

TITLE: A Retrospective Study of the Relationship between Pathological margins of Primary Soft Tissue sarcomas & Local Recurrence

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ABSTRACT:

Objective: To find whether there is a significant relationship between primary tumor recurrence and initial microscopic resection margins for patients surgically treated for soft tissue sarcoma.

Method: This retrospective study looked at a cohort 110 patients with soft tissue sarcomas, who were surgically treated and followed up at the Manchester Sarcoma centre between 1998 & 2005. The cohort consisted of 52 males & 58 females, on whom data was collected and entered into a data base. The data was statistically analysed using Chi squared tables.

Results: Within the cohort, 16 patients (14.5%) had a recurrence, 19% of which were Liposarcomas, and 19% myxoid liposarcomas, 12.5% of each MFH, Leiomyosarcomas and MPSNT. The remainder were each 6% synovial sarcoma, adult fibrosarcoma, pleomorphic sarcoma and sarcoma NOS. In patients with recurrence, the initial excision margins were found to be 47% (n=8) intralesional, 24% (n=4) marginal excision, and 29% (n=5) were wide.

Conclusions: We found that there is a relationship to recurrence with initial microscopic excision margin status.

This study emphasises the need for clear excision margins at primary surgery, and when this is not achieved, immediate wider excision and adjuvant post operative radiotherapy should be considered.