

## **Bandaging of Genital Lymphedema**

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Genital lymphedema can be caused by primary or secondary lymphedema and commonly seen in males. Although it is a rare condition, it impairs quality of life. Compression therapies including genital bandaging and pressure garments are the mainstay of the management, in order to reduce edema and prevent complications. Precautions should always be considered according to the indications and contraindications of bandaging.

After manual lymphatic drainage, the genital organs are wrapped with special bandaging materials according to the involvement of penis and/or scrotum in males. Special consideration must be given to bandaging technique and applied materials to prevent the tendency of skin erosion. Foam padding is generally needed to protect skin and create better adherence. In females, specially shaped foam within a stockinette, or chip bags or flat-foam pads can be applied for labial and/or suprapubic bandaging.

In conclusion, the bandaging of genital lymphedema is challenging due to the anatomical characteristics, as well as to intimacy of patients and the reluctance, lack of knowledge/skills of the therapists. Therefore, education on bandaging of genitalia should be encouraged in order to develop knowledge and skills and to overcome barriers among both patients and health-professionals.