Soft Tissue Sarcoma Diagnosis Pathway
Sarcoma Disease Pathway Management Working Group
Version 2015.07

Disclaimer
The pathway is intended to be used for informational purposes only. The pathway is not intended to constitute or be a substitute for medical advice and should not be relied upon in any such regard. Further, all pathways are subject to clinical judgment and actual practice patterns may not follow the proposed steps set out in the pathway. In the situation where the reader is not a healthcare provider, the reader should always consult a healthcare provider if he/she has any questions regarding the information set out in the pathway. The information in the pathway does not create a physician-patient relationship between Cancer Care Ontario and the reader.
Pathway Considerations

- It is presumed that the patient is assessed clinically throughout the entire pathway.
- It is presumed that at each step along the pathway, the risks and benefits of screening are discussed with the patient.
- Primary care providers play an important role in the cancer journey and should be informed of relevant tests and consultations. Ongoing care with a primary care provider is assumed to be part of the pathway. For patients who do not have a primary care provider, Health Care Connect, a government resource that helps patients find a doctor or nurse practitioner, is offered. 
- Throughout the pathway, a shared decision-making model should be implemented to enable and encourage patients to play an active role in the management of their care. For more information see Person-Centered Care Guideline and EBS #19-2 Provider-Patient Communication.
- Hyperlinks are used throughout the pathway to provide information about relevant CCO tools, resources and guidance documents.
- The term ‘health care provider’, used throughout the pathway, includes primary care providers and specialists, nurse practitioners, and emergency physicians.
- The family physician should be informed of all tests and consultations usual ongoing care with the family physician is assumed to be part of the pathway.

Target Population

- This pathway has been developed for the use of primary care providers and other health care providers for patients presenting with suspicious masses that may be a soft tissue sarcoma.
If you have any concern regarding a lesion suspected to be a sarcoma, please immediately contact a Multidisciplinary Sarcoma Team (MST) at a Host Site.

**Risk Factors**

The majority of patients presenting with soft tissue sarcoma do not have identifiable risk factors.

*Disclaimer: For any cases, where the lesion is suspected to be a sarcoma, early consultation with a sarcoma specialist is advised. Contact information for Host and Partner Sarcoma Service Sites can be found at www.cancercare.on.ca/sarcomacare.

1. Many sarcoma-like conditions require sarcoma team management. These include desmoid tumours, atypical lipomatous tumour, fibromatosis, any spindle cell or myxoid neoplasm, and others. For a full list of sarcomas and sarcoma-like conditions, please refer to Appendix A or go to www.cancercare.on.ca/sarcomacare.

Histopathology (light microscopy)

Pathological diagnosis should be made according to WHO Classification of Tumours\(^7\) and staging according to the AJCC TNM Staging System\(^6\)

- Initial T Staging
- Histological Grading should be made by pathologist through review of imaging and pathology\(^6\)

Where there are suspicious findings, the pathologist should:

1) Make referral to pathologist at Host Site. When making a referral for secondary pathology review at Host Site the following must be provided to the Host Site:
   - All original slides
   - Paraffin tissue block
   - Radiology report and images
2) The report should be sent to the referring physician noting the following:
   - A secondary pathology review has been requested from the Sarcoma Host Site
   - The referring physician should discuss the results and next steps with the patient.

Results

- Tumour is suspected or confirmed sarcoma
  - Secondary pathology review at Host Site\(^1\)
  - Does patient require sarcoma team care?
- Not a sarcoma, but requires sarcoma team management \(^1\)
  - Additional pathology performed, as needed
  - Tumour is definitely benign\(^*\)
  - Patient no longer part of Sarcoma Pathway

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