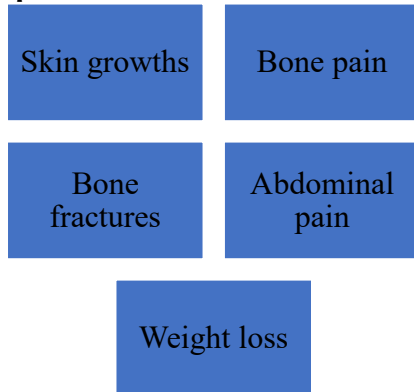


Sarcoma



Sarcoma is a type of cancer that originates in the bones or in soft tissues such as muscle, fat, or cartilage. It can develop in many areas of the body, most commonly in the arms, legs, head, neck, or internal organs. Its classification depends on the tissue where it begins, and it's important to note that not all soft-tissue tumors are cancerous.

Symptoms



Risk factors

- Family history of cancer
- Previous radiation therapy for another cancer
- Weakened immune system
- Exposure to certain chemicals

Some types of soft tissue sarcoma:

Chondrosarcoma: Most commonly found in the pelvis, hip, and shoulder.

Leiomyosarcoma: Originates in smooth muscle tissue. It can occur in the digestive system, blood vessels, urinary system, and other areas containing smooth muscle.

Angiosarcoma: Can arise in blood vessels or lymphatic vessels. It may also develop in areas that have previously received radiation treatment.

Ewing sarcoma: Develops most often in the bones of the leg and pelvis, although it can occur in any bone.

Gastrointestinal stromal tumor: Originates in the digestive tract.

Desmoplastic small round cell tumor: A rare tumor often found in the abdomen, typically affecting adolescents and young adults.

Dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans: A type of skin cancer that begins in the connective tissue cells of the dermis. It usually appears on the arms, legs, or trunk.

Kaposi's sarcoma: Causes purple-colored lesions on the skin, inside the mouth, and sometimes in other organs.

Solitary fibrous tumor: Formed from connective tissue cells and can appear in many parts of the body.

Epithelioid sarcoma: A soft tissue tumor that can occur anywhere on the body, commonly found under the skin of the fingers, forearms, or knees.

Rhabdomyosarcoma: The most common soft tissue sarcoma in children, originating in the muscles that enable movement.

Liposarcoma: A malignant tumor of fatty tissue that usually appears in the thighs, behind the knee, or in the abdomen, most often in adults aged 50 to 65.

Low-grade myxofibromas: Typically appear as lumps under the skin on the arms or legs. They are more common in people over 50 and may occur in multiple locations.

Synovial sarcoma: A malignant tumor affecting the tissue around joints, commonly found in the hips, knees, ankles, and shoulders. It occurs more frequently in children and young adults.

Undifferentiated pleomorphic sarcoma: Usually appears on the arms or legs, and less often in the abdomen. It is more common in older adults.

Diagnosis

A doctor reviews the medical history and performs a physical examination, using imaging tests such as X-rays, CT scans, MRI, or PET scans. If cancer is suspected, a biopsy is performed to determine whether the tumor is benign or malignant.



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Treatment

Surgery is the most common treatment. In early stages, the tumor and a portion of the surrounding healthy tissue are removed. In some cases, only a small amount of tissue needs to be excised, while in others, a larger area must be removed. For more advanced cancers, surgery may be combined with radiation therapy or chemotherapy. In very rare situations, amputation of the limb may be necessary.



Social and Emotional Aspects

For recommendations, tools, and resources on how you and your family can cope with the emotional and physical challenges that arise during and after your medical treatment, please visit your primary care physician or call the following hotlines:

Medical Advice Line

1-844-347-7801

TTY/TDD 1-844-347-7801

APS Health 787-641-9133

References

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/diseases-conditions/sarcoma/symptoms-causes/syc-20351048>

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/diseases-conditions/sarcoma/diagnosis-treatment/drc-20452650>