Basic lymphoedema management: treatment and prevention of problems associated with lymphatic filariasis


The world of filariasis has been turned upside down with the discovery that the filaria responsible for this terrible disease are themselves infected with bacteria and that it is the immune response to these organisms that is responsible for much of the damaging inflammation. This brings the promise of new methods of controlling the disease and the deforming lymphoedema that occurs. This is, however, a hope for the future. Until the promise of this new research is fulfilled we must deal with those whose lives have been blighted by filariasis.

The authors have produced a book with a strong community involvement focus and the appendix includes an example of a patient education pamphlet. The book is very well illustrated with both diagrams and colour figures throughout. The first two chapters provide a basic introduction explaining the disease, its control and lymphatic complications. The reader is then taken through the process of assessing a patient, managing acute and chronic disease and urogenital complications. It provides practical advice and exercises for patients described in the text, with well drawn cartoons. There are tips to improve patient symptoms and well being (including for example, the advice that painting toe nails is not harmful and improves patient self esteem). It provides advice to help carers in diagnosis and management, for example, to differentiate between bacterial and fungal infection. Practical clinical procedures are carefully explained and illustrated in diagrams and colour figures.

This book is a treasure chest of practical advice for those who are involved in filariasis care and will be of considerable value for those who have to cope regularly with patients with chronic lymphoedema. Many of the readers of this journal will, perhaps, only see lymphoedema patients rarely. This book will be of particular value to such readers as it will provide a sound starting point for clinical care and thus is strongly recommended.

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Education and information about lymphatic filariasis prevention and control. The mosquitoes that carry the microscopic worms usually bite between the hours of dusk and dawn. If you live in an area with lymphatic filariasis: At night. Sleep in an air-conditioned room or. Sleep under a mosquito net. Between dusk and dawn. Wear long sleeves and trousers and. Use mosquito repellent on exposed skin. Infections of skin and tissues associated with lymphedema must be promptly and effectively treated with appropriate antibiotics to avoid spread to the bloodstream (sepsis). Patients affected by lymphedema must constantly monitor for infection of the affected area. In affected areas of the world, the drug diethylcarbamazine is used to treat filariasis. Is lymphedema curable? Lymphedema cannot be cured, but compression treatments and preventive measures for those at risk for secondary lymphedema can help minimize swelling and associated symptoms. As mentioned above, chronic, long-term edema that persists for many years is associated with an increased risk of developing a rare cancer, lymphangiosarcoma. Where can one get help and support for lymphedema? Associated-names. Dreyer, G. (Gerusa). Boxid. Republisher_operator. associate-roche-borja@archive.org. Republisher_time. 350.