Breast lymphoedema following breast cancer treatment

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Breast and chest wall lymphoedema is a relatively common complication following treatment for breast cancer, particularly after surgery to remove malignant breast or axillary tumours, after radiotherapy to the breast and chest wall or those patients who may develop breast cellulitis. A recent systematic review of breast lymphoedema following conservative breast surgery showed an incidence rate of breast oedema of 20.4-90%. Anecdotally, there has been an increase in referrals to lymphoedema clinics for management of breast and chest wall lymphoedema in recent years. Diagnosis and referral can be delayed as symptoms are often attributed to the side effects of treatment such as surgery and radiotherapy. The Delfin LymphScanner™ is a simple and portable tool used to measure and monitor breast lymphoedema. The need for individual solutions for each patient is shown via a case study, which highlights treatment options and outcomes.