

The achievements and lessons learned from conducting LIMPRINT in Italy

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On September 15, 2016 in Italy, the Minister of Health, also at the request of the ITALF, published the guidelines in favor of Lymphedema patients. Primary lymphedema was finally considered a rare disease and the secondary one was protected with adequate health care with specific codes.

In the same period the LIMPRINT ITALIA study began which allowed us, based on the analysis of the numbers, to orient our institutional interventions on the correction of the deficiencies found in the territory. In this sense, after the completion of the study, reference structures have been opened in several Italian Regions, with the possibility of assistance in Day Hospital and in Hospitalization for the most serious cases, in need of clinical assistance within 24 hours, or characterized by 'intransportability 'or' social fragility '. Many territorial outpatient centers have also been opened and training courses for operators have multiplied.

There is still a lot to do but, certainly, on the basis of what has been achieved and with the indications that have also emerged from the LIMPRINT study, especially concerning some epidemiological data, important for the definition of assistance, today it can be said that in Italy the patient with lymphedema certainly enjoys assistance from the public health system above the average of other countries.