



Comfiwave[®]

Breast Band

"The Comfiwave Breast Band is a game changer for people like me who have felt totally neglected in the past. I now have compression that will improve the quality of my life."

- Patient with breast cancer related lymphoedema



Indications

- For those with lymphoedema extending into the breast/s and or lateral chest wall.
- Suitable immediately post-surgery, following breast augmentation or for those who have had breast conserving surgery such as lumpectomy.
- Can be used over dressings for covering wounds, including fungating lesions.
- Aids softening of tissues as well as reduction of oedema.

A CLINICAL REVIEW OF A NEW COMPRESSION PRODUCT IN THE MANAGEMENT OF BREAST LYMPHOEDEMA IN WOMEN

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Introduction:

Anecdotal evidence from clinical practice suggests that there is an increase in the incidence of breast swelling seen by lymphoedema clinicians. Although evidence suggests that axillary node dissection increases epidermal thickness compared to sentinel node biopsy there is no difference in incidence between those who had sentinel lymph node biopsy and those who didn't have axillary surgery (Wratten et al, 2007). Furthermore, according to Adriaenssens et al, (2012) and Johansson et al, (2014) the type of axillary surgery is not associated with breast oedema incidence. However it is clear that incidence increases with radiotherapy and according to Johansson et al (2014) 31.4% of patients experience breast oedema pre radiotherapy, increasing to an incidence of 62.6% post radiotherapy. Symptoms of breast oedema can be mild to severe, with symptoms such as tissue changes including Peud'orange, pain, effects on body image, reduced QOL and function (Degnim et al 2012, Jeffs 2006, Todd 2017). Furthermore, breast oedema results in significant physical and psychological morbidity, which makes finding a comfortably fitting bra very difficult, and can act as a reminder of the initial breast cancer diagnosis (Todd 2017).

Aims:

To evaluate the effectiveness of the Comfiwave breast band (images 1 & 2) in comparison to current compression modalities used in the treatment of breast oedema, such as Bras and foam pads. Uses, comfort, fit and tolerability of Comfiwave in the treatment of breast swelling were identified. Comfiwave is a patented, high elastic knitted garment made from a soft, undyed cotton, which has 100% cotton content next to the skin. The seamless breast band has a unique weave which results in changes in tissue pressure over the breast, to promote reduction in swelling and improvement in tissues.

Methods:

Patients with breast swelling from different UK clinics were selected and written consent gained by their therapist to be involved in the evaluation. Measurements were taken to allow for correct size selection of the Comfiwave breast band. Patients were fitted with the garment by their therapist and whilst the garment was indicated for night time use, advised to wear the garment either in the daytime, night time or 24 hours per day. An evaluation form was given to the patient to complete after two weeks of treatment using Comfiwave. Initial information such as age, diagnosis and intended use of the Comfiwave breast band were required as well as stating which products were used previously. A simple table (table 1) was used to give objective feedback on the product as well as space for free text comments.

Results: table 1

Overall comfort of Comfiwave	More comfortable	Less comfortable	Same
Ease of application of Comfiwave	Same	Easier	Harder
Is Comfiwave a better fit?	Worse	Same	Better
Ability to wear normal clothes	Better	Worse	Same
Comfort whilst sleeping	Worse	Better	Same
Tolerability of Comfiwave	Same	Better	Worse

A total of 8 patients completed the evaluation:

3 patients wore the garment at night

3 patients wore during the day

2 patients wore 24 hours

6/6 reported it was easier to apply than previous product

8/8 reported it was the same or more comfortable than previous bra

5/5 comfortable whilst sleeping

8/8 reported tolerability was better or the same

Some patients did not complete all questions. General comments included: 'significant improvement in breast oedema, reduced peu'd'orange, heaviness and pain, improved sensations, softer tissues, scarring has softened. Improved sleep. Two patients reported their posture had improved. Where tissues had softened in one patient's feedback photographs, (images 3 & 4) were included and consent obtained to use them, showing how the breast tissues had softened. (image 3) pre Comfiwave use: (image 4) post 2 weeks of Comfiwave use.



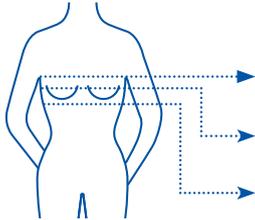
CONCLUSION:

In this small evaluation it has been demonstrated that the Comfiwave breast band has the ability to reduce oedema, improve tissues, pain, sensations and posture, as well as increasing quality of life in those who have breast swelling. However, more robust research is required to demonstrate if this would be the case in a larger population.



Comfiwave Breast Band

	REGULAR	
S	CW1-TN2	■ ■ ■
M	CW1-TN3	■ ■ ■
L	CW1-TN4	■ ■ ■
XL	CW1-TN5	■ ■ ■



Circumferences cm	S	M	L	XL
ABOVE BREAST	70 - 88	80 - 102	90 - 116	100 - 130
OVER BREAST	70 - 92	80 - 108	90 - 126	100 - 144
BELOW BREAST	70 - 80	80 - 92	90 - 104	100 - 116



Above Breast



Over Breast



Under Breast