Commentary

Jess R. Young, M.D., Chairman, Department of Peripheral Vascular Disease, comments: Our knowledge of the classification and pathophysiology of lymphedema is largely a product of the work of clinicians such as Milroy, Allen, and Kinmouth over the last 50 years. As a result of their observations, two broad categories of lymphedema, primary (idiopathic) and secondary, are recognized. Congenital lymphedema, one type of primary lymphedema, is the least common. In this article, the authors have presented an unusual patient with congenital lymphedema of the penis and scrotum and with subsequent lymphedema of the right arm. Biopsy findings of a generalized malformation of the lymphatics, even in the normal extremities, may help shed light on this entity.