

Giant Cell Tumour of Bone

Information for patients



What is a giant cell tumour of bone?

Giant cell tumour of bone (GCT) is a benign (non-cancerous) tumour which can develop in the bones of the body. It can arise in any bone but is most common in the legs.

Although giant cell tumours are benign they can be aggressive, which means that they can be fast growing and cause significant damage to the bone and tissue around the bone. Very occasionally the tumour cells can spread to the lungs, but this does not happen very often.

A giant cell tumour of bone can occur in any age group but is most common in young adults. It is also more commonly found in women.

Diagnosis

We will confirm your diagnosis once we have carried out X-rays and MRI scans (imaging), and we have the histology (results) from the biopsy taken from the tumour. We will also carry out a chest X-ray to see if any cells have spread to your lungs.

Treatment options

The usual treatment for giant cell tumour is surgery to remove the tumour. You may need to have some metalwork inserted during the surgery to help strengthen the affected bone, once the tumour has been removed. We may also give you a drug called denosumab, which we will give you more information about if you need this treatment. We will decide on the best treatment for you depending on a number of factors. These include:

- the position and size of the tumour
- whether it has spread to other parts of your body
- your general health and wellbeing.

Follow-up

Once the tumour has been removed, you will remain under the care of the sarcoma team for follow-up once every 3-6 months from the time of your surgery up until 5 years after your surgery.

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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