Cancer Care Ontario

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.

Ontario

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,** is a government resource that helps patients find a doctor or nurse practitioner.
- 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

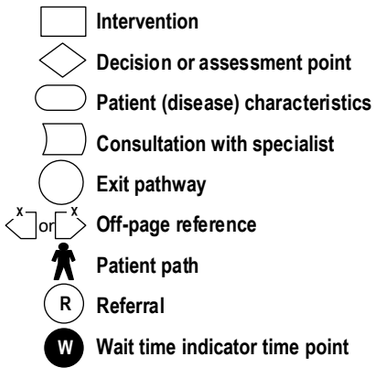
- This pathway has been developed for the use of primary care providers and other health care providers for patients presenting with suspicious masses that may be a soft tissue sarcoma.

Pathway Legend

Colour Guide

- Primary Care
- Supportive and End of Life Care
- Pathology
- Surgery
- Radiation Oncology
- Medical Oncology
- Radiology
- Multidisciplinary Cancer Conference (MCC)

Shape Guide



Line Guide

- Required
- Possible

Pathway Disclaimer

This pathway is a resource that provides an overview of the screening and the presentation and clinical work-up of a cancer diagnosis that an individual in the Ontario cancer system may receive.

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YIELD

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*ŦŦ

Patient presents with a suspicious mass

Visit to family physician or other primary care provider

Visit to other health care provider (dermatologist, general surgeon, plastic surgeon)

Visit to emergency department

Incidental finding on pathology

Incidental finding on imaging

Critical results report should be sent to ordering physician noting findings and stating that a clinical assessment should be performed and need for additional imaging and/ or biopsy.

Size of mass and location

< 5cm[1,2,3] and Superficial, mobile and does not present with risk features

Diagnostic excision biopsy performed[2,3]

Proceed to page 4

< 5cm[1,2,3] and Superficial & one of the following:
- Directly over bone (e.g., ulna, tibia)
- In the axillary area
- In the groin area

Diagnostic imaging (MRI preferred, CT or ultrasound where expertise are available)[2,3,5] Where there is uncertainty as to appropriate further imaging or sequencing please contact **Host or Partner Sarcoma Services Site**.*

Results

Not suspicious

Patient no longer part of Sarcoma Pathway

Suspicious

< 5cm[1,2,3] and Superficial & has one or more of the following:
- Rapid Increase in size
- Painful
- Recurrent after previous excision[2, 3]
- Fixation of mass to other structures

OR

Deep to or fixed to deep fascia

≥ 5cm, Any location [1,2,3]

PIIIcσ Diagnostic imaging (MRI preferred)[2,3,5] Specify "malignancy suspected". Where there is uncertainty as to appropriate further imaging or sequencing please contact **Host or Partner Sarcoma Services Site**.*

Critical Findings Report is sent to **ordering physician.** Report notes patient should be urgently referred to Sarcoma MST.

R

Consultation with designated diagnostic site to determine where biopsy should be performed (locally or at **Host or Partner Sarcoma Services Site**).*

Diagnostic biopsy performed (core needle biopsy) [3,5]
- Biopsy should be planned in a way that biopsy track can be removed at time of surgery and to prevent seeding
- Biopsy should be performed by definitive sarcoma surgeon or by radiologist following discussion with surgeon.[3,5]

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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

ŦŦ 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.

σ Further information on imaging wait time targets and prioritization can be found at www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/waittimes/surgery/target.aspx.

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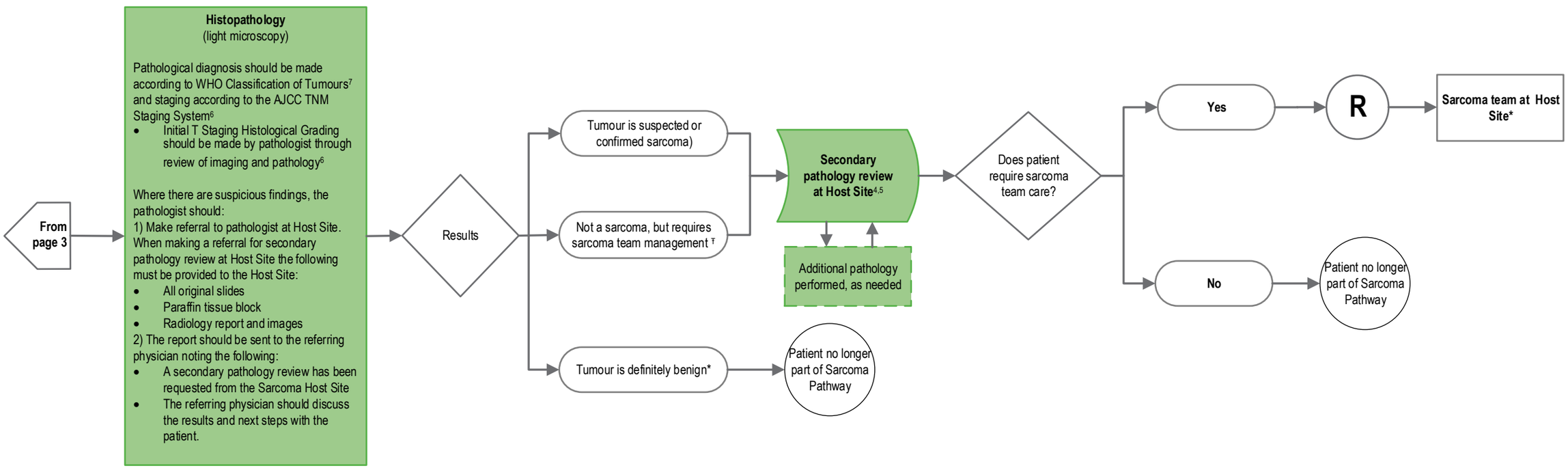

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2) Grimer, R.J., Mottard, S., and Briggs, T.R. (2010) *Earlier diagnosis of bone and soft tissue sarcoma*. The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery.
3) Grimer, R., Judson, I., Peake, D. and Seddon, B. (2010) *Guidelines for the management of soft tissue sarcomas*. Sarcoma 2010: 506182.
4) Sarcoma Steering Committee and Cancer Care Ontario (2014). *Provincial Sarcoma Services Plan*. Available at www.cancercare.on.ca/sarcomacare.
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