

C. Brunelle: A Proposed Diagnostic Pathway for Breast Cancer-Related Lymphedema (BCRL)

SUMMARY: Prospective screening for BCRL incorporates subjective and objective measurements which allow for early diagnosis and intervention. However, varied diagnostic criteria for BCRL exist, and lack of consensus leads to variation in screening and diagnosis across institutions. There is sufficient evidence to develop guidelines in this area to work toward universal BCRL diagnostic criteria. Current subjective and objective screening methods and diagnostic thresholds will be reviewed, including the merits and challenges of each. Based on available evidence, a proposed clinical pathway for BCRL diagnosis will be presented. Ultimately, the BCRL diagnostic process should be universalized and combine patient-reported outcome measures, objective measurements, and clinical evaluation whilst adhering to best practices of the measurement tools used.

PRESENTER:



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Cheryl earned her physical therapy degree at the University of Toronto, Canada. She completed her lymphedema certification with Drs. Albert and Olivier Leduc in London, England, and with Klose Training, in Boston, USA.

Cheryl's clinical focus is on the evaluation and treatment of patients during and after breast cancer treatment, for issues such as surveillance and early intervention for lymphedema, shoulder morbidity, and deconditioning resulting from breast cancer and its treatment.

Cheryl's main research interests include risk factors, prospective surveillance, symptoms and early intervention for breast cancer-related lymphedema.