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Adjustable compression wraps: applications & benefits

What are wraps?

Adjustable compression devices with inelastic properties.

When are they used?

For the management of lymphedema, chronic venous insufficiency and lipedema.

What makes them so special?

The combination of material attributes (high working pressure, low resting pressure) and design properties (self-adjustability) offers many benefits over conventional bandages.

Benefits

1 Self management

- Self-application
- · Easy & quick self-application by patient or caregiver
- · Ideal for patients with limited access to care centers



Self-adjustment

- · Patient can tighten wraps when they loosen due to edema reduction
- · Possibility to loosen in case of discomfort
- Better pressure maintenance over time



Self-hygiene & skin care Wrap & liner can be

- easily removed & washed if needed
- Hygiene & skin care can be performed at home & more regularly



2 Enhanced treatment efficacy (upper & lower limbs)

Lymphedema

- · Effective edema reduction
- & maintenance
- · Maintenance of appropriate compression level
- · Reduced pain & heaviness
- Increased mobility
- Improved skin integrity
- · Improved leg shape
- · Greater limb volume reduction compared to bandages despite same initial pressure

Venous leg edema & ulcers

- · Improved venous return (high static stiffness index)
- · Effective edema reduction
- · Reduced pain
- · Fast ulcer healing rate, prevention of ulcer recurrence
- · Improved skin integrity & density
- · More effective than bandages in reducing edema & healing ulcers

Lipedema / Lipolymphedema

- · Reduction in leg volume
- · Tissue support
- · Increased mobility, decrease in discomfort and pain (based on observational reports)

Liposuction

· Effective volume reduction in the management of post-operative edema after liposuction

3 Cost-effective

Direct cost savings - material saving

- Wraps washable & re-usable
- · Material costs for wraps versus bandages met after approximately one month = cost-effective despite initial outlay

4 Enhanced quality of life

- · Increased comfort (low resting pressure) while being effective
- · Improved gait, stability & mobility
- $\cdot\,$ Nicer cosmetic appearance & less bulky than bandages
- · Normal clothes & shoes can be worn again

Indirect cost savings - time saving

- · Self-application: fewer clinic visits, more time available for the clinician to perform manual lymph drainage & skin care
- · Application/handling quick & easy to learn by clinicians & caregivers
- · Improved wound care
- · Enhanced independence, confidence & satisfaction
- Improved psychosocial aspects
- Increased concordance & compliance

Take-home message

Wraps do not only improve the clinical outcome of lymphedema and CVI patients, but they also clearly increase their quality of life through autonomous handling and self-management while being comfortable, hygienic and cost-effective.



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