

Quality of life for lymphoedema patients undergoing surgical treatment

It is well known that lymphoedema affects quality of life (QoL). Much has been published on the impact of lymphoedema and on the improvements associated with various therapies. Most of this relates to breast cancer related lymphoedema, some to lower limb cancer related, but virtually nothing related to primary lymphoedema. There is also very little published on the impact of surgical management of lymphoedema on QoL.

This presentation will review the various QoL questionnaires in use, the published papers relating to surgical management and present the author's own experience of managing lymphoedema with liposuction and compression. Data will be presented on the variability of QoL perception by patients, the impairment experienced despite maximal conservative therapy, and the changes experienced following surgical intervention.