

Imaging Of The Variants Of Osteosarcoma

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Osteosarcoma is the most common primary malignant tumour of bone, yet its absolute incidence among malignant tumours is low. Within its strict histologic definition, osteosarcoma comprises a family of lesions with considerable diversity in histologic features and grade. Approximately 75% of all osteosarcomas are of the classic or conventional type, and the remaining 25% comprise the osteosarcoma variants. The variants are a heterogeneous group of osteosarcomas with a range of different imaging and behavioral features. Its prognosis is dependent not only on these parameters but also on its anatomic site. It may occur inside the bones (in the intramedullary or intracortical compartment), on the surfaces of bones, and in extraosseous sites. Preferred modalities for evaluating primary disease are radiography, MRI, and sometimes computed tomography (CT) scanning. Staging is performed by using chest CT scanning to detect pulmonary metastases. Isotope bone scan is generally used to detect skeletal metastases or synchronous tumours, but whole-body MRI is more being used.