

hydro surgery

news

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Lymph Sparing Liposuction for Lipoedema - American-European Expert-Meeting

Catherine Seo, Professor of Management at Cambridge College, Boston USA, and advocate for lipoedema patients (see www.lipoedema-simplified.org) convened an International Gathering of American and European experts to meet on developing a standard of care for the treatment of lipoedema in Frankfurt, Germany on 16 March 2014.

After a misdiagnosis in 2011 that resulted in life-changing serious complications, Catherine learned that she has lipoedema and in fact has had it for many years since early puberty. She unsuccessfully sought answers from many specialists in the US discovering that "knowledge about lipoedema is almost non-existent in the US at this time." However, there are 17 million women with unrecognized and misdiagnosed lipoedema in the US alone, with over 3 million in both Germany and the UK. In her search for experts she went to Europe and found, interviewed and filmed for a documentary about lipoedema, the most experienced plastic surgeons and their operation procedures in Germany, The Netherlands and Great Britain.

Among those she visited German plastic surgeons Dr. Josef Stutz* and Dr. Christian Falk-Heck who have been treating lipoedema patients with gentle water-jet assisted liposuction with very good results for many years. She successfully underwent WAL surgery in Schwarzenbach am Wald, Germany with Dr. Stutz the week after the gathering, which greatly improved her gait and diminished pain. She is planning to have two additional WAL surgeries later during 2014.



Dr. Josef Stutz, post op review



Dr. Dayan Dr. Stutz Dr. Smith

From the USA, Drs. Mark Smith and Joseph Dayan from Mt. Sinai Beth Israel in New York City took part in the meeting. They will start offering medically reconstructive lymph sparing liposuction for lipoedema beginning in the fall of 2014. They are currently working with doctors in Germany to bring this treatment to the USA. One of the highlights of the meeting was the active participation of lipoedema patient support groups from the US, Netherlands, Great Britain and Germany. All participants agreed on the success of the meeting in defining future strategies for the improvement of lipoedema treatment.

*J. J. Stutz, D. Krah: Water Jet-Assisted Liposuction for Patients with Lipoedema: Histologic and Immunohistologic Analysis of the Aspirates of 30 Lipoedema Patients. *Aesthetic Plast Surg.* 2009 Mar;33(2):153-62