



T2:104

## Treatment and outcome of soft tissue sarcomas in the elderly and the very elderly: an analysis of 282 patients

P Lechler<sup>1</sup>, T Cosker<sup>2</sup>, A Gulati<sup>2</sup>, D Whitwell<sup>2</sup>, H Giele<sup>2</sup>, S Trent<sup>2</sup>, N Athanasou<sup>2</sup>, CLMH Gibbons<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre <sup>2</sup>Oxford Sarcoma Service, United Kingdom

### Background

Considering the global phenomenon of population aging, the oncologic treatment and outcome of malignancies in the elderly population is of epidemiological and media interest. There exists little knowledge of the clinical course of the elderly and very elderly patients following the surgical resection of soft tissue sarcomas.

### Methods

We retrospectively analysed the clinico-pathologic data of 282 consecutive patients (167 male, 115 female) aged 60 years or above, who were treated operatively for soft tissue sarcomas in a single centre between January 1997 and December 2012. Detailed histological findings, tumour grade, pre-operative staging, operative and adjuvant therapeutic measures, resection margins, recurrence and complications, as well as overall survival rate were documented. Subgroup analysis for the 'elderly' (60 to 80 years, n=225) and the 'very elderly' ( $\geq 80$  years, n=57) was also performed.

### Results

The mean age of the elderly subgroup was 69.2 years compared to 84 years in the very elderly patients. At a mean follow up of 55 months (range: 2 to 193), there were no significant differences in the distribution of tumour grade/stage, applied therapeutic measures, complications or recurrence rates between the groups. The most common tumour in either of the groups was liposarcoma. Overall, there were 124 patients with grade I, 43 patients with grade II, and 115 patients with grade III tumours. A total of 33 local recurrences (11.7%) were observed with 26 cases (11.6%) in the elderly group compared to 7 cases (12.3%) in the very elderly ( $p>0.05$ ). Surgical revision for any reason was undertaken in 17.0% patients (n=48), however elderly patients were more likely to receive revision surgery (n=41, 18.2%) compared to the very elderly (n=7, 12.3%). The mean overall survival in the very elderly patients was 64.9% compared to 81.3% in the elderly but when the survival rate was corrected for sarcoma-independent deaths, there was no significant difference between the groups ( $p>0.05$ ).

### Conclusion

The results of the present study indicate good to excellent local disease control and overall survival in surgically treated elderly and the very elderly patients with soft tissue sarcomas.

E-mail (main author): phillechler@aol.co.uk