

Soft tissue sarcomas: ESMO Clinical Recommendations for diagnosis, treatment and follow-up

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clinical recommendations

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The following recommendations apply to adult-type soft tissue sarcomas arising from limbs and superficial trunk.

Recommendations on retroperitoneal sarcomas, desmoid-type fibromatosis and uterine sarcomas are provided separately at the end of the chapter with regard to those main aspects by which they differ from more frequent soft tissue sarcomas. In general, the main principles of diagnosis and treatment may well apply to all soft tissue sarcomas, including the rarest presentations (e.g. visceral sarcomas other than gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GIST), head and neck sarcomas), which therefore are not specifically covered. Specific histological types, however, may deserve specific approaches, which may not be covered hereafter, given the scope of these Recommendations.

These Clinical Recommendations have been formulated following a consensus process based on a consensus event organized by ESMO in Lugano in October 2007 and a manuscript revision taking place thereafter up to January 2008. The consensus process involved experts from the community of the European sarcoma research groups and from some sarcoma centers of excellence outside Europe, indicated hereafter. The text reflects an overall consensus among them, although each of them may not always find it consistent with his/her own views. The EU-funded network of excellence CONTICANET (CONnective TIssue Cancers NETwork) supported the consensus process. The consensus event was made possible financially by unrestricted grants from Novartis Oncology, Pfizer Oncology and PharmaMar.

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