

Diagnostic Tool

Is it soft tissue sarcoma?

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All patients with a suspected/diagnosed soft tissue sarcoma should be referred to a Sarcoma Specialist Centre.

Clinical presentations

- Lump more than 5cm in size
- Lump increasing in size
- Deep to the fascia

Investigations

Adults

- Refer for urgent ultrasound (performed within 2 weeks)
- Refer for urgent appointment (within 2 weeks) to a sarcoma specialist centre if scan suggests soft tissue sarcoma or if findings are uncertain and clinical concern remains

Children

- Refer for very urgent ultrasound (performed within 48 hours)
- Refer for very urgent appointment (within 48 hours) to sarcoma specialist centre if scan suggests soft tissue sarcoma or if findings are uncertain and clinical concern remains

Note: MRI is more effective for investigating large deep lumps. MRI & biopsy (fine needle) should only be performed under the direction of a sarcoma specialist centre.

Sarcoma Specialist Centres: Soft Tissue

- 1. North of England Bone & Soft Tissue Tumour Service**
Newcastle Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- 2. Greater Manchester & Oswestry Sarcoma Service (GMOSS)**
Robert Jones & Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital Oswestry, Manchester Royal Infirmary, The Christie NHS Foundation Trust Manchester
- 3. Liverpool Sarcoma Service**
Royal Liverpool & Broadgreen University Hospitals Trust

- 4. Leeds Regional Sarcoma Service**
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- 5. Sheffield Sarcoma Unit**
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- 6. Royal Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust**
Birmingham
- 7. The Midlands Abdominal & Retroperitoneal Sarcoma Unit**
University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust
- 8. East Midlands Sarcoma Service**
Nottingham University Hospital NHS Trust, Leicester Royal Infirmary
- 9. The Oxford Sarcoma Service (OXSARC)**
Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre
- 10. Bristol Sarcoma Service**
North Bristol NHS Trust
- 11. Exeter Sarcoma Service**
Royal Devon & Exeter NHS Foundation Trust
- 12. Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust**
- 13. The London Sarcoma Service**
University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust
- 14. The Royal Marsden Hospital**
London
- 15. South West Wales Sarcoma Multi-Disciplinary Team**
South West Wales Cancer Network
- 16. North Wales**
Refer to Greater Manchester & Oswestry Sarcoma Service
- 17. Northern Ireland Local Sarcoma Cancer Committee**
Musgrave Park Hospital, Belfast City Hospital, Royal Victoria Hospital, Mater Hospital Belfast, Ulster Hospital, Dundonald

Further information

- NICE Guidelines for Suspected Cancer (2015)
- NICE Guidelines for Sarcoma (2006)
- British Sarcoma Group guidelines
- [sarcoma.org.uk/health-professionals/sarcoma-specialist-centres](https://www.sarcoma.org.uk/health-professionals/sarcoma-specialist-centres)