



Microvascular treatment options for lymphedema

Papadopoulos N A^{1,2,3}, Krammer C¹, Stührenberg A¹, Michalopoulos N³, Kwack M S¹, Zografos G³, Müller D¹ and Machens H G¹

¹University Hospital rechts der Isar, Munich Technical University, Germany, ²Alexandroupoli University General Hospitals-Democritus University of Thrace, Greece, ³1st Dept of Propaedeutic Surgery, University Hospital Hippocratio, University of Athens, Athens, Greece

Autologous lymph node transplantation has been performed since many years, although different therapies for lymphedema have been described almost a century before! However, after the continuous development and refinement of techniques and instruments Lymph Node (LN) Transplantation, gain more and more acceptance under plastic surgeons, especially by large lymphedema volumes (III°), since the results are very promising. In order to evaluate the usefulness of LN Transplantation, we started performing this procedure for lymphedemas, grade II and III. Lately, in combination with LN Tx, we performed multiple Lymphovenous Anastomosis (LVA's) at the extremities. Six patients have been examined clinically preoperatively with this combined technique, as well as six months postoperatively. Further, 3D-Laser scanning has been performed for volumetry, as well as a lymphangiography. Almost no significant complications occurred. A significant pain reduction has been reported post operatively, although only ca. 20-25% regression of the lymphedema was shown! When these microvascular techniques were combined with other ablative methods as liposuction, significant regression however was shown. The donor-site morbidity was very low. LN Tx in combination with LVA'S is a very promising procedure for the treatment of lymphedema in our oncologic patients. Therefore we intent to continue on improving our learning curve, as well as to work on the further development and refinement of this and other methods

Biography: Dr. Papadopoulos, born in Greece, 2009 was elected as Professor of Plastic Surgery at the Munich Technical University in Germany, as well as 2014 as associate Professor, and 2018 as Professor of Plastic Surgery at the Democritus University of Thrace in Alexandroupoli, Greece. Additionally, since 2017 he is visiting Professor of Plastic Surgery at the University of Athens in Athens, Greece. Dr. Papadopoulos served as President of the International Fetal Medicine and Surgery Society, and the Hellenic Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery. Currently he is President of the Greek Society of Lymphology and ExCo Member of the Hellenic Society of Hand Surgery.

npapado@med.duth.gr