V 研究結果の刊行物・別刷り

# Outcomes of lymphaticovenous side-to-end anastomosis in peripheral lymphedema

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Objective: Lymphaticovenous anastomosis has been used for patients with peripheral lymphedema. However, the efficacy of this procedure is controversial due to a lack of evidence regarding postoperative patency. We sought to determine midterm postoperative patency of lymphaticovenous side-to-end anastomoses (LVSEAs) using indocyanine green fluorescence lymphography.

Methods: This was a retrospective observational study set in a teaching hospital. Of 107 patients with chronic lymphedema who underwent 472 LVSEAs, 57 (223 anastomoses) consented to fluorescence lymphography and comprised the study cohort. The intervention consisted of a microsurgical LVSEA performed with a suture-stent method. Patients also had preoperative and postoperative complex decongestive physiotherapy. Anastomosis patency was assessed using indocyanine green fluorescence lymphography ≥6 months after surgery. Patency rates were calculated using Kaplan-Meier analysis. We assessed volume reduction on the operated-on limb and compared this between patients in whom anastomoses were patent and those in whom anastomoses were not obviously patent.

Results: Patency could be evaluated only at the dorsum of the foot, ankle, and lower leg because the near-infrared rays emitted by the special camera used could not penetrate the deep subcutaneous layer containing collective lymphatics in areas such as the thigh. Several patterns were observed on fluorescence lymphography: straight, radial, and L-shaped. Cumulative patency rates of LVSEAs were 75% at 12 months and 36% at 24 months after surgery. No significant difference in volume change of the affected limb was seen between the 34 patients with patent anastomosis (600 ± 969 mL) and the 24 patients without obvious evidence of patency (420 ± 874 mL).

Conclusions: Although further study is required to determine factors leading to anastomotic obstruction and to optimize the results of microlymphatic surgery, the present LVSEA technique appears promising. (J Vasc Surg 2012;55:753-60.)

Lymphaticovenous anastomosis (LVA) has been performed for patients with peripheral lymphedema since 1977. Several authors have since applied LVA in several variations of end-to-end or end-to-side, or both, and have described long-term results of LVA in circumferential and volume reduction, or both, of the affected limbs. However, few reports have used lymphoscintigraphy to address the postoperative patency of LVA. Sev. In addition, patency of anastomoses can be difficult to evaluate on real-time lymphoscintigraphic images.

As an improvement over the original technique of end-to-end anastomosis, we have been performing lymphaticovenous side-to-end anastomosis (LVSEA) between the sidewall of the lymphatics and the proximal stump of the vein (Fig 1) for patients with chronic peripheral lymphedema since 1998. From the perspective of lymph flow in the anastomosed lymphatics, LVSEA can divert the obstructed lymph flow and decompress lymphatic hypertension to the same extent as

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conventional LVA, in addition to theoretically preserving the original flow even if the anastomosis becomes obstructed, a possibility that should not be ignored in patients with a limited number of functional lymphatic vessels. In addition, further operations remain applicable to other parts of the same lymphatic vessels used for anastomoses if those anastomoses become occluded in the future.

The recent development of the Photo Dynamic Eye near-infrared camera system (Hamamatsu Photonics, Hamamatsu, Japan) has enabled the detection of lymph flow in real-time through the skin as fluorescent lymphangiography using indocyanine green (ICG). <sup>10,11</sup> The camera activates ICG with emitted light at a wavelength of 760 nm and filters out light with wavelengths below 820 nm. ICG is injected intradermally at the web spaces of the affected limb, and lymph streams and stasis can be observed a few minutes after massage on a monitor applying the camera at 5 to 40 cm from the skin surface.

Our procedures for LVSEA have changed since May 2006, because ICG florescence lymphography and the stent method, <sup>12</sup> by which anastomoses can be performed more precisely, were introduced to our department at that time. The present study assessed midterm postoperative patency in LVSEA using ICG fluorescence lymphography in patients with peripheral lymphedema.

#### METHODS

Patients. Between May 2006 and August 2010, we performed LVSEA in 114 limbs of 107 patients with peripheral lymphedema. A total of 472 procedures were per-

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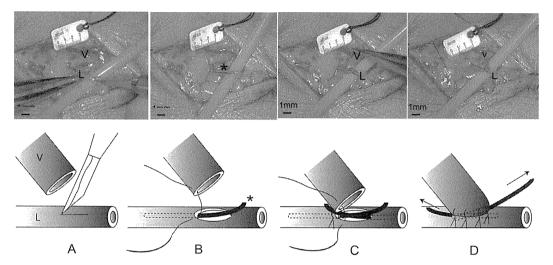


Fig 1. Operative photographs (*upper row*) and illustrations (*lower row*) show the lymphaticovenous side-to-end anastomosis technique. A, The side wall of the lymphatic vessel (*L*) is incised with a microknife. *V*, Subcutaneous vein. B, A nylon suture-stent (\*) is inserted into the lumen of the lymphatic vessel and a stitch is inserted at the edge. C, Another nylon suture-stent is inserted and stitches are inserted from edge-to-edge. D, After completion of the anastomosis, stents are removed through the anastomosis.

formed, at a mean  $\pm$  standard deviation of  $4\pm1.6$  procedures per limb. In 10 of these patients, 13 LVAs were performed in an end-to-end manner because of difficulties applying LVSEA.

Of the 107 patients, 85 had lymphedema of the lower extremity and the remaining 22 had lymphedema of the upper extremity. Among the 85 patients with lymphedema of the lower extremity, 57 (52 women, 5 men), who were a mean age of  $55 \pm 15$  years (range, 13-80 years), consented to postoperative fluorescence lymphography using ICG.

All patients underwent LVSEA. The total number of anastomoses in this series was 223. The 57 patients comprised 51 with secondary lymphedema after treatment for cancer and 16 with primary lymphedema. Clinical stage for the 57 patients, as proposed by the International Society of Lymphology, <sup>13</sup> was stage I in 2, stage II in 17, late stage II in 29, and stage III in 9.

All patients underwent complex decongestive physiotherapy (CDP) for 3 to 12 months preoperatively, and reduction of the affected limb was obtained in most patients. However, reductions were insufficient in some patients who had undergone CDP at other facilities for a long time. Postoperative CDP with the same contents as preoperative CDP was started 10 to 14 days after surgery and was performed for ≥6 months. Postoperative CDP lasted or decreased according to physiologic changes and complaints of the patients thereafter.

Before and at  $\sim$ 6 months after surgery, circumferential measurements of the affected limbs were performed at the following sites: 10 cm above the proximal margin of the patella, 10 cm beneath the distal margin of the patella, and

at the level of the lateral and medial malleoli of the ankle. Approximate volumes of the affected limbs were calculated using those measurements. Volume reductions were compared between patients with and without midterm postoperative patency of anastomoses at the foot and around the ankle.

We performed lymphoscintigraphy before surgery to select candidates for LVSEA.<sup>14</sup> Patients with obvious obstruction of the lymphatic pathway with no regional lymph nodes or showing stasis of contrast medium with decrease of regional lymph nodes on lymphoscintigraphy were indicated for surgery. The operation was planned after completion of CDP for acute reduction of the affected limbs. At the beginning of surgery, a small amount of ICG (~0.1 mL each injection) for fluorescence lymphography was injected at four interdigital spaces in the affected limb and 5% patent blue dye (~0.1 mL each injection) was then injected intradermally at the same sites for detection of functional lymphatic vessels. ICG near-infrared fluorescent lymphography was then performed using the Photo Dynamic Eye. At  $\geq 6$ months after surgery, ICG fluorescence lymphography was repeated in consenting patients to determine patency of the anastomoses.

Operative technique. LVSEA was performed by one of the authors (M.J.) with the patient under general anesthesia because multiple anastomoses were required at a time. After injection of the two contrast agents, sites of anastomosis were determined between the dorsum of the foot to the thigh according to lymph stream or stasis observed by ICG fluorescence lymphography. If several lymphatic vessels were suitable for anastomoses, the one

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with the most contrast agent was selected. Even if we could detect lymphatic vessels with no fluorescence and no contrast agent in the lumen, these were not selected for anastomosis because we considered that the vessels would not work well after anastomoses were performed.

Side-to-end anastomosis was performed using a suturestent technique and 11-0 sutures. The sidewall of the lymphatic vessel was incised using a microknife according to the size of the anastomosed vein (Fig 1, A). The incision is one of the most difficult procedures in this technique, because the lumen of the lymphatic vessel can be narrow due to degeneration of the lymphatic wall in some severe cases we have encountered. In addition, care should be taken not to incise too much, otherwise adaptation of both stumps becomes difficult. Exposure of the lumen of the lymphatic vessel led to the extrusion of dyed lymph. Two 6-0 or 7-0 nylon suture stents, 3 mm in length, were inserted, one into the proximal side of the lumen and the other into the distal side (Fig 1, B and C).

If several veins were present in the incision, a vein with an appropriate size for anastomosis was selected. In our experience, a vein with a diameter of 0.5 to 1.0 mm is technically easy for anastomosis. A vein diameter <0.3 mm required insertion of a stent into the vein.

The side-to-end anastomosis began with the first stitch of the distal end of the incision on the lymphatic wall if possible, because the distal side of the lymphatics is expected to contribute a greater volume of lymph flow than the proximal side. The first stitch can be made more precisely than subsequent stitches. Clamps were used for veins with a backflow of blood from the stump, but never for lymph vessels. Side-to-end anastomoses were then completed using 11-0 nylon sutures with a tapered needle (80 µm in diameter, 4 mm in length), followed by removal of any stents (Fig 1, D).

Every anastomosis was performed using the OPMI Pentero operative microscope (Carl Zeiss Meditec AG, Oberkochen, Germany) with magnifications of ×10 to ×15. Patency of anastomoses during or at the end of surgery was always confirmed by Photo Dynamic Eye or by a patency test under microscopy (Fig 2). The number of anastomoses was decided according to the number of functional lymphatic vessels remaining and the operative time allocated for the patient. During and after the operation, no heparin or anticoagulant was used.

Statistical analysis. We calculated postoperative patency rates of LVSEA and analyzed data using the Kaplan-Meier method in the follow-up period. Differences between means of preoperative and postoperative volume were analyzed using the Student t test. Values of P < .05 were considered statistically significant. StatMate III software (ATMS, Tokyo, Japan) was used for statistical analysis. A Kaplan-Meier survival curve was generated in Graph-Pad Prism 5 software (GraphPad Software, La Jolla, Calif).

#### RESULTS

We performed 223 anastomoses in the 57 patients. Of these, 79 anastomoses in the ankle and dorsum of the foot

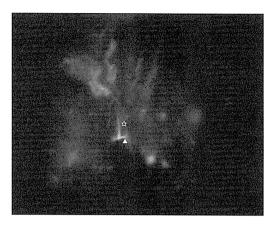


Fig 2. Patency of a lymphaticovenous anastomosis is confirmed through the surgical wound by indocyanine green fluorescence lymphography during surgery. The *star* and *triangle* indicate a cutaneous vein and a lymphatic vessel, respectively.

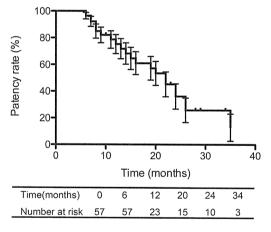


Fig 3. Kaplan-Meier survival curve is shown for patency of lymphaticovenous side-to-end anastomosis. The *error bars* show the standard error.

could be evaluated. The remaining 144 anastomoses in other areas could not be evaluated because the subcutaneous layer was too thick to allow the detection of lymph vessels by ICG fluorescence lymphography.  $^{10,11}$  Outer diameters were within the ranges of 0.2 to 0.6 mm for lymph vessels and 0.2 to 1.2 mm for veins. Mean duration of follow-up after surgery was  $14\pm 9$  months (range, 6-34 months).

Postoperative patency could be observed in 48 anastomoses in the dorsum of the foot and ankle areas. Of the 57 patients, 34 had at least one patent anastomosis (group A); in the remaining 23 no anastomoses appeared patent (group B). Cumulative patency rates of LVSEAs were  $\sim$ 75%  $\pm$  7.1% at 12 months and 36%  $\pm$  9.4% at 24 months after surgery (Fig 3).

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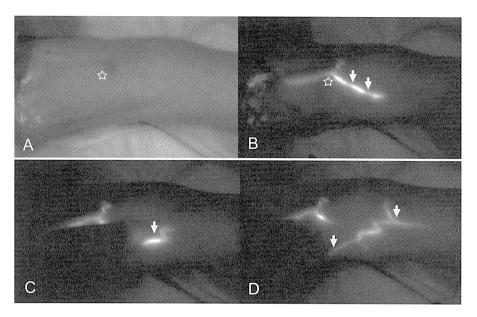


Fig 4. A, A 64-year-old patient with secondary lymphedema of the left lower extremity. The *star* indicates the site of a lymphaticovenous side-to-end anastomosis at the dorsum of the right foot. **B**, Indocyanine green fluorescence lymphographic images at the same site in the same patient (*star*, anastomosis site; *triangles*, lymphatic vessel; and *arrows*, subcutaneous vein). At this time, the image shows a straight pattern. **C** and **D**, When the vein is compressed, indocyanine green flows proximally through its branches, and the image shows a tree pattern.

Several ICG fluorescence lymphography patterns of the anastomosed vein could be observed at the patent anastomosis sites: straight and tree (Fig 4), radial (Fig 5), straight, and L-shaped (Fig 6).

The mean volume reductions in the leg and in the lower extremity on the affected side did not differ significantly between groups A  $(600\pm969~\text{mL})$  and B  $(420\pm874~\text{mL})$  at  $14\pm8.8$  months after LVSEAs. No significant differences in volume reduction and number of anastomotic sites were seen between primary and secondary lymphedema.

As postoperative complications, ecchymoses expanding proximally along dermal backflow areas in the affected limb were observed on intraoperative ICG fluorescence lymphography in four patients. In all cases, this finding disappeared  $\leq 2$  weeks after surgery.

Report of a typical case. A 72-year-old woman who had undergone an extended hysterectomy with regional lymph node dissection because of uterine cancer 15 years previously developed edema of the left leg 10 years postoperatively. The patient consulted our department for surgical treatment of this edema (Fig 7, A). Lymphoscintigraphy was performed to assess whether surgery was indicated, resulting in a classification of type 4 lymphedema with a lymphoscintigraphic image of dermal backflow at the lower leg and foot and no regional lymph nodes, according to our previously described system for classifying the severity of lymphedema, <sup>13</sup> in both the right and left lower extremities. Lymphedema was severe in the left lower extremity (volume, 5413 mL) and mild in the right (volume, 3668 mL).

LVSEA was indicated and performed in the left lower leg because obstruction of the lymphatic pathway in the affected limb was obvious and few lymphatic vessels seemed to be able to be detected from a clinical perspective and this patient desired a reduction in CDP. We performed two LVSEAs in the dorsum of the foot, three in the leg, and one in the thigh (Fig 7, B). At 6 months, ICG fluorescence lymphography showed patency of the LVSEA on the medial side of the dorsum of the foot, whereas a tree pattern (Fig 7, C) and nonpatency were observed for the other LVSEA of the foot. The volume of the left leg was 4326 mL and that of the right was 4328 mL (Fig 7, D). Patency of the LVSEAs in the leg and thigh could not be confirmed by lymphography due to the thickness of the skin and subcutaneous tissue. Preoperative CDP with class III compression stockings was reduced to class I knee-high socks in this patient.

#### DISCUSSION

An animal experiment demonstrated that the end pressure of lymphatics was higher than the venous pressure. <sup>15</sup> This suggested that LVA might be effective in peripheral lymphedema. However, postoperative patency of LVA has remained unknown in the clinical setting because of the lack of appropriate and reliable methods for postoperative detection of lymph vessels.

Several experiments assessing patency have been performed using animal models of lymphedema. Gloviczki et al<sup>16</sup> reported that four of six anastomoses were patent at 3

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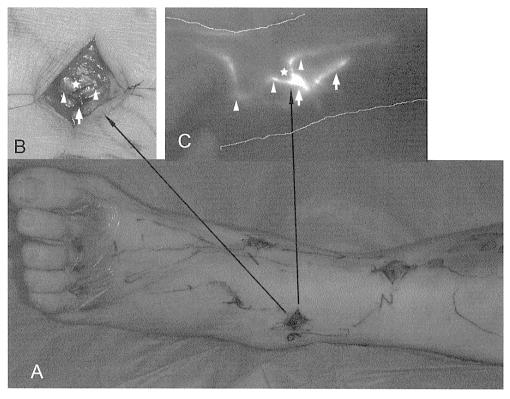


Fig 5. A 64-year-old patient with secondary lymphedema of the left lower extremity. A, Five lymphaticovenous side-to-end anastomoses were performed from the foot to the thigh on the affected limb. B, Enlargement of the anastomosis at the ankle. C, A radial pattern is seen in the indocyanine green fluorescence lymphographic imaging. The star indicates the site of anastomosis at the ankle, and the triangles indicate the lymphatic vessels. B and C, The white arrows indicate subcutaneous veins that resemble a tree with several branches.

months after LVA and that two remained patent at 8 months. In contrast, Puckett et al $^{17}$  reported that all LVAs were occluded  $\leq 3$  weeks after surgery and confirmed this by re-exposure of the wound. However, al Assal et al $^{18}$  showed long patency of a new technique of microlymphovenous anastomosis in dogs.

In clinical studies, Campisi et al<sup>8</sup> reported various changes in lymphoscintigraphy images after LVA, providing indirect proof of postoperative patency. In a study of grafting of lymph vessels, Baumeister et al<sup>9</sup> showed patency using lymphoscintigraphy, but that method differed physiologically from LVA. Anastomoses between lymphatics and veins may become obstructed more often than those between lymphatics.

Until recently, no reliable method has been available to determine the patency of LVAs. <sup>8</sup> However, ICG fluorescence lymphography evaluated using a Photo Dynamic Eye camera has recently been introduced, and this equipment has been used for detection of lymphatic vessels through the skin. <sup>10,11</sup>

The present study used ICG fluorescence lymphography to determine the competency of LVSEAs. However, because

of optical limitations (the Photo Dynamic Eye camera can detect ICG no deeper than 1 cm below the skin), the areas we could evaluate were confined to the foot, ankle, and lower leg of the affected limb. In addition, the reproducibility of ICG fluorescence lymphography needs to be validated regarding the visualization of lymphatic vessels during surgery and post-operatively. Kinetics of the lymph vessels during surgery appear to differ from those at ≥6 months after surgery. In the future, we anticipate improvements in equipment for evaluating dynamic lymph flow.

Despite these limitations, this appears to represent the first clinical report of midterm postoperative patency for LVA in patients with peripheral lymphedema assessed by ICG fluorescence lymphography. Cumulative patency rates of LVSEA were 75% at 12 months and 36% at 24 months after anastomoses, meaning that patients with anastomoses show a possibility of deterioration in lymphedema in the future. Furthermore, periodic examinations may be necessary to clarify whether additional operations are needed for patients who have received a lymphaticovenous shunt.

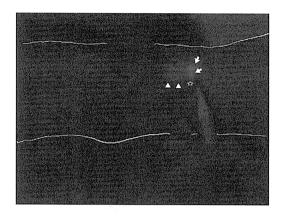


Fig 6. An L-pattern in a 32-year-old patient with primary lymphedema of the left lower extremity. The *star*, *triangles*, and *arrows* indicate the anastomosis site, lymphatic vessel, and subcutaneous vein, respectively, at the extensor side of the left lower leg.

We found no significant difference in volume change of the affected limb between patients with patent anastomoses and those without obvious evidence of patency. It is possible that the anastomoses could possibly have been patent in the areas where we could not detect by ICG fluorescence lymphography; therefore, we cannot evaluate efficacy of the patency precisely.

ICG fluorescence lymphography revealed several patterns at the patent anastomosis sites, and these patterns seemed to depend on the anastomosed vein. The radial pattern demonstrates the proximal parts of the superficial subcutaneous veins radiating like the spokes of a wheel. In the straight or straight and tree patterns, ICG seems to flow into the vein for some length and may then flow into its branches. If the proximal side of the anastomosed lymph vessel is closed, an S-shaped lymphographic pattern may be obtained. A correlation of these patterns and efficacy in edema reduction is unknown at the moment and a further examination on this issue will be performed.

Regarding the technique of LVA, the end-to-end technique joining the distal stump of the lymph vessel and the proximal stump of the vein is probably the most common worldwide. <sup>1-4</sup> If end-to-end anastomoses do not work well due to stenosis or obstruction of the anastomotic sites, edema may become worse because most patients with chronic and obstructive lymphedema are likely to have few lymphatic vessels that cannot be expected to compensate for anastomotic failure. Several reports have described good results on physiologic examination in long-term follow-up of conventional LVA, but the patency rate of conventional LVA remains unclear. <sup>5-7</sup> Further investigation is thus required to clarify optimal procedures for LVA anastomosis.

One advantage of the side-to-end technique is the potential for preservation of lymph flow if the proximal side of the anastomosis of the lymphatics remains patent.

However, incision of the sidewall of the lymphatic vessel is difficult with this technique compared with the endto-end method in some advanced cases where the lumen of the lymphatic vessel is narrow. Selection of lymph vessels is thus required and in such cases, the end-to-end method may be indicated. As a postoperative complication, ecchymosis was observed at areas proximal to the anastomotic sites. The area corresponded to the areas of dermal backflow observed on perioperative ICG fluorescence lymphography. We found no obvious leakage or breakage at the anastomotic sites during surgery; therefore, we believe that blood leaked into the interstitial space through the lymph vessels via the lymph capillary, in a similar manner to dermal backflow. 19,20 Looking back at the operative video in which we could confirm the vein selected for anastomoses, patency of the anastomotic sites tended to be observed in cases with no or little back flow from the stump of the selected vein.

In the present study, the stent method appeared useful in achieving accurate anastomosis between lymphatic vessels and small veins. Shaper et al<sup>6</sup> reported that LVAs using Teflon stents were of better quality than conventional sutured LVAs, although all anastomoses were occluded after 4 weeks. To obtain good results in microlymphatic surgery, we consider 100% patency at the time of completing the anastomosis as a requirement; otherwise, postoperative patency of the anastomosis will deteriorate. Several factors may predict postoperative anastomotic failures. One such factor may be high venous pressure due to venous disorders such as valve incompetence. Campisi et al8 stressed the importance of treating venous problems before application of LVAs. Another factor may be lymph flow and pressure, because continuous inflow of lymph from the lymphatics into the vein can be expected if lymphatic pressure always overcomes venous pressure. Conversely, lymph flow is decreased in lymph vessels with very thickened walls,21 which may result in lower success rates for LVA.

In severe chronic lymphedema, lymphatic vessels lose the ability to automatically contract because of a lack of normal smooth muscle. <sup>21</sup> Even though LVA is technically successful, lymph drainage from the lymphatics to the vein tends to cease at some point after the operation, when a back flow of blood occurs once the intraluminal pressure of lymph decreases. At rest, the pressure of lymph is lower than that in the vein. <sup>8</sup> Early manual massage or CDP may thus be helpful to prevent early occlusion by fibrin or clots and to maintain long-term patency.

#### CONCLUSIONS

We demonstrated midterm postoperative patency of a LVSEA between the lymphatics and subcutaneous veins at 12 months after surgery in >70% of the present patients with peripheral lymphedema. Postoperative volume reduction in patients with anastomotic patency did not differ from that in patients without obvious patency. On the basis of these findings, development of equipment or methods to evaluate lymph flow more precisely and clearly would appear useful.

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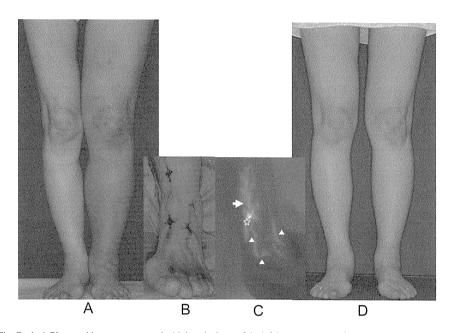


Fig 7. A, A 72-year-old woman presented with lymphedema of the left lower extremity after an extended hysterectomy with regional lymph node dissection performed 15 years previously because of uterine cancer. Severe lymphedema was evident (volume, 5413 mL). B, Two lymphaticovenous side-to-end anastomoses (LVSEAs) were performed for the dorsum of the foot, three were performed for the leg, and one for the thigh. C, Postoperative indocyanine green fluorescence lymphography shows patency of the LVSEA at the medial side of the dorsum of the foot, where a tree pattern was observed, and nonpatency at the other LVSEA of the foot (star, anastomosis site; triangles, lymphatic vessel; arrow, subcutaneous vein). D, At 6 months after LVSEA, lymphedema of the left lower extremity has improved (volume, 4326 mL).

#### **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

Conception and design: JM

Analysis and interpretation: JM Data collection: YY, HT, MH, KY Writing the article: JM Critical revision of the article: JM Final approval of the article: JM Statistical analysis: JM and YY Obtained funding: Not applicable Overall responsibility: JM

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#### INVITED COMMENTARY

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Chronic lymphedema continues to be an incurable and disabling condition. Microsurgical reconstructions of lymph vessels have been possible because of the pioneer work done by Julius H. Jacobson in the early 1960s; variations of techniques have been used by few microsurgical groups around the world during the past 5 decades with mixed results. Recent progress in imaging of the lymphatic system and in microsurgical techniques sparked renewed interest in microscopic lymphatic reconstructions and the article by Maegawa and colleagues (in this issue) of the Journal of Vascular Surgery is an example of what dedicated lymphatic microsurgeons can achieve in this challenging and frequently frustrating field.

One major problem of lymphatic microsurgery has been the proper patient selection for the operation. These authors have used the technique of indocyanine green fluorescence lymphography to identify patent lymph vessels during surgery. The indocyanine green dye was injected subcutaneously in the foot of the patient and the lymphatics were imaged within a few minutes through the skin using a near-infrared camera system. This imaging technique, introduced previously by Ogata et al and by Unno et al (10,11 in the article) is a new and useful tool to help during surgery and to document late patency of the anastomoses.

Supermicroscopic surgical techniques have progressed in recent years<sup>1-5</sup> and better operating microscopes with high-power magnifications (×15-20), better instruments and fine (11-0) monofilament sutures with an 80-µm needle have permitted to perform anastomosis with lymph vessels with a diameter of 0.2 to 0.6 mm. Two technical improvements these authors applied deserve to be mentioned. One is the use of 6-0 or 7-0 monofilament sutures to stent the lymph vessel or a small vein for easier and better anastomosis. The other is the side-to-end lymphovenous anastomosis technique that, in theory, may keep the lymph vessel patent even if the vein occludes after surgery. This may avoid progression of the lymphedema as a complication of surgical treatment. Both of these technical improvements were reported previously by Narushima et al.<sup>3</sup>

One of many critiques of the lymphovenous operations has been the lack of objective documentation of late patency in humans. The main value of this publication, therefore, is the attempt to confirm patency of lymphovenous anastomoses. While patency of several of the anastomoses at the level of the ankle or foot beyond 6 months could be documented using indocyanine green lymphoscintigraphy, the cumulative patency rates (75% at 12 months and 36% at 24 months) as reported by the authors, cannot be accepted without major criticism. This study originally included 472 anastomoses in 107 patients. Attempts to assess function at 6 months or later were done in only 57 patients who underwent 223 anastomoses, but only 48 of these were close to the skin and were suitable for lymphoscintigraphic evaluation. Finally, patency rates in this limited group were not reported by the number of anastomoses but by the number of patients with any patent anastomosis.

Shortcomings notwithstanding, this work by Maegawa and colleagues is an important contribution to the literature, with demonstration of exceptional microsurgical technique and a welcome documentation of late patency of lymphovenous anastomoses to improve lymphatic drainage in patients with chronic lymphedema.

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特集-1 形成外科手技を応用した血行再建



#### 形成外科手技を応用した血行再建

## リンパ管静脈吻合術

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#### はじめに

リンパ浮腫は発症すると難治であり、重症例ではほぼ永続的な保存療法(圧迫療法など)を行うことが多い。手術療法として、うっ滞したリンパを静脈にバイパスすることにより改善を図るリンパ管静脈吻合術が近年広く行われてきている。当科では200例近くにリンパ管静脈吻合術を施行し、保存療法が必要でなくなった症例も経験している。

今回、当科で行っているリンパ管静脈吻合術 の詳細について述べる。

#### 評価・適応について

病歴や身体所見からリンパ浮腫と思われる症例には全例でリンパシンチグラフィを施行し、リンパ機能の評価を行う。われわれはリンパシンチの画像を浮腫の程度でタイプ I から V に分類しているが Iv. 2)、この中で機能的集合リンパ管(以下リンパ管)が検索しやすいのはタイプ II や II である。皮膚逆流現象(Dermal backflow、以下 DBF)や拡張したリンパ管が認められる部位では末梢からのリンパ流がある程度保たれていると考えられ、術中に機能的なリンパ管を同定出来る確率が高い。タイプ IV や V になるとリ

ンパが中枢へ流れにくくなり、下腿の中枢側や大腿で機能的リンパ管を検索することが難しくなる。この様に、術前リンパシンチではある程度吻合部の予測が可能であり、タイプ II から V には手術適応があると考える。また、リンパ管機能が失われる前に吻合術を行うことが重要であると考えるが、手術の至適時期については今後の検討が必要である。

#### 手技内容

基礎疾患等で制限がなければ基本的に全身麻酔下で手術を施行する。

麻酔が完了したのちに、インドシアニングリーン(以下ICG)を0.1から0.2ml程度各足趾間に皮内から皮下に注入し、直ちに注入部のマッサージを施行する。蛍光赤外線カメラ(Photo Dynamic Eye、以下PDEカメラ:浜松ホトニクス社製)を使用し、経皮的に皮下のリンパ管・DBFの位置をピオクタニンでマーキングする。リンパ管が認められた部位やDBFの末梢で皮膚切開を行う。

大腿では皮下組織厚が増加するため、ICGによる蛍光赤外リンパ管造影では集合リンパ管を見つけることが困難になる症例が多い。この様な場合は、術前のリンパシンチ画像より、大腿でのリンパ管の位置を推定し、皮膚切開部分を決定する。

次に0.1から0.2ml程度の5%パテントブルー を各足趾間に皮内から皮下に注入する。

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皮膚を切開して皮下を剥離する場合、パテントブルーにわずかに染まっていると、リンパ管を同定しやすくなる。

皮膚を切開し、顕微鏡下で色素を頼りに皮下 脂肪内にあるリンパ管を同定する。

切開部位に全くリンパ管が見つからない場合は、創部にPDEカメラをかざして、皮下脂肪層内のリンパ管を確認するが、これでも見つからない場合は、別の部位を切開する必要がある。 最近は顕微鏡下に蛍光を利用したリンパ管同定が可能となっている。

同定したリンパ管の周囲を剥離しベッセルループをリンパ管の下に通す。次にその近傍にある皮静脈を同定、剥離する。リンパ管と同程度(外径0.3mm)あるいはその倍程度の皮静脈が吻合に適しているが、そのような静脈が認められない場合、皮膚切開を追加して検索する。

リンパ管と静脈の吻合には、端側吻合、端々 吻合、側端吻合がある。また、口径差がある場 合や静脈がリンパ管まで届かない場合は静脈移 植36 も検討する。

当科ではリンバ管本管の流れが障害されず、 上流での吻合も可能である端側吻合が最も効率 のよい吻合と考え、ほぼ全吻合で適応している。

#### 端側吻合

リンパ管の側に静脈端を吻合する。静脈はリンパ管に十分届くことを確認したのち結紮・切離し中枢端を吻合する。リンパ管はマイクロメスで静脈径に合わせて切開する。よく拡張したリンパ管であれば切開したときにパテントブルーで青く染まったリンパ液が流出することで確認出来る。拡張がないリンパ管や壁が肥厚し内腔が狭窄している症例では内腔の同定が困難なことがあるが、長さ3mmに切った6-0ナイロンをステントとして通すことにより内腔の確認が可能である。リンパ管切開部分からステントとなる6-0ナイロンを末梢側、中枢側の2方向に1本ずつ挿入する。静脈の径が細い場合は静脈端に

もステントを挿入するか。

ステントで内腔を確認しながら11-0ナイロンで吻合する。後壁を縫い合わせ、次に前壁を吻合する。ステントは残り数針となった時点で1本ずつ抜去するが、内腔が確認出来るよう、最後の1本はすべて吻合し終わったのちに抜去する。

吻合の開存はマイクロ下での青く染まったリンパ液の静脈への流入の確認、PDEカメラで ICGが静脈へ流入し、Y字あるいはT字になる ことで確認することが出来る。

#### 術後管理と後療法

術後4日間は患肢拳上とする。5~7日目までは弾性包帯による圧迫を行い、それ以降は術前に着用していた弾性着衣の着用を再開する。抗凝固療法は行っていない。用手的ドレナージは治療院と連携し、退院後早期(術後1~2週間後)より開始する。

術後1ヵ月、3ヵ月、6ヵ月で外来受診とし、 周径の測定、浮腫の変化や自覚症状の変化を確 認する。

また、術後6ヵ月以降に外来で蛍光赤外リンパ管造影を施行し、吻合部開存の確認を行っている。吻合部の開存は皮膚切開部でY字あるいはT字に造影され、静脈への流入後に流速が増すことによって確認出来る。しかし、体表から蛍光赤外リンパ管造影で開存が確認出来るのは皮下脂肪が薄い下腿遠位までに限られることが多い。

#### 結 果

リンパ管静脈吻合の効果としては体積の減少が得られる症例もあるが、皮膚が柔らかくなった、浮腫が引きやすくなった、炎症の頻度が減ったなどの自覚症状の改善を多くの症例で認めている。また、弾性着衣が不要になった例や、より軽い圧迫でも浮腫が生じにくくなるなど、理学療法の軽減が得られた症例も多い。現在の

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ところ、吻合部の長期開存率は約40%である。

#### まとめ

当科でのリンパ管静脈吻合術における詳細を 報告した。

手術至適時期や、手術後の評価方法については、今後さらなる検討を行っていく必要がある。また、術後半年以降での長期開存に影響する因子もいまだ十分には検討されておらず、効果的な吻合部位や吻合数についても未だ不明な点が多い。今後、さらに症例を重ね、より効果的な手術法の検討を行っていく。

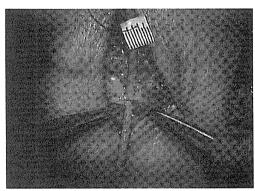


図1 リンパ管に切開を入れ、3mmに切った6-0ナイロンを両方向に挿入する

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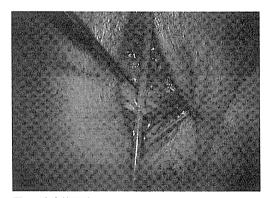


図2 吻合終了時

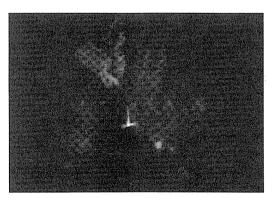


図3 PDEカメラでICGの流入を確認する

### リンパ管静脈側端吻合術におけるlate patencyの検討

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Evaluation of late patency after lymphaticovenous side-to-end anastomosis

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Key words: lymphedema, lymphaticovenous anastomosis, late patency, fluorescein angiography, indocyanine green

#### はじめに

慢性リンパ浮腫に対する外科治療として、リンパ管 静脈吻合術(lymphaticovenous anastomosis, 以下 LVA)は代表的手法の一つとして確立しつつある。し かしその一方で術後の吻合部や外科治療の臨床的効果 を評価する方法は、未だ一定したものはない。今回リ ンパ管静脈側端吻合術術後の症例に対してインドシア ニングリーン(Indocyanine green, 以下ICG)を用い た蛍光赤外線リンパ管造影により、それらの評価を試 みた。

#### 対 象

対象は、2007年11月~2009年4月(1年6カ月)の間に当院でリンパ管静脈吻合術を行った27例のうち、術後6カ月以上経過し蛍光赤外線リンパ管造影に同意し検査を受けた下肢リンパ浮腫症例とした。その結果、対象症例は21例21肢で、内訳は、男性1例、女性20例、平均57.8歳(28-80歳)、続発性18例、原発性3例であった。総吻合数は121か所であった。ただし、上記には両側性の症例も含まれるが、蛍光赤外線リンパ管造影を施行しえた患肢を1肢として集計した。また、本研究は当院倫理委員会の承認を得て行われた。

#### 方 法

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患肢の第1,4趾間に0.25%ICGを少量皮内注射し、蛍 光赤外線システム(浜松ホトニクス社製)を用いて観 結 昇

吻合部の開存が確認できた群は9例,できなかった 群は12例であった。男女差などの一般統計的項目や重 症度,術後経過期間を比較したが,統計学的有意差は 認めなかった(表1).また,2 群間において患肢の 体積減少量を比較した(表2).確認された群の体積

察した. われわれは、リンパ管の側壁に切離した静脈の中枢側断端を吻合する側端吻合術を施行している. そのため、開存している吻合部は基本的にYあるいは T字状に造影される. また吻合脈管の方向を術中確認しており、それも含め開存の有無の判断材料とした.

ただし、皮膚逆流現象(dermal back flow, 以下 DBF)を伴う部位や、吻合部が深く造影が不明瞭な部位は「評価困難」とし、開存/非開存吻合部とは分けて分類した。

検討項目は、吻合部開存の有無、年齢などの一般統計的項目、および患肢の体積減少量とした。また、術中所見のうち吻合リンパ管のリンパ流、吻合静脈の逆流、吻合後の吻合部を越える静脈血またはリンパ液の有無を追跡できたものは吻合部毎に検討した。

体積の評価は円錐台への近似による計測法<sup>11</sup> を用いた. 計測ポイントは膝蓋骨上縁から10cm近位, 膝蓋骨下縁から10cm遠位, 足関節部の3点とし, それぞれによって求められる体積をそれぞれ膝関節周囲体積, 下腿遠位部体積として算出した.

リンパ学

表1 対象症例の内訳

		開存確認(+) n=9	開存確認(-) n=12
性差			Personal Committee of the Committee of t
	男/女	0/9	1/11
分類			
	続発性/原発性	8/1	10/2
左右			
	みぎ/ひだり/両値	N 4/4/1	2/8/2
周径差による重症度分類			
	重症	4	4
	中等症	3	4
	軽症	1	2
	分類不能	1	2
術後経過	過期間 (	6-36 カ月 平均 14.7 カ月)	6-27 カ月 (平均 18.0 カ月)

表 2 2 群間における体積減少量の比較

	開存研		
	あり	なし	- p 値
	n=9	n=12	h 佢
下腿遠位[ml]	304±345	176±313	0.19
膝周囲[ml]	600±527	324±580	0.13
合計[ml]	$905 \pm 875$	501±875	0.14
$p \le 0.05$ signific	ant difference	unpaired	Student's t-test

減少量が多い傾向を認めたが、統計学的有意差は認めなかった.

続いて、21症例において吻合部ごとに検討を行った、21症例中、総吻合数は121か所で、術後の蛍光赤外線リンパ管造影法で開存/非開存を明確に判断できたのは、おもに下腿遠位部からさらに足背部であり、その数は37吻合箇所であった。その内15吻合では開存が確認され、22吻合では開存が確認されなかった。よって当院での長期開存率は約40.5%程度と算出された(表 3).

評価しえた37吻合の術中所見を記録された動画を元 に詳細に評価したのは37吻合中14吻合であった。リン

表 3 吻合部の内訳

部位	評価可能 n=37		評価困難	合計
	開存	非開存		
足背	5	16	10	31
下壓遠位	10	6	25	41
下腿近位	0	0	19	19
大腿	0	0	30	30
合計	15	22	84	121

バ流量が多い吻合部や静脈血の逆流が少ない吻合部の 長期開存率が高いと期待されたが、静脈逆流を認める 吻合部や、吻合後も逆流を認めている吻合部でも長期 開存が確認されており、統計学的傾向や有意差は認め なかった(表 4).

表 4 吻合部毎の詳細な比較検討

	開存確認(+) n = 9		開存確認(-) n=5	
リンパ流量				
あり	78%	(7例)	40%	(2例)
わずかにあり	22%	(2例)	60%	(3 例)
なし	-	(0例)		(0例)
静脈逆流				
あり	22%	(2例)	-	(0例)
わずかにあり	11%	(1例)	NEW PROPERTY.	(0例)
なし	67%	(6 例)	100%	(5例)
吻合後				
リンパ液流入	33%	(3例)	80%	(4例)
静脈血逆流	22%	(2例)		(0例)
なし	11%	(1例)	******	(0例)
判別困難	33%	(3例)	20%	(1例)

#### 症 例

以下、典型的な吻合部の開存を確認できた症例を提示する。

34歳男性. 32歳時に左下肢浮腫を自覚し,近医にて原発性左下肢リンパ浮腫と診断された. 同年,当科紹介受診された (図1). 2年間の保存療法を施行したのちにLVAを施行した.

LVA施行後7カ月経過した際,外来においてICG蛍光リンパ管造影を施行した.LVA計5吻合されていたが,評価できたのは下腿遠位部,のみ計2吻合であった.2吻合中長期開存が確認されたのは2箇所であった.特に下腿遠位での吻合部においては,術中記録されていた静脈,リンパ管の走行に一致した造影結果を得た(図3,4).

現在周径の大きな改善は認めないが、自覚症状が軽減したことや吻合部周囲における保存療法の効きやすさなどを訴えられており、経過良好である(図2).

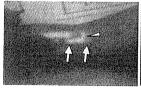
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図1 術前臨床写真



図2 術後14カ月



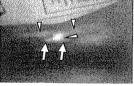


図3 リンパ管静脈側端吻合術術後の造影結果である。造影されたリンパ管 (➡) 矢印) が吻合部を越えて静脈 ( ➡) 矢頭) に流入してH字状に造影されているのが確認された。



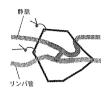


図 4 衛中写真,およびシェーマを示す.吻合部と静脈合流部が近接し ており.H字状になっている.

#### 考 零

LVAの術後長期開存に関する検討は以前より試みられている。1980年代から動物実験においてLVAの吻合部の術後開存と経時的変化に関する報告があった<sup>2,3,3</sup>。また、BaumeisterやWeissらはヒトにおけるリンパ管移植術術後のリンパ管吻合部の開存に関する報告をしている<sup>4,5,5</sup>。ヒトにおけるLVAに関しては、Campisiらがリンパシンチグラフィ所見の変化を用いて間接的に吻合部の長期開存を評価している<sup>6,6</sup>。リンパ管のその他の評価法としてはMRリンパ管造影法<sup>7)</sup>などが挙げられる。しかし、ヒトにおけるLVAの吻合部の術後長期開存を直接証明することは困難であり、それを評価することは長らく克服できなかった臨床的課題の一つであった<sup>8)</sup>

LVAの外科的治療効果に関する検討は、術後の体積減少量に関する報告が多い<sup>8,9</sup>.しかし、臨床的には圧迫療法などの複合的理学療法を併用することがほとんどであり、外科治療単独の治療効果の評価は困難であるのが現状である.

今回われわれは、長期開存が確認できた群とできな かった群との比較によりLVAの治療効果の推察を試み た. 結果としては長期開存を確認できた群の方が体積 減少量の多い傾向はあるものの、統計学的有意差は認 めなかった. その理由としては, 症例により体積減少 量のバラつきが多いことや蛍光リンパ管造影法の観察 限界の観点から大腿部などの吻合部の評価はできてい ないことなどが考察される. そのため、リンパシンチ グラフィタイプ分類(10)31) における同一重症度での比較 検討や保存治療のみ施行している症例との比較などが 必要と考えている. また, 吻合リンパ管の残存機能低 下も体積減少量の比較において有意差を得られなかっ た原因の一つであると考えている. Koshimaらは、慢 性リンパ浮腫患者のリンパ管は変性をきたしており、 リンパ管機能の廃絶が疑われるということを報告して いる12).13). 実際, われわれが吻合しているリンパ管も 肉眼的に変性していることが多く、残存機能の低下が

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あると推測している.変性したリンパ管は吻合後も能 動的ドレナージ効果は低いため、体積減少や周径の改 善を得るためには徒手マッサージや弾性着衣など受動 的な外力が必要であると予想される. 吻合部が開存し ているだけでは体積減少や周径の改善は得られない. いずれにしても, 外科的治療効果の評価として周径や 体積計測は不十分である. 今後は患肢の体積維持に必 要な圧迫療法の推移や皮膚硬度の変化、弾性着衣やマ ッサージの効きやすさなどの解析が必要と考えている. 吻合部の長期開存を規定する因子としては, 吻合リン パ管のリンパ流や静脈からの逆流の有無, 吻合脈管径, リンパ管の変性の程度などが考えられている。今回、 吻合後にリンパ液が良好に流入している吻合部の長期 開存率が高いと予想し、リンパ液の流入や静脈血の逆 流に関して検討した. しかし, 実際には静脈逆流を認 めた吻合部や, 吻合後も静脈血の逆流を認めた吻合部 でも長期開存が確認されており、統計学的傾向や有意 差をつかむには至っていない. 今後は例数を重ね、リ ンパ管の変性の程度や内腔や壁肥厚の程度、吻合脈管 径なども加えた更なる検討が必要である。 長期開存を 規定する因子を決定し, 術中に吻合脈管を取捨選択す ることで, 効率的で新しいリンパ管静脈吻合術が行え ると考えている.

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# 四肢慢性リンパ浮腫に対する外科療法と保存療法による 新たな治療戦略

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New strategy for treatment of peripheral lymphedema combined with surgery and conservative therapy

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Key words: combined decongestive physiotherapy, compressive stocking, lymphaticovenous shunt

#### はじめに

リンパ管静脈吻合術前後の保存療法については詳細 な報告が少なく10~40, われわれは術前理学療法に期間 を特に定めず保存治療を行ってから吻合術を適応して きた、しかし、保存療法を続けた症例の中でリンパシ ンチグラフィー(以下シンチ)の画像上,リンパ機能 の悪化が認められた症例を経験した. また、最近では 手術時期を設定し、それに合わせて術前保存療法を十 分に行うことができれば、その間にシンチの所見上リ ンパ機能の改善を認め、浮腫改善に良い結果を得られ るのではないかと考えるようになった.

また術後の保存療法では,以前は術後1ヶ月経過し てから保存療法を行っていたが, 一時的に浮腫が戻り, 術前と同じ状態に戻すのに時間がかかった症例を経験 した. これより術後療法は比較的早期に行うのが良い のではと考えた. さらにこれは患者の目標設定による 治療への動機付けと医療費の軽減に繋がる. 今回, 自 験例を供覧し、最近われわれが行っている手術療法と 保存療法の関係について報告する.

#### 対象と方法

当施設におけるリンパ浮腫治療のプロトコール (図1)

は、はじめにシンチを行い、得られた画像に応じた著

者の重症度分類を行うい.50. タイプ I では中枢、例えば 下肢リンパ浮腫であれば骨盤内や鼠径部、上肢であれ ば鎖骨下や腋窩部のリンパ節が描出され、タイプⅡで は下肢の場合,大腿で皮膚逆流現象 (dermal backflow, 以下DBF)を認めるが、その一部では鼠径のリンパ節 が描出される。 鼠径や腋窩などの所属リンパ節が描出 されないタイプⅡからⅤはリンパ管静脈吻合手術の適 応とし、十分な理学療法の後、手術を行った、二重色 素造影法とステント法によりリンパ管静脈側端吻合を 始めた2006年6月~2010年1月までのリンパ浮腫67症 例69肢のうち、術後3から6ヶ月以上で周径計測を行 えた65例67肢(下肢54例56肢,上肢11例11肢)を対象

術前後の保存療法の時期の違いから対象症例を2群 に分けた. 2006年6月~2009年1月までは、特に手術 日を意識せず術前の理学療法を行ったため、その期間 は6から16ヶ月であり、また術後も退院後初めて外来 を受診する約1ヶ月から始め、この群をA群 (40肢) とした. 2009年2月以降は術前理学療法を短期間に仕 上げ、なるべく早く手術を行い、また術後も1週間で 圧迫着衣を使用し、マッサージ行うことにし、これを B群(27肢)とした(図2). 両群において術前後の患 肢ボリュームの変化を比較検討した.

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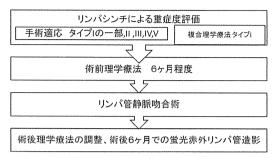


図1 当科における治療プロトコール

# A群(40肢) 初診 術前保存療法 手術 術後保存療法 6-16ヶ月 1ヶ月

#### · B群(27肢)

初診 術前保存療法 手術 術後保存療法

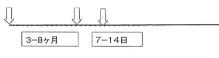


図2 プロトコールの比較

#### 結 果

A群では上下肢(40肢)の平均減少量が592±943ml(平均±標準偏差),下肢(35肢)では672±977ml,上肢(5肢)では31±327ml減少した。B群では上下肢(27肢)で538±798ml減少し、そのうち下肢(21肢)では663±858ml,上肢(6肢)では80±147mlの減少であった。両群間の上下肢のボリュームの平均値に統

計的有意差はなかった. 症例により圧迫療法の期間に 差がでるが, 短期例でも以前の長期例のような周径の 改善が得られ, シンチでの改善が見られた症例もあっ た. また, 術後の圧迫療法が軽くなった症例や吻合部 の長期開存をいくつか経験した.

#### 症 例

A群:58歳女性,2003年に子宮体癌の診断で,子宮広汎切除と所属リンパ節廓清を施行.その後,右下肢と会陰部の浮腫を認めていた.2005年に当科を初診し,下肢周径から患肢体積は5244mlであった.シンチを施行したが,右はタイプⅡであり,理学療法を行い経過観察とした.2008年になり浮腫の悪化に伴い周径が増加したため,再度,シンチを施行したが,タイプⅣと変化し,患肢体積は5907mlと増加した.手術適応と考えて,全麻下にリンパ管静脈吻合術を施行した.足背から大腿にかけて5吻合行った.術後1ヶ月から理学療法を開始し,術後1年8ヶ月,右患肢の体積は術道間と比較して約500ml減少し,5369mlと初診時とほぼ同程度に改善した.術後のシンチもタイプ3に改善した(図3A-G).

B群:52歳女性,原発性右下肢リンパ浮腫.1999年に右下肢の浮腫を認め,2008年に某大学病院を受診しリンパ浮腫と診断された.その後,某所で理学療法を受けていたが浮腫が悪化したため,当科を受診した.初診時の右下肢の体積は8144ml,シンチではタイプ皿であり,手術適応であり,今一度,6ヶ月間の理学療法をストッキングの二重履きによる圧迫を中心に行うこととした. 術直前に患肢体積は6512mlとなり,初診後6ヶ月でリンパ管静脈吻合術(7吻合)を,9ヶ月後に大腿部で2吻合追加した.術後は約1週間でマッ

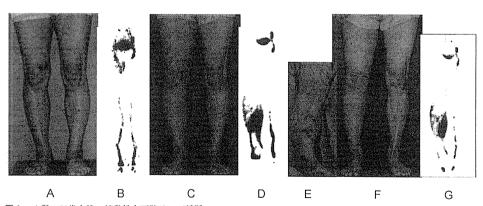


図 3 A 群:58歳女性, 続発性右下肢リンパ浮腫 A, 初診時正面 B, 初診時シンチ C, 3 年後正面 D, 術前シンチ E, 術中 F, 術後 6 ヶ月正面 G, 術後シンチ

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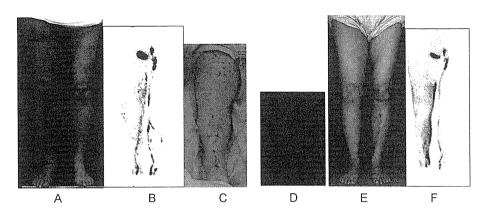


図 4 B群:52歳女性. 原発性右下肢リンパ浮腫 A. 初診時正面 B. 術前シンチ C. 初回手術 D. 2回目術中のインドシアニングリーンによる蛍光赤外線リンパ管造影 E. 2回目術後5ヶ月正面 F. 術後シンチ

サージを開始し、その後、ストッキング着用を減らし、2回目術後 5 ヶ月で右下肢は体積5765mlと改善し、現在、一日を通じてストッキングをほとんど着用していない(図 4 A - F).

#### 老 窓

リンパ浮腫の圧迫治療を中心とする保存療法にはゴ ール設定がなく, 患者はしばしば長期の治療から離脱 する. また、A群の症例で示した如く、理学療法を継 続する中で治療に反応せず浮腫が悪化する症例を経験 するが、これはシンチの画像変化からリンパ機能の低 下によると考えられる. Garfeinら はリンパ浮腫の治 療プロトコールとして理学療法の効果を判定し、非効 果例に手術適応があるとしているが、リンパ機能が悪 化"する前にリンパ管内に鬱滞したリンパを静脈にド レナージする手術を行い、残されたリンパ機能を維持 することが必要であると思われる. われわれはシンチ によって得られる画像を基にリンパ管静脈吻合術の適 応を決めているが、リンパ機能障害があまり進んでい ないタイプ3がタイプ4,5よりも多くの吻合ができ る". B群の症例で示したように、長期のリンパ管静脈 吻合の開存を確認しており, 吻合開存が多く存在する 症例では、浮腫の改善によるADL (activity of daily living) の向上が期待できる.

一方、リンパ管静脈吻合術を中心とする外科療法と 保存療法との関係については未だ詳細な報告が少な い<sup>10-40</sup>.これは、理学療法や手術療法に一定の基準が なく、また医療効果に明確なエビデンスがないからで ある。しかし最近の経験から、手術治療を理学療法の 短期的なゴールに設定すると、患者は短期間に集中し

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て圧迫療法を受け入れ、効率良い治療が可能となる. また、手術の効果が現れると、圧迫療法の程度が軽く なるなど、さらに患者のADL向上が期待出来る.シン チ所見上で手術適応と思われる症例では、術前理学療 法により皮膚や皮下組織を柔らかくし、術中のリンパ 管同定を容易にする、理学療法が維持期に入り安定し てから手術までの時間が長くなると, 前述した如く, リンパ機能の悪化を来す場合もあり、また患者ADLが 低下する. 今回の報告では術前理学療法の期間を定め ていないA群と手術時期に合わせて理学療法を行った B群と比較して患肢体積を比較したが、有意差を認め なかった. これはADLの観点から見ると, 同じ結果を 得るのにB群では治療時間と費用の軽減ができる. わ れわれの治療プロトコールが最善であるという確固た るエビデンスはないが、手術療法と保存療法をうまく 組み合わせることで、治療成績をさらに向上させる可 能性があり、今後二つの治療方法をどのタイミングで 行うか, さらに検討する必要がある. また, 理学療法 と手術療法をタイミング良く行うために、手術を行う 外科医と理学療法を担当する看護師, 理学療法士, セ ラピストとの間で患者さんの情報を交換し、治療方針 を決めるために密なコミュニケーションが必要である と考える.

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