

Compression Challenges by Gavin Hughes

The Surgical Materials Testing Laboratory (SMTL) is an ISO 17025 accredited medical device testing laboratory, part of the UK National Health Service (NHS) funded by the Welsh Government. Our core service is to provide medical device testing and technical services to enable NHS procurement bodies to undertake evidence based purchasing.

This presentation will outline the projects the SMTL have undertaken in conjunction with lymphoedema clinicians to independently assess compression garments supplied by manufacturers for national procurement contracts. The presentation will focus on laboratory testing that measures the pressures exerted by garments. The test results have identified numerous quality issues with garments supplied in the market, and raises the question whether clinicians really know the pressures applied by lymphoedema compression garments?

To conclude the presentation, pressure classes stipulated in different countries will be discussed and the resulting confusion this causes for users, clinicians and manufacturers.