Know the Signs and Symptoms of Lymphedema

Breast Cancer-Related Lymphedema is swelling in the arm, trunk, or breast on the side of surgery or radiation to the lymph nodes. If lymphedema develops, it most often occurs within 5 years of treatment.

You had <u>no nodes removed</u> during your surgery. Therefore, you are at very low risk of developing lymphedema and <u>you do not need frequent screening</u> at this time. It is still important for you to know what to watch out for.

Call the Lymphedema Research Program or your treatment team if you experience any of the following signs or symptoms, even if subtle:

- Swelling or a sense of change in size in the arm or hand
- A feeling of heaviness in the arm
- A feeling of fullness in your breast, chest, or arm
- Jewelry or clothing leaving a dent or mark on your skin
- Clothing, bra, or jewelry feeling tighter than usual

Free Lymphedema Screening is available to you if needed. Before treatment or surgery, we measured your arms. That measurement can then be compared to measurements taken after treatment or surgery, which can tell us if lymphedema has occurred. There is no cost to you.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please reach out to the Lymphedema Research Program.

Lymphedema Research Program

Monday-Friday 8:30am-5:00pm Yawkey Center, Suite 9A 55 Fruit Street Boston, MA 02114

Contact Information

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A patient's arm is measured with a device called a perometer.

