



Non-profit Organization **Medical Lymphdrainage Association of Japan (MLAJ)**

Year of foundation: 2002

Aims:

- greater awareness of lymphedema and of the importance of a medical lymphdrainage therapy/
Complete Decongestive Therapy in public and among health care professionals
- education and certification of reliable and medically qualified lymphdrainage therapists
- availability of a nationwide appropriate lymphedema treatment
- insurance coverage for lymphedema treatment

Estimated number of lymphedema patients in Japan: 100.000 to 150.000

Activities of the MLAJ:

1. education, certification, further training and support of lymphdrainage therapists
2. education, certification and further training of instructors
3. support for out-patient lymphedema treatment center start-ups
4. raise awareness of lymphedema therapy
5. give advice on and provide information about lymphedema and its treatment
6. work towards insurance coverage for lymphedema treatment
7. organizing public symposia
8. organizing of an annual lymphology conference for health care professionals
9. further activities related to the above mentioned

Team:

MLAJ staff, MLAJ certified instructors and medical doctors in relevant areas of specialization (lymphology etc.)

Number of so far trained therapists: more than 1100 (as of: November 2011)

Therapist training system:

beginners' course (basics, 10 days), intermediate course (therapy, 12 days) → medical lymphdrainage (MLD/CDT) therapist examination. Further training courses: advanced course (clinical training, 10 days), refresher courses

Necessary qualification for admission to courses:

medical doctor, nurse, physiotherapist, occupational therapist shiatsu-anma-massage therapist

Instructor training system:

minimum of 2 years clinical experience as MLD/CDT therapist, assistance at training courses, training at the Földi clinic → MLD/CDT instructor examination

Current situation on insurance coverage in Japan:

Since April 2008 coverage of costs for individual patient education (1x as in-patient, 1x as out-patient) and compression garments (up to fixed maximum benefit amount) in case of surgical treatment of specific kinds of cancer. Costs for MLD/CDT as well as for patients with onset of lymphedema before April 2008 or primary lymphedema are not covered by insurance.

(November 2011)