

Imaging and Its Impact on the Treatment of Lymphatic Disorders

by Willa Condy

In many of the presentations there seemed to be a common thread - the use of imaging in diagnosis, treatment and even pre surgery.

With advancements in the last ten years, imaging has come to the forefront in the fight against Lymphatic disorders.

Using imaging to individualize Manual Lymph Drainage treatment was discussed showing that it led to better results as the therapists could use the imaging to direct their massage and help the patient receive the best results.

Imaging and microsurgery combine to provide the detail required when surgery is being performed. The imaging allows the surgeon to know in advance where the unimpacted regions are for lymph node transplants, and to show where a bypass into the veinal system is doable plus imaging during the surgery enables successful results in microsurgery.

In the last 10 years improved imaging techniques are beginning to revolutionize Lymphedema care by allowing medical professionals to actually map how a properly functioning Lymphatic system works and compare that to the kinks in their patient's lymphatic flow.

The use of imaging is opening up research on the connection between the Lymphatic system and diseases that were never before linked to lymphedema. The discovery of lymphatic vessels going up into the brain is an example that has researchers considering if there is a link to Alzheimer's and Multiple Sclerosis.

All of the session in the symposium originated from the amazing 'Lymphatic Centers of Excellence' situated around the world that have been developing for the last decade & finally came to fruition in 2019.

The common theme in all the presentations is finding solutions for all Lymphatic Disorders and sharing the advancements being made.

It would be wonderful if in a few years the Vancouver Lymphedema Clinic & program surgical could evolve into one of these centers.