

## **Risk Factors for Arm Lymphedema**

Who is at risk for lymphedema?

Anyone who has one or more of the following factors can acquire lymphedema.

- 1.) Lymph node removal 1 or more. This includes sentinel node removal.
- 2.) Serious infections that include lymphangitis, cellulitis or erysipelas.
- 3.) Deep invasive wounds that might tear, cut or damage the lymphatics
- 4.) Radiation treatments, especially ones that are focused in areas that might contain "clusters" of lymph nodes
- 5.) Morbid obesity can cause secondary lymphedema by "crushing" the lymphatics
- 6.) Serious burns, even intense sunburn
- 7.) Infection of the microscopic parasite filarial larvae, though this is more common in tropical countries
- 8.) For primary lymphedema any person who has a family history of unknown swelling of a limb