

Chondrosarcoma

Information for patients



What is chondrosarcoma?

A chondrosarcoma is a bone cancer that starts in cartilage cells. These make up the shiny, smooth substance that normally covers the ends of bones in the joints, although it can also grow within a bone or on its surface. A tumour growth or abnormal bony type of bump can vary in size and can develop anywhere in these areas.

Chondrosarcomas are usually slow growing tumours and are most commonly found in the pelvis, shoulder blade (scapula), upper arm (humerus), thigh bone (femur) and ribs. Chondrosarcomas are tumours which affect adults and most cases occur in people over the age of 50.

Diagnosis

We will have confirmed your diagnosis after carrying out various tests, X-rays and scans (imaging) and checking histology (results) from the biopsy taken from the tumour tissue. The tumour will also be 'graded' depending on how fast it is growing and how likely it is to spread to other places in the body.

Whilst the majority of chondrosarcomas can be treated successfully, as with all cancers it is important that we check to see whether the cancer has spread (metastasised) to other places in the body, such as the lungs. We will do this by taking CT Chest or PET CT scans before we start your treatment.

Treatment options

Treatment options will depend on a number of factors, such as:

- the position, size and grade of the tumour
- whether it has spread anywhere else
- your general health.

Some people may need to have a combination of different treatments.

Chemotherapy and radiotherapy are not as effective at treating chondrosarcoma as they are with other types of sarcoma. The best option for treating the cancer is surgery.

After your treatment has finished, your doctors will want you to come back to hospital regularly for follow up scans and to see how you are.

Further information

Macmillan booklet:

Understanding Primary Bone Cancer

<http://be.macmillan.org.uk/be/p-236-understanding-primary-bone-cancer.aspx>

Websites:

www.sarcoma.org.uk/help

www.macmillan.org.uk/Cancerinformation/Cancertypes/Bone/Typesofbonecancer/Chondrosarcoma.aspx

Further support

Macmillan Cancer Support

Tel: 0808 080 2020

<http://www.macmillan.org.uk/home.aspx>

Oxford Sarcoma

<http://www.oxfordsarcoma.co.uk/>

If you have a specific requirement, need an interpreter, a document in Easy Read, another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call **01865 221 473** or email **PALSJR@ouh.nhs.uk**

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www.ouh.nhs.uk/patient-guide/leaflets/library.aspx

