

How does lipedema differ from other disorders?

<b>LIPDEMA</b>	<b>LYMPHEDEMA</b>	<b>OBESITY</b>	<b>LIPOLYPHEDEMA</b>	<b>VENOUS DISEASE</b>
Fat deposits present, and hands or feet are unaffected	Fat deposits can be present in hands or feet of affected limb	Fat deposits can be widespread	Fat deposits present, and hands or feet can remain unaffected	Brownish discoloration of legs may be present
Swelling in legs and/or arms bilaterally and symmetrically	Swelling present only in one limb		Swelling widespread in legs arms and/or torso	Minimal swelling of ankles may be present
Occurs primarily in females	Occurs in females and males	Occurs in females and males	Occurs primarily in females	Occurs in females and males
Associated with hormonal shifts (puberty, pregnancy menopause)	Associated with surgery affecting lymphatic system or at birth	Can occur at any age	Associated with hormonal shifts (puberty, pregnancy menopause)	Associated with onset of obesity, diabetes, pregnancy hypertension
Restricting calories ineffective	Restricting calories ineffective	Restricting calories often effective	Restricting calories ineffective	No relationship to caloric intake
Non-pitting edema may be present	Pitting edema present	No edema present	Increased edema present Some pitting, some fibrosis	Edema occurs often
Stemmer's sign negative	Stemmer's sign positive	Stemmer's sign negative	Stemmer's sign positive or negative	Stemmer's sign negative
Pain in affected areas likely	No pain initially	No pain	Pain in affected areas	Pain is likely
No history of cellulitis	Possible history of cellulitis	Likely history of cellulitis	Often itching	Discoloration mistaken for cellulitis
Family history likely	Family history not likely unless primary lymphedema	Family history likely	Family history of lipedema likely	Family history very likely