**BritE StAr - British Early diagnosis in Sarcoma Audit: Protocol**

**Logo

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**Aims:**

To assess compliance with BSG, NICE & Scottish referral guidelines for suspected cancer in the UK for pelvic & appendicular sarcomas.

**Methods:**

Collaborators in each participating trust will collect data prospectively using a locked, coded Excel spreadsheet. The data collection period is over three-months from 5th September 2022 to 27th November 2022 (inclusive). All patients with a diagnosis of bone and soft-tissue sarcoma are to be included.

Information will be collected on service delivery and patient factors, including:

1. Patient demographics
   1. Age
   2. Sex
   3. Postcode
2. Symptoms
3. Date of first symptom(s)
4. Date of first presentation to health care professional (HCP)
5. HCP seen initially
6. Initial diagnosis offered?
7. Local ‘direct’ imaging
   1. Imaging modality
   2. Report conclusion
8. Referral pathway
9. How many other HCPs seen prior to sarcoma centre?
10. Date of referral to sarcoma centre
11. Date of presentation to sarcoma centre
12. Date of MDT diagnosis
13. Time from symptoms to MDT diagnosis (TTD)
14. Diagnosis and stage at treatment decision MDT
15. Biopsy done elsewhere?
16. Inadvertent surgery?
17. Tertiary referral from one sarcoma MDT to another?

No patient identifiable data will be gathered

**Analysis:**

Gathered data will be analysed to identify patterns in symptom recognition and referral pathways for sarcomas and enable us to make recommendations for improvements. Statistical software (R, Vienna) will collate and analyse data. All data and outcomes will be reported descriptively with continuous outcomes reported as mean (standard deviation) or median (interquartile range). Binary or categorical data will be reported as counts, proportions and percentages. Outcomes will be presented in graphical manner. Comparisons will be made using established tests for parametric and non-parametric data with a pre-determined significance of 0.05.

**Step by Step method for collaborators:**

1. Register for the project by signing up via this Google link:

[**https://docs.google.com/forms/d/170WE6aPnq2ND8NUBW58G3Vpbl3-3p1NnWEWuJxoESlI**](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/170WE6aPnq2ND8NUBW58G3Vpbl3-3p1NnWEWuJxoESlI)

1. Identify local sarcoma MDT consultant audit lead and register the project as an audit with your local relevant department (e.g. clinical governance/audit department). An example proforma is attached
2. Begin prospectively collecting information on all patients with confirmed sarcoma during the data collection period (**5/9/22 to 27/11/22 inclusive)**
3. **EITHER ask patients to complete the questionnaire before OR after consultation (you know how best your clinic works locally – during trailing, some clinics preferred pre- consultation and visa versa)**
4. Collect data in the spreadsheet provided
5. Any patients who do not have an MDT diagnosis of bone or soft-tissue sarcoma to be excluded
6. At the end of the data collection period, the anonymised data spreadsheet should be submitted by 12th December 2022 to the study email address: [brite.star@nhs.net](mailto:brite.star@nhs.net)

**Data collection points:**

1) **Patient ID**

To be collected to ease data collection but to be deleted prior to submission of data

2) **Patient Code**

Patient code dictated by hospital site and created sequentially, to allow for central identification of errors and queries to be directed to investigation site (E.G. ROH01, ROH02 etc.)

**3.) Patient Postcode**

To allow for analysis of the effect of location and socioeconomic status on diagnostic pathway.

4) **Patient age and sex, tumour location, diagnosis, stage**

To identify patient demographics

Diagnosis – e.g. osteosarcoma, myxoid liposarcoma

Site – e.g. distal femur (bone), anterior compartment thigh (STS)

Size – maximal tumour size on MRI in centimetres

Staging - TNM

Age/sex

5) **Symptoms at onset and date of first symptom(s)**

Please select from the dropdown box the most appropriate symptoms (Pain, swelling/lump, increasing in size, size > 5cm, other (please specify) and provide any additional information in the comments section. Date to be provided in DD/MM/YY format.

6) **Initial HCP seen**

Date of initial consultation. Type of HCP e.g. GP, A&E, Physiotherapist, Other (please specify).

Was an initial diagnosis offered? If so what?

Was imaging requested in the community? If so what?

What was the outcome of diagnostic imaging

Was a referral made from the initial consultation Y/N? If so, to whom?

7) **Further HCP consultations**

Where any other HCPs seen in addition to the initial consultation, prior to arrival at a sarcoma centre?

Did any of these additional consultations lead to a referral or (direct access) imaging?

8) **What was the time from initial presentation to presentation to a sarcoma centre?**

Date of referral to sarcoma centre

Date of presentation (outpatient appointment) to sarcoma centre

Date of MDT diagnosis

Time from symptoms to MDT diagnosis (TTD) measured in days

**9) Biopsy performed elsewhere?**

Inadvertent surgery?

Tertiary referral from one sarcoma MDT to another?

**Please do not try to alter the fixed data entry categories - any changes in spelling or spacing will render the data useless/ prevent analysis. Select the best-fit option possible - add short notes in the comments cell if required please.**

**Any queries, please email** [**Brite.star@nhs.net**](mailto:Brite.star@nhs.net) **for help and support.**