

References for Pathways Winter 2019-2020

DUTCH BEST PRACTICE LYMPHEDEMA GUIDELINES

– by Dr. Robert Damstra

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Robert J. Damstra works since 1992 as dermatologist at the Nij Smellinghe hospital Drachten (Netherlands) in a team with 6 dermatologists, 2 surgeons and many paramedical specialists.

In 2009 he obtained his PhD with the thesis “diagnostic and therapeutical aspects of lymphedema” at Maastricht University (Prof. Dr. P. Steijlen).

In 2005 he founded the Dutch expert center for lympho-vascular diseases (ECL) which expanded to a center with annual 500 new tertiary referrals, an outpatient clinic which thousands of patients, a clinical department for 12 patients providing both interdisciplinary diagnostics, operative and conservative treatments. He was chair of the first (2003) and second (2014) Dutch guideline working group on lymphedema. In 2023 the third guideline is planned.

In 2015 the ECL Drachten is recognized by the ministry of health as national expert center for primary and pediatric lymphedema. The ECL became member of the European Reference Network (ERN) in the VASERN-group (See www.vascern.eu). He is chair of the primary and pediatric working group (PPL-WG). Together with expert centers all over Europe they cooperate to enhance crossborder healthcare, improve quality of care and provide information for patients in Europe. Multicenter research is planned.

A NEW PARADIGM FOR DIAGNOSIS & TREATMENT OF EDEMAS

– by Heather Hettrick and Robyn Bjork

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