

Osteogenic Sarcoma

An osteogenic sarcoma is the most common of all forms of bone cancer found in children, young adults and adolescents. The disease often occurs in the long bones, such as that of the humerus, femur, tibia and pelvis. It rarely grows in the fingers and jaw. Often, it occurs in the bone ends near the growth plates, especially surrounding the knees.

Osteogenic sarcoma literally means “bone in origin fleshy tumour”, and comes from the Greek. Osteo = bone, genic = origin, sarc/sarx = flesh, oma = mass/tumour.

These cancer cells also end up spreading into the other body regions. Often, these cells make their way into the lungs. Bones, the brain, the adrenal gland, kidneys and the heart are also sites where metastasis can set in.

The exact cause of the disease isn't known, but genetics is said to play a pivotal role. Adults and children who have hereditary abnormalities are at an increased risk of developing this condition. This specific type of cancer has been linked to exposure from ionizing irradiation that is associated with radiation therapy for various other forms of cancer.

The cancer usually grows aggressively, and tends to occur in adolescent children.

Osteogenic Sarcoma Symptoms

- Pain in the bone, typically around or just above the knee joint.
- Limping or difficulty bending the nearest affected joint.
- Increasing severity of pain, unrelenting.
- Pain is not eased or made worse by a change in activities or position.
- Swelling over the tumour (once it has reached a particular size).
- Night pain.
- Pathological fracture – as the tumour grows into the bone, it can cause fracture.

Osteogenic Sarcoma Investigations

Most often an X-ray will be performed first. If it shows a lump, the next step will be either a CT scan or MRI scan. After that, a biopsy to determine the nature of the growth. This is to identify if the growth is benign, or cancerous, and if cancerous what type of tumour it is.



How to Treat Osteogenic Sarcomas:

Treatment for the condition is going to be determined based on a number of different factors, such as:

- The age of the child, medical history and complete health
- Extent of the condition
- The child's ability to tolerate procedures, specific medication and therapy
- Your preference or opinion
- Expectations for the disease course

Treatment might include, but it isn't limited to, one or more of the various treatments outlined below:

1. Surgery
2. Amputation
3. Chemotherapy
4. Radiation Therapy
5. Resections of Metastases
6. Rehabilitation through Occupational and Physical Therapy
7. Prosthesis Training and Fitting
8. Supportive Care
9. Antibiotics
10. Continual Follow-Up Appointments

Tips:

- Individuals who are treated for cancer when children might end up developing the effects months to years after the treatment is done.
- Prompt medical attention, as well as aggressive therapy, are critical to receiving the absolute best prognosis possible.
- Getting follow-up care on a regular basis is important for children who are diagnosed with this condition.
- If you notice an increased amount of pain that is occurring for no reason, seek advice from your doctor or medical professional.