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PRESS RELEASE

NEW PUBLICATIONS ADD TO THE BURDEN OF EVIDENCE SUPPORTING PRE-OPERATIVE ASSESSMENT AND ONGOING MONITORING OF PATIENTS WITH LYMPHOEDEMA

The publication in January and February 2009 of several key papers and commentaries^{1,2,3,4} reinforces the importance of early assessment and intervention in lymphoedema patients. This once again highlights the need for ImpediMed's L-Dex™ technology to assist medical professionals in their quest to minimise this debilitating condition.

Australian researchers Sandra Hayes and Beth Newman concluded in their January invited presentation to the American Journal of Hematology Oncology that, "Current evidence supports the need for greater awareness and acknowledgement that lymphedema is a clinical concern following breast cancer."¹

In February, the influential journal of the American Cancer Society (**CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians**) stated in their primer on lymphedema that bioimpedance spectroscopy (ImpediMed's technology platform), "determines volume by comparing the composition of fluid compartments within the body using resistance to electrical current. This type of impedance analysis has been found to be a reliable and accurate tool with which to measure volume of both the upper and lower extremities in the evaluation of lymphedema".^{2,5}

One of the authors of the primer, Dr Peter A.S. Johnstone MD had already stressed in a Medscape Today article that "the recommended guidelines for lymphedema management should include preoperative assessment and patient education for lymphedema prevention; early detection through symptom and limb measurement assessment; early intervention with a comprehensive treatment program once lymphedema is diagnosed; and continued assessment and maintenance, with patient education every 6 months."⁶

ImpediMed CEO Greg Brown commented that he was very pleased to see the number of top tier publications that are regularly appearing, validating pre-emptive care and the clinical need for ImpediMed's FDA cleared technology. He noted that other papers of particular significance to ImpediMed published during the period included those by Ridner et al³ and an invited commentary by Hunt et al⁴.

“The paper by Ridner et al³ highlights the need for a homecare device for lymphoedema assessment. Patients at high risk need to be regularly monitored and interventions implemented quickly. Once a patient is no longer under the direct care of the surgeon or oncologist a homecare product would be beneficial to support the early intervention process. A diabetes style homecare model, where patients may take a reading 1 to 2 times a week (depending on activities) makes sense to both healthcare payers and patients. I believe, for the patient, managing their anxiety around the potential of the condition gives them a sense of control rather than the uncertainty associated with the risk of progressive lymphoedema.

“The invited commentary by Hunt et al acknowledges the excellent work done by the Breast Cancer Research Group at Sydney University and others in advancing research in this area.⁴

“Sustained first-rate research on lymphoedema has generated an increase in the uptake of the technology in clinical practice and provides a direct benefit to cancer survivors, most notably in terms of their quality of life.” he said.

1. <http://www.ajho.com/Does-lymphedema-following-breast-cancer-warrant-clinical-attention/article/126800/3/>
2. Brian D. Lawenda, Tammy E. Mondry and Peter A. S. Johnstone ., *Lymphedema: A primer on the identification and management of a chronic condition in oncologic treatment* CA Cancer J Clin 2009;59;8-24 DOI: 10.3322/caac.20001
3. Ridner, S.H., et al., *Bioelectrical Impedance for Detecting Upper Limb Lymphedema in Nonlaboratory Settings*. Lymphat Res Biol, 2009.
4. Hunt, K.K., R. Askew, and J.N. Cormier, *Measuring lymphedema in patients with breast cancer: go with the flow?* Breast Cancer Res Treat, 2009.
5. Warren AG, Janz BA, Slavin SA, Borud LJ., *The use of bioimpedance analysis to evaluate lymphedema*. Ann Plast Surg. 2007;58:541-543
6. http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/566471_2

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About ImpediMed

ImpediMed Ltd. is the world leader in the development and distribution of medical devices employing Bioimpedance Spectroscopy (BIS) technologies for use in the non-invasive clinical assessment and monitoring of fluid status. ImpediMed's primary product range consists of a number of medical devices that aid surgeons, oncologists, therapists and radiation oncologists in the clinical assessment of patients for the potential onset of secondary lymphoedema. Pre-operative clinical assessment in breast cancer survivors, before the onset of symptoms, may prevent the condition from becoming a lifelong management issue and thus improve the quality of life of the cancer survivor. ImpediMed had the first medical device with an FDA clearance in the United States to aid health care professionals in the clinical assessment of secondary lymphoedema of the arm in female breast cancer patients. For more information, visit. www.impedimed.com.