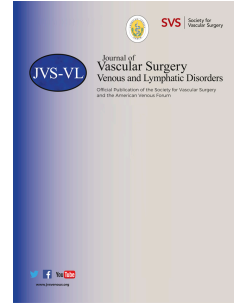


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Safety and Effectiveness of a Novel Non-Pneumatic Active Compression Device for Treating Breast Cancer-Related Lymphedema, a Multi-center Randomized, Crossover Trial (NILE)

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1 Safety and Effectiveness of a Novel Non-Pneumatic Active Compression Device for Treating
2 Breast Cancer-Related Lymphedema, a Multi-center Randomized, Crossover Trial (NILE)

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22 *Presentation Information.* NILE interim results were presented at AVLS in Denver in October
23 2021 and at ILF in Copenhagen in November 2021.

- 1 *Key words.* Breast cancer-related lymphedema, cancer survivorship, quality of life, medical
- 2 device

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1 **ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS**

2 **Type of Research:** Prospective, multi-center,
3 randomized, crossover trial

4
5 **Key Findings:** Data from 50 adult women with unilateral
6 breast cancer-related lymphedema demonstrate greater
7 improvements in quality of life and limb edema with a
8 novel non-pneumatic compression device than with a
9 commercially available advanced pneumatic compression
10 device. Patients were also significantly more adherent to
11 self-care treatment (95.6% vs. 49.8%) and more satisfied
12 (90% vs. 14%) with the novel device.

13
14 **Take home Message:** The novel non-pneumatic device is safe and effective for reducing limb
15 volume in breast cancer-related lymphedema, and was more effective and resulted in higher
16 adherence to self-care interventions and greater satisfaction than a commercially available
17 advanced pneumatic compression device.

18 19 **Table of Contents Summary**

20 A multi-center randomized crossover trial demonstrated
21 that a novel non-pneumatic compression device was more
22 effective and resulted in greater adherence to self-care
23 interventions and satisfaction than a commercially

- 1 available advanced pneumatic compression device for
- 2 treating breast cancer-related lymphedema.

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1 **Abstract**

2 Objective. Advanced pneumatic compression devices (APCDs) have been shown to be an
3 effective intervention for lymphedema when used as part of a self-care maintenance treatment
4 regimen. However, adherence to self-care is poor, and APCDs require patients to be immobile
5 during treatment. We sought to evaluate the safety and efficacy of a novel non-pneumatic
6 compression device (NPCD) for treating lymphedema versus an APCD.

7 Methods. A randomized, crossover head-to-head investigation at five US sites in 2021. Patients
8 were randomized to either the NPCD or a commercially-available APCD. Subjects used the
9 randomly assigned initial device for 28 days with a 4-week washout period prior to a comparable
10 28-day utilization of the second device.

11 Results. Data from 50 adult women with unilateral breast cancer-related lymphedema (BCRL)
12 were analyzed. When compared with the APCD, the NPCD was associated with greater mean
13 reduction in limb edema volume (64.6% vs. 27.7%, $p<0.001$), significantly greater mean
14 improvements in quality of life scores, greater adherence (95.6% vs. 49.8%, $p<0.001$), and
15 greater satisfaction with the device (90% vs. 14%, $p<0.001$). Patients indicated that the NPCD
16 facilitated exercise and was convenient for travel. No adverse events were reported.

17 Conclusions. The novel NPCD is an effective maintenance treatment for reducing limb volume
18 in BCRL patients. The device was more effective than an APCD and resulted in higher
19 adherence to self-care interventions and greater patient satisfaction.

1 **Introduction**

2 Each year there are 1.7 million new cases of breast cancer world-wide,¹ including approximately
3 270,000 in the US.² Cancer survivorship has increased dramatically in the past few decades. The
4 cancer-related mortality rate in the US dropped 40% from 1989 to 2017;² it is estimated that
5 more than 3.8 million women are currently living with a history of breast cancer in the US.²
6 Targeted therapies that contribute to survivorship may also impose the risk of complications. As
7 the number of breast cancer survivors grows, so does the frequency of these complications.
8 The disruption of the lymphatic system from cancer treatments can result in breast cancer-related
9 lymphedema (BCRL), characterized by the accumulation of fluid and protein in the ipsilateral
10 upper limb, with associated external swelling, pain, fatigue, restricted motion, and stiffness in the
11 limbs.³⁻⁸ Estimates of the risk of lymphedema following treatment for breast cancer vary
12 depending on diagnostic criteria and follow-up timeframe,⁹⁻¹¹ but multiple studies define the 5-
13 year incidence to be more than 40%.^{9, 12} Lymphedema can cause inflammation and fibrosis in the
14 affected limb. Impaired regional immune traffic predisposes to recurrent soft-tissue infection.¹³⁻¹⁵
15 Patients may also experience physical discomfort and a variety of functional impairments.<sup>3, 4, 6, 16-
16 18</sup>
17 Patients with BCRL often experience anxiety, sadness, fear, and self-consciousness that produce
18 decrements in social and psychological well-being, negatively impacting quality of life (QOL).<sup>4,
19 6, 8, 19</sup> BCRL is associated with significantly higher medical expenditures overall¹⁵ and higher
20 out-of-pocket costs²⁰ when compared to patients with breast cancer without lymphedema.
21 Additionally, BCRL can negatively impact patients' work performance, causing distress and
22 hindering their careers.^{21, 22}

1 BCRL is a chronic condition without curative therapy. Therefore, the goal of treatment is to
2 maintain limb health and avoid related complications. Management of BCRL typically involves
3 multiple components. This complex decongestive therapy includes manual lymphatic drainage,
4 the use of compression garments, skin care, and physical exercise.²³ The adjunctive use of
5 pneumatic compression devices (PCDs) as part of a self-care regimen has been shown to reduce
6 limb volume, improve symptoms, and enhance QOL,²⁴⁻²⁷ and may help reduce BCRL-related
7 complications and related healthcare utilization and costs.²⁶⁻³⁰ Unfortunately, adherence to BCRL
8 self-care is poor; multiple studies have observed that fewer than one-third of patients reach the
9 threshold of 75% adherence.³¹⁻³³ Numerous barriers to adherence have been identified, including
10 symptom burden, patient knowledge of lymphedema, complexity of the treatment regimen, and
11 the time required and/or interference with daily activities.³³⁻³⁵

12 The Dayspring[®] non-pneumatic compression device (NPCD) is an FDA-cleared prescription-
13 only wearable compression system (Figure 1). The device uses Flexframes[™]-shape memory
14 alloy (SMA)-based actuators and a mobile power source that are programmed to deliver gradient
15 sequential compression. The physical principle of providing pressure underlying both Flexframes
16 and pneumatic compressions is the same, which is force is applied over a given area or $P = F/A$.
17 Flexframes contract and relax to provide pressure using energy from a current that flows through
18 the resistance of the SMA material with a temporal modulation. The number of compression
19 segments in the NPCD (up to 14) is similar to the number available in traditional PCDs (up to
20 12). In a recent open-label 28-day pilot study of 40 subjects with BCRL, the subjects that utilized
21 the NPCD experienced improvements in limb volume and QOL, and displayed a 98% adherence
22 to therapy.³⁶ However, a direct, head-to-head comparison of the novel device to a traditional
23 PCD is necessary to demonstrate its clinical non-inferiority. In the current study, we seek to

1 evaluate the efficacy of, and patient experience with, the NPCD in comparison to that of a
2 commercially available advanced pneumatic compression device (APCD).

3 **Methods**

4 *Study Design and Patient Population*

5 This was a multi-center, randomized, crossover head-to-head trial (ClinicalTrials.gov
6 NCT04908254 <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04908254>). Recruitment began in January
7 of 2021 and occurred at five private lymphedema clinics associated with cancer care centers in
8 the US, including three in California, one in Ohio, and one in Tennessee. The study was
9 approved by the WCG Institutional Review Board. Screening occurred within the 90 days prior
10 to enrollment. Adults aged >18 years, with a diagnosis of primary or secondary unilateral upper
11 extremity edema were eligible. Exclusion criteria included any systemic disorder that might
12 contraindicate sequential compression therapy, including the presence of active cellulitis, open or
13 partially healed wounds. Also excluded were potential subjects with lipedema, active or recurrent
14 cancer (defined as < three months since completion of cancer therapeutics), an acute infection
15 within the previous four weeks, active venous thromboembolic disease within the previous six
16 months, pulmonary edema, uncontrolled congestive heart failure, chronic kidney disease with
17 renal failure, seizure disorder, poorly controlled asthma, or any other condition where augmented
18 venous and lymphatic return might be undesirable. Women who were pregnant, planning a
19 pregnancy, or nursing at study entry and any subjects who had participated any clinical trial of an
20 investigational substance or device during the previous 30 days were also excluded, as were any
21 potential subjects with a cognitive or physical impairment that would interfere with appropriate
22 use of the device.

1 After informed consent was obtained, the subjects were instructed to discontinue any current
2 pneumatic compression treatment(s) for lymphedema for one month prior to the device trial.
3 Data regarding the type or length of use of prior pneumatic compression were not collected.
4 They were instructed to continue the use of static compression sleeves and/or manual lymph
5 drainage procedures, as previously prescribed. All subjects were taught how to don the study
6 device garments, including placement, duration, and device activation.
7 Subjects were randomized by each site using a computer-generated block randomization
8 schedule to either the NPCD or a commercially available advanced PCD (APCD – model
9 Flexitouch Plus, PG32-G3) that is FDA-cleared for the same indications as the novel NPCD. All
10 patients used the same commercially available APCD. They were instructed to use the assigned
11 compression device once daily on the study limb only, for a minimum of 60 minutes. Study
12 measures were recorded at day 0 and day 28. Following day 28, there was a 4-week washout
13 period without any use of an active compression device. Following completion of washout,
14 subjects crossed over to the alternate compression device for the next 28 days of use, with
15 volume measurement recorded at day 0 and 28 of that usage.

16 *Measures and Statistical Analysis*

17 This study was designed with the hypothesis that the NPCD is non-inferior to the APCD in
18 reducing edema volume in lymphedema patients, with a non-inferiority primary endpoint for
19 changes in edema volume. We used results from a previous open-label study of 40 patients³⁶ to
20 estimate that a sample size of at least 30 would be adequate to demonstrate non-inferiority in a
21 randomized cross-over design, and that a sample size of 50 would allow us to demonstrate non-
22 inferiority of changes in affected limb volume as well.

1 Limb volume quantitation was performed by trained therapists using a calibrated tape measure to
2 quantitate limb circumference at the wrist at the ulnar styloid process and at 4 cm increments to
3 the axilla. Volume (V) was calculated based on a truncated cone cylindrical segment analysis.
4 Both upper extremities were measured. Volume responses to the compression regimens were
5 quantitated as a calculated change in the measured edema volume:

$$6 \Delta V (\%) = [(V_L - V_N)_{pre} - (V_L - V_N)_{post}] / (V_L - V_N)_{pre} * 100$$

7 where V_L represents the measured volume of the lymphedematous upper extremity and V_N
8 represents the measured volume of the contralateral normal arm.

9 The primary outcome assessed the impact of the two compression devices upon these measured
10 volume differences from pre-treatment (day 0) to post-treatment (day 28). Responders were
11 defined as those who experienced >2% reduction in edema volume.

12 QOL was measured using the Lymphedema Quality of Life Questionnaire (LYMQOL),³⁷ a 20-
13 item validated disease-specific QOL tool, administered at days 0 and 28 for each device
14 treatment period. LYMQOL assesses the impact of lymphedema on QOL through an overall
15 QOL scale (scored 1-10) and four subscales: symptoms (pain, swelling, and numbness), body
16 image/appearance, function (activities of daily living such as eating, writing, and dressing), and
17 mood (sleep disruption, depression, and irritability). The subscales are scored from 1 (not at all)
18 to 4 (a lot). The total score is calculated by adding all items and dividing by the total number of
19 items. The subscales reflect improvement as a reduced score, whereas the overall QOL scale
20 reflects improvement with a higher score. Changes from day 0 to day 28 for the total score and
21 each subscale score were calculated. Tabulation of the QOL responses was done while blinded to
22 the treatment arm.

1 Secondary outcome measures included patient-reported treatment adherence (measured as the
2 percent of total prescribed hours), patient-reported usage details including activity, convenience,
3 adjuvant use of static compression sleeves, device preference (measured from patient survey
4 responses at the end of the study, see the Supplemental Material for the survey questions), and
5 the occurrence of any safety events or adverse events. Changes in outcomes from day 0 to 28
6 were evaluated using paired t-tests; statistical significance was defined at the $\alpha = 0.05$ level.

7 **Results**

8 Fifty-two (52) subjects were enrolled across five sites (Figure 2). All subjects were women with
9 ages ranging from 29 to 84 years. Almost three-fourths were Caucasian (73.1%); 13.5% were
10 Asian, 7.7% African American, and 5.8% Hispanic. The right upper extremity was affected three
11 times more frequently than the left (75% versus 25%). All enrolled subjects were diagnosed with
12 secondary lymphedema from breast cancer and none had primary lymphedema. The average
13 time since cancer-related surgery or radiation was approximately five years, and the average time
14 since lymphedema diagnosis was approximately 4.5 years (Table 1). All subjects were utilizing
15 static compression garments at the time of enrollment. Two patients were lost to follow-up, so
16 that primary and secondary outcomes were assessed for 50/52 subjects.

17 Twenty-three patients were randomized to receive the novel device first and 27 to receive the
18 APCD first. When comparing these groups there were no significant differences in mean age
19 (60.5 versus 60.3 years, $p = 0.9531$), percent non-White race (30.4% versus 25.9%, $p = 0.9698$),
20 mean months since surgery or radiation (76.5 versus 50.2, $p = 0.2411$), mean months since
21 lymphedema diagnosis (61.4 versus 48.2, $p = 0.4065$), or months between surgery/radiation and
22 lymphedema (18.0 versus 4.29, $p = 0.3396$). There was also no significant difference in Day 0

1 edema, calculated as the difference in volume between the affected and unaffected arm (293.5
2 cm^3 versus 284.2 cm^3 , $p = 0.9276$).

3 With the NPCD, subjects experienced a mean reduction in edema volume in the affected arm of
4 64.6% (95% confidence interval [CI] = 31.71, 97.58), compared with 27.7% (95% CI = 4.80,
5 60.14) with the APCD ($p < 0.05$, Figure 3a), resulting in a significantly higher overall response
6 rate (88% versus 42%, $p < 0.05$, Figure 3b). Volume reduction of the unaffected limb did not
7 differ significantly between devices. With these observations, the primary endpoint of the study
8 was achieved: the NPCD was found to be non-inferior to the APCD in reducing edema volume
9 in lymphedema patients and exceeded the capacity of the APCD to produce volume reduction of
10 the affected limb. No serious adverse events were reported for either device and no additional
11 hand or chest swelling were observed with either device.

12 The 4-week wash-out period between devices appeared to be adequate as there was no
13 significant difference in the volume of the affected arm at the start of device use (mean
14 difference between Day 0 of the first device and Day 0 of the second device = 35.56 cm^3 , $p =$
15 0.2772) or in the level of edema (mean difference = 37.52 cm^3 , $p = 0.2813$).

16 Mean \pm standard deviation reported adherence to the prescribed use of 60 minutes per day was
17 $95.6 \pm 7\%$ with the NPCD, compared with $49.8 \pm 26\%$ with the APCD ($p < 0.01$, Figure 3c).

18 When asked about any differences in use of compression sleeves over the course of each
19 device's use, 86% of patients reported "less" use during the NPCD, compared with 0% reporting
20 "less" use when using the APCD. Additionally, subjects experienced a statistically significant
21 mean 2.44-point increase (improvement) in their overall LYMQOL scores at day 28 of the
22 NPCD use ($p < 0.05$, Figure 3d). By comparison, while after the APCD, there was no significant
23 change in overall LYMQOL score. Within the LYMQOL subscales, a significant improvement

1 in all four subscales (function, mood, appearance, and symptoms) was observed after use of the
2 NPCD. In contrast, all subscale scores worsened during use of the APCD (Table 2).
3 At the conclusion of the study, 100% of participants indicated that they were able to be active or
4 exercise while using the NPCD, while 0% had a comparable result from the APCD. Similarly,
5 100% of participants reported that the NPCD was portable or convenient for travel, compared
6 with 0% for the APCD. When asked about their overall satisfaction with the devices, 90% were
7 “somewhat” or “very” satisfied with the NPCD compared with 14% for the APCD; 90% of
8 participants preferred the NPCD to the APCD for daily use (Table 3).

9 **Discussion**

10 Previous studies have highlighted the importance of adherence to self-care in the treatment and
11 management of chronic lymphedema. Patients with BCRL face an increased risk of infection¹³⁻¹⁵
12 and experience considerable detriments to physical functioning, quality of life, and emotional
13 well-being.^{8, 17, 19} Those with more symptoms often experience greater declines in QOL.⁵ The
14 likelihood of deterioration in the volume response after completion of the initial decongestive
15 physiotherapy is significant; one study observed a mean limb volume increase of 84 ml (95% CI:
16 56-113) at the end of one year with a 10% volume increase in 52% of patients.³⁸ Non-
17 compliance to low stretch bandage and elastic sleeve were risk factors for an increased
18 lymphedema after 1-year of maintenance treatment (RR: 1.55 [95% CI: 1.3-1.76]; $P < 0.0001$
19 and RR: 1.61 (95% CI: 1.25-1.82); $P = 0.002$, respectively).

20 The use of adjunctive pneumatic compression has been shown to be effective in reducing
21 symptoms, complications, and lymphedema-related healthcare utilization. In addition to
22 improving lymphatic function,²⁴ their use has been associated with reductions in cellulitis and
23 lymphedema-related health encounters^{29, 30, 39} and with increased quality of life.^{25, 28, 39}

1 Additionally, exercise as a treatment for lymphedema, when combined with compression
2 therapy, has been shown to result in significantly greater reduction in limb volume than
3 compression therapy alone.^{40, 41} In BCRL specifically, exercise has been associated with
4 improved outcomes.⁴²

5 Unfortunately, adherence to self-care is poor, with adherence to PCD among the worst of all self-
6 care treatments.³¹ Manual lymphatic drainage requires in-person visits with certified therapists
7 and compression garments require frequent replacements. PCDs require patients to be immobile
8 for the entire duration of their use, which prohibits exercise and limits the mobility that is needed
9 to perform daily activities. Therapy options that enable mobility and increase adherence may
10 improve self-care effectiveness and improve results.

11 In the current study, the novel NPCD, which allows for more mobility and less disruption of
12 daily activities than a current, marketed APCD, produced greater adherence and simultaneously
13 achieved greater reductions in edema volume than did the APCD within the same subjects. In
14 addition, subjects experienced greater improvements in QOL and reported higher satisfaction
15 with the NPCD. Patients confirmed that the NPCD allowed them to exercise and that it was
16 convenient for travel purposes. Furthermore, they overwhelmingly preferred it to the APCD. It
17 should be noted that while the study criteria allowed for primary or secondary lymphedema, all
18 enrolled patients had BCRL; therefore, no men and none with primary lymphedema were
19 included. However, we believe our observed results are generalizable to these groups because the
20 underlying mechanism of action and therapeutic benefits from the technology should comparably
21 apply. With any cross-over design there is the potential risk of carry-over when subjects switch
22 treatments. We observed no significant difference in the affected arm volume or edema volume
23 prior to each device's use, suggesting that any carry-over effect is minimal. There could also be a

1 risk of carry-over for subjects who had used a device prior to the start of the study, as data on
2 prior use of compression devices were not collected. However, subjects were instructed to stop
3 any prior device use a month before the start of the study, a period of time that should be
4 sufficient to minimize carry-over, as demonstrated by the 4-week wash-out period.

5 These results suggest that the NPCD is non-inferior to the APCD in reducing edema volume in
6 lymphedema patients, and in fact, produced superior outcomes for volume reduction and
7 symptom relief. Subjects are more adherent to therapy and more satisfied with the device than
8 they are when using the APCD. Future studies will explore the impact of early intervention and
9 will assess long-term adherence to the use of the device to prevent progression of lymphedema.

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Figure legend

Figure 1. The Novel Non-Pneumatic Active Compression Device

Figure 2. Enrollment Flow Diagram

Figure 3. (A) Mean Percent Volume Difference in Edema Between Day 0 and Day 28 and (B) Response Rate (>2% change in edema volume) in Affected Limb, (C) Adherence to Device, and (D) Mean Change in Overall LYMQOL Score

Journal Pre-proof

Table 1. Patient Characteristics

Characteristic	Value
Total N	52
Age in years, Mean (SD; range)	60 (10.8)
Female, N (%)	52 (100)
Race, N (%)	
Caucasian	38 (73.1)
African American	4 (7.7)
Asian	7 (13.5)
Hispanic	3 (5.8)
Other	0 (0)
Affected Arm, N, (%)	
Left	13 (25.0)
Right	39 (75.0)
Sites	5
Months Since Surgery or Radiation, Mean (SD; Range)	59 (59.6; 9-210)
Months Since Lymphedema Diagnosis, Mean (SD; Range)	54 (48.5; 7-196)
Months Between Surgery/Radiation and Lymphedema, Mean (SD)	10 (36.6)

SD, standard deviation

Table 2. LYMQOL results

	Score**				
	Overall (higher is better)	Function (lower is better)	Appearance (lower is better)	Symptoms (lower is better)	Mood (lower is better)
Novel Non-Pneumatic Active Wearable Device					
Day 0, Mean (Standard Deviation)	5.78 (1.88)	2.13 (0.64)	2.53 (0.81)	2.67 (0.75)	2.38 (0.76)
Day 28, Mean (Standard Deviation)	8.22 (1.45)	1.51 (0.47)	1.86 (0.76)	2.00 (0.74)	1.62 (0.48)
Change in Mean Score from Day 0 to Day 28	+ 2.44	- 0.62	- 0.67	- 0.67	- 0.76
p-value*	< 0.001	< 0.001	< 0.001	< 0.001	< 0.001
Traditional APCD					
Day 0, Mean (Standard Deviation)	7.06 (1.61)	1.69 (0.61)	1.95 (0.82)	2.13 (0.74)	2.01 (0.75)
Day 28, Mean (Standard Deviation)	7.05 (1.92)	1.81 (0.71)	2.17 (0.87)	2.30 (0.69)	2.07 (0.69)
Change in Mean Score from Day 0 to Day 28	- 0.01	+ 0.12	+ 0.22	+ 0.17	+ 0.08
p-value*	0.3843	< 0.001	< 0.001	< 0.001	0.0948

*For change from Day 0 to Day 28

**Higher scores on the overall score reflect better quality of life; higher scores on the individual subscale scores reflect lower quality of life.

APCD, advanced pneumatic compression device

Table 3. Subject Responses at the End of the Study

Measure	Non-Pneumatic Active Compression Device	APCD	p-value
Percent of subjects who indicated that they were able to be active or exercise while using the device.	100%	0%	<0.001
Percent of subjects who indicated that the device portable and convenient for their travels.	100%	0%	<0.001
Percent of subjects who were “somewhat” or “very” satisfied with each device	90%	14%	<0.001
Percent of subjects who preferred each device for lymphedema treatment	90%	10%	<0.001
Percent of subjects who indicated that they reduced use of static compression sleeves during treatment with device	86%	0%	<0.001

APCD, advanced pneumatic compression device



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Figure 2. Enrollment Flow Diagram

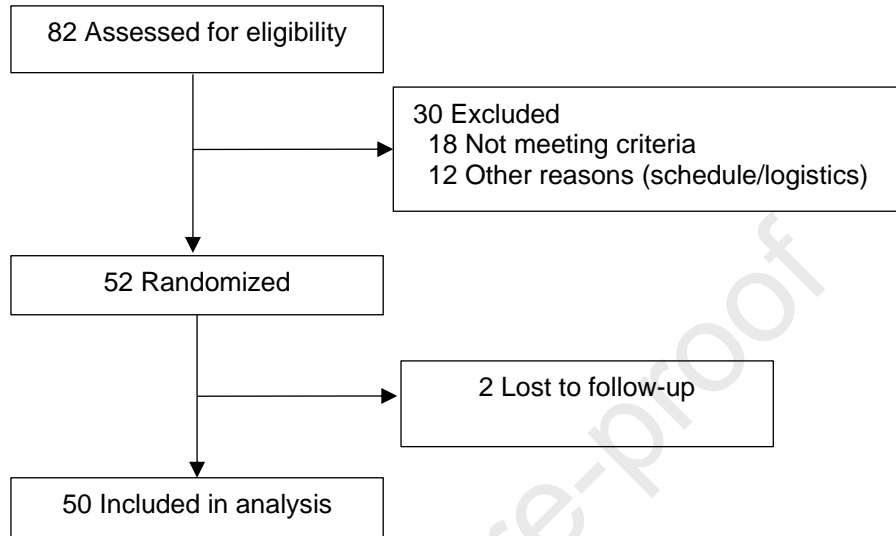
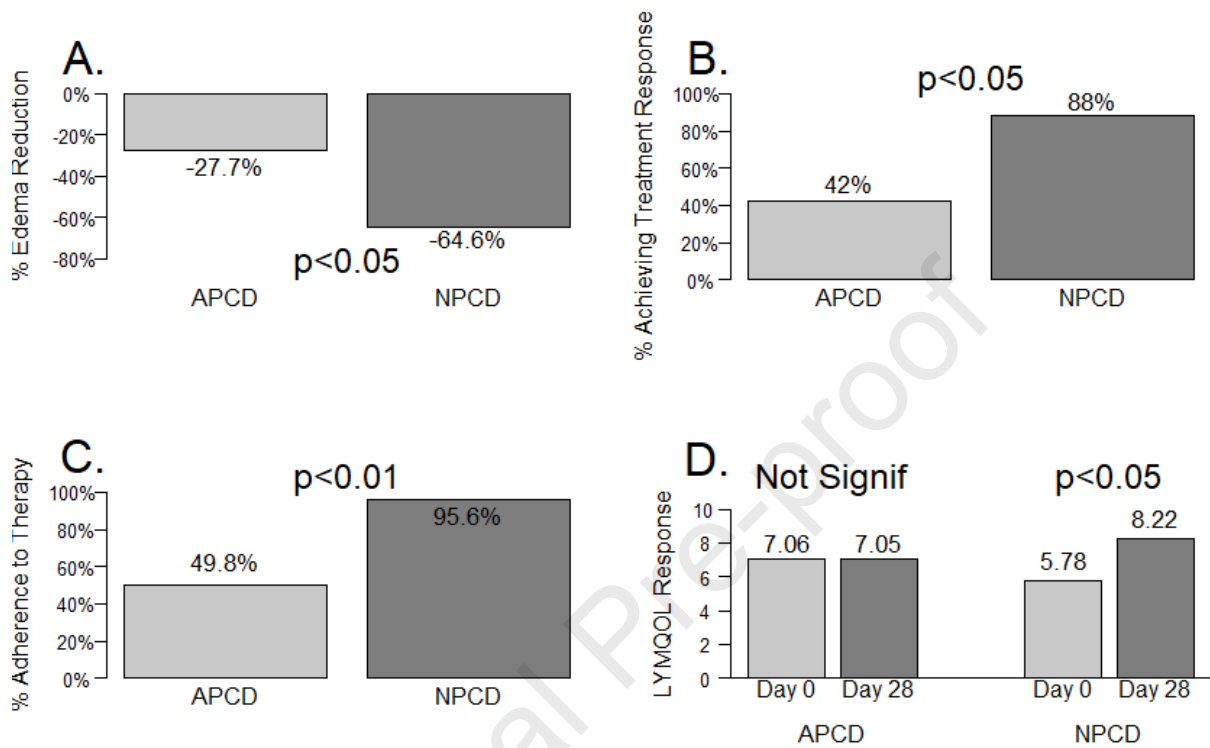


Figure 3. (A) Mean Percent Volume Difference in Edema Between Day 0 and Day 28 and (B) Response Rate (>2% change in edema volume) in Affected Limb, (C) Adherence to Device, and (D) Mean Change in Overall LYMQOL Score



APCD, advanced pneumatic compression device; NPCD, non-pneumatic compression device

Supplemental Material. Subject Satisfaction Survey

1. Were you able to be active or exercise while using this device?

YES

NO

2. Was the device portable and convenient for your travels?

YES

NO

3. How satisfied are you with this device?

Very Dissatisfied

Somewhat Dissatisfied

Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied

Somewhat Satisfied

Very Satisfied

4. Which device do you prefer for daily use?

DaySpring Active Compression Device

Flexitouch Pneumatic Compression Device