

A RETROSPECTIVE STUDY OF PROGNOSTIC FACTORS, TREATMENT MODALITIES AND OUTCOME OF SOFT TISSUE SARCOMA OF EXTREMITIES: AN UKMMC EXPERIENCE

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Introduction: Soft tissue sarcomas (STSs) are a rare tumor, less than 1% of all malignancies. Reports of the outcome, and evaluation of prognostic factors in the literature, show great variation. We described our experience in treating STSs of extremities at a tertiary center and studied the possible prognostic factors for the outcome.

Methodology: Between 2009 and 2017, 34 patients with first presentation STSs of extremity sites that underwent surgical treatment at a single tertiary institution were included. The associations between patient demographics, pathological features, and treatment modalities with overall survival, local recurrence, metastasis were studied using chi-square and Fisher's Exact Test.

Discussion: The mean age of patients was 56.82 years with a range between 14 to 84 years old. Nineteen male patients (55.9%) and fifteen female patients (44.9%) were included which predominantly Malay (58.8%). A total of 9 types of STSs were included and pleomorphic sarcoma (32.4%) was most commonly found. The majority of STSs were located at lower limb (61.8%), >5cm in size (79.4%), high grade (73.5%) and located deeper than fascia (82.4%). Enneking's Stages Ia, Ib, IIa, IIb, and III accounted for 20.6%, 2.9%, 14.7%, 35.3%, and 26.5% of presentations respectively. Patients were followed-up for a mean period of 37 months. The overall survival rate for 2-years was 50% while distant metastasis was 26.5% and STSs related death was 23.5%. Most of our patients went through limb-sparing operation (91.2%). Surgical margins were mostly negative (70.6%). The majority of patients (58.8%) went through adjuvant therapy. On data analysis, high-grade tumor ($P = 0.001$), Enneking's stage II & III ($P = 0.003$), and age > 60 years old ($P = 0.039$) were predictive of distant metastasis and STSs related death. Other factors were not predictive for 2 years survival rate.

Conclusion: Tumor biology and patient general condition were important in determining patient outcomes.