

Liposarcoma

Information for patients



What is liposarcoma?

Liposarcoma is a malignant (cancerous) tumour which develops in the soft tissues of the body. It can arise in any part of the body but is most common in the thigh and arm.

Liposarcoma is a primary cancer of the fat tissue within the body, meaning that it has grown from within the fat cells. It is one of the most common types of soft tissue sarcoma and accounts for approximately 10% of all soft tissue cancer diagnoses in the UK each year.

Liposarcoma can occur in any age group but is most common between the ages of 40 to 60. It is also more commonly found in men.

Diagnosis

We will confirm your diagnosis once we have carried out ultrasound and MRI scans (imaging), and we have the histology (results) from the biopsy taken from the tumour. The liposarcoma will also be 'graded', depending on how fast it is growing and how likely it is to spread to other parts of the body.

As with all cancers, liposarcoma can spread (metastasise) to other areas of the body. We will check for this very quickly after your diagnosis by taking CT or PET CT scans. Liposarcoma commonly spreads to the lungs, so we will closely monitor your chest with regular X-rays at each clinic appointment during your follow-up. We may also take further CT scans if we feel these are needed.

Treatment options

The usual treatment for liposarcoma is surgery to remove the tumour. We will decide on the best treatment for you depending on a number of factors. These include:

- the position, size and grade 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 your follow-up. This will include clinic appointments at the following times:

- every 3 months from surgery, until 2 years after your surgery
- every 6 months between years 2-5 after your surgery
- once a year between years 5-10 after your surgery.

Further information

Macmillan: Types of soft tissue sarcoma

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

Cancer Research UK: Types of soft tissue sarcoma

<http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/type/sarcoma/about/types-of-soft-tissue-sarcomas#lipo>

Sarcoma UK: What is sarcoma?

<http://sarcoma.org.uk/what-is-sarcoma>

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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