

Title:

'Men In Tights' A Review of Cancer Related Lymphoedema in Males

Abstract:

Current provision of care and education for the prevention and treatment of secondary lymphoedema (SL) has focussed on women following breast cancer. Cancer trends demonstrate a rise in cancer diagnosis amongst the male population. With increasing rates of melanoma and uro-genital cancer and the established associated risk of SL, it is important to understand the experience of males in relation to SL.

A systematic review identified literature specific to the prevalence and incidence of male SL and quality of life issues around the male experience of SL.

71 publications were identified during the search. 16 relevant studies were reviewed. Studies were of low quality. The lack of a standardised method for the assessment and definition of SL, as well as significant variances of SL reported in available literature (20%-80% for those with melanoma) make it difficult to collect reliable incidence and prevalence data and to allow comparison of results.

The significant lack of male specific research regarding SL following cancer supports the need for further research. Despite more males being diagnosed with cancer and at life long risk of SL, males are often an unrecognised risk for developing this condition. The impact on quality of life after diagnosis of SL remains unknown in the male population and the true incidence and prevalence of SL has not been established.

This presentation will disseminate findings of the review as well as create awareness amongst health professionals regarding the current discrepancy in education, resources and evidence based research which exists between genders.