

# Synovial sarcoma

## Information for patients



## What is synovial sarcoma?

A synovial sarcoma is a malignant (cancerous) tumour which occurs in the soft tissues near (but not in) a joint.

They can be slow growing tumours, often going unnoticed until they cause pain. Around half of synovial sarcomas develop in the legs, especially the knees. The second most common location is the arms. Less frequently the disease develops in the trunk, head, neck or the abdomen. They are most common in teenagers and young adults.

## Diagnosis

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

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.

Treatments can include surgery to remove the tumour and may also include radiotherapy or chemotherapy before or after surgery to control the tumour or lower the chance of it returning.

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

## Further reading

### **Macmillan booklet:**

Understanding soft tissue sarcomas

<http://be.macmillan.org.uk/be/p-274-understanding-soft-tissue-sarcomas.aspx>

### **Websites:**

[www.macmillan.org.uk/Cancerinformation/teensandyoungadults](http://www.macmillan.org.uk/Cancerinformation/teensandyoungadults)

## Further support

### **Macmillan Cancer Support**

Tel: 0808 080 2020

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

### **Oxford Sarcoma**

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

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