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.

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.

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.

LymphedemaTreatmentAct.org