A Primer On Lymphedema

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Lymphedema is defined as accumulation of fluid and fibroadipose tissues due to disruption of lymphatic flow. Lymphedema can be primary (congenital lymphedema, i.â€¨â€¨ Stage "0" lymphedema) is a subclinical or latent condition where swelling is not evident despite impaired lymphatic transport. Several other classification systems are also used to describe the severity of lymphedema, including those of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) and the National Cancer Institute's Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events (CTCAE) [1,2]. These schemes generally only refer to the physical condition of the extremity.â€¨â€¨ Lymphedema: a primer on the identification and management of a chronic condition in oncologic treatment. CA Cancer J Clin 2009; 59:8.