Complications Of Soft Tissue Sarcoma In Hospital Pulau Pinang. 5 Year Review

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INTRODUCTION:
Soft tissue sarcomas are rare tumours that accounts for 1% of all malignancies. We assessed complications associated with managing soft tissue sarcoma in our centre. Some of the major complications include wound breakdown, infection, local recurrence and injuries to surrounding structures 1, 2.

METHODS:
We reviewed 35 cases of soft tissue sarcoma treated at Hospital Pulau Pinang from January 2012 to December 2016 over a period of 5 years. Data was extracted from patient records and phone call interviews. Data analysis was done using SPSS v23. All moderate and high grade sarcomas received standard dose of post-operative radiotherapy.

RESULTS:
Out of 35 cases, 18 were female and 17 were male with a mean age of 47 (6-79) years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPLICATION</th>
<th>NUMBER OF CASES (N)</th>
<th>NUMBER OF CASES EVENTUALLY REQUIRING AMPUTATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RECURRENCE</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7 (78%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFECTION</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2 (50%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WOUND BREAKDOWN</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEUROVASCULAR INJURY</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Complications are given in table 1. Out of 9 patients who had local recurrence, 7 eventually underwent amputation at various levels to achieve oncological margin. Out of the other 2 who did not have amputation, one died of lung metastasis, and the other underwent wider resection and is disease free at final review. 1 patient had planned radial nerve resection, with sural nerve grafting. At final follow up, patient had persistent wrist drop. 2 out of 4 patients who had infection ended up with amputation. One of the patients had superimposed local recurrence with infection. Infection was successfully controlled in the remaining 2 cases with wound debridement.

DISCUSSIONS:
Managing soft tissue sarcoma poses great challenge to the treating surgeon. Local recurrence is the leading cause of subsequent amputation 3. This is followed closely by infection. Risk factors for local recurrence are large tumour volume, high grade tumours, pelvic tumours and close or positive resection margin.

CONCLUSION:
Soft tissue sarcoma surgery is associated with significant risk of complications which calls for appropriate intervention whenever necessary. Local recurrence after a soft tissue sarcoma surgery is associated with high risk of amputation.

REFERENCES: