

Kaposi's Sarcoma

Kaposi's sarcoma is considered to be the most common of all soft tissue malignant vascular tumors and can be divided into the chronic, lymphadenopathic, transplant associated types, and the AIDS-related type. It is a cutaneous angiosarcoma presenting with a characteristic purplish-blue appearance just beneath the skin, similar to a cutaneous hemangioma. It occurs most commonly in men and is endemic in Central Africa where AIDS is prevalent. The most frequent location for the Kaposi's sarcoma is in the foot and ankle area. Microscopically, the tumor has an aggressive vascular pattern but with rare mitosis. However, over a period of years the tumor can develop into a high-grade angiosarcoma or even a fibrosarcoma. The overall mortality rate runs between 10 and 20 per cent. The treatment is usually local radiation therapy or surgical resection if the lesion is localized.