

Title:

Crawling back from the edge – the impact of Kinesio taping on a “hopeless case’

Abstract:

Michele Urlich will present the a case study of the challenging situation of a 27 year old mother of three young children who presented with a grossly swollen right leg secondary to metastatic biphasic synovial sarcoma. Melissa had been given a month to live. Melissa was carried into the treatment room, as she could not walk. Although she had been on morphine for two months she was unable to lie down and had not slept in a bed for two months due to extreme right leg pain. Following the first treatment she walked out unassisted and came off the morphine the following day. She gained six months quality of life with daily MLD and Kinesio tape treatment. Each time the tape was changed a new configuration of tape placement was required to manage the swelling.

Bioimpedance measurement indicated a 5.7 litre loss of fluid from the right leg and more than 32 cm reduction over seven points of measure on the limb. Kinesio tape was also used to manage the ascites.

New Zealand television viewers followed the case of Melissa (real name Michelle Walker) who became a national figure and requested that the images be used to raise the profile of lymphoedema treatment. Michele will discuss the case with before and after photos.