Special Issue

Bone and Soft Tissue Sarcomas: Current Challenges and Future Directions

Message from the Guest Editors

Bone and soft tissue sarcomas are rare cancers that may imply high morbidity and poor disease specific survival despite current treatment modalities. While these tumors typically share a mesenchymal stem cell origin, they are typically characterized by tremendous genetic heterogeneity. For sarcomas as a whole, surgery is generally the mainstay of treatment, though adjuvant therapies typically differ depending on histologic type. For patients with osteosarcoma, chemotherapy dramatically improves survival rates; however, advances in adjuvant treatments have stagnated over the past 30–40 years. For chondrosarcoma, appropriate diagnosis and management continues to be a challenge and a continued subject of debate. In contrast, soft tissue sarcoma is a general term that encompasses over 70 histological subtypes. Radiation therapy is typically a component of the management of these tumors, though novel technologies such as proton beam therapy and carbon ion therapy hold additional promise. Owing to their collective rarity, research on sarcomas is inherently challenging; however, continued collaborative scientific efforts have helped to push the field forward.

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (28 February 2023)

Journal of Clinical Medicine

an Open Access Journal by MDPI

Impact Factor 2.9
CiteScore 5.2
Indexed in PubMed

mdpi.com/si/121573

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