



NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines™)

Bone Cancer

Version 1.2011

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Bone Cancer

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Clinical Trials: The NCCN believes that the best management for any cancer patient is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.

To find clinical trials online at NCCN member institutions, [click here: nccn.org/clinical_trials/physician.html](#)

NCCN Categories of Evidence and Consensus: All recommendations are Category 2A unless otherwise specified.

See [NCCN Categories of Evidence and Consensus](#)

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Updates in Version 1.2011 of the NCCN Bone Cancer Guidelines from Version 3.2010 include:

Ewing's Sarcoma:

EW-2

- **Under Surveillance for Stable disease following primary treatment:**

- The recommendation for CBC changed from every 2-3 mo to “CBC and other laboratory studies as indicated”.
- The recommendation “Increase intervals for physical exam, chest and local imaging after 24 mo. Annually after 5 y (indefinitely)” changed from category 2A to category 2B.

Osteosarcoma:

OSTEO-2

- **High grade osteosarcoma; Unresectable disease pathway: Samarium was removed as an option.**

OSTEO-3

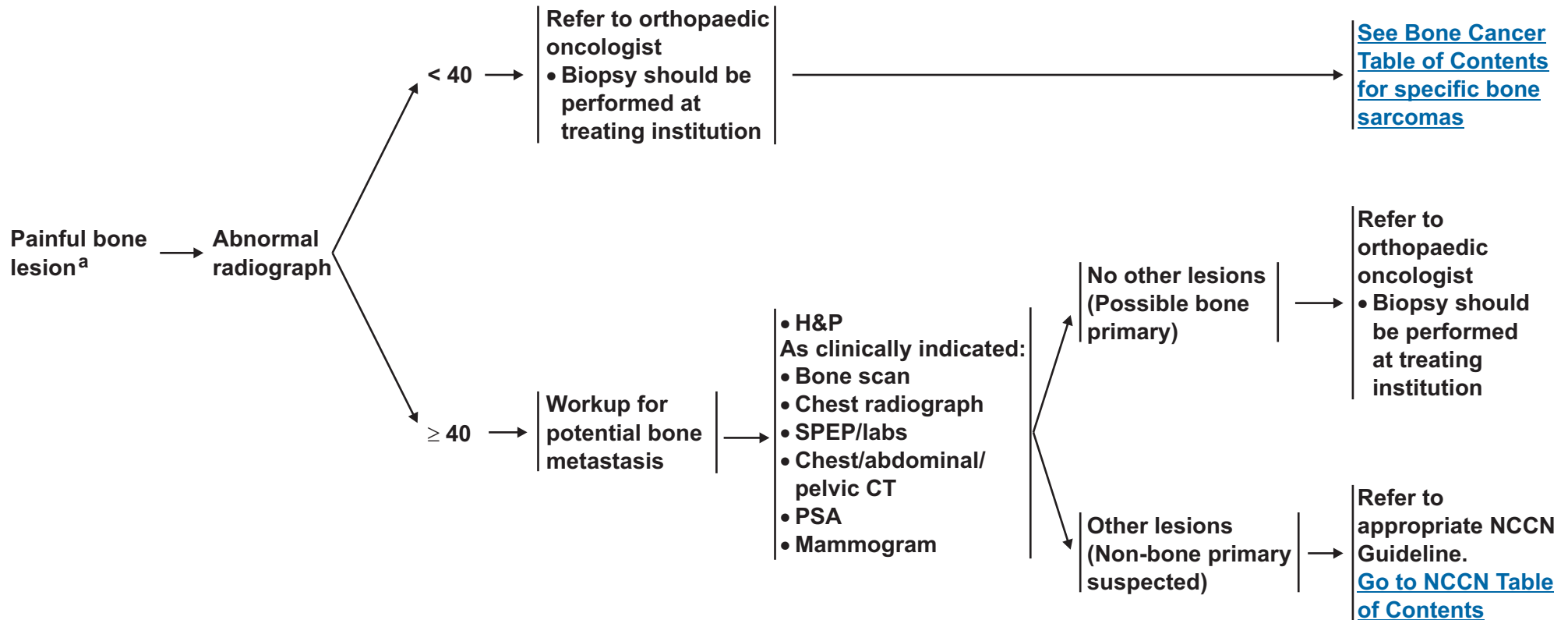
- **Surveillance: CBC changed to “CBC and other laboratory studies as indicated”.**

(BONE-C): Principles of Bone Cancer Systemic Therapy

- **Under First line therapy (Primary/Neoadjuvant/Adjuvant): For VAC/IE, a new footnote was added that states, “In patients under 18y, evidence supports 2 week compressed treatment (category 1)”.**



WORKUP^b



^aPainless bone lesions require evaluation by a musculoskeletal radiologist and referral to multidisciplinary teams. [See Multidisciplinary Team \(BONE-A\)](#).

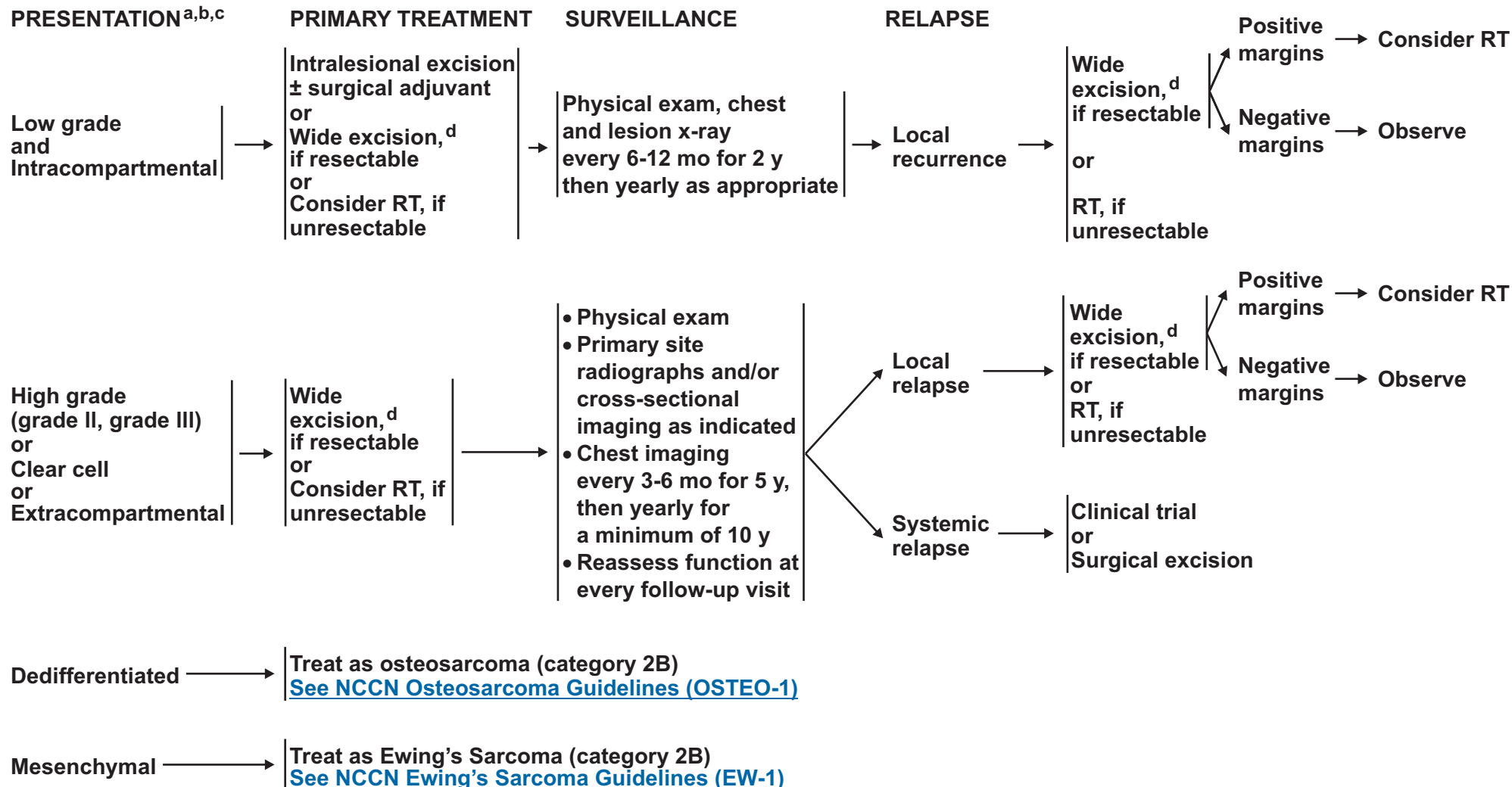
^b[See Principles of Bone Cancer Management \(BONE-B\)](#).

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Chondrosarcoma



^aSee [Multidisciplinary Team \(BONE-A\)](#).

^bSee [Principles of Bone Cancer Management \(BONE-B\)](#).

^cThere is considerable controversy regarding the grading of Chondrosarcoma. In addition to histology, radiologic features, size, and location of tumors should also be considered in deciding local treatment.

^dWide excision should provide negative surgical margins for tumor. This may be achieved by either limb-sparing resection or limb amputation.

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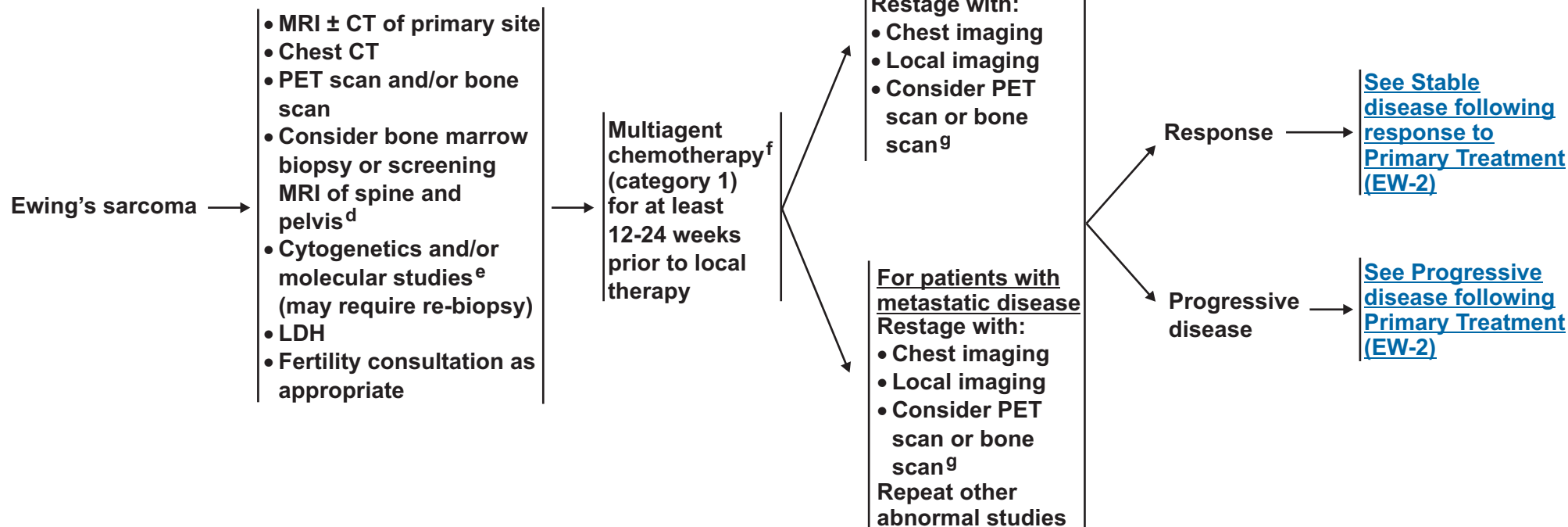
Ewing's Sarcoma

PRESENTATION^{a,b,c}

WORKUP

PRIMARY TREATMENT

RESTAGE



^aSee [Multidisciplinary Team \(BONE-A\)](#).

^bSee [Principles of Bone Cancer Management \(BONE-B\)](#).

^cAny member of the Ewing's family of tumors can be treated using this algorithm including primitive neuroectodermal tumor, Askin's tumor, PNET of bone and extraosseous Ewing's sarcoma.

^dKumar J, Seith A, Kumar A, et al. Whole-body MR imaging with the use of parallel imaging for detection of skeletal metastases in pediatric patients with small cell neoplasms: comparison with skeletal scintigraphy and FDG PET/CT. *Pediatr Radiol* 2008;38:953-962. Epub 2008 Jul 18.

^e90% of Ewing's family tumors will have one of four specific cytogenetic translocations.

^fSee [Bone Cancer Systemic Therapy Agents \(BONE-C\)](#).

^gUse the same imaging technique that was performed in the initial workup.

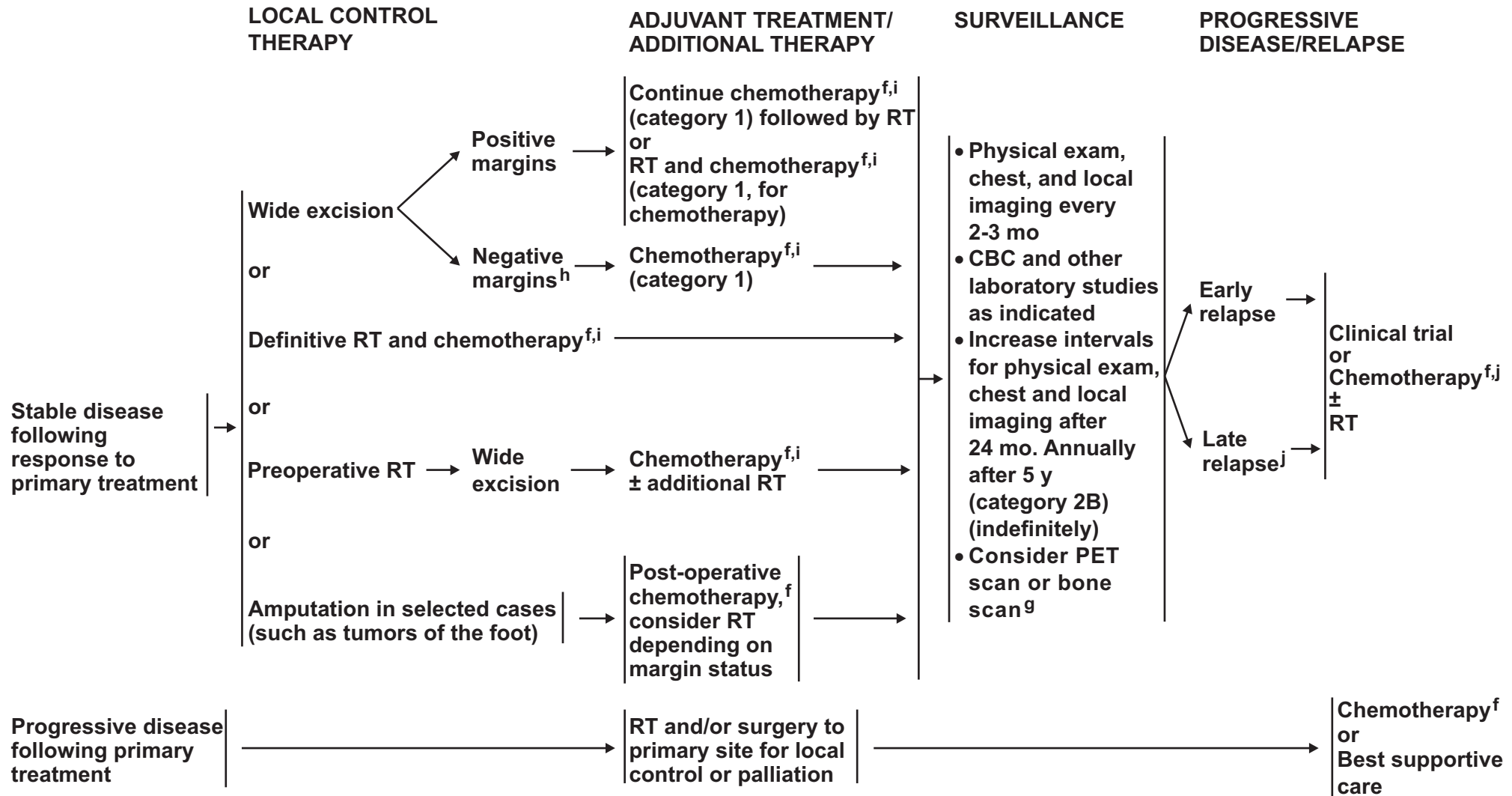
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Ewing's Sarcoma



^fSee Bone Cancer Systemic Therapy Agents (BONE-C).

^gUse the same imaging technique that was performed in the initial workup.

^hRT may be considered for close margins.

ⁱThere is category 1 evidence for between 28 and 49 weeks of chemotherapy depending on the chemotherapy and dosing schedule used.

^jFor late relapse, consider re-treatment with previously effective regimen.

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.

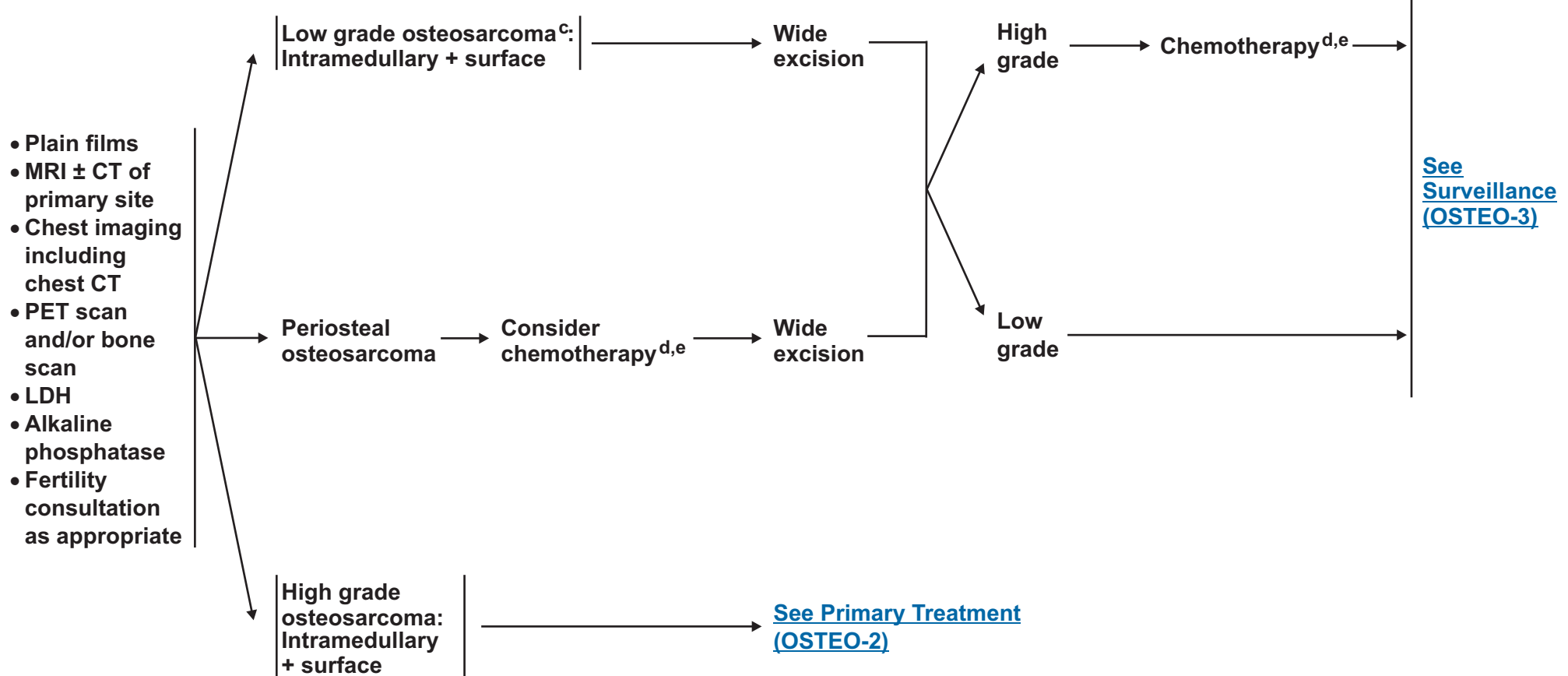
Clinical Trials: NCCN believes that the best management of any cancer patient is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.



WORKUP^{a,b}

PRIMARY TREATMENT

ADJUVANT TREATMENT



^aSee [Multidisciplinary Team \(BONE-A\)](#).

^bSee [Principles of Bone Cancer Management \(BONE-B\)](#).

^cDedifferentiated parosteal osteosarcomas are not considered to be low grade tumors.

^dChemotherapy may be intravenous or intra-arterial.

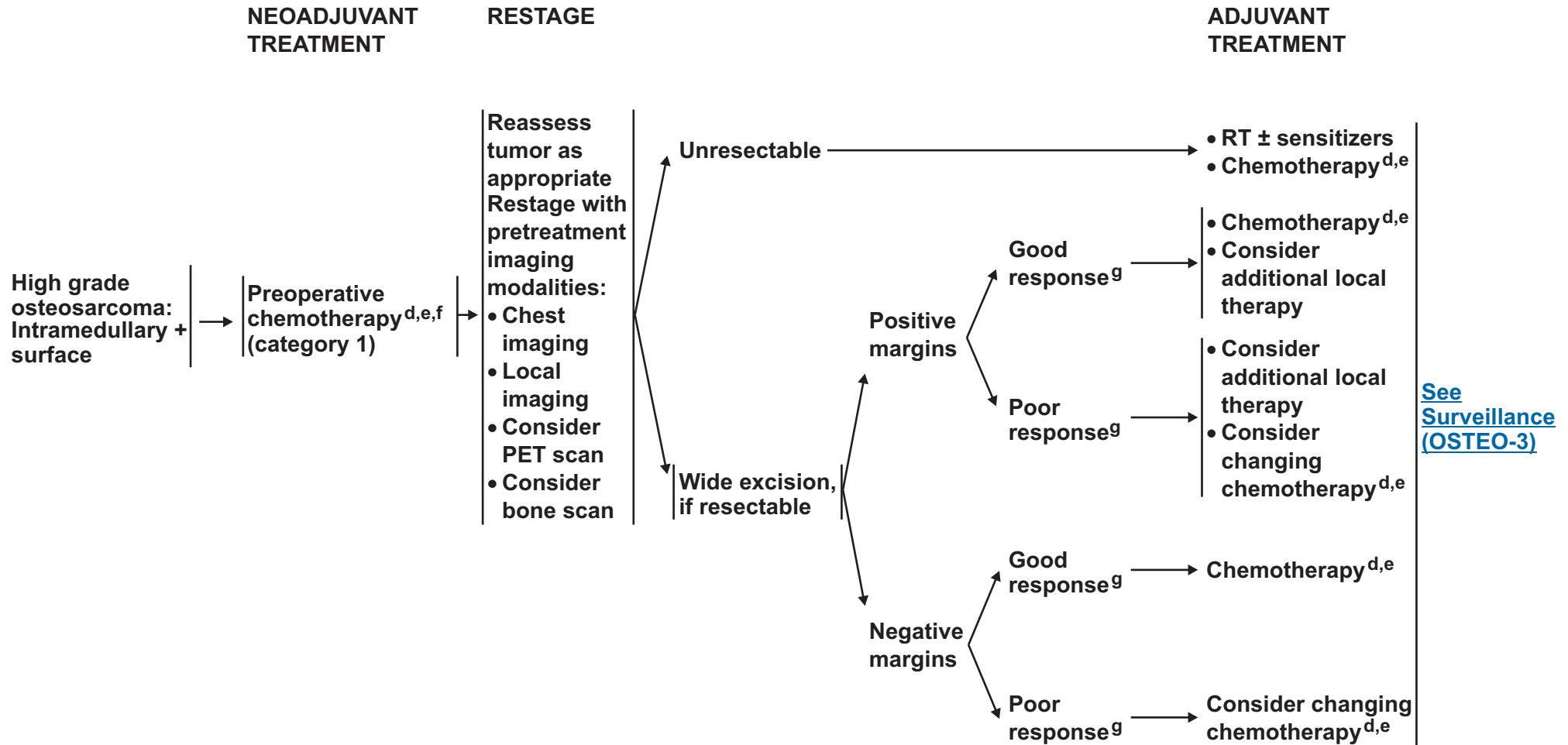
^eSee [Bone Cancer Systemic Therapy Agents \(BONE-C\)](#).

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Osteosarcoma



^dChemotherapy may be intravenous or intra-arterial.

^e[See Bone Cancer Systemic Therapy Agents \(BONE-C\)](#).

^fSelected elderly patients may benefit from immediate surgery.

^gResponse defined by pathologic mapping.

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.

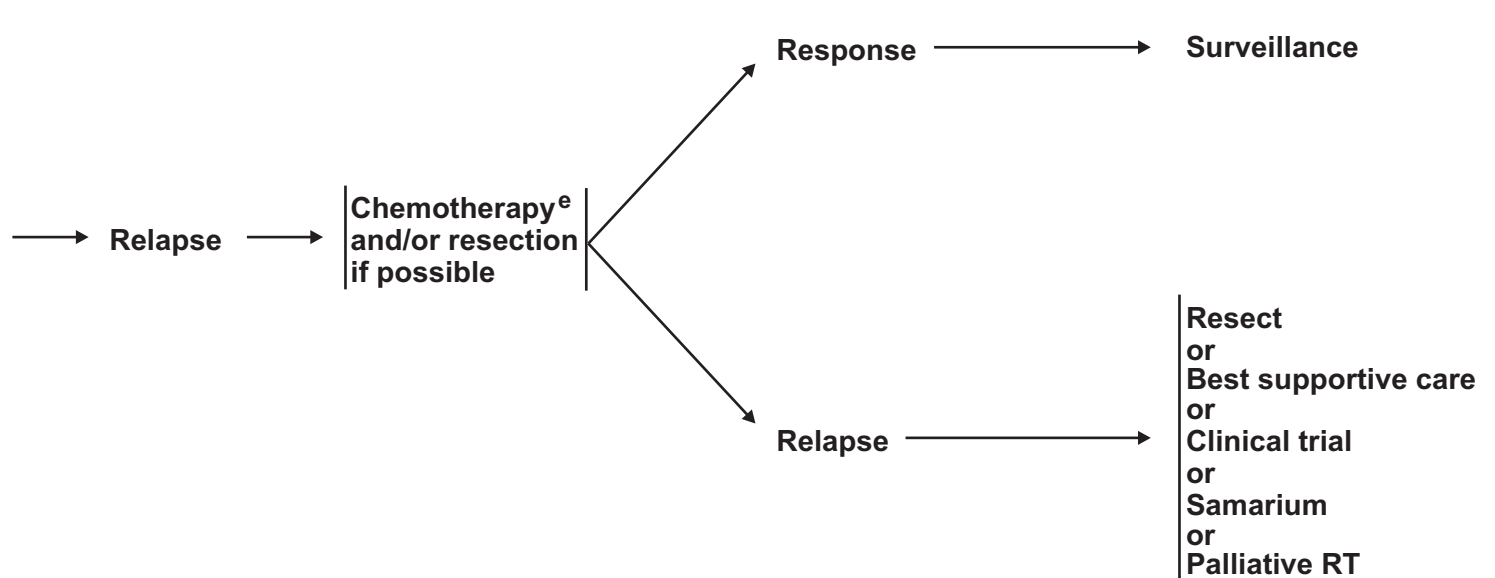
Clinical Trials: NCCN believes that the best management of any cancer patient is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.



SURVEILLANCE

RELAPSE

- Physical exam
 - Chest imaging
 - CBC and other laboratory studies as indicated
 - Local imaging^h: Consider PET scan and/or bone scan (category 2B)
 - Reassess function every visit
- Follow-up schedule:**
- Every 3 mo for y 1 and 2
 - Every 4 mo for y 3
 - Every 6 mo for y 4 and 5 and yearly thereafter



^eSee [Bone Cancer Systemic Therapy Agents \(BONE-C\)](#).

^hUse the same imaging technique that was performed in the initial workup.

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MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM

Primary bone tumors and selected metastatic tumors should be evaluated and treated by a multidisciplinary team with expertise in the management of these tumors. The team should meet on a regular basis and should include:

Core group

- Orthopaedic oncologist
- Bone pathologist
- Medical/pediatric oncologist
- Radiation oncologist
- Musculoskeletal radiologist

Specialists critical in certain cases

- Thoracic surgeon
- Plastic surgeon
- Interventional radiologist
- Physiatrist
- Vascular surgeon
- Additional surgical subspecialties

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PRINCIPLES OF BONE CANCER MANAGEMENT

Biopsy

- Biopsy diagnosis is necessary prior to any surgical procedure or fixation of primary site.
- Optimally performed at center which will do definitive management.
- Placement of biopsy is critical.
- Biopsy should be core needle or surgical biopsy.
- Technique: Apply same principles for core needle or open biopsy.
- Appropriate communication between surgeon, musculoskeletal radiologist, and bone pathologist is critical.
- Fresh tissue may be needed for molecular studies.
- In general, failure to follow appropriate biopsy procedures may lead to adverse patient outcomes.

Surgery

- Wide excision should achieve histologically negative surgical margins.
- Negative surgical margins optimize local tumor control.
- Local tumor control may be achieved by either limb-sparing resection or limb amputation (individualized for a given patient).
- Limb-sparing resection is preferred to optimize function if reasonable functional expectations can be achieved.

Lab Studies

- Lab studies such as CBC, LDH, ALP, may have relevance in the diagnosis, prognosis, and management of bone sarcoma patients and should be done prior to definitive treatment and periodically during treatment and surveillance.

Treatment

- Fertility issues should be addressed with patients prior to commencing chemotherapy.
- Preferably, care for bone cancer patients should be delivered directly by physicians on the multidisciplinary team (category 1).

[See \(BONE-A\)](#)

Long Term Follow-up and Surveillance/Survivorship

- Patients should have a survivorship prescription to schedule follow-up with a multidisciplinary team.
- Extended therapy and surveillance may be necessary to address potential late effects of surgery, radiation and chemotherapy for long-term survivors.

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.

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BONE CANCER SYSTEMIC THERAPY AGENTS

Chondrosarcoma

- **Conventional Chondrosarcoma (Grades 1-3) has no known standard chemotherapy options**
- **Mesenchymal Chondrosarcoma: Follow Ewing's regimens**
- **Dedifferentiated Chondrosarcoma: Follow osteosarcoma regimens**

Ewing's Sarcoma†

- **First line therapy (Primary/Neoadjuvant/Adjuvant)††**
 - ▶ **VAC/IE**
(Vincristine, doxorubicin and cyclophosphamide alternating with ifosfamide and etoposide)^{1, †††}
 - ▶ **VAI (vincristine, doxorubicin and ifosfamide)^{2,3}**
 - ▶ **VIDE (vincristine, ifosfamide, doxorubicin, and etoposide)⁴**
- **Primary therapy for metastatic disease at initial presentation**
 - ▶ **CVD (Cyclophosphamide, vincristine, and doxorubicin)⁵**
 - ▶ **VAC/IE**
(Cyclophosphamide, vincristine, and doxorubicin alternating with ifosfamide and etoposide)¹
 - ▶ **VAI (vincristine, doxorubicin and ifosfamide)^{2,3}**
 - ▶ **VIDE (vincristine, ifosfamide, doxorubicin, and etoposide)⁴**
- **Second line therapy (Relapsed or Refractory disease)††††**
 - ▶ **Cyclophosphamide and topotecan⁶⁻⁹**
 - ▶ **Temozolomide and irinotecan¹⁰⁻¹²**
 - ▶ **Ifosfamide and etoposide¹³**
 - ▶ **Ifosfamide, carboplatin and etoposide¹⁴**
 - ▶ **Docetaxel and gemcitabine¹⁵**

Osteosarcoma†

- **First line therapy (Primary/Neoadjuvant/Adjuvant or primary therapy for metastatic disease)**
 - ▶ **Cisplatin and doxorubicin¹⁶⁻¹⁸**
 - ▶ **MAP (High-dose methotrexate, cisplatin, and doxorubicin)^{19,20}**
 - ▶ **Doxorubicin, cisplatin, ifosfamide and high-dose methotrexate²¹**
 - ▶ **Ifosfamide and etoposide²²**
 - ▶ **Ifosfamide, cisplatin and epirubicin²³**
- **Second line therapy (Relapsed or Refractory disease)**
 - ▶ **Docetaxel and gemcitabine¹⁵**
 - ▶ **Cyclophosphamide and etoposide²⁴**
 - ▶ **Cyclophosphamide and topotecan⁹**
 - ▶ **Gemcitabine²⁵**
 - ▶ **Ifosfamide and etoposide²⁶**
 - ▶ **Ifosfamide, carboplatin and etoposide¹⁴**
 - ▶ **High-dose methotrexate, etoposide and ifosfamide²⁷**
 - ▶ **Samarium-153 ethylene diamine tetramethylene phosphonate ((153) Sm-EDTMP) for relapsed or refractory disease beyond second-line therapy²⁸**

MFH of Bone:

- **Follow osteosarcoma regimens**

† Chemotherapy should include growth factor support ([See NCCN Myeloid Growth Factors Guidelines](#))

†† Dactinomycin can be substituted for doxorubicin for concerns regarding cardiotoxicity.

††† In patients under 18y, evidence supports 2 week compressed treatment (category 1) (Womer RB, West DC, Krailo MD, Dickman PS, Pawel B, for the Children's Oncology Group AEWS0031 Committee. Randomized comparison of every-two-week v. every-three-week chemotherapy in Ewing sarcoma family tumors (ESFT). J Clin Oncol (Meeting Abstracts) 2008;26:10504.)

†††† Vincristine may be added to any of the regimens below.

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[References on next page](#)



BONE CANCER SYSTEMIC THERAPY AGENTS
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BONE CANCER SYSTEMIC THERAPY AGENTS
(References)

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NCCN Guidelines™ Version 1.2011 Staging Bone Cancer

Table 1

**American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC)
TNM Staging System for Bone** (Primary malignant lymphoma and multiple myeloma are not included)

(7th ed., 2010)

Primary Tumor (T)

- TX** Primary tumor cannot be assessed
- T0** No evidence of primary tumor
- T1** Tumor 8 cm or less in greatest dimension
- T2** Tumor more than 8 cm in greatest dimension
- T3** Discontinuous tumors in the primary bone site

Regional Lymph Nodes (N)

- NX** Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed
- N0** No regional lymph node metastasis
- N1** Regional lymph node metastasis

Note: Because of the rarity of lymph node involvement in bone sarcomas, the designation **NX** may not be appropriate and cases should be considered **N0** unless clinical node involvement is clearly evident.

Distant Metastasis (M)

- M0** No distant metastasis
- M1** Distant metastasis
- M1a** Lung
- M1b** Other distant sites

Histopathologic Grade (G)

- GX** Grade cannot be assessed
- G1** Well differentiated — Low Grade
- G2** Moderately differentiated — Low Grade
- G3** Poorly differentiated
- G4** Undifferentiated

Note: Ewing's sarcoma is classified as G4.

Stage Grouping

Stage IA	T1	N0	M0	G1, 2 Low grade, GX
Stage IB	T2	N0	M0	G1, 2 Low grade, GX
	T3	N0	M0	G1, 2 Low grade, GX
Stage IIA	T1	N0	M0	G3, 4 High grade
Stage IIB	T2	N0	M0	G3, 4 High grade
Stage III	T3	N0	M0	G3,
Stage IVA	Any T	N0	M1a	Any G
Stage IVB	Any T	N1	Any M	Any G
	Any T	Any N	M1b	Any G

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Table 2

Surgical Staging System (SSS)

Stage	Grade	Site
IA	Low (G1)	Intracompartmental (T1)
IB	Low (G1)	Extracompartmental (T2)
IIA	High (G2)	Intracompartmental (T1)
IIB	High (G2)	Extracompartmental (T2)
III	Any (G) + Regional or distant metastasis	Any (T)

From Enneking WF, Spanier SS, Goodman MA: A system for the surgical staging of musculoskeletal sarcoma. Clin Orthop 1980;153:106-120.

Discussion

This discussion is being updated to correspond with the newly updated algorithm. Last updated on 03/19/10

NCCN Categories of Evidence and Consensus

Category 1: The recommendation is based on high-level evidence (e.g. randomized controlled trials) and there is uniform NCCN consensus.

Category 2A: The recommendation is based on lower-level evidence and there is uniform NCCN consensus.

Category 2B: The recommendation is based on lower-level evidence and there is nonuniform NCCN consensus (but no major disagreement).

Category 3: The recommendation is based on any level of evidence but reflects major disagreement.

All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise noted.

Overview

Primary Bone cancers are extremely rare neoplasms, likely accounting for less than 0.2% of all cancers, although the true incidence is difficult to determine secondary to the rarity of these tumors.^{1,2} In 2009, an estimated 2,570 new cases will be diagnosed in the US and 1,470 people will die from the disease.³ Primary bone cancers demonstrate wide clinical heterogeneity, and, perhaps most importantly, are often curable with proper treatment. Osteosarcoma (35%), chondrosarcoma (30%), and the Ewing's sarcoma (16%) are the three most common forms of bone cancer. Malignant fibrous histiocytoma (MFH) and fibrosarcoma of the bone constitute less than 1% of all primary bone tumors. Chondrosarcoma is usually found in middle-aged and older adults. Osteosarcoma and Ewing's sarcoma develop mainly in children

and young adults. Various types of bone cancers are named based on their histologic origin: chondrosarcomas arise from cartilage, osteosarcomas arise from bone, and fibrogenic tissue is the origin of fibrosarcoma of bone, whereas vascular tissue gives rise to hemangioendothelioma and hemangiopericytoma. Notochordal tissue gives rise to chordoma. Several primary bone cancers, including Ewing's sarcoma family of tumors (ESFT), are of unknown histologic origin.

The pathogenesis and etiology of most bone cancers remains unclear. Gene rearrangements between *EWS* and *ETS* family of genes have been implicated in the pathogenesis of Ewing's sarcomas.⁴⁻⁷ Specific genetic alterations also play a role in osteosarcoma pathogenesis.^{8,9} While trauma is frequently implicated in sarcomas, a cause and effect relationship between a traumatic event and the development of bone cancer has not been identified. There is a quantifiable risk of developing bone sarcomas after therapeutic radiation.^{10,11}

Osteosarcoma is the most common radiation-induced sarcoma. It is also the most common second primary malignancy in patients with a history of retinoblastoma.^{12,13} Li-Fraumeni syndrome is a family cancer syndrome in which there is a germ line mutation of the p53 gene that results in familial sarcomas, including osteosarcoma as well as other sarcomas, early onset of bilateral breast cancer, and several other neoplasms.¹⁴⁻¹⁷

In the past, the diagnosis of osteosarcoma and Ewing's sarcoma was associated with a poor prognosis. A generation ago, Marcove and colleagues described the survival pattern of newly diagnosed patients with osteosarcoma presenting to Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC). Nearly 80% of osteosarcoma patients would develop metastatic disease and ultimately succumb to the disease. All patients with extremity osteosarcomas were treated with amputation. The

development of multi-agent chemotherapy regimens for neoadjuvant and adjuvant treatment has considerably improved the prognosis for patients with osteosarcoma and Ewing's sarcoma. With current multi-modality treatment, approximately three quarters of all patients diagnosed with osteosarcoma are cured. Nearly 90% of adult patients diagnosed with osteosarcoma can be treated successfully with limb-sparing approaches rather than amputation, and progression-free survival (PFS) has been observed in 60-75% of patients with localized Ewing's sarcoma. In both osteosarcoma and Ewing's, a cure is still achievable, even in patients diagnosed with metastatic disease at presentation.¹⁸⁻²⁰

The NCCN Bone cancer guidelines focus on chondrosarcoma, Ewing's sarcoma and osteosarcoma.

Staging

The 2010 American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) staging classification is shown in [Table 1](#). This system is based on the assessment of histologic grade (G), tumor size (T), presence of regional (N) and/or distant metastases (M). The Surgical Staging System (SSS) is another staging system for bone and soft-tissue sarcomas developed by the Musculoskeletal Tumor Society ([Table 2](#)).²¹ This system stratifies both bone and soft-tissue sarcomas by the assessment of the surgical grade (G), local extent (T), and the presence or absence of regional or distant metastases. It may be used in addition to the AJCC staging system.

Principles of Bone Cancer Management

Multidisciplinary Team Involvement

Primary bone tumors and selected metastatic tumors should be evaluated and treated by a multidisciplinary team with demonstrated

expertise in the management of these tumors. Long-term surveillance and follow-up is necessary when considering the risk of recurrence and comorbidities associated with chemotherapy and radiation therapy (RT). Extended therapy and surveillance may be necessary for long term survivors to address potential side effects of surgery, RT and chemotherapy. Patients should be given a survivorship prescription to schedule follow-up with a multidisciplinary team. Fertility issues should be discussed with appropriate patients prior to commencing treatment.²²

Diagnostic Workup

Suspicion of a malignant bone tumor often begins when a poorly marginated lesion is seen on a plain radiograph in a patient with a painful lesion. In patients under 40, an aggressive, painful bone lesion has a significant risk of being a malignant primary bone tumor, and referral to an orthopedic oncologist should be considered prior to further work-up. In patients 40 and over, if plain films and history do not suggest a specific diagnosis, evaluation for a metastatic carcinoma, including chest radiograph, computed tomography (CT) of the chest, abdominal and pelvic, bone scan, mammogram, and other imaging studies as clinically indicated, should be performed.²³

All patients with suspected bone sarcoma should undergo complete staging prior to biopsy. The standard staging work-up for a suspected primary bone sarcoma should include imaging of the chest (chest radiograph or chest CT to detect pulmonary metastases), appropriate imaging of the primary site [plain radiographs, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) for local staging and/or CT scan] and bone scan.²⁴ Imaging of painless bone lesions should be evaluated by a musculoskeletal radiologist followed by appropriate referral to a multidisciplinary treatment team if necessary. Laboratory studies, such

as CBC, lactate dehydrogenase (LDH), alkaline phosphatase (ALP) should be done prior to initiation of treatment.

Positron emission tomography (PET) is an alternative imaging technique that has been utilized in the pretreatment staging of soft-tissue and bone sarcomas.²⁵ Recent reports in literature have demonstrated the utility of PET scans in the evaluation of chemotherapy response in osteosarcoma and ESFT.^{26, 27}

Biopsy

Biopsy should be done using either core needle or surgical biopsy techniques. At the time of biopsy, careful consideration should be given to appropriate stabilization of that bone and/or measures to protect against impending pathologic fracture. Since placement of the biopsy is critical to limb salvage techniques, biopsy should be performed at the center that will provide definitive management of the suspected primary malignant bone tumor.

Surgery

Surgical margins should be negative, wide enough to minimize potential local recurrence, and narrow enough to maximize function. Wide excision implies histologically negative surgical margins and it is necessary to optimize local control. Local tumor control may be achieved either by limb sparing resection or limb amputation. In selected cases, amputation may be the most appropriate option to achieve this goal. However, limb-sparing resection is preferred if reasonable functional outcomes can be achieved. Utilizing pathologic mapping, the response to the preoperative regimen should be evaluated. Consultation with a physical therapist is recommended to evaluate for mobility training and to prescribe an appropriate rehabilitation program.

Chondrosarcoma

Chondrosarcomas characteristically produce cartilage matrix from neoplastic tissue devoid of osteoid and may occur at any age, but are more common in older adults.²⁸⁻³⁰ Conventional chondrosarcoma of the bone constitutes approximately 85% of all chondrosarcomas and are divided as follows: (i) primary or central lesions arising from previously normal-appearing bone preformed from cartilage; (ii) secondary or peripheral tumors that arise or develop from preexisting benign cartilage lesions, such as enchondromas, or from the cartilaginous portion of an osteochondroma.^{29, 31, 32} Malignant transformation has been reported in lesions arising in patients with Ollier's disease (enchondromatosis). Whether the lesion is primary or secondary, central or peripheral, the anatomic location, histologic grade and size of the lesion are essential prognostic features.³³⁻³⁶ The peripheral or secondary tumors are usually low grade with infrequent metastasis.³⁷ In addition to conventional chondrosarcoma, there are several other rare subtypes constituting about 10-15% of all chondrosarcomas.²⁹ These include clear cell, dedifferentiated, myxoid and mesenchymal forms of chondrosarcoma.

Symptoms of chondrosarcoma are usually mild and depend upon tumor size and location. Patients with pelvic or axial lesions typically present later in the disease course, as the associated pain has a more insidious onset and often occurs when the tumor has reached a significant size.^{33,38, 39} Central chondrosarcomas demonstrate cortical destruction and loss of medullary bone trabeculations on radiographs, as well as calcification and destruction.³⁸

MRI will show the intramedullary involvement as well as extraosseous extension of the tumor. Secondary lesions arise from preexisting lesions. Serial radiographs will demonstrate a slow increase in size of

the osteochondroma or enchondroma. A cartilage “cap” measuring greater than two centimeters on a pre-existing lesion or documented growth after skeletal maturity should raise the suspicion of sarcomatous transformation.⁴⁰

Treatment

The histologic grade and tumor locations are the most important variables that determine the choice of the primary treatment. Resectable low-grade and intracompartmental lesions are treated with intralesional excision with or without adjuvant therapy.⁴¹⁻⁴⁴ Wide excision with negative margins is the preferred treatment option for some low-grade lesions because of their larger size and intra-articular or pelvic localization. High-grade (grade II, III, or clear cell) or extracompartmental lesions are treated with wide excision, if resectable, obtaining negative surgical margins.³⁴

Unresectable high and low-grade lesions are treated with RT. Proton beam radiation therapy has been associated with excellent local tumor control and long-term survival in patients with low-grade base of skull chondrosarcomas.^{45, 46}

Chemotherapy is not very effective in chondrosarcomas especially in conventional and dedifferentiated chondrosarcomas. Mitchell and colleagues reported that adjuvant chemotherapy with cisplatin and doxorubicin was associated with improved survival in patients with dedifferentiated chondrosarcoma.⁴⁷ However, this finding could not be confirmed in other studies.⁴⁸⁻⁵⁰ Recently, Cesari and colleagues reported that the addition of chemotherapy improved survival rates in patients with mesenchymal chondrosarcoma.⁵¹ Another report from the German study group also confirmed that the outcome was better in younger patients with mesenchymal chondrosarcoma who received chemotherapy.⁵² Since there have not been any prospective

randomized trials, the role of chemotherapy in the treatment of chondrosarcomas remains undefined.

Conventional chondrosarcoma (grades 1-3) has no established chemotherapy regimens. The NCCN guidelines suggest that dedifferentiated chondrosarcomas could be treated as osteosarcoma and mesenchymal chondrosarcomas could be treated as Ewing’s sarcoma, best approached as a function of their grade. Both of these options have a category 2B recommendation.

Surveillance

Surveillance for low-grade lesions consists of a physical exam; imaging of the lesion and chest radiograph every 6-12 months for 2 years and then yearly as appropriate.

Surveillance for high-grade lesions consists of a physical exam, imaging of the primary site and/or cross-sectional imaging as indicated as well as chest imaging every 3-6 months for the first 5 years and yearly thereafter for a minimum of 10 years, as late metastases and recurrences after 5 years are more common with chondrosarcoma than with other sarcomas.³⁵ Functional assessment should be performed at every visit.

Relapse

Local recurrence or relapse should be treated with wide excision, if the lesions are resectable. RT should be considered following wide excision with positive surgical margins. Negative surgical margins should be observed. Unresectable recurrences are treated with RT.

Surgical excision is an option for systemic relapse of a high grade lesion or patients should be encouraged to participate in a clinical trial.

Ewing's Sarcoma Family of Tumors (ESFT)

ESFT are a group of small round-cell neoplasms which include Ewing's sarcoma, primitive neuroectodermal tumor (PNET), Askin's tumor, PNET of bone, and extraosseous Ewing's sarcoma. Ewing's sarcoma is characterized by the fusion of *EWS* gene on chromosome 22q12 with various members of the *ETS* gene family (*FLI1*, *ERG*, *ETV1*, *ETV4* and *FEV*).^{5, 6} The *EWS-FLI1* fusion transcript resulting from the chromosomal translocation, t(11;22)(q24;q12) is identified in about 85% of Ewing's sarcomas. This translocation is identified in Ewing's sarcoma, primitive neuroectodermal tumor (PNET) and Askin's tumor. Ewing's sarcoma is poorly differentiated and is also characterized by strong expression of cell-surface glycoprotein MIC2 (CD99).^{53, 54} The expression of MIC2 may be useful in the differential diagnosis of Ewing's sarcoma and PNET from other small round-cell neoplasms although it is not exclusively specific for these tumors.⁵⁵

Typically, Ewing's sarcoma occurs in adolescents and young adults. The most common sites of primary Ewing's sarcoma are the femur, pelvic bones, and the bones of chest wall, although any bone may be affected. When arising in a long bone, the diaphysis is the most frequently affected site. On imaging, the bone appears mottled. Periosteal reaction is classic and it is referred to as "onion skin" by radiologists.

Patients with Ewing's sarcoma, as with most patients with bone sarcomas, seek attention because of localized pain or swelling. Unlike other bone sarcomas, constitutional symptoms such as fever, weight loss, and fatigue are occasionally noted at presentation. Abnormal laboratory studies may include elevated serum LDH and leukocytosis.

The important indicators of favorable prognosis include a distal site of primary disease, normal serum lactic acid dehydrogenase (LDH) level

at presentation, and the absence of metastatic disease at the time of presentation.⁵⁶⁻⁵⁸ Nearly one quarter of these patients present with metastatic disease, which is the most significant adverse prognostic factor in Ewing's sarcoma, as it is for other bone sarcomas.^{59, 60} Lungs, bones, and bone marrow are the most common sites of metastasis. In a retrospective analysis of 975 patients from the European Intergroup Cooperative Ewing's Sarcoma Study (EICESS) Group, 5-year RFS was 22% for patients with metastatic at diagnosis compared with 55% for patients without metastases at diagnosis.⁶⁰ The results of the Intergroup Ewing's Sarcoma Study analyzing the clinicopathologic features of 303 cases of Ewing's sarcoma showed that patients with primary tumors in pelvic bones have the lowest survival compared to those with lesions in distal bones of the extremities.⁶¹

Workup

If ESFT is suspected as a diagnosis, the patient should undergo complete staging prior to biopsy. This should include CT of the chest, plain radiographs of the primary site as well as a CT or MRI of the entire involved bone or area, PET scan and/or bone scan. MRI of spine and pelvis should be considered. An ongoing diagnostic study is comparing whole-body MRI and conventional imaging for detecting distant metastases in pediatric patients with ESFT, Hodgkin's lymphoma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, rhabdomyosarcoma and neuroblastoma (www.cancer.gov/clinicaltrials/ACRIN-6660).

Cytogenetic analysis of the biopsy specimen should be obtained to evaluate the t(11;22) translocation. Preliminary reports suggest that *EWS-FLI1* translocation is associated with a better prognosis than other variants.⁶²⁻⁶⁴ However, this has to be evaluated in large clinical trials. Bone marrow biopsy should be considered to complete the workup. Since serum LDH has been shown to have prognostic value as a tumor

marker, NCCN Bone cancer guidelines have included this test as part of initial evaluation ([EW-1](#)). Fertility consultation should be considered for women of child-bearing age and men.

Primary Treatment

Multiagent chemotherapy regimens including ifosfamide and/or cyclophosphamide, etoposide, doxorubicin and/or dactinomycin, and vincristine have been shown to be effective in patients with localized Ewing's sarcoma in single-institution as well as multi-institutional collaborative trials in the US and Europe.^{65, 66}

The Intergroup Ewing's Sarcoma Studies (IESS-I and IESS-II) showed that the four-drug regimen VACD (vincristine, dactinomycin, cyclophosphamide and doxorubicin) was superior to the three-drug regimen VAC (vincristine, dactinomycin and cyclophosphamide) in terms of relapse-free survival (RFS) (60% vs. 24%) and overall survival (OS).^{67, 68}

In the Pediatric Oncology Group-Children's Cancer Group (POG-CCG) study (INT-0091), patients with Ewing's sarcoma or PNET of bone were randomized to receive chemotherapy with either VACD alone or alternating with ifosfamide and etoposide (VACD-IE) for a total of 17 cycles.⁶⁹ In patients with nonmetastatic disease, the five-year event-free survival (EFS) rate was 69% in the VACD-IE group as compared with 54% in the VACD alone group. OS was also significantly better among patients in the VACD-IE group (72% vs. 61% in the VACD group). However, the addition of ifosfamide and etoposide to VACD did not improve outcomes of patients with Ewing's sarcoma or PNET of bone with metastases at diagnosis.⁷⁰ Kolb et al. from MSKCC also reported similar findings.⁷¹ The 4-year EFS and OS rates for patients with local-regional disease were 82% and 89% respectively. In

patients with distant metastases the corresponding survival rates were 12% and 17.8% respectively.

The EICESS-92 study investigated whether cyclophosphamide has a similar efficacy as ifosfamide in standard-risk patients and whether the addition of etoposide improves survival in high-risk patients with Ewing's sarcoma. Standard-risk patients (small tumors) were randomly assigned to VAIA (vincristine, dactinomycin, ifosfamide, and doxorubicin) followed by either VAIA or VACA (vincristine, dactinomycin, cyclophosphamide, and doxorubicin).⁷² High-risk patients (large tumors or metastatic disease at diagnosis) were randomly assigned to VAIA or VAIA plus etoposide (EVAIA). In the SR patients the 3-year EFS rates for VACA and VAIA were 73% and 74% respectively. In the high-risk patients the 3-year EFS rates were for EVAIA and VAIA were 52% and 47% respectively. The results of this study suggest that cyclophosphamide has the same efficacy as ifosfamide in standard-risk patients. The EFS rates in the high-risk group, though not statistically significant, indicate there is a suggestive benefit of adding etoposide to ifosfamide.

The European Ewing tumour Working Initiative of National Groups 1999 (EURO-EWING 99) study is designed to evaluate the efficacy and safety of combination chemotherapy with or without peripheral stem cell transplantation, RT and/or surgery in patients with Ewing's sarcoma. In this study, six courses of vincristine, ifosfamide, doxorubicin, and etoposide (VIDE) is administered as an intensive induction chemotherapy for patients with ESFT.⁷³

NCCN Recommendations

All patients with Ewing's sarcoma are treated with the following protocol: primary treatment followed by local control therapy and adjuvant treatment. Primary treatment consists of multiagent

chemotherapy along with appropriate growth factor support for 12-24 weeks. See NCCN Guidelines for Myeloid Growth Factors in Cancer Treatment for growth factor support. For localized Ewing's sarcoma, VAC/IE given on an every 2 week schedule was found to be more effective than VAC/IE given on an every 3 week schedule. Median 3-year EFS was 76% and 65% respectively.⁷⁴

The NCCN guidelines have included the following regimens for first-line therapy (primary/neoadjuvant/adjuvant) for patients with localized disease or metastatic disease at presentation:

- VAC/IE (vincristine, doxorubicin and cyclophosphamide alternating with ifosfamide and etoposide)⁶⁹
- VIDE (vincristine, ifosfamide, doxorubicin, and etoposide)⁷²
- VIA (vincristine, ifosfamide and doxorubicin)⁷²

The guidelines recommend the combination of cyclophosphamide, vincristine and doxorubicin (without the alternating cycle of ifosfamide and etoposide) as the preferred option for the treatment for primary metastatic disease at presentation.^{70, 71} VAC/IE, VIDE and VIA regimens are included as alternative treatment options.

Patients should be restaged following primary treatment with an MRI of the lesion and chest imaging. PET scan and/or bone scan can be used for restaging depending on the imaging technique that was used in the initial workup. Patients responding to primary treatment should be treated with local control therapy. Local control options include wide excision with or without preoperative RT,^{75, 76} definitive RT with chemotherapy or amputation in selected cases. Adjuvant chemotherapy with or without RT is recommended (regardless of surgical margins) following local control treatment (surgery or RT). The panel strongly

recommends that the duration of chemotherapy should be between 28 and 49 weeks depending on the type of regimen and the dosing schedule (category 1).

Progressive disease following primary treatment is best managed with RT with or without surgery followed by chemotherapy or best supportive care.

Surveillance

Surveillance of patients with Ewing's sarcoma consists of a physical exam, chest and local imaging every 2-3 months.^{77, 78} Surveillance intervals should be increased after 2 years. Long-term surveillance should be performed annually after 5 years.

Treatment for Relapsed or Refractory Disease

About 30%-40% of patients with Ewing's sarcoma experience recurrence (local and/or distant) and have a very poor prognosis. The timing and type of recurrence are the important prognostic factors. Patients with longer time to first recurrence have a better chance of survival following recurrence. Late relapse (2 years or more after diagnosis), lung only metastases, local recurrence that can be treated with radical surgery and intensive chemotherapy are the most favorable prognostic factors, whereas early relapses (less than 2 years after diagnosis) with metastases in lungs and/or other sites, recurrence at local and distant sites, elevated LDH at initial diagnosis and initial recurrence are considered as adverse prognostic factors.⁷⁹⁻⁸¹

Ifosfamide in combination with etoposide with or without carboplatin has been evaluated in clinical trials for the treatment of patients with relapsed or refractory sarcoma.^{82, 83} In phase II study, the combination of ifosfamide with mesna and etoposide was highly active with acceptable toxicity in the treatment of recurrent sarcomas in children

and young adults.⁸² In phase I/II studies conducted by the Children's Cancer Group, the overall response rate in patients with recurrent or refractory sarcoma was 51%; OS at 1 and 2 years was 49% and 28%, respectively. OS appeared significantly improved in patients who had CR or PR.⁸³

Docetaxel in combination with gemcitabine was found to be well tolerated and demonstrated antitumor activity in the treatment of children and young adults with refractory bone sarcoma.⁸⁴ Topoisomerase I inhibitors, topotecan⁸⁵⁻⁸⁸ and irinotecan⁸⁹⁻⁹¹ in combination with cyclophosphamide and temozolomide respectively have shown promising response rates in patients with relapsed or refractory solid tumors. Cyclophosphamide and topotecan produced 44% response rate (35% of patients had complete response and 9% had partial response) in patients with recurrent or refractory Ewing's sarcoma.⁸⁶ After a median follow-up of 23.1 months, 25.9% of patients were in continuous remission. In retrospective analysis of patients with recurrent or progressive Ewing's sarcoma treated with irinotecan and temozolomide at the MSKCC, the median time-to-progression (TTP) was 8.3 months.⁸⁹ In the subset of patients with recurrent disease, it was 16.2 months. Median TTP was better for patients who were in a 2-year first remission and for those with primary localized disease than for those who relapsed within 2 years from diagnosis and for patients with metastatic disease at diagnosis.

Inhibition of insulin-like growth factor-1 receptor (IGF1R) may be an interesting approach in the treatment of some subtypes of sarcomas. Monoclonal antibodies such as figitumumab and R1507 have demonstrated safety and suggested possible efficacy in early phase trials in patients with relapsed or refractory sarcomas including Ewing's sarcoma.

High dose chemotherapy with stem cell rescue (HDT/SCR) has been evaluated in patients with relapsed or progressive Ewing's sarcoma in several small studies.⁹²⁻⁹⁸ The role of this approach in high-risk patients is yet to be determined in prospective randomized studies.

NCCN Recommendations

Treatment options for patients with relapsed or refractory disease include participation in a clinical trial, chemotherapy with or without RT. If a relapse is delayed, as sometimes occurs with this sarcoma, re-treating with previously effective regimen may be useful. The NCCN guidelines have included the following regimens as options for patients with relapsed or refractory disease:

- Cyclophosphamide and topotecan
- Temozolomide and irinotecan
- Ifosfamide and etoposide
- Ifosfamide, carboplatin and etoposide
- Docetaxel and gemcitabine

All patients with recurrent and metastatic disease should be considered for clinical trials investigating new treatment approaches.

Osteosarcoma

Osteosarcoma is the most common primary malignant bone tumor in children and young adults.¹ The median age for all osteosarcoma patients is 20 years. There are eleven known variants of osteosarcoma with quite variable natural histories. Classic osteosarcoma comprises nearly 80% of osteosarcoma and is always a high-grade spindle cell tumor that produces osteoid or immature bone. The most frequent sites for this cancer are the metaphyseal areas of the distal femur or proximal tibia, which are the sites of maximum growth. While most osteosarcomas are medullary and high grade, parosteal lesions are

juxtacortical and occur most often in the posterior distal femur. This variant tends to metastasize later than the classic form and is low in histologic grade. Another juxtacortical variant is periosteal osteosarcomas, which most often involve the femur followed by the tibia and behave with a severity that is intermediate between that of the parosteal and classic lesions.⁹⁹ Other variants include osteosarcoma secondary to Paget's disease or prior irradiation. Patients with retinoblastoma are also at increased risk for developing a very aggressive variant of osteosarcoma.

Pain and swelling are the most frequent early symptoms. Pain in the beginning is often intermittent and a thorough workup sometimes is delayed because symptoms may be confused with growing pains. Osteosarcoma spreads hematogenously, with the lung being the most common metastatic site.

Tumor site and size, presence and location of metastases, histologic response to chemotherapy and complete resection with negative margins are significant prognostic factors for patients with osteosarcoma of the extremities and trunk.^{100, 101} Patients with one or a few resectable pulmonary metastases have a survival rate that approaches that of patients with no metastatic disease.

In an analysis of 1,702 patients with osteosarcoma treated with neoadjuvant chemotherapy in cooperative study group protocols, axial tumor site, male sex, and a long history of symptoms were associated with poor response to chemotherapy. Patient age and location within the limb had significant influence on outcome at the time of diagnosis.¹⁰⁰ All factors except age were significant in multivariate testing, with surgical remission and histologic response to chemotherapy emerging as the key prognostic factors. Elevated serum LDH level is also associated with a worse prognosis. Bacci et al.

reported on 1421 patients with osteosarcoma of the extremity treated over a 30 year period. In this cohort, serum level of LDH was significantly higher in patients with metastatic disease at presentation than in patients with localized disease and the 5-year disease-free survival (DFS) rate was 39.5% and 60% respectively.¹⁰² The 5-year DFS correlated with serum level of LDH at univariate and multivariate analysis (39.5% for patients with high LDH levels and 60% for those with normal values), although it lost its significance when histologic response to chemotherapy was also considered in the multivariate analysis.

Workup

Osteosarcomas present both a local problem and a concern for distant metastasis. Imaging of the primary lesions is accomplished with plain radiographs, MRI, and/or CT and bone scan. PET scan can also be considered. Plain radiographs of osteosarcomas show cortical destruction and irregular reactive bone formation. Bone scan, while uniformly abnormal at the lesion, may be useful to identify additional synchronous lesions. MRI provides excellent soft-tissue contrast and may be essential for operative planning. MRI is the best imaging modality to define the extent of the lesion within the bone as well as within the soft tissues, to detect "skip" metastases and to evaluate anatomic relationships with the surrounding structures. In addition, ALP and LDH are frequently elevated in patients with osteosarcoma.

Primary Treatment

While surgery remains an essential part of management of patients with osteosarcoma, the addition of adjuvant and neoadjuvant chemotherapy regimens has improved outcomes in patients with localized osteosarcoma. Early trials used multiagent chemotherapy regimens including at least three or more of the following drugs: doxorubicin,

cisplatin, bleomycin, cyclophosphamide or ifosfamide, dactinomycin and high dose methotrexate.^{103-106,107-110} The updated results of the randomized Multi-Institutional Osteosarcoma Study (MIOS) showed that 6-year EFS was significantly higher in patients randomized to adjuvant chemotherapy than those assigned to observation only following surgery (61% and 11% respectively).¹⁰⁹

Subsequent clinical trials have demonstrated that short intensive chemotherapy regimens produce excellent long-term results, similar to those that have been achieved with multiagent chemotherapy.¹¹¹⁻¹¹³ In a randomized trial conducted by the European Osteosarcoma group, the combination of doxorubicin and cisplatin was better tolerated compared to a multi-drug regimen with no difference in survival between the groups in patients with operable, non-metastatic osteosarcoma.¹¹³ The 3- year and 5-year OS rates were 65% and 55% respectively in both groups. PFS at 5 years was 44% in both groups. In a phase II-III trial, high dose ifosfamide in combination with etoposide was effective as induction therapy in patients with newly diagnosed metastatic osteosarcoma despite significant myelosuppression, infection and renal toxicity.¹¹⁴ The overall response rate was 59%. The projected 2-year PFS rate for patients with metastases to lung was 39%. The corresponding survival rate for patients with bone metastases (with or without pulmonary metastases) was 58%. The combination of cisplatin, ifosfamide and epirubicin was also active and reasonably well-tolerated regimen in patients with nonmetastatic extremity osteosarcoma.¹¹⁵ With a median follow-up of 64 months, the 5-year DFS and OS rates were 41.9% and 48.2% respectively.

Although neoadjuvant chemotherapy is associated with an improved prognosis in patients with high-grade localized osteosarcoma, the results were significantly poorer in patients with metastatic disease at presentation.^{103, 116, 117} Two-year EFS and OS rates were 21% and 55%,

respectively compared to 75% and 94% in patients with non-metastatic disease at presentation, treated with the same chemotherapy protocol.¹⁰³ Good histopathological response (greater than 90% necrosis) to neoadjuvant chemotherapy has been shown to be predictive of survival regardless of the type of chemotherapy administered after surgery.^{102,118} In an analysis of 881 patients with non-metastatic osteosarcoma of the extremities treated with neoadjuvant chemotherapy and surgery at the at the Rizzoli Institute, Bacci et al. showed that the 5-year DFS and OS correlated significantly with histological response to chemotherapy.¹¹⁹ Five-year DFS and OS in good and poor responders were 67.9% vs. 51.3% (P < 0.0001) and 78.4% versus 63.7% (P < 0.0001) respectively. A report from the Children's Cancer Group also confirmed these findings. Eight-year postoperative EFS and OS rates were 81% and 87% respectively in good responders to neoadjuvant therapy.¹¹⁸ The corresponding survival rates were 46% and 52% respectively in poor responders. However, attempts to improve the outcome of poor responders by modifying the adjuvant chemotherapy remain unsuccessful.¹⁰⁵

The safety and efficacy of HDT/SCR in patients with newly diagnosed metastatic osteosarcoma or relapsed osteosarcoma has also been evaluated.^{120, 121} In the Italian sarcoma group study, treatment with carboplatin and etoposide followed by stem cell rescue, combined with surgery induced complete response in chemosensitive patients.¹²¹ Transplant-related mortality was 3.1%. The 3-year OS and DFS rates were 20% and 12% respectively. The efficacy of this approach in high risk patients is yet to be determined in prospective randomized studies.

NCCN Recommendations

Wide excision is the primary treatment for patients with low-grade (intramedullary and surface) osteosarcomas, whereas preoperative chemotherapy is preferred for those with high-grade osteosarcoma



(category 1) and periosteal lesions, prior to wide excision. Selected elderly patients may benefit from immediate surgery.

Following wide excision (for resectable lesions), postoperative chemotherapy is recommended for patients with low-grade or periosteal sarcomas with pathologic findings of high grade disease. For high-grade osteosarcoma, following wide excision, patients with a good histologic response should continue to receive several more cycles of the same chemotherapy, whereas patients with a poor response should be considered for chemotherapy with a different regimen. RT followed by adjuvant chemotherapy is recommended if the sarcoma remains unresectable following preoperative chemotherapy.

Chemotherapy can be given intra-arterially or intravenously^{122, 123} and should include appropriate growth factor support. NCCN Guidelines for Myeloid Growth Factors in Cancer Treatment for growth factor support. The NCCN guidelines have included the following regimens for first-line therapy (primary/neoadjuvant/adjuvant) in patients with localized disease or primary therapy for metastatic disease:

- Cisplatin and doxorubicin
- MAP (High-dose methotrexate, cisplatin and doxorubicin)
- Doxorubicin, cisplatin, ifosfamide and high-dose methotrexate
- Ifosfamide and etoposide
- Ifosfamide, cisplatin and epirubicin

Surveillance

Once treatment is completed, surveillance should occur every 3 months for 2 years, then every 4 months for year 3, and then every 6 months for years 4 and 5 and yearly thereafter. Examination should include a complete physical, chest imaging, and plain film of the extremity. Chest CT should be done if the plain chest radiograph becomes abnormal.

Bone scan (category 2B) may also be considered in this case. Functional reassessment should be performed at every visit.

Treatment for Relapsed or Refractory Disease

About 30% of patients with localized disease and 80% of the patients presenting with metastatic disease will relapse. The presence of solitary metastases and complete resectability of the disease at first recurrence have been reported to be the most important prognostic indicators for improved survival, whereas patients not amenable to surgery and those with a second or a third recurrence have a poor prognosis.^{124, 125}

The combination of etoposide with cyclophosphamide or ifosfamide has been evaluated in clinical trials.^{126, 127} In a phase II trial of French Society of Pediatric Oncology, ifosfamide and etoposide resulted in a response rate of 48% in patients with relapsed or refractory osteosarcoma.¹²⁷ In another phase II trial, cyclophosphamide and etoposide resulted in 19% response rate and 35% of stable disease in patients with relapsed high-risk osteosarcoma.¹²⁶ PFS at 4 months was 42%. Single agent gemcitabine and combination regimens such as docetaxel and gemcitabine, cyclophosphamide and topotecan, ifosfamide, carboplatin and etoposide have been effective in the treatment of patients with relapsed or refractory bone sarcomas.^{83, 84, 88, 128}

Samarium-153 ethylene diamine tetramethylene phosphonate (¹⁵³Sm-EDTMP), a bone-seeking radiopharmaceutical has been evaluated in patients with locally recurrent or metastatic osteosarcoma or skeletal metastases.^{129, 130} Andersen et al. have reported that ¹⁵³Sm-EDTMP with peripheral-blood progenitor cell (PBPC) support had low non-hematologic toxicity and provided pain palliation for patients with osteosarcoma local recurrences or osteoblastic bone metastases.¹²⁹ Results of a recent dose-finding study also

demonstrated that ^{153}Sm -EDTMP can be effective in the treatment of patients with high-risk osteosarcoma.¹³⁰

NCCN Recommendations

The optimal treatment strategy for patients with relapsed or metastatic disease has yet to be defined. If relapse occurs, the patient should receive second-line chemotherapy and/or surgical resection. Surveillance is recommended for patients who responded to second-line therapy. The NCCN guidelines have included the following regimens as options for patients with relapsed or refractory disease:

- Docetaxel and gemcitabine
- Cyclophosphamide and etoposide
- Cyclophosphamide and topotecan
- Gemcitabine
- Ifosfamide and etoposide
- Ifosfamide, carboplatin and etoposide
- High-dose methotrexate, etoposide and ifosfamide

Patients with progressive disease following second-line therapy should be treated with resection, RT for palliation or best supportive care. Participation in a clinical trial should be strongly encouraged. The guidelines have also included ^{153}Sm -EDTMP as one of the treatment options for relapsed disease following second-line therapy.

Summary

Primary bone cancers are extremely rare neoplasms. Osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, and Ewing's sarcoma are the three most common forms of primary bone cancer.

Chondrosarcoma is usually found in middle-aged and older adults. Wide excision is the preferred treatment for resectable low and high

grade chondrosarcomas. Intralesional excision with or without adjuvant therapy is an alternative option for low grade lesions. In small series of reports, the addition of chemotherapy has improved outcomes in patients with mesenchymal chondrosarcomas. However, the role of chemotherapy in the treatment of chondrosarcomas still is not defined.

Ewing's sarcoma is characterized by a chromosomal translocation, t(11;22) resulting in the fusion of *EWS* gene with various members of the *ETS* family of genes. It develops mainly in children and young adults. Multiagent chemotherapy is the primary treatment for patients with Ewing's sarcoma. Patients responding to primary treatment are treated with local control therapy (surgery or radiation) followed by adjuvant chemotherapy. Progressive disease is best managed with RT with or without surgery followed by chemotherapy or best supportive care.

Osteosarcoma occurs mainly in children and young adults. Wide excision is the primary treatment for patients with low-grade osteosarcomas, whereas preoperative chemotherapy is preferred for high-grade osteosarcoma and periosteal lesions, prior to wide excision. Following wide excision (for resectable lesions), postoperative chemotherapy is recommended for patients with low-grade or periosteal sarcomas with pathologic findings of high grade disease and those with high-grade sarcoma. RT followed by adjuvant chemotherapy is recommended if the sarcoma remains unresectable after preoperative chemotherapy. Patients with relapsed or refractory disease should be treated with second-line therapy. Participation in a clinical trial should be strongly encouraged for patients with progressive disease following second-line therapy.

The development of multi-agent chemotherapy regimens for neoadjuvant and adjuvant treatment has considerably improved the



prognosis for patients with osteosarcoma and Ewing's sarcoma. A small subset of patients diagnosed with metastatic disease at presentation can be cured with the proper choice of treatment. Consistent with the NCCN philosophy, the panel encourages patients to participate in well-designed clinical trials to enable further advances.



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Discussion
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