

Clear Cell Sarcoma of soft tissue

Information for patients



What is clear cell sarcoma?

Clear cell sarcoma is a rare malignant (cancerous) tumour which can develop in the soft tissue of the body. It can arise in any part of the body, but is most common in the limbs (arms and legs).

There is no definite known cause for clear cell sarcoma, but it does have a specific genetic mutation (re-arrangement), which can be identified from the histology (biopsy results).

Clear cell sarcoma can affect any age group, but is most common between the ages of 20 to 40. It affects slightly more women than men.

Diagnosis

We will confirm your diagnosis once we have carried out X-rays, ultrasound and MRI scans (imaging) and have the histology (results) from the biopsy taken from the tumour. The clear cell sarcoma 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, clear cell sarcoma can spread (metastasise) to other parts of the body. We will check for this very quickly after your diagnosis by taking CT or PET CT scans. Clear cell sarcoma can spread to the lungs, so we will closely monitor your chest with 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 clear cell sarcoma is surgery to remove the tumour. Radiotherapy can be used in certain situations and we will discuss this with you if we feel this is a suitable option. 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 your 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: www.macmillan.org.uk/Cancerinformation/Cancertypes/Softtissuesarcomas/Aboutsofttissuesarcomas/Typesofsofttissuesarcoma.aspx

Sarcoma UK: What is sarcoma?

sarcoma.org.uk/what-is-sarcoma

Cancer Research:

<http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/>

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**

Author: Helen Stradling, Advanced Nurse Practitioner
August 2015
Review: August 2018
Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust
Oxford OX3 9DU
www.ouh.nhs.uk/information

