

Soft Tissue Mass Excision Information Sheet

Oncology/Trauma Section of the Orthopedic Department

General indications for the procedure:

Excision of a mass is a surgical procedure where the soft tissue mass is removed and sent to Pathology for analysis.

Description of Procedure:

An incision is made in the area where the soft tissue mass is present. Whenever possible, the important structures around the mass are protected and the mass is removed with attempts to remove it in its entirety. For malignant lesions, a larger amount of tissue around the mass is removed to try to minimize recurrence. Occasionally this requires excision of important arteries or nerves in the area that could significantly effect function. Additionally, based on the amount of muscle that needs to be removed, there may be weakness or limitation of movement of the joints around the area of the tumor. The procedure is done under regional or general anesthetic.

Risks of the Procedure:

The risks are infection of the surgical site, recurrence of the tumor, residual muscle weakness, damage to arteries or nerves resulting in loss of function or the need for bypass, pain in the area of the incision, wound healing problems necessitating additional procedures or special procedures including flaps and skin grafts, pressure increase of the muscle compartments called compartment syndrome which may require release of the muscles, and pulmonary embolism.

Procedure Alternatives, if any:

The alternative is to not take out the mass or take it out with a smaller procedure that would increase the risk of it recurring.

Probable Consequences of Refusing Procedure:

Probable consequences of refusing the procedure would be progressive growth of the mass, which if malignant can lead to death.

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Person(s) Performing the Procedure:

The person performing the procedure will be the attending physician with the assistance of the Resident staff. The portions of the procedure performed by the Resident staff will be under the direct supervision of the attending physician and based on their level of competency.

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