Soft Tissue Sarcomas in Young Individuals

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Abstract

Soft tissue sarcomas (STS) are among the tumors that occur both in children and young adults with major impact in terms of loss of life and function. Recent advances in diagnosis include the introduction of powerful diagnostic tools including testing for known translocations. Positron emission tomography complementing other radiologic modalities is enhancing our ability to study difficult lesions. The management of STS requires close cooperation of different specialties to achieve local and systemic control. This begins with proper planning for biopsy, triaging and processing the specimen, administration of preoperative and postoperative treatment when necessary, choosing the suitable surgical approach and finally providing care after therapy in terms of rehabilitation and surveillance.

The success in treatment of rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS) in children is not paralleled with success in treating other forms of sarcomas, namely non-rhabdomyosarcoma soft tissue sarcomas (NRSTS). This can be attributed in part to poor enrollment of young individuals in collaborative trials that tackle these rare tumors. Nevertheless, improving the care of these patients depend on judicious use of already available modalities and improving surgical expertise. The Arab world is in need for experts in this field who share their knowledge and hopefully collaborate to conduct research.