

Utility of lymphatic substitution pathways in secondary lymphoedema

Lympho-Phlebology Unit, Haute Ecole P.H. Spaak,
Brussels Center of Oedema Treatment. [Leduc O.](#)

Université Libre de Bruxelles, Vrije Universiteit Brussel,
Dept. Physical-therapy. [Leduc A.](#)

Introduction:

Lymph-vessels represent the most representative spreading pathways of cancer cells. To avoid this spreading, lymphadenectomy is performed.

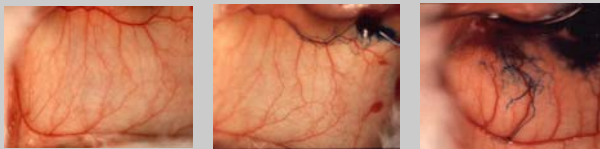
Secondary lymphoedema is frequently consecutive to the interruption of the lymphatic drainage performed during the oncological surgery. The observation of lymphatic substitution pathways on animals and humans can be a guideline for the physical treatment of oedema.

Purpose:

Observation on animals of the unexpected lymphatic drainage (substitution pathways) and comparison with the results obtained on humans beings.

Results: visualization of contolateral pathways

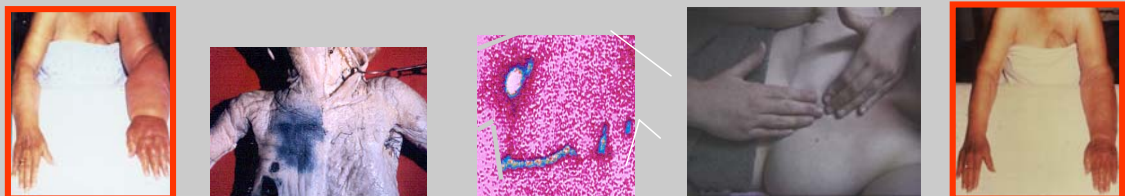
Study on living mice



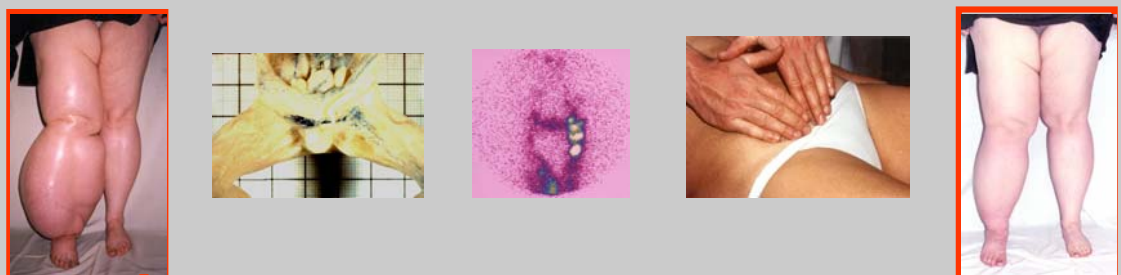
Study on piglets



Study on human cadavers and patients (upper limb)



Study on human cadavers and patients.(lower limb)



Conclusion: the observation of lymphatic substitution pathways on animals and humans is a good guideline for the physical treatment of lymphoedema.