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A new way to debulk with Versajet in chronic lymphedema: a case report

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Background: Since the introduction of the Versajet hydro-surgery system by Smith and Nephew in 1997, there has been an increasing adoption of the hydro-surgery system into wound management practices. A literature review reveals multiple studies assessing the effectiveness of the hydro-surgery system of various wound debridement. To our knowledge, this is the first case report detailing the use of the Versajet II hydro-surgery system to excise fibrotic lymphatic tissue in chronic lymphedema debulking surgery.

Method: A case report of a patient with chronic lower limb swelling who underwent lymphedema surgery. The intra-operative use of the Versajet II hydro-surgery system for excision of fibrotic subcutaneous tissue in advanced stage lymphedema is demonstrated with photos and videos.

Results: We found this method of lymphedema debulking surgery easier, faster and less traumatic to surrounding tissues. There is direct visualisation of the subcutaneous layer during resection, making the surgery more efficient and safe. Surgical ergonomics of the angled handpiece allows for better precision in surgery and less surgeon fatigue. The ability to adjust the strength of water dissection makes for delicate excision.

Conclusion

This is the first case report demonstrating the use of the Versajet II hydro-surgery system in debulking fibrotic lymphedematous tissue. The hydro-surgery system is found to be superior in time efficiency, ease of operation and surgical precision with even smooth debridement.