

Top Tips Urgent Suspected Sarcoma Referrals

1. If you find a lump or clinical presentation suspicious of sarcoma, first arrange an imaging study before considering urgent referral. The only situations where this is not appropriate are:
 - a. A new suspicious lump or clinical signs in someone with previously diagnosed sarcoma.
 - b. Highly suspicious examination findings such as a large, fixed lump where urgent imaging is not available via direct access request.
2. Arrange appropriate imaging depending on suspected type of sarcoma:
 - Suspected bone sarcoma - arrange X-Ray.
 - Suspected soft tissue sarcoma - arrange ultrasound or if appropriate MRI.

SOFT TISSUE SARCOMA

3. Interpret an abnormal US report alongside the clinical presentation. Check if the report:
 - a. Confirms a sarcoma or states that findings are highly suspicious of a sarcoma / tumour.
 - b. Just confirms a lump with abnormalities and / or suggests referral to a specialist.

Refer using the *Pan-London Suspected Sarcoma Referral Form* based on the report, as follows:

- Refer to a **DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC** if findings on US/MRI are NOT highly suspicious.
 - They will assess and arrange further investigations to exclude a tumour.
 - Unless imaging reports findings that are highly suspicious, it is unlikely the patient will be found to have sarcoma.
 - the DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC will refer onto the SARCOMA CENTRE if appropriate.
 - Refer to a **SARCOMA CENTRE** if:
 - Imaging reports highly suspicious findings or confirms a sarcoma or other cancer.
 - You find a suspicious lesion in patient with previously diagnosed sarcoma.
 - Your examination findings are very concerning (see point 1), and you do not have access to urgent US/MRI via direct access request.
4. Any child with a lesion or presentation suspicious of soft tissue sarcoma should be discussed with a local on call paediatrician to arrange a hospital appointment within 48 hours.

BONE SARCOMA

5. Arrange urgent x-ray for any patients with unexplained bone swelling, tenderness not responding to analgesia, or nighttime pain.
6. Normal or equivocal X-ray does not exclude sarcoma, as changes may not appear in the early stages of the disease. In adults, seek advice from the radiology service if ongoing concerns and arrange further imaging if urgent direct access. In children, refer early.

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