

Rhabdomyosarcoma

Information for patients



What is rhabdomyosarcoma?

A rhabdomyosarcoma is a malignant (cancerous) tumour which can grow in the soft tissues of the body.

The most common places for rhabdomyosarcomas are the head, neck, pelvis, legs and trunk. 70% of rhabdomyosarcomas are diagnosed in the first fifteen years, most often between the age of 1-5 years.

Diagnostics

Diagnosis is confirmed following imaging (X-ray, MRI scans) and histology (results) from the biopsy taken from the tumour tissue. Rhabdomyosarcomas 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 any 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.

Treatment consists of a combination of chemotherapy, radiotherapy and surgery.

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

Further reading

Macmillan booklet:

Understanding soft tissue sarcomas

<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.macmillan.org.uk/Cancerinformation/Cancertypes/Childrenscancers/Typesofchildrenscancers/Rhabdomyosarcoma.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

