

TITLE: Outcomes after the Surgical Management of Lymphedema

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RESEARCH PROJECT DESCRIPTION (brief overview of background, hypothesis, methods, role of medical student, funding and relevant publications -- SHOULD NOT EXCEED ~ 250 WORDS)

Lymphedema affects 140 million people world wide and 3 million in the United States alone. 400,000 women in the United States have upper extremity lymphedema following the surgical management of breast cancer. Until recently, the gold standard of care was life long physical therapy. Today, the surgical management of lymphedema offers a promising solution. Two microsurgical procedures, lymphovenous bypass and lymph node transplantation, represent the state of the art in lymphedema management today.

The current clinical project would entail chart reviews and care of lymphedema patients to better understand and quantify the outcomes of patients enrolled in our Surgical Management of Lymphedema Program here at the University of Florida. This project would ideally be geared towards individuals interested in a career in surgery whether that be surgical oncology or reconstructive surgery.