

Diagnostic Tool

Is it bone sarcoma?

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

Clinical presentations

Unexplained bone pain or tenderness, which is:

- persistent
- increasing
- non-mechanical
- nocturnal or at rest

Investigations

Adults

- Refer for urgent x-ray (performed within 2 weeks)
- Refer for urgent appointment (within 2 weeks)
- to a bone sarcoma specialist centre if x-ray suggests bone sarcoma or if findings are uncertain and clinical concern remains

Children

- Refer for very urgent x-ray (performed within 48 hours)
- Refer for very urgent appointment (within 48 hours) for specialist assessment at a bone sarcoma specialist centre if an x-ray suggests bone sarcoma or if findings

Sarcoma Specialist Centres: Bone

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. Royal Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Birmingham

4. The Oxford Sarcoma Service (OXSARC)

Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre

5. The London Sarcoma Service

University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust,
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust

6. North Wales

Refer to Greater Manchester & Oswestry Sarcoma Service

7. 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