

BONE AND SOFT-TISSUE SARCOMAS: WHAT THE OPTIONS ARE, HOW TO ADVISE PATIENTS

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From the editors

Bone and soft-tissue sarcomas are relatively rare, yet their tendency to develop predominantly during adolescence and young adulthood makes these cancers particularly compelling and worthy of efforts toward early detection and effective management.

The past two decades have seen important advances in the management of patients with these musculoskeletal sarcomas, with resulting improvements in survival and quality of life. Whereas standard therapy for musculoskeletal sarcomas of the extremities used to be limb amputation, most patients today can be successfully managed with limb-sparing surgery. This progress has been made possible by advances in chemotherapy and radiation therapy as well as in surgical techniques.

We conceived of this supplement as an opportunity to provide information about these advances to physicians practicing outside of specialized tertiary care centers, for whom these sarcomas are rare but nevertheless occasionally encountered. *It has been written for nonspecialists in sarcoma, including family physicians, pediatricians, internists, and general surgeons.* Our aim is to help you better evaluate patients with masses suspicious for musculoskeletal sarcoma and advise your patients with confirmed sarcoma about their treatment options and post-therapy management.

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