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## Epidemiological data of patients presenting to a Tertiary Cancer Centre

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**Introduction:** The study was conducted to know the frequency and spectrum of number of bone and soft tissue (BST) tumours presenting to our institute and analyze the incidence and stage of these at presentation.

**Material and methods:** This prospective observational study included all new patients seen in BST-Disease Management Group (DMG) from 01/01/2010 to 31/12/2010. An audit form was devised to capture all the relevant information.

**Results:** Out of total 31951 new patients registered at our institute, 1627 (5%) were registered primarily in the BST-DMG and 380 patients were referred from other services. Of a total 2007 patients, 60% (n=1203) were bone tumors, 36 % (n=723) were soft tissue tumors. Details of primary site of affection were not known in 4% (n=81) patients. In bone tumors, 66% were malignant, 15% were benign and 19% were lesions of non-neoplastic etiology. Amongst malignant tumors, osteosarcoma (43%) was commonest followed by PNET/Ewing's (27%) and chondrosarcoma (11%). Giant cell tumor was the most common benign bone tumor. Of soft tissue lesions 81% (n=587) were malignant of which 75% (n=413) were of mesenchymal origin and 25% (n=138) were of cutaneous origin. Synovial sarcoma (22.5%) was most common mesenchymal tumor. 29% of bone tumors and 32 % of soft tissue tumors had metastasized at presentation.

**Conclusion:** The study has a limitation of being a hospital based census and thus may not give the exact reflection of incidence in general population. This study will help assess the gap between the number of patients and infrastructure available and guide us optimally utilize resources to provide best possible care. It can help the institute frame and implement disease specific protocols. Continued data collection and follow up can provide valuable information on long term survival, treatment related toxicities and incidence of second malignancies. This data can be extrapolated to national level to identify the need of infrastructure and human resources.

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