

Comparison and contrast of different techniques and methods of assessment in lymphoedema.

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This presentation focuses on the use of methods to detect chronic oedema and assess its extent. It includes those, which may be helpful in clinical practice in determining appropriate treatment as well as in research..

The main techniques discussed are limb volume measurements, bioimpedance and tissue dielectric constant. Limb volume measurements are routinely used in clinical practice, mainly by tape measure methods, to aid in the assessment of the severity of swelling to determine treatment options, as well as the response to treatment. In research more accurate methods such as water displacement and the Perometer may be needed. Bioimpedance is more commonly used in the early detection of lymphoedema e.g. after breast cancer treatment but can be used to monitor the response to treatment. Tissue dielectric constant measurements are particularly helpful in assessing localized swelling e.g. in midline areas such as head and neck and breast oedema.