

Where is the role of intermittent pneumatic compression in the treatment of patients with stage II secondary lymphoedema of the leg, after treatment gynaecological cancer

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Introduction: Intermittent pneumatic compression (IPC) is one of the methods of treating patients with lymphoedema.

Method: In this study, we wanted to evaluate the place of IPC in the treatment of stage II secondary lymphoedema of the leg in patients who had therapy for gynaecological cancer. The study was conducted retrospectively. We included 74 female patients (mean age 61,80 years) who were treated at our Clinic only with adhesive short-stretch bandages (initial average working pressure 71 mmHg, after one week average 28 mmHg, measured on the B1 point, *) to evacuate oedema and 63 female patients (average age 65,52 years) who were treated with a combination of IPC (70 mmHg, 30 min, 8 chambers, **) and the application of adhesive short-stretch bandages (initial average working pressure 72 mmHg, after one week average 30 mmHg, measured on the B1 point). We were interested in whether the oedema will evacuate faster when using a combination of IPC and compression. The patients in the first group were bandaged with adhesive short-stretch bandages and were advised to exercise, while in the second group, IPC was performed before the bandages were applied. The patients came at clinic once a week when the therapy was carried out until the oedema decreased. Then they continued the maintenance therapy with medical compression stockings class III, circularly knitted.

Results: Patients from the first group (compression only) required an average of 3,01 (from 1 to 8 therapies) visits into the day hospital for oedema evacuation, while patients from the second group (IPC and compression) only required an average of 2.05 visits (from 1 to 5 therapies).

Conclusion: IPC is a good adjunctive therapy to compression with short-stretch bandages for oedema evacuation in patients with stage II leg lymphoedema after treatment gynaecological cancer.

*Porelast™, Panelast™, Lohmann&Rauscher;

** Bio Compression System, Inc. Moonachie, model SC-3008-DL