

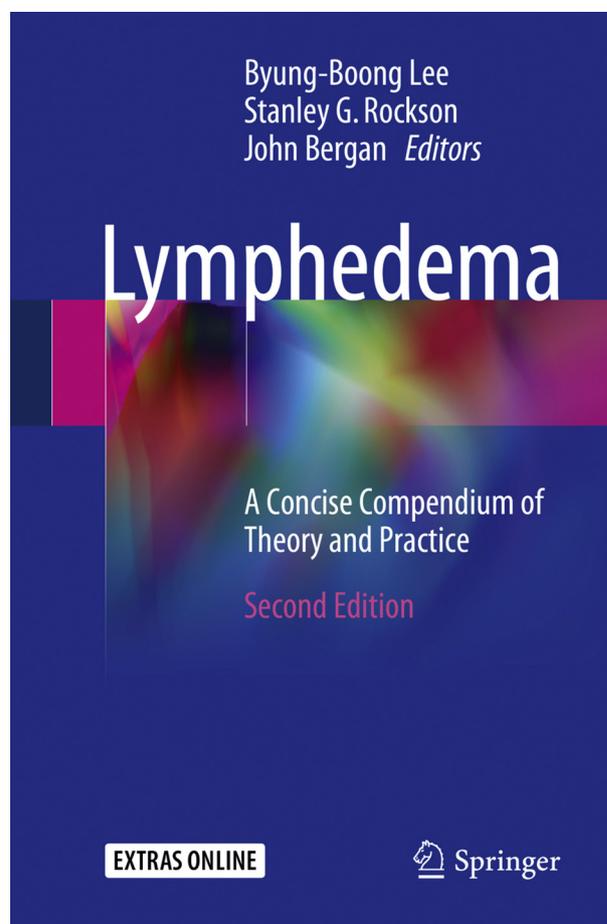
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Lymphedema: A concise compendium of theory and practice, 2nd ed, Byung-Boong Lee, Stanley G Rockson, John Bergan, editors; 2018; New York: Springer

The second edition of this text is a true treasury of information and is welcomed in the vascular surgical world. As noted in the forwards by both Drs Rockson and Villavicencio, there is an exuberance for the now “mainstream” acceptance of lymphedema into the brethren of arterial and venous disorders. In the first edition, the authors stated that the lymphatic system has been the subject of passive neglect for centuries and quote the late Michael Hume, former President of the American Venous Forum, saying, “If venous diseases are the Cinderella of the vascular field, then lymphatics are Cinderella’s poor cousin.” In the last 5 years, there have been substantial strides in knowledge about the genetics, developmental biology, and physiology of the lymphatic system—resulting in an evolution in the medical care of patients affected with lymphedema, especially in the realms of diagnostic imaging and reconstructive interventions.

Because of the exponential growth in lymphatic knowledge, the current edition has expanded subject matter and is structured differently from the first edition. Each chapter (color coded on the top right corner) has an abstract, a summary of basic concepts, and an annotated relevant reference for the important primary sources of information. There are 74 chapters divided into 14 sections that follow standard textbook format with embryology, pathophysiology, clinical diagnosis, and laboratory/imaging diagnosis, to name a few. Particularly helpful is Chapter 17 on the cutaneous manifestations of edema with color pictures. In the Clinical Diagnosis section, the chapters on venous edema and lipedema are brief but have thorough tables and pictures.

Section VI, Physical and Medical Management, explains the basics of decongestive therapy with the contraindications to and goals of treatment. The cornerstone of therapy, compression bandaging, is beautifully demonstrated in color pictures. Because manual lymphatic drainage is considered a cornerstone for treatment of lymphedema, a more comprehensive overarching chapter would have provided more clarity, as was found in the



first edition. The information seems to be more dispersed between the chapters in this edition. Chapter 40 is a great new addition of the impact of lymphedema on a health care system and views it from a consumer level and economic level.

The next two sections outline the newest developments in reconstructive surgery for lymphedema as well as the traditional excisional and debulking procedures. The intraoperative and schematic drawings are an outstanding addition, and this section alone would make the book a worthy purchase. They are in-depth and clear, giving a reasonable understanding to the clinician of how the procedures are performed and the medical decision-making pathway as to which procedure to choose. Traditional procedures, such as debulking, that

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have a smaller current role, for example, in the therapy of lipedma, are also covered.

Section X concentrates on congenital origins with, again, wonderful pictures on a variety of maladies, although the Lymphatic Filariasis section has equally spectacular photography. Last, to finish the book is the Phlebolympheidema section that has a sensible stepwise evaluation process for the evaluation and classification of this problem.

The second edition of *Lymphedema* is a wonderful resource not only for the resident or fellow in training but for the established surgeon who wants to keep up with the newest developments in this exciting field.

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