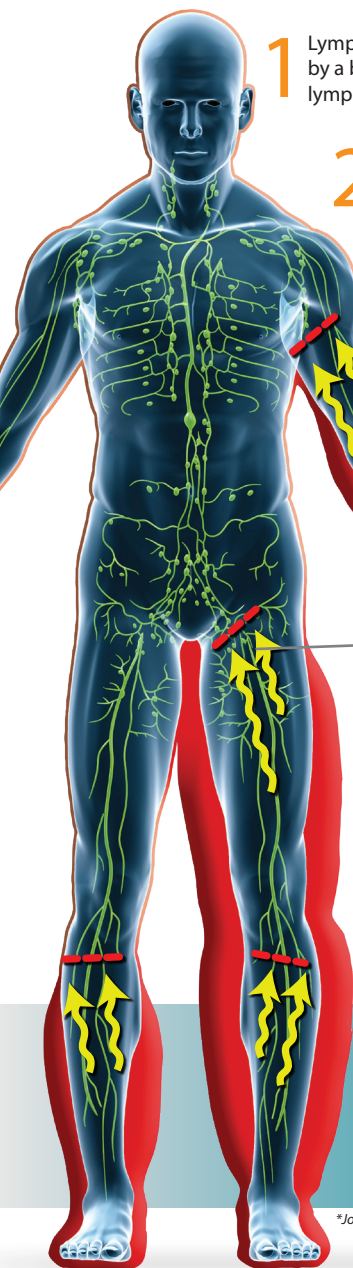


6 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT LYMPHEDEMA



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** improved insurance coverage for compression garments and supplies, but continued advocacy is needed to ensure that all patients have access to treatment for this chronic disease.