A Retrospective Case Series of Synovial Sarcoma of the Upper Extremity

J. Post,1 M. Houdek,2 A. L. Folpe,2 S. K. Kakar,2 and B. K. Wilke3

1Beacon Memorial Hospital, South Bend, IN, USA
2Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, USA
3Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville, FL, USA

Correspondence should be addressed to B. K. Wilke; wilke.benjamin@mayo.edu

Received 27 February 2019; Revised 29 June 2019; Accepted 14 July 2019; Published 1 August 2019

Academic Editor: Alexander Lazar

Copyright © 2019 J. Post et al. This is an open access article distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

Purpose. Previous studies have grouped the treatment of axial and appendicular synovial sarcomas. The purpose of this study was to assess the prognostic variables of upper extremity synovial sarcomas (UESS) and compare the outcomes of those who underwent a nononcologic or inadvertent excision prior to definitive resection to those who underwent an initial oncologic resection.

Methods. We reviewed the records of 23 UESS treated with definitive surgery at our institution between 1990 and 2014. There were 13 women and 10 men with a median age of 30 years (6–60) and median follow-up of 63 months (15–248). Prognostic variables, recurrence-free survival (RFS), and overall survival (OS) were then assessed.

Results. Fifteen patients (65%) had a prior unplanned excision. Five patients required an amputation to obtain local control of disease. Three observed local recurrences and 2 distant metastases at a median of 45 months from presentation. We found no difference in need for amputation, RFS, or OS between those who had undergone a planned excision and those who had an unplanned excision. Conclusion. While we were unable to find a significant difference in outcomes or amputation rates between those who underwent reexcision of a previously unplanned excision and those who underwent an initial planned resection, the high rate of unplanned excision is troubling and should remind practitioners to consider sarcoma in the differential of all upper extremity masses.

1. Introduction

Soft tissue sarcomas of the upper extremity are a rare, heterogeneous group of malignancies. A 2003 epidemiology assessment of upper extremity tumors over a 25 year period found an annual incidence of approximately 2.2 soft tissue sarcomas per million persons in the United States [1]. Undifferentiated pleomorphic sarcoma (UPS) (formerly termed malignant fibrous histiocytoma (MFH)) has been the most common subtype reported in the largest upper extremity series, but age, race, and anatomic location have all been correlated to subtype incidence [1, 2]. Synovial sarcoma is a high-grade soft tissue sarcoma with significant metastatic potential, with main histologic subtypes including monophasic and biphasic types. Despite its name, it is generally a deep-seated extra-articular sarcoma occurring in the extremities of young adult patients [3]. Over 90% are characterized by a t (X; 18) (p11; q11) chromosomal translocation which produces the SS18-SSX1 or SS18-SSX2 fusion genes that can be detected by various cytogenetic or molecular genetic techniques, increasing the diagnostic accuracy [4].

Previous studies have attempted to identify prognostic variables associated with clinical outcomes in synovial sarcoma. Age [5–10], location [7, 11–14], size [8, 9, 11, 13–16], clinical stage [6, 8, 13, 15], histologic subtype [6, 7, 11, 17], fusion type [18–21], French Federation of Cancer Centers (FNCLCC) grade [22] surgical margin obtained [8, 12], and use of radiotherapy [6] have been previously reported as having an effect on prognosis but with conflicting results. Similar to other sarcomas, tumor stage and size have been identified as the most important prognostic factors of synovial sarcoma [18]. Metastatic progression of disease has been reported in 38% to 48% of cases, with the lung and regional...
lymph basins as the most common locations [7, 15, 17]. Modern multimodal (combination of surgery, radiation, or chemotherapy) treatment regimens report 5-year overall survivorship between 10% and 76%, with worse outcomes in patients presenting with metastatic disease [5–9, 15, 19, 21].

Given the rarity of synovial sarcoma, most previous studies have grouped all anatomic sites or combined both upper and lower extremity sarcomas. Better outcomes of hand and upper extremity sarcomas compared to axial locations have been reported [23], as has improved prognosis for small (less than 1 centimeter) hand and foot synovial sarcomas [16]. This may be in part related to the fascial compartments within the upper extremity that may limit tumor spread. Similarly, worse outcomes and more extensive salvage surgery have been reported with unplanned excisions of axial and appendicular synovial sarcomas performed at a nonspecialized facility [8, 13, 24]. The aim of this study is to examine synovial sarcomas isolated to the upper extremity to identify recurrence-free survival (RFS), overall survival (OS), and the associated prognostic variables. Specifically, we sought to compare the outcomes of primarily excised upper extremity synovial sarcoma with those who had had an unplanned or nononcologic surgery.

2. Materials and Methods

Following the institutional review board approval, we retrospectively reviewed the records of 328 patients with primary upper extremity sarcomas from our tumor database between 1990 and 2014. Thirty-six upper extremity synovial sarcomas were identified. We included patients who had definitive surgery at our institution and had a minimum of 12-month follow-up. We excluded those patients whose pathology was only reviewed at our institution but received definitive surgery/adjuvant treatments elsewhere or who had less than 12-month follow-up, leaving us with 23 patients for analysis.

All surgeries were performed by fellowship-trained orthopedic oncology and/or hand surgeons experienced in upper extremity sarcoma treatment principles. We defined a wide margin of excision in the upper extremity, based on the principles described by Enneking, as an en bloc resection with an anatomic barrier of uninvolved tissue such as fascia, paratenon, or periosteum outside the reactive zone. A marginal resection was defined as an excision through the reactive or inflammatory zone of the tumor [24]. Unplanned surgeries were defined as intralesional or excisional biopsies that were performed in a nononcologic manner (where no margin of normal tissue was taken around the tumor) [25]. Planned, definitive resections were those that had had adequate local imaging and were resected with a border of normal tissue defined previously as wide or had undergone core needle biopsy to obtain a definitive histopathologic diagnosis prior to resection. Upper extremity location was defined as shoulder girdle to finger-tip. Based on the previous work, 5 cm was used as a size threshold to differentiate large from small tumors [6, 11]. Maximal tumor size was recorded. Superficial and deep locations were defined with respect to the level of the investing fascia. Tumors were graded using the French Federation of Cancer Centers (FNCLCC) grading system; Grades 2 and 3 tumors were considered “high grade” for the purposes of this study [22].

All patients underwent magnetic resonance cross-sectional imaging (MRI) of the affected site and staging with chest computed tomography (CT). Positron emission tomography (PET) and sentinel lymph node biopsy (SLNB) were utilized selectively based on clinical nodal examination and risk stratification. The American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) staging system was used to stage all patients when sufficient data were available [26]. There were 13 females and 10 males in our cohort with a median age of 30 years (range 6–60 years). The most common location was the hand and wrist (7 patients, 30%) followed by the forearm (5 patients, 22%) (Figure 1).

Resection for cure was the primary surgical goal, and negative margins were obtained in all primary cases as well as in reexcisions in those patients who had an inadequate initial excision. Median follow-up was 63 months (range 15–248). Local, regional, and distant recurrences were defined as either objective clinical, radiographic, or histologic findings as determined by the treating physician. Patients were followed with the clinical exam, contrast-enhanced magnetic resonance imaging, and chest computed tomography every 4 months for the first two years, every 6 months from years 2–5, and annually thereafter for surveillance. All available histologic specimens (18 of 23 cases) were reviewed and confirmed as synovial sarcoma by a musculoskeletal pathologist (ALF) using published diagnostic criteria [4].

Continuous variables were compared using unpaired Student’s T-tests, and categorical variables were compared with the Fisher Exact tests. The Kaplan–Meier survival method was used to estimate overall and recurrence-free survival. Proportional hazard regression analysis was performed to assess the association of covariates with the risk of recurrence. All calculations were made with statistical significance set at a p value < 0.05.

3. Results

Clinicopathologic demographics can be found in Tables 1 and 2. There were 8 patients who underwent planned excision at our institution and 15 patients who had had a nononcologic resection or unplanned surgery prior to definitive reexcision at our institution. We found no differences in patient age, sex, tumor depth, tumor volume, presence of metastases at presentation, or the need for amputation to obtain local control between groups. All tumors were high grade, and thirteen patients (57%) demonstrated monophasic histology (demonstrating only spindle cells). Fifteen (65%) were deep to the fascia. Only four tumors were >5 cm. There was one case of osseous invasion of the metacarpal and no cases of vascular invasion. Fourteen patients (61%) were AJCC stage II at presentation (high grade, tumor size <5 cm, no nodal, or distant metastases).

After risk stratification by a multispecialty team comprised of medical/radiation/orthopedic oncologists, eight
Two patients (9%) died of disease. Local recurrence was with metastases died of their disease at a mean of 6 months. The other patients after resection. He underwent metastasectomy and is alive with no evidence of disease at 17.5 years. Another patient in the unplanned excision group developed pulmonary metastases at 40 months with metastatic disease. The patient in the unplanned excision group underwent intraoperative radiation (median 1,000 cGy), and four patients were treated with additional brachytherapy (median 1,500 cGy). The decision to employ these intraoperative adjuvants was made by the treating surgeon and radiation oncologist.

In our cohort, we did not find RFS to be affected by the previous unplanned surgery (p = 0.46). Similarly, RFS was not found to be affected by age, neoadjuvant therapies, intraoperative radiation, brachytherapy, tumor depth, tumor size, wide resection, or histologic subtype (p > 0.05). Administration of postoperative chemotherapy was the only factor found to be associated with recurrence-free survival (p = 0.002) (Table 3).

One patient in each subgroup went on to develop pulmonary metastases following surgical resection. One additional patient in the planned resection cohort presented with metastatic disease. The patient in the unplanned excision group developed pulmonary metastases at 40 months after resection. He underwent metastasectomy and is alive with no evidence of disease at 17.5 years. The other patients with metastases died of their disease at a mean of 6 months. Two patients (9%) died of disease. Local recurrence was observed in 3 patients (13%). The mean time from surgical resection until recurrence was 45 months (15–84). We found no difference in 5- and 10-year RFS between groups (p = 0.45). The RFS for unplanned excisions was 92% at 5 years and 79% at 10 years compared to 75% at both 5 and 10 years for planned surgeries (Figure 2). Although not reaching statistical significance, metastases at presentation and distal recurrence (metastases) correlated with a worse overall survival (Table 4). Overall survival for all patients was 91% at both 5 and 10 years.

There were six patients (23%) with reported treatment complications. Three soft tissue contractures developed requiring surgical release and flexor tenosynovectomy (two thenar web spaces and one carpal tunnel). There were two infections requiring further operative debridement and two painful neuroma formations requiring neuroectomy (common digital nerve and superficial sensory branch of the radial nerve).

4. Discussion

Previous studies have examined prognostic variables associated with synovial sarcoma, but most of these studies have grouped all anatomic sites together [5–9, 11, 12, 15–20]. Similarly, previous studies have looked at the effect of unplanned excisions of soft tissue sarcoma on prognosis, but most of these studies have grouped low- and high-grade tumors with heterogeneous subtypes and locations [25–31]. The median age of our upper extremity series was 30 years (6–60) which is consistent with previous large series which found the incidence highest in the 4th decade [6, 7, 9, 11, 13].

Despite the varied prognostic factors previously described [5–17], most series have found that young patients with <5 cm lesions in the extremities have better long-term survival than large, axial-based tumors in older individuals [4, 5, 9, 10]. These factors have led some to create multimodal treatment arms utilizing surgical excision, chemotherapies, and irradiation based on preoperative nomograms [14, 32]. In our series, eight patients received neoadjuvant chemotherapy. Doxorubicin and ifosfamide were the most common regimens utilized. Postoperative chemotherapy was found to statistically affect recurrent-free survival (p = 0.002), but this was likely a result of selection bias in high-risk patients.

We observed an overall local recurrence rate of 13% at a median of 63 months, similar to studies by Choong et al. [8] and Lewis et al. [15], which demonstrated a 10 and 12% 5-year recurrence rates, respectively, but substantially lower than the 30% local recurrence rate observed by Ferrari et al. [9]. Two local recurrences occurred in the planned excision subgroup and one in the reexcision group. While we observed a trend towards a lower risk of local recurrence in the unplanned excision group, this was not statistically significant and likely is a reflection of the more superficial location of these tumors compared to the planned resection cohort. Finally, pulmonary metastases at presentation were low (4%) which is similar to the 6% observed in the largest single institution series of 271 patients by Ferrari et al. [9].
Table 1: Clinicopathologic demographics of patients who underwent an unplanned excision of an upper extremity synovial sarcoma.

| Case | Age (years) | Sex | Location         | Size  | Depth | Stage | Surgical treatment | Adjuvant treatments | Local recurrence | Mets | Follow-up (months) | Outcome |
|------|-------------|-----|------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|------|-------------------|---------|
| 1    | 30          | Male| Elbow            | <5 cm | Deep  | IIA   | Wide reexcision    | Brachytherapy      | No               | No   | 155               | ANED    |
| 2    | 40          | Female| Thenar eminence | <5 cm | Superficial  | IIA | Wide reexcision FDS/FDP/ABP resection Tendon transfers | Chemotherapy | No | No | 248 | ANED     |
| 3    | 57          | Male| Index finger     | Unknown | Deep | Unknown | Ray resection index/long fingers | None | No | No | 16 | ANED     |
| 4    | 55          | Female| Brachial plexus | Unknown | Deep | IIA | Wide resection, pectoralis flap | None | No | No | 161 | ANED    |
| 5    | 22          | Female| Ring finger      | <5 cm | Superficial  | IIA | Ray resection ring finger | None | No | No | 95 | ANED     |
| 6    | 19          | Female| Forearm          | <5 cm | Deep  | IIA | Wide reexcision    | None | No | No | 92 | ANED     |
| 7    | 39          | Male| Antecubital fossa| <5 cm | Deep  | IIA | Marginal reexcision Radial forearm flap | Chemo | No | Lung | 210 | ADP     |
| 8    | 13          | Female| Trapezius        | >5 cm | Deep  | III | Wide reexcision    | IORT | No | No | 84 | ANED     |
| 9    | 6           | Female| Forearm          | <5 cm | Deep  | IIA | Wide reexcision    | None | No | No | 60 | ANED     |
| 10   | 40          | Male| Hand             | <5 cm | Superficial  | IIA | Marginal reexcision Radial forearm flap | None | No | No | 51 | ANED     |
| 11   | 55          | Female| Long finger      | <5 cm | Superficial  | IIA | Ray resection long finger | None | No | No | 60 | ANED     |
| 12   | 41          | Male| Elbow            | Unknown | Superficial  | Unknown | Wide reexcision | None | No | No | 63 | ANED     |
| 13   | 31          | Female| Forearm          | >5 cm | Deep  | IIB | Wide reexcision    | Chemo | No | No | 90 | ANED     |
| 14   | 30          | Male| Elbows           | Unknown | Superficial  | Unknown | Wide reexcision    | Chemo | Yes | No | 56 | ANED     |
| 15   | 22          | Female| Forearm          | <5 cm | Superficial  | IIA | Wide reexcision    | None | No | No | 55 | ANED     |

AXRT, adjuvant radiation; Mets, metastases; NXRT, neoadjuvant radiation; IORT, intraoperative radiation; chemo, chemotherapy; ANED, alive no evidence of disease; LTF, lost to follow-up; ADP, alive with disease progression.
| Case | Age (years) | Sex  | Location         | Size  | Depth | Stage | Surgical treatment                  | Adjuvant treatments       | Local recurrence | Mets | Follow-up (months) | Outcome |
|------|-------------|------|------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|------|--------------------|---------|
| 1    | 17          | Female | Forearm         | <5 cm | Deep  | IIA   | Wide excision                      | Chemo, IORT              | No               | No   | 54                 | ANED    |
| 2    | 13          | Female | Deltoid         | >5 cm | Deep  | IIB   | Wide excision                      | No, IORT                  | No               | No   | 84                 | ANED    |
| 3    | 18          | Male  | Thenar webspace | <5 cm | Deep  | IIA   | Marginal excision                  | No, IORT                  | No               | No   | 74                 | ANED    |
| 4    | 51          | Male  | Brachial plexus | <5 cm | Deep  | IV    | Wide excision                      | No, Lung*                 | No               | Lung* | 9                  | DOD     |
| 5    | 60          | Female | Antecubital fossa | <5 cm | Deep  | IIA   | Wide excision                      | Chemo, IORT               | No               | No   | 54                 | ANED    |
| 6    | 10          | Female | Elbow           | <5 cm | Deep  | IIA   | MCL reconstruction radial forearm flap | None                      | No               | No   | 59                 | ANED    |
| 7    | 19          | Male  | Index finger    | >5 cm | Superficial | IIB | Ray resection                       | Chemo, IORT               | Yes              | No   | 15                 | ADP     |
| 8    | 45          | Male  | Proximal arm    | Unknown | Deep  | Unknown | Forequarter amputation             | Chemo, IORT               | Yes              | Lung | 3                  | DOD     |

*On presentation; Mets, metastases; NXRT, neoadjuvant radiation; IORT, intraoperative radiation; chemo, chemotherapy; ANED, alive no evidence of disease; ADP, alive with disease progression; DOD, died of disease; MCL, medial collateral ligament.
The literature supports surgical reexcision following unplanned surgery for extremity soft tissue sarcoma [27–31]. A large series of 407 reexcisions for unplanned extremity soft tissue sarcomas from Memorial Sloan Kettering was compared to a cohort of patients undergoing primary excision. Even after controlling for size, stage, and margin status obtained, the authors found a survival benefit with reexcision and concluded that the liberal reexcision of soft tissue sarcomas was indicated [28]. One of the limitations of these excision series is their heterogeneous grouping of soft tissue sarcomas. Low- and high-grade tumors of various subtypes and axial and appendicular locations are often aggregated together, limiting definitive prognostic conclusions. Synovial sarcomas only accounted for 5–17% of the reexcised subtypes in several previous large series [27, 29, 30].

A strength of our study was that the cases were identified through a reliable upper extremity sarcoma database at a large tertiary referral center. An expert in musculoskeletal sarcoma pathology re-reviewed and confirmed all available histopathologic specimens. Several limitations, however, should be acknowledged. Our study is limited by a small cohort and is almost certainly underpowered. Some data, including original sizes of tumors and histopathologic samples, were not available for re-review. Due to the high number of previously excised tumors, histologic grading was not practical on all specimens as no residual sarcoma was identified in 5 reexcisions and original outside histopathology slides were not available for re-review. Although the median follow-up was 63 months, distant recurrence has been described to occur late with some authors recommending 10-year postresection surveillance [13]. Treatment protocols were also not standardized and were dynamic over the review period and subject to selection bias. Functional outcomes of limb salvage versus amputation and planned versus reexcision of unplanned surgeries were not examined.

5. Conclusion

The majority of upper extremity synovial sarcomas presented following an unplanned excision at an outside facility. We were unable to find a significant difference between the need for amputation between groups. The majority of upper extremity synovial sarcomas were smaller than 5 cm and presented at an early clinical stage. Pulmonary metastases were rare and were associated with a poor prognosis. We were unable to find a significant difference between recurrence-free survival and overall survival between patients undergoing planned and unplanned excisions. Wide reexcision of previously unplanned excisions of upper extremity synovial sarcoma was associated with a low rate of local recurrence and similar recurrence-free and overall survival compared to patients who underwent primary planned excisions. These findings can help counsel upper extremity patients diagnosed with synovial sarcoma, particularly those who have had an unplanned excision.

Data Availability

The data used to support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon request.

Additional Points

The investigation was performed at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

References

[1] A. K. Alderman, H. M. Kim, S. V. Kotsis, and K. C. Chung, “Upper-extremity sarcomas in the United States: analysis of
Sarcoma

the surveillance, epidemiology, and end results database, 1973–1998,” Journal of Hand Surgery, vol. 28, no. 3, pp. 511–518, 2003.

[2] P. Gustafson and M. Arner, “Soft tissue sarcoma of the upper extremity: descriptive data and outcome in a population-based series of 108 adult patients,” Journal of Hand Surgery, vol. 24, no. 4, pp. 668–674, 1999.

[3] S. K. Machen, K. A. Easley, and J. R. Goldblum, “Synovial sarcoma of the extremities,” American Journal of Surgical Pathology, vol. 23, no. 3, pp. 268–275, 1999.

[4] C. Fischer, D. R. H. de Bruijn, and A. Geurts van Kessel, “Synovial sarcoma,” in World Health Organization Classification of Tumours: Pathology and Genetics of Tumours of Soft Tissue and Bone, C. D. M. Fletcher, K. K. Unni, and F. Mertens, Eds., pp. 200–204, IARC Press, Lyons, France, 2002.

[5] P. Bergh, J. M. Meis-Kindblom, F. Gherlinzoni et al., “Synovial sarcoma,” Cancer, vol. 85, no. 12, pp. 2596–2607, 1999.

[6] E. Berlin, E. L. Staals, M. Alberghini et al., “Synovial sarcoma; retrospective analysis of 250 patients treated at a single institution,” Cancer, vol. 115, pp. 2988–2998, 2009.

[7] M. Grassard, V. le Doussal, K. Hacène et al., “Prognostic factors in localized primary synovial sarcoma: a multicenter study of 128 adult patients,” Journal of Clinical Oncology, vol. 19, no. 2, pp. 525–534, 2001.

[8] P. F. M. Choong, D. J. Pritchard, F. H. Sim, M. G. Rock, and A. G. Nascimento, “Prognostic factors in high grade soft tissue sarcoma: prognostic factors in synovial sarcoma,” International Journal of Oncology, vol. 7, no. 1, pp. 161–169, 1995.

[9] A. Ferrar, A. Geronc, M. Casanova et al., “Synovial sarcoma: a retrospective analysis of 271 patients of all ages treated at a single institution,” Cancer, vol. 101, no. 3, pp. 627–634, 2004.

[10] I. Meazza, C. Rodriguez-Galindo, R. Saab et al., “Comparing children and adults with synovial sarcoma in the surveillance, epidemiology, and end results program, 1982 to 2005: an analysis of 1268 patients,” Cancer, vol. 115, no. 15, pp. 3537–3547, 2009.

[11] R. Deshumukh, H. J. Mankin, and S. Singer, “Synovial sarcoma: the importance of size and location for survival,” Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research, vol. 419, pp. 155–161, 2004.

[12] T. Wissanuyontin, K. Radapat, W. Sirichativapee et al., “Prognostic factors and clinical outcomes in synovial sarcoma of the extremities,” Asia-Pacific Journal of Clinical Oncology, vol. 9, no. 1, pp. 80–85, 2013.

[13] A. H. Krieg, F. Heti, B. M. Speth et al., “Synovial sarcomas usually metastasize after >5 years: a multicenter retrospective analysis with minimum follow-up of 10 years for survivors,” Annals of Oncology, vol. 22, no. 2, pp. 458–467, 2011.

[14] R. J. Canter, L. -X. Qin, R. G. Maki, M. F. Brennan, M. Ladanyi, and S. Singer, “A synovial sarcoma-specific preoperative nomogram supports a survival benefit to ifosfamide-based chemotherapy and improves risk stratification for patients,” Clinical Cancer Research, vol. 14, no. 24, pp. 8191–8197, 2008.

[15] J. J. Lewis, C. R. Antonescu, D. H. Y. Leung et al., “Synovial sarcoma: a multivariate analysis of prognostic factors in 112 patients with primary localized tumors of the extremity,” Journal of Clinical Oncology, vol. 18, no. 10, pp. 2087–2094, 2000.

[16] M. Michal, J. C. Fanburg-Smith, J. Lasota et al., “Minute synovial sarcomas of the hands and feet,” American Journal of Surgical Pathology, vol. 30, no. 6, pp. 721–726, 2006.

[17] M. van de Rijn, F. G. Barr, Q.-B. Xiong, M. Hedges, J. Shipley, and C. Fisher, “Poorly differentiated synovial sarcoma,” American Journal of Surgical Pathology, vol. 23, no. 1, pp. 106–112, 1999.

[18] S. E. T. Heuvel, H. J. Hoekstra, E. Bastiaanet, and A. J. H. Suurmeijer, “The classic prognostic factors tumor stage, tumor size, and tumor grade are the strongest predictors of outcome in synovial sarcoma,” Applied Immunohistochemistry & Molecular Morphology, vol. 17, no. 3, pp. 189–195, 2009.

[19] M. Ladanyi, C. R. Antonescu, D. H. Leung et al., “Impact of SYT-SSX fusion type on the clinical behavior of synovial sarcoma: a multi-institutional retrospective study of 243 patients,” Cancer Research, vol. 62, pp. 135–140, 2002.

[20] A. Kawai, J. Woodruff, J. H. Healey, M. F. Brennan, C. R. Antonescu, and M. Ladanyi, “SYT-SSXGene fusion as a determinant of morphology and prognosis in synovial sarcoma,” New England Journal of Medicine, vol. 338, no. 3, pp. 153–160, 1998.

[21] L. Guillou, J. Benhattar, F. Bonichon et al., “Histologic grade, but NotSYT-SSXFusion type, is an important prognostic factor in patients with synovial sarcoma: a multicenter, retrospective analysis,” Journal of Clinical Oncology, vol. 22, no. 20, pp. 4040–4050, 2004.

[22] M. Trojani, G. Contesso, J. M. Cointre et al., “Soft-tissue sarcomas of adults; study of pathological prognostic variables and definition of a histopathological grading system,” International Journal of Cancer, vol. 33, no. 1, pp. 37–42, 1984.

[23] P. J. Buecker, J. E. Villafuerte, F. J. Hornicek, M. C. Gebhardt, and H. J. Mankin, “Improved survival for sarcomas of the wrist and hand,” Journal of Hand Surgery, vol. 31, no. 3, pp. 452–455, 2006.

[24] W. F. Enneking, Musculoskeletal Tumor Surgery, Churchill Livingstone, New York, NY, USA, 1983.

[25] M. M. Thacker, B. K. Potter, J. D. Pitcher, and H. T. Temple, “Soft tissue sarcomas of the foot and ankle: impact of unplanned excision, limb salvage, and multimodality therapy,” Foot & Ankle International, vol. 29, no. 7, pp. 690–698, 2008.

[26] F. L. Green, D. L. Page, I. D. Fleming et al., AJCC Cancer Staging Manual, Springer, New York, NY, USA, 6th edition, 2002.

[27] A. E. Giulianello and F. R. Elber, “The rationale for reoperation after unplanned total excision of soft tissue sarcomas,” Journal of Clinical Oncology, vol. 3, no. 10, pp. 1344–1348, 1985.

[28] J. J. Lewis, D. Leung, J. Espat, J. M. Woodruff, and M. F. Brennan, “Effect of resection in extremity soft tissue sarcoma,” Annals of Surgery, vol. 231, no. 5, pp. 655–663, 2000.

[29] M. W. Manos, M. F. Frassica, G. E. Deune, and F. J. Frassica, “Outcomes of re-excision after unplanned excisions of soft-tissue sarcomas,” Journal of Surgical Oncology, vol. 91, no. 3, pp. 153–158, 2005.

[30] C. R. Chandrasekar, H. Wafa, R. J. Grimer, S. R. Carter, R. M. Tillman, and A. Abudu, “The effect of an unplanned excision of a soft-tissue sarcoma on prognosis,” Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery. British Volume, vol. 90-B, no. 2, pp. 203–208, 2008.

[31] B. T. Rougraff, K. Davis, and T. Cudahy, “The impact of previous surgical manipulation of subcutaneous sarcoma on oncologic outcome,” Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research, vol. 438, pp. 85–91, 2006.

[32] F. C. Elber, M. F. Brennan, F. R. Elber et al., “Chemotherapy is associated with improved survival in adult patients with primary extremity synovial sarcoma,” Annals of Surgery, vol. 246, no. 1, pp. 105–113, 2007.