

# LYMPHOEDEMA CARE IN BC TODAY AND OVER THE HORIZON



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BCLA Lymphoedema Awareness Day  
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# Objectives

Yesterday is already a dream,  
And tomorrow is only a vision,  
But today well lived,  
Makes every yesterday a dream of happiness,  
and every tomorrow,  
A vision of hope.

Shoorty, January 21, 2011

# Lymphoedema in the past in BC

- Poorly recognized with limited acknowledgement within the medical community
- Diagnosis of primary disease inconsistent
- Diagnosis of secondary disease also inconsistent
- Sporadic episodic unstandardized care or no care
- No advocacy

# Lymphoedema in the present in BC

- Advocacy
- Education
- Awareness
- Pockets of specialized care

# Lymphoedema in the present in BC

- Often still poorly recognized with limited acknowledgement within the medical community
- Diagnosis of primary disease inconsistent
- Diagnosis of secondary disease also inconsistent
- Sporadic episodic unstandardized care or no care

- How do we get from  
DISORGANIZATION

to

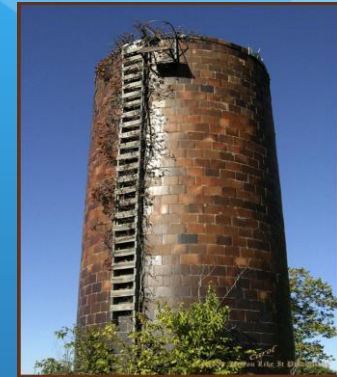
A comprehensive system of  
care?

# BC Lymphoedema Network 201?

- Who are the players:
  - Patients and their families
  - Health care providers
  - Health regions
  - Government
  - Funding agencies
  - Advocacy organizations (BCLA)
  - Health care educational institutions

# 'Silo-Care'

We need to minimize the 'silo' mentality





# How do we achieve standardized care in BC?

- Structural opportunities
  - Primary centres in local communities
  - Secondary referral centres in each health region
  - Tertiary centre associated with academic based (UBC?)

# How do we achieve standardized care in BC

- Services Delivery Models
  - Diagnostic centres of excellence with access to specialized clinical expertise and technologies including lymphoedema surveillance
  - Standardized systems of care
    - MLD/CDT etc.
    - Compression Pumps
    - Compression techniques
    - Standardized fitting/expertise
    - Improved access to acute care expertise

# How do we achieve standardized care in BC

- Gold Standards in Care
  - Evidence and outcome based care
  - Education and knowledge translation
  - Participation in regional, national and international activities
  - Seamless patient care models
  - Research and sharing of knowledge

# Challenges in care

- Who has lymphoedema?
  - Should we assume all patients with a susceptibility to lymphedema (post-surgical/radiotherapy) be managed even without clinical manifestations?
  - Primary edema versus non-malignant forms of secondary edema; (should they system deny access to patients with edema without proven primary lymphoedema)

# Challenges in care

- Primary versus secondary Lymphoedema
  - Should either population of patients have access to different services, benefits etc. on the basis of their underlying diagnosis (i.e. BC Cancer Agency)
  - Should all patients have equal/equivalent access to services/equipment regardless of income/Extended Health benefits (i.e. pharmacare/amputees)

# Special Populations with Special Needs

- Children
- Adolescents who are transitioning
- Palliative care
- Frail elderly
- Other susceptible/fragile populations

# BC Lymphedema Network 2011



# What's next?

- BC Lymphedema Association
- Canadian Lymphedema Framework
- Providence Healthcare: FI/EW
- Vodder School
- BCCA
- BCCH
- UBC
- Partners in industry



Funded by  
Canadian  
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**BC LYMPHEDEMA**  
**A S S O C I A T I O N**

*promoting healthy & hopeful living with lymphedema*

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