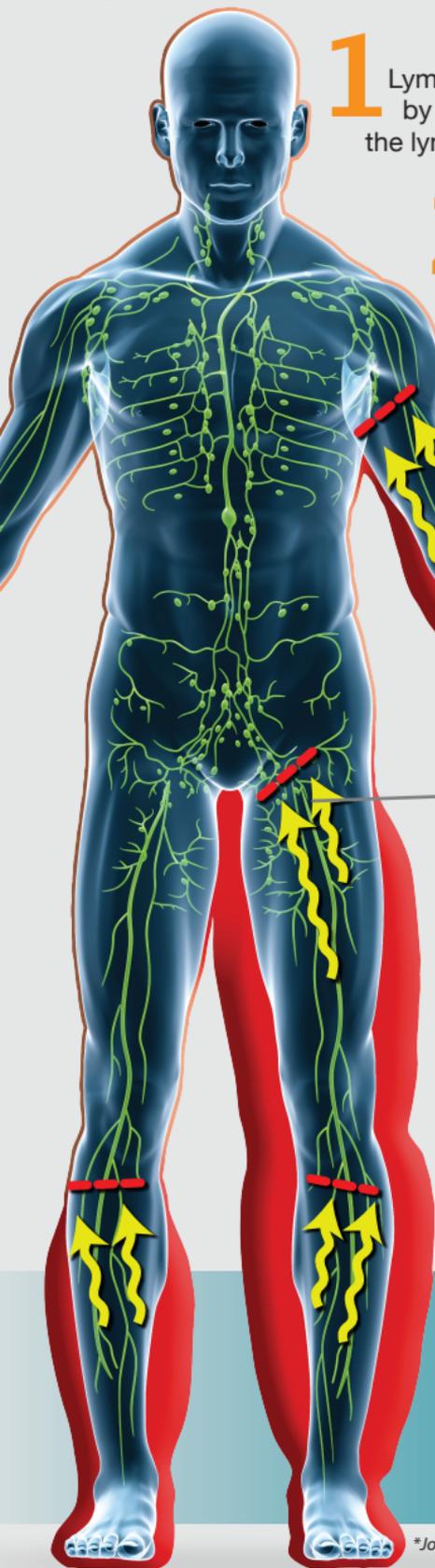


6 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT LYMPHEDEMA



1 Lymphedema is chronic swelling caused by a build-up of fluid that occurs when the lymphatic system is faulty or damaged.

2 An estimated 3-5 million Americans suffer from lymphedema. *That is more than ALS, Cystic Fibrosis, Multiple Sclerosis, Muscular Dystrophy, and Parkinson's Disease combined.*



*2 out of 5 breast cancer patients will develop lymphedema within 5 years of surgery.**

Swollen tissue due to buildup of lymphatic fluid

Damaged vessels blocking lymphatic flow

3 Many patients go **undiagnosed** or are **misdiagnosed** due to lack of awareness.

4 There is no known cure for lymphedema, but it can be effectively treated. **Compression therapy** is the most critical part of treatment. Without it, patients are at increased risk for complications and disability.

5 The causes of lymphedema include lymph node removal for cancer treatment, injury to lymphatic vessels due to trauma or infection, venous insufficiency, and congenital malformation of the lymphatics.

*Journal of Clinical Oncology ~ J Clin Oncol. 2009 Jan 20;27(3):390-7.

6 The **Lymphedema Treatment Act** is a federal bill passed by Congress in December 2022. The law requires Medicare to cover lymphedema compression garments and supplies starting in January 2024, and sets a precedent for other public and private insurance plans. Continued advocacy is needed to ensure all patients have access to treatment for this chronic disease.