At Rush, a multidisciplinary team that includes specialists in occupational therapy and plastic and reconstructive surgery, provides patients with a well-rounded, evidence-based approach to treat lymphedema.

Although lymphedema is a chronic, debilitating disease, Rush uses specialized microsurgical techniques combined with occupational therapy to both prevent and treat the condition, helping to reduce the functional and psychological burden on patients.

Our plastic and reconstructive surgery team is highly trained in specialized microsurgical techniques and able to perform immediate lymph node reconstruction after axillary lymph node dissection in breast cancer patients to prevent lymphedema. They are also able to do a microsurgical transfer of vascularized lymph nodes to treat lymphedema once it has ensued.

Why refer your patients here?

Deana Shenaq, MD and George Kokosis, MD, are specially trained in the prevention and treatment of lymphedema, including microsurgical reconstruction of lymph nodes, lymph node transplantation, and rewiring the lymphatic system.

Our plastic surgery team is specialized in immediate lymphatic reconstruction, which is performed in an attempt to lower the risk of lymphedema in patients undergoing axillary lymph node dissection.

We offer the latest diagnostic technology, such as lymphoscintigraphy, MR lymphography and ICG lymphangiography, which uses a fluorescent dye to trace lymph drainage, pinpoint blockages for potential bypasses and identify working lymphatic channels.

Our occupational therapy team at Rush assesses impairments in upper arm motion, pain and swelling, and activities of daily living in order to provide complete decongestive therapy for breast cancer survivors.

**Conditions We Treat**

Primary (inherited) lymphedema
- Congenital lymphedema
- Lymphedema praecox
- Lymphedema tarda

Secondary lymphedema due to:
- Radiation
- Surgical cancer treatment
- Trauma

Conditions associated with lymphedema:
- Cellulitis
- Lymphangitis
- Lymphangiosarcoma

**Lymphedema prevention**

**Tests and Treatments**

- Breast autologous reconstruction with simultaneous vascularized lymph node transfer
- Complete decongestive therapy
- Compression treatments, garments and bandaging
- Debulking
- Immediate lymphatic reconstruction
- Liposuction
- Lymphaticovenous bypass
- Lymph node transfer
- Lymphoscintigraphy
- Manual lymphatic drainage
- Occupational therapy
- Vascularized lymph node transfer

To learn more about Lymphedema Care at Rush, call (312) 563-7744
Meet our team

George Kokosis, MD
Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
Board certifications: Surgery

Deana Shenaq, MD
Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
Board certifications: Plastic Surgery

Adam Steuer, MS, OTR/L
Occupational therapist,
Certified lymphedema therapist

For more information, about Lymphedema Care at Rush, call 312-563-7744

Visit rush.edu/services/conditions/lymphedema

Locations

Rush University Medical Center
Professional Building
1725 W. Harrison St., Suite 425
Chicago, IL 60612

Rush South Loop
1411 S. Michigan Ave.
5th Floor
Chicago, IL 60605

Adult Occupational Therapy
1725 W. Harrison St., Suite 440
Chicago, IL 60612