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### ABSTRACTS – POSTERS

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#### **Half of Intra-abdominal Soft tissue tumours are misdiagnosed on referral (A Prospective Observational study)**

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#### **Background**

Intra-Abdominal sarcomas are a heterogenous collection of different histologies derived from a variety of mesenchymal tissues with variable presentations.

#### **Aims**

The aim was to prospectively study the diagnosis, treatment and outcome of patients with an Intra-abdominal mass referred to a tertiary referral centre.

#### **Methods**

Data was collected prospectively on all patients referred to one unit with an abdominal mass between 01/10/2007 and 30/09/2008, data collected included demographics, presentation, initial and final diagnosis, management, complications and outcome.

#### **Results**

During the study period there were 38 patients (21 males and 17 females) with a mean age of 53.7 years (range 19-81). Abdominal distention and pain were the commonest symptoms. 17 patients (44.7%) were referred from centres out of Glasgow.

The Referring hospital had made the right diagnosis in 17 (50%) patients, while the tertiary unit had the diagnosis right in 30 (78.9%), 15 patients required a biopsy to establish a diagnosis. The respective diagnoses were as follows: 15 Soft tissue tumours, 4 GISTs, 4 Lymphomas, 3 Germ cell tumours, 5 carcinomas and 7 other diagnoses.

24 patients (63.2%) underwent surgery, 11 (28.9%) received chemotherapy, 1 had his tumour embolised while two were offered palliative care.

There were no post operative mortalities, but 5 patients who were treated with palliative chemotherapy died during the study period.

Five patients (13.2%) had postoperative complications (3 serious wound infections, 1 pancreatic leak, 1 prolonged ileus and pulmonary complications), none of these patients required surgical intervention, and all recovered fully.

Two patients had recurrence of their disease during the study period.

#### **Conclusion**

Half of patient's with large Intra-Abdominal soft tissue tumours have the wrong diagnosis on referral, indicating that such tumours are best investigated and treated in specialized units.