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## Negative prognostic factors in the treatment of Epithelioid Sarcoma

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### Background

Epithelioid Sarcoma (EPS) is a rare malignant tumor involving the distal portion of soft tissue of the limbs. Most of the cases recur involving the nodes leading the patient to death. The aim of the study is to review the Rizzoli series outlining possible negative prognostic factor related to the course of EPS.

### Methods

From 1979 to 2007, 44 patients presented with diagnosis of EPS, followed at least 3 years (mean 10, range 3-34) unless premature death. The series include 34 male and 10 female with a mean age of 35 years (range 13-82). Location was the upper limb in 27 patients and the lower in 17, in 33 patients the tumor was distal to the elbow or the popliteal fossa, while in 11 was superior. Thirty-one were classified as normal type an, 9 proximal type; in four cases the pathology material was insufficient for a further classification. The diagnosis was immunohistochemically confirmed testing INI1, vimentin, cytokeratin, CD34 and EMA. In 7 patients antineoplastic chemotherapy and in 17 radiotherapy was associated to surgery.

### Results and Conclusion

The overall survival resulted 58%. Ten out of 44 patients with metastasis at presentation died of disease after 24 months average (from 6 to 127). The remaining 34 patients after a mean follow-up of 119 months (range 15-313) resulted with no evidence of disease in 21, in treatment for recurrence of disease in 3 and deceased of disease in 10. Of these 34 patients, 30 received as a first treatment inadequate excision. After the first treatment 16 patients remained free of disease, the other 18 had globally 47 recurrences (range 1-5) and 8 of them ended in amputation. The distal location in the limb had a better prognosis than proximal, while the proximal type had a bad one than the normal type. The use of adjuvant therapies and age didn't show influence for illness course. EPS is a rare soft tissue with high recurrence rate and, inadequate first surgical treatment. Patients with metastasis at presentation, with tumor located proximally in the limb and the histology proximal type resulted with worst prognosis.

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