



T2:101

**TRIAL FOR OPTIMAL SURVEILLANCE IN SARCOMA**Ajay Puri<sup>1</sup>, A Gulia<sup>2</sup><sup>1</sup>) Tata Memorial Hospital <sup>2</sup>) TMH, India**Purpose:**

Modern multimodality therapy has improved patient survival ; hence follow-up surveillance strategies are becoming increasingly important with significant clinical and fiscal implications. However, the ideal postoperative protocol vis a vis frequency and appropriate screening modalities for bone and soft tissue sarcomas (BSTS) remains ill-defined.

A prospective randomized controlled trial to evaluate the impact on overall survival of an intensive follow-up protocol (as practiced today) against a more cost effective follow-up protocol in patients operated for extremity BSTS was conducted at our institute.

**Method:**

Five hundred patients non metastatic at presentation who were operated for primary or recurrent extremity sarcomas (both limb salvage and amputations) were recruited between Jan 2006 and June 2010. They were stratified as (i ) Bone or soft tissue sarcomas (ii) High or low grade tumors and (iii) Size < / > 8 cm for bone and < / > 10cm for STS. They were randomised into 4 groups (1)- Intensive 3 monthly follow-up (2) - Intensive 6 monthly follow-up (3) - Cost Effective 3 monthly follow-up (4) - Cost Effective 6 monthly follow-up. The primary end point was overall survival and secondary endpoint was disease free survival (local or distant relapse).

**Results:**

Early results indicate that increased frequency of surveillance does not seem to significantly impact on either earlier recognition of relapse or overall survival. (DFS p= 0.676, OS p= 0.557). Though increased intensity of surveillance may identify earlier recognition of relapse in bone sarcomas it does not significantly impact on overall survival. (DFS p= 0.012, OS p= 0.555)

**Conclusion:**

Thus in recurrent sarcomas, it is likely that in the majority of cases the outcome and efficacy of salvage treatment is determined more by inherent tumor biology rather than the treatment itself

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