

High-grade Hemangiosarcoma of Bone

The high-grade hemangiosarcoma of bone differs from the lower grade hemangioendothelioma of bone in that it is a very aggressive, lytic, destructive tumor usually occurring in the lower extremities of young adults. It carries an extremely poor prognosis because of the high incidence of pulmonary metastases. This lesion, unlike the hemangioendothelioma, has very little osteoblastic response to the infiltrate and takes on the radiographic appearance of a high-grade spindle cell sarcoma such as a malignant fibrous histiocytoma or a fibrous sarcoma of bone. As with the hemangioendothelioma, the hemangiosarcoma of bone can be multifocal in nature but the more aggressive lesions tend to be solitary and lytic with permeative lysis throughout the bone. There are only about 30 cases described in the world literature showing the extreme rarity of this lesion. It carries an extremely poor prognosis demanding aggressive surgical treatment as well as adjuvant radiation and even chemotherapy. Despite this aggressive program, more than 50 per cent of patients will succumb to their disease within five years.