

## **Excision of a Bone Tumor, With Reconstruction Information Sheet Oncology/Trauma Section of the Orthopedic Department**

### ***General indications for the procedure:***

Excision of a tumor is indicated to remove the tumor. Many times tumors in the bone will require rebuilding of the missing bone with bone grafting, protective metal plate, or an artificial joint. This is individualized on a case-by-case basis. The goal is to remove the tumor and return maximum function to the leg.

### ***Description of Procedure:***

The surgery is performed by making an incision to expose the area of tumor and bone and then either scraping or cutting the bone out depending on the type of tumor. Many times entire sections of the bone or even the joint need to be removed, particularly if it is a malignant tumor. Additionally many times the muscles or even arteries or nerves around the tumor need to be removed to try to minimize the chance of the tumor coming back. If a large amount of bone is removed, a metal plate will often be used to protect the bone from breaking. Additionally many times some sort of graft will be used to rebuild the bone. This can include bone from a cadaver or bone graft substitutes. Occasionally if a portion of the joint needs to be removed, the bone and joint will be rebuilt with a complex total knee replacement sometimes in combination with cadaver bone. The procedure is done under regional or general anesthetic.

### ***Risks of the Procedure:***

The risks of the procedure are infection of the surgical incision, recurrence of the tumor, breakage of the bone, nonunion of the bone grafted or rebuilt area of bone, injury to arteries or nerves in the area of the bone with significant loss of function, weakness of the area due to muscles that had to be removed, build-up of pressure in the muscles necessitating surgery to release the muscles, slight crookedness, lengthening or shortening of the involved bone, arthritis of the joints in the area of the removed bone, pain from the hardware used to stabilize the bone, problems with wound healing that require additional procedures including muscle flaps or skin grafts, dislocation of reconstructed joints, significantly

decreased function of joints near the bone that needs to be removed, chronic swelling, numbness in the area of the incision, pulmonary embolism, and in worst case scenarios with large tumors the need for eventual amputation.

***Procedure Alternatives, if any:***

The procedure alternative is not to remove the tumor or simply treat with chemotherapy or radiation in some circumstances.

***Probable Consequences of Refusing Procedure:***

The probable consequences of refusing procedure include continued growth of the tumor, continued pain, spread of the tumor if it is malignant, and eventual unresectability of the tumor necessitating amputation.

***Person(s) Performing the Procedure:***

The person performing the procedure will be the attending surgeon with the assistance of the Resident staff. The portions of the procedure performed by the resident staff are supervised by the attending and are based on the residents' level of competency.

Date of Last Revision: 10/2009