

# Fibrosarcoma

## Information for patients



## What is a fibrosarcoma?

Fibrosarcomas are malignant (cancerous) tumours which develop in the fibrous tissues connecting the inner structures of the body, for example, tissue attaching muscles to bones.

They can grow in any part of the body but are most commonly found in the body's trunk, arms or legs.

A soft tissue tumour is a disease in which cancer cells are found in areas of the body such as:

- muscles
- tendons
- connective tissues
- fat
- blood vessels
- nerves
- joint tissues.

Each type of sarcoma is named after the type of cell from which it has grown, rather than the part of the body in which it started.

Fibrosarcomas are rare, with approximately 500 new cases reported each year. They can develop at any age, but most commonly occur in people aged between 20 to 60.

## Diagnosis

Diagnosis is confirmed following radiological imaging (X-ray and MRI scans) and from a biopsy taken from the tumour tissue.

Fibrosarcomas are also 'graded' depending on how fast they are growing and how likely they are to spread to other places in the body.

As with all cancers it is important to check for any potential cancer spread (metastasis) to other sites in the body, such as the lungs. We will do this by taking CT or PET CT scans before we start your treatment.

## Treatment options

The main treatment option is surgery to remove the tumour. If the tumour is of low 'grade' then this may be all the treatment that is required.

If the tumour is of a higher grade then surgery is usually followed by a course of radiotherapy to reduce any chance of recurrence.

Occasionally the tumour can metastasise (spread to another part of the body). If this happens you may then need chemotherapy to destroy any remaining cancer cells.

After your treatment has finished, your doctors will want you to come back to hospital regularly for follow up X-rays and so they can see how you are.

## Further reading

### **Macmillan booklet:**

Understanding soft tissue sarcomas

[be.macmillan.org.uk/Downloads/CancerInformation/CancerTypes/MAC11654Softtissuesarcomas-E8.pdf](http://be.macmillan.org.uk/Downloads/CancerInformation/CancerTypes/MAC11654Softtissuesarcomas-E8.pdf)

### **Websites:**

<http://www.macmillan.org.uk/Cancerinformation/Cancertypes/Softtissuesarcomas/Aboutsofttissuesarcomas/Typesofsofttissuesarcoma.aspx>

[http://www.sarcoma-uk.org/sts\\_facts.html](http://www.sarcoma-uk.org/sts_facts.html)

<http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/cancer-help/type/sarcoma/soft-tissue-sarcoma-organisations>

## 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](http://www.ouh.nhs.uk/patient-guide/leaflets/library.aspx)

