

Epithelioid Sarcoma

The epithelioid sarcoma affects young adults and is usually seen in the fingers, hand and forearm where it is considered the most common soft tissue sarcoma next to the alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma and synovial sarcoma. It can also occur in the pretibial area, the buttock, thigh, shoulder, and foot and ankle area. It affects twice as many males as females. These tumors are frequently misdiagnosed as a benign granulomatous process and are often attached to tendon sheathes and fascial planes with associated cutaneous ulcerations that may be multiple in nature. Calcification or even bone formation can occur in about 15 per cent of cases. Histologically, this lesion displays a distinct nodular growth pattern with epithelioid nests of cells at the center surrounded by lymphocytic infiltration. The differential diagnosis would include necrotizing infectious diseases such as tuberculosis or granuloma annulare or rheumatoid nodules. Regional lymph node involvement occurs in about 35 per cent of cases and there are metastases to the lung in about 50 per cent of cases. Because of the benign clinical appearance of this lesion, it is common for surgeons to attempt local resection, but there is a high recurrence rate that eventually leads to amputation. Local radiation therapy decreases the chance of local recurrence.