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ABSTRACTS – POSTERS

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Malignant tumours of the foot and ankle – unplanned excision improves prognosis?!

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Introduction

Malignant tumours of the foot and ankle are rare. The aim of the study was to document one of the largest series of malignant tumours affecting the foot and ankle and to assess the outcome of an unplanned excision on prognosis

Methods

The study was a retrospective review of the patients with a malignant tumour of the foot and ankle. Demographic details, diagnosis, treatment and outcomes were retrieved from the electronic patient records containing information on over 20 000 patients seen with suspected musculoskeletal neoplasia over a 40 year period.

Results

225 patients had malignant tumours affecting the foot and ankle. It was common in the fifth decade (35 patients). The mean age was 45.7 years. The commonest diagnosis was synovial sarcoma (40 patients) followed by chondrosarcoma (23 patients) and Ewing's sarcoma (21 patients). The mean tumour size was 5.6 cm (0.8 to 17.5 cm). 82 patients (37%) underwent an unplanned excision and 13% (29 patients) presented with metastatic disease at diagnosis. Primary bone tumours were 28% (64 patients), soft tissue sarcomas were 62% and metastatic tumours were 8% while haematological and lymphoreticular malignancies were rare (1%). Limb salvage was possible in 71% (156 patients including 7% (15 patients) who had digital or ray amputations). 29% (65 patients) had a below knee amputation. 7% had a local recurrence. The overall 5 year survival was 63%. The estimated 5 years survival was 75% for the patients with who had an unplanned excision compared to 50% who had a planned procedure (p 0.005). The estimated 5 years survival for the patients who had limb salvage was 68% compared with 54% for the patients who had an amputation (p 0.03). There was no difference in survival between bone and soft tissue sarcomas.

Conclusions

Malignant tumours of the foot and ankle are rare occurring more often in the fifth decade. They are often small and unplanned excision is not uncommon resulting in early diagnosis, referral and probably better survival. The prognosis of malignant tumours of the foot and ankle is better compared to malignant tumours occurring elsewhere and amputation apparently does not improve the survival.