

Complications Of Soft Tissue Sarcoma In Hospital Pulau Pinang. 5 Year Review

¹Chong JX, ¹Tan CS, ¹Narhari P, ¹Azid A, ¹Osman Z

¹Orthopaedic Department, Hospital Pulau Pinang, Jalan Resideni 10990 Georgetown Penang

INTRODUCTION:

Soft tissue sarcomas are rare tumours that accounts for 1% of all malignancies. We assessed complications associated with managing soft tissue sarcoma in our centre. Some of the major complications include wound breakdown, infection, local recurrence and injuries to surrounding structures ^{1,2}.

METHODS:

We reviewed 35 cases of soft tissue sarcoma treated at Hospital Pulau Pinang from January 2012 to December 2016 over a period of 5 years. Data was extracted from patient records and phone call interviews. Data analysis was done using SPSS v23. All moderate and high grade sarcomas received standard dose of post-operative radiotherapy.

RESULTS:

Out of 35 cases, 18 were female and 17 were male with a mean age of 47 (6 -79) years.

COMPLICATION	NUMBER OF CASES (N)	NUMBER OF CASES EVENTUALLY REQUIRING AMPUTATION
RECURRENCE	9	7 (78%)
INFECTION	4	2 (50%)
WOUND BREAKDOWN	4	0 (0%)
NEUROVASCULAR INJURY	1	0 (0%)

Complications are given in table 1. Out of 9 patients who had local recurrence, 7 eventually underwent amputation at various levels to achieve oncological margin. Out of the other 2 who did not have amputation, one died of lung metastasis, and the other underwent wider resection and is disease free at final review. 1 patient had planned radial nerve resection, with sural nerve grafting. At final follow up, patient had persistent wrist drop. 2 out of 4 patients who had infection ended up with amputation. One of the patients had superimposed local recurrence with infection. Infection was

successfully controlled in the remaining 2 cases with wound debridement.

DISCUSSIONS:

Managing soft tissue sarcoma poses great challenge to the treating surgeon. Local recurrence is the leading cause of subsequent amputation³. This is followed closely by infection. Risk factors for local recurrence are large tumour volume, high grade tumours, pelvic tumours and close or positive resection margin.

CONCLUSION:

Soft tissue sarcoma surgery is associated with significant risk of complications which calls for appropriate intervention whenever necessary. Local recurrence after a soft tissue sarcoma surgery is associated with high risk of amputation.

REFERENCES:

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