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## **ABSTRACTS**

### **An audit of the management and outcome of soft tissue sarcoma within a regional referral centre.**

P. Wilson, A. Hancock, E. Newton-Dunn, M. Pitera, A. Redfern, P. Sarsfield, V. Devaraj, C. Stone.  
Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital

Contact: [dr.paul.wilson@gmail.com](mailto:dr.paul.wilson@gmail.com)

**Aims:** The aim of this study was to determine the referral patterns, investigations, management and outcomes of patients with soft tissue sarcoma within a regional referral centre.

**Methods:** Two hundred patients with soft tissue sarcoma registered with the sarcoma database between 2000-2006 were analyzed. During this period multi-disciplinary team (MDT) management was established. The presentation, investigation, treatment and outcome were compared before and after the introduction of the MDT. Data relating to time to treatment, completeness of excision, local recurrence and survival were reviewed.

**Results:** A total of 489 MDT reviews within a 6 year period were carried out. The majority of patients (58%) were managed by plastic surgeons in a multi-disciplinary team setting. Most tumours (33%) were excised from the external trunk. The wide range of histopathology diagnoses and the closest margin according to location is presented. Data for radiology requests and frequency of imaging including guided biopsies is reviewed.

**Conclusions:** With the exclusion of tumours with a uniformly excellent prognosis the 5 year survival for our patients is 58.7%. The introduction of the MDT has reduced the number of occasional operators within our cancer network and has facilitated a streamlined referral, diagnostic and treatment pathway for patients with soft tissue sarcoma. This emphasizes the importance of education of the referral base and centralization of expertise in the management of these rare tumours.