**4th International Lymphoedema Symposium**

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**Abstract**

**Genetics of Primary Lymphoedema**

Primary lymphoedema is an inherited abnormality of the lymphatic system that can cause swellings of the limbs and body due to fluid build-up. Primary lymphoedema is a lifelong, often disabling condition which can be distressing, debilitating, and often painful. Building on more than 15 years of experience in our Primary Lymphoedema Clinic at St George’s Hospital, London, a classification of this condition has been proposed. This tool has been useful in our research department, and we have demonstrated that stringent phenotyping can be helpful in identifying genes for Primary Lymphoedema. In this talk, the classification tool and some of the genetic forms of Primary Lymphoedema will be presented. Most importantly, it should become clear that not all lymphoedema is caused by the same underlying mechanism and therefore not all patients will respond to lymphoedema therapy in the same way.

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