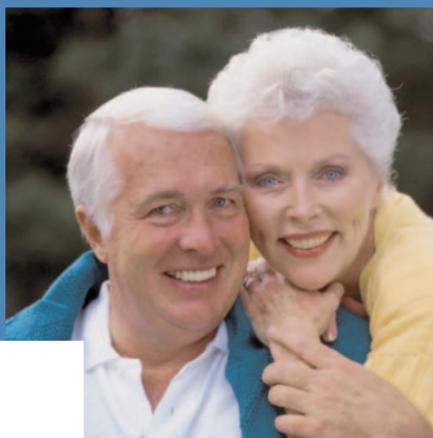
Apex Cardiology is at 501 E. Hardy St., Suite 200, Inglewood. Information, (310) 672-3900, www.apexcardiology.com



BEFORE

AFTER

TREATMENT WITH TURBO-BOOSTER ELITE™



Screening is fast, painless and takes just minutes



>> HEART DISEASE:

- is the #1 killer of men and women
- can be silent until advanced
- can appear without symptoms and result in sudden death in 50% of people
- is a preventable disease that Apex Cardiology can help detect with the latest in **LightSpeed 64-slice cardiac CT scanning**

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