

Compression in end of life and advanced disease

Comfortable and effective compression offers tremendous benefit to patients at the end of life. Decongestive therapy provides positive effects in multiple domains including comfort, function, psychological well-being and intimacy.

Conventional approaches to compression must generally be modified for palliative patients since edema is frequently multi-factorial and dynamic at the end of life which may render compression garments limitedly feasible or effective.

This presentation will outline candidate approaches and review the clinical characteristics which indicate a need to trial them. Increased use of foam, Artiflex®, and other padding materials may be necessary. Reduced duration of compression and frequent removal of bandages may be required in the setting of neuropathy, dermal compromise, and arterial insufficiency.

Compression wrapping may require altered distribution, materials, and duration. The potential to exacerbate pain, dyspnea, or other adverse symptoms is also an important consideration.