

**QUALITY OF LIFE AND PERIPHERAL LYMPHEDEMA****J.M. Pereira de Godoy, D.M. Braile, M. de Fátima Godoy, O. Longo, Jr.**

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**ABSTRACT**

*Evaluation of the health-related quality of life (QOL) is becoming commonplace, seeking to provide information about the everyday well being of a patient. This work examined the QOL of 23 consecutive patients with lymphedema of the upper or lower extremities. Five were men and the other eighteen were women. Their ages ranged from 19 to 74 years (mean 48.3). After clinical examination, and with informed consent of each patient, they were assessed by a psychologist and submitted to a QOL test (SF-36). For controls, twenty-three women and five men with age range of 28 to 66 years (mean 47) were similarly evaluated. The results showed the lymphedema group had a statistically significantly reduced QOL in both physical and mental health as well as social interaction.*