

Equipment for patients with lymphoedema

Mount Vernon Cancer Centre (MVCC) lymphoedema clinic cannot recommend any items or companies. However, some patients attending MVCC in the past have found the organisations and products listed below to be useful.

● Disability aids

Mount Vernon Hospital Comforts Fund shop

Sells a variety of aids including long-handled grabbers, shoe horns, spiky soft massage balls, sponges, stocking aids and leg-lifters.

Mon–Fri: 10.00am - 3.30pm

Rickmansworth Road

Northwood

HA6 2RN

Tel: 01923 826111 ext 2175

NRS Healthcare

Specialises in mobility equipment and disability aids.

Tel: 0345 121 8111

Mon–Fri: 8.00am–8.00pm

Sat–Sun: 9.00am–5.00pm

www.nrshealthcare.co.uk

● Footwear

Providers of wider/deeper shoes:

Cosyfeet

Tel: 01458 447275

www.cosyfeet.com

Wider Fit Shoes

Tel: 01933 311077

www.widerfitshoes.co.uk

● Post surgery bras

Breast Cancer Now

Has information on suppliers of bras, prostheses, clothes and swimwear.

Tel: 0808 800 6000

www.breastcancernow.org

● Lymphoedema care supplies

Various aids that can be ordered by telephone or via the internet.

Haddenham Healthcare

Tel: 01844 208842

www.hadhealth.com

Juzo

Tel: 0161 358 0104

www.juzo.com

Medi UK

Tel: 01432 373500

www.mediuk.co.uk

● Hand held massagers

Available from chemists and via the internet:



Homecraft scar management mini massager



Spiky soft massage balls

● Other useful devices

As a clinic, we are not recommending you buy these, but are providing this information for you to consider whether or not they may help you.

If you have any questions about any of these devices, please speak with a member of your treatment team.

Sun Ancon® Chi Machine®

This is a passive aerobic exercise machine that promotes lymphatic drainage and movement.

It is beneficial if used twice a day for short periods and can help¹ with reducing oedema volume, weight loss and fat loss. It may be useful if you are unable to exercise.



NB - Other chi machines are available from other manufacturers. However, no clinical research studies have been published on other models.

Oscillating/pivotal/vibrating plate machines

This equipment features a plate which moves from side to side on a central point. There are many makes of these machines.

When you stand on it, it mimics the action of walking as the muscles on each side of the body are contracted in turn.

Research¹ has shown the contraction of the muscles induces increased leg blood flow and increased lymph flow.

Linear/vibrating plate machines

These machines vertically rise and drop to mimic the action of jumping. This engages the large muscles on both sides of the body and has a high impact on joints.

Spiral vibrating plate machines are cheaper but crude.

There are no research papers supporting the use of lineal or spiral machines for lymphoedema patients.

Footplate neuromuscular electrical stimulation machines

Low level electrical impulses stimulate nerves in the leg to contract the muscles and increase lymph and venous flow.

Studies¹ have shown that blood flow may improve which, in turn, reduces oedema linked to poor venous blood flow.



Revitive® Medic circulation booster

Balance/wobble boards

Use of these for 10-15 minutes each day provides low impact, weight bearing exercise which can¹:

- improve posture and balance
- reduce lower back pain
- tone core muscles
- engage and tone lower limb muscles
- aid weight loss



Flat, rectangular **rocker boards** with a fixed base are the easiest to use.

Circular boards with a fixed base are harder to use; the smaller the base, the more challenging.



Roller balance boards with an unfixed base are the most challenging.

Pedal exerciser

A range of models is available for hand or foot use. Many have timers and also count calories.

Research trials¹ have show that regular use of these for 20 minutes each day provides the most benefit to:

- improve circulation
- engage and tone muscles
- burn calories



¹ For further information about research studies, please contact the Information team at the Lynda Jackson Macmillan Centre.