Lipedema complicated by lymphedema of the abdominal wall and lower limbs

A. Zelikovski, M. Haddad, A. Koren, R. Avrahami, J. Loewinger

Department of Vascular Surgery, Rabin Medical Center, Beilinson Campus, Petah Tiqva, and Sackler School of Medicine, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel

ABSTRACT

We describe a 52 year-old woman in whom lymphedema primarily of the abdominal wall was superimposed on lipedema resulting in an abdomen of enormous dimensions with marked impairment of ambulation. Treatment consisted of preoperative compression of the legs by an external pneumatic device (Lympha-Press) followed by excision of the lymphedematous abdominal fat pad in conjunction with “debulking” of the right leg. The patient illustrates the extremes of lipedema complicated by lymphedema and the technical difficulties associated with its management.