

6 THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT LYMPHEDEMA

1 Lymphedema is chronic swelling caused by a build-up of fluid that occurs when the lymphatic system is either faulty or damaged.

Damaged vessels blocking the normal flow of lymphatic fluid

3 Most physicians in the United States are taught about the lymphatic system for **1 hour** or less during their 4 years of medical school training.

4 There is no known cure for lymphedema, but it can be effectively treated. **Compression therapy** is the most critical component of treatment. Without it, patients are at increased risk for complications and disability.

5 Medicare, and many private insurance policies do NOT cover compression garments, wraps, or bandages — the supplies needed for compression therapy.

6 The **Lymphedema Treatment Act** is a bill, currently in Congress, that aims to improve insurance coverage for compression supplies, allowing lymphedema patients to maintain a healthy and productive life.

2 An estimated 3-5 million Americans suffer from lymphedema — including many that are undiagnosed or undertreated. *That is more than ALS, Cystic Fibrosis, Multiple Sclerosis, Muscular Dystrophy, and Parkinson's Disease combined.*



*2 out of 5 breast cancer patients will develop lymphedema within 5 years of surgery.**

Swollen tissue due to buildup of lymphatic fluid

Causes of Lymphatic Dysfunction

- Lymph node removal for cancer treatment
- Injury to lymphatic vessels due to trauma or infection
- Venous insufficiency, causing overload of lymphatic vessels
- Congenital malformation of lymphatics



Visit our website to learn more about lymphedema and how to support this bill.

LymphedemaTreatmentAct.org