

CLINICAL AND SCINTIGRAPHIC STAGING AGREEMENT IN LIMB LYMPHEDEMA: A SEX-STRATIFIED RETROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS

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Background: The degree of concordance between clinician-assigned and scintigraphic staging in lymphedema, particularly across sexes, remains inadequately characterized. This study assessed agreement between clinical and lymphoscintigraphic staging and evaluated sex-based differences in lymphatic dysfunction grading. **Methods:** A retrospective review of 88 consecutive patients undergoing lympho-scintigraphy at NINMAS (October–December 2025) was performed. Concordance was assessed for the left lower limb (LLL, n=55) and right lower limb (RLL, n=49) using Cohen's kappa and cross-tabulation. Sex-based grade distribution was analyzed with the chi-square test. **Results:** Exact concordance was 41.8% (LLL) and 44.9% (RLL). Cohen's kappa indicated slight-to-fair agreement (LLL: $\kappa=0.162$; RLL: $\kappa=0.205$). Scintigraphy downstaged 34.5% and upstaged 23.6% of LLL cases. Grade II was the predominant scintigraphic grade in both limbs. Sex-wise grade distribution showed no statistically significant difference (LLL $p=0.706$; RLL $p=0.240$), though females demonstrated a higher prevalence of patent lymphatic channels in the RLL. **Conclusion:** Clinical and lymphoscintigraphic staging showed only slight-to-fair agreement. Scintigraphy frequently downstaged higher clinical grades, underscoring its role as an objective adjunct in lymphedema evaluation.

Keywords: Lymphedema, Lymphoscintigraphy, Diagnostic concordance

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