Protocol for the Examination of Specimens From Patients With Primary Tumors of Bone

Version: Bone 4.0.0.0  Protocol Posting Date: June 2017
Includes pTNM requirements from the 8th Edition, AJCC Staging Manual

For accreditation purposes, this protocol should be used for the following procedures and tumor types:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resection</td>
<td>Includes specimens designated intralesional resection, marginal resection,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>segmental/wide resection, or radical resection</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tumor Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary malignant bone</td>
<td>Includes chondrogenic tumors, osteogenic tumors, fibrogenic tumors,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tumors</td>
<td>osteoclastic giant cell rich tumors, notochordal tumors, vascular tumors,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>myogenic tumors, and lipogenic tumors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This protocol is NOT required for accreditation purposes for the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biopsy (includes core needle biopsy, curettage, or excisional biopsy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary resection specimen with no residual cancer (eg, following neoadjuvant therapy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cytologic specimens</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following tumor types should NOT be reported using this protocol:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tumor Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plasma cell neoplasms (consider the Plasma Cell Neoplasms protocol)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lymphoma (consider the Hodgkin or non-Hodgkin Lymphoma protocols)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatric Ewing sarcoma (consider the Ewing Sarcoma protocol)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soft tissue sarcoma (consider the Soft Tissue protocol)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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With guidance from the CAP Cancer and CAP Pathology Electronic Reporting Committees.
* Denotes primary author. All other contributing authors are listed alphabetically.
Accreditation Requirements
This protocol can be utilized for a variety of procedures and tumor types for clinical care purposes. For accreditation purposes, only the definitive primary cancer resection specimen is required to have the core and conditional data elements reported in a synoptic format.

- **Core data elements** are required in reports to adequately describe appropriate malignancies. For accreditation purposes, essential data elements must be reported in all instances, even if the response is "not applicable" or "cannot be determined."

- **Conditional data elements** are only required to be reported if applicable as delineated in the protocol.

- **Optional data elements**, are identified with "+" and although not required for CAP accreditation purposes, may be considered for reporting as determined by local practice standards.

The use of this protocol is not required for recurrent tumors or for metastatic tumors that are resected at a different time than the primary tumor. Use of this protocol is also not required for pathology reviews performed at a second institution (i.e. secondary consultation, second opinion, or review of outside case at second institution).

Synoptic Reporting
All core and conditionally required data elements outlined on the surgical case summary from this cancer protocol must be displayed in synoptic report format. Synoptic format is defined as:

- Data element: followed by its answer (response), outline format without the paired "Data element: Response" format is NOT considered synoptic.

- The data element must be represented in the report as it is listed in the case summary. The response for any data element may be modified from those listed in the case summary, including “Cannot be determined” if appropriate.

- Each diagnostic parameter pair (Data element: Response) is listed on a separate line or in a tabular format to achieve visual separation. The following exceptions are allowed to be listed on one line:
  - Anatomic site or specimen, laterality, and procedure
  - Pathologic Stage Classification (pTNM) elements
  - Negative margins, as long as all negative margins are specifically enumerated where applicable

- The synoptic portion of the report can appear in the diagnosis section of the pathology report, at the end of the report or in a separate section, but all Data element: Responses must be listed together in one location.

Organizations and pathologists may choose to list the required elements in any order, use additional methods in order to enhance or achieve visual separation, or add optional items within the synoptic report. The report may have required elements in a summary format elsewhere in the report IN ADDITION TO but not as replacement for the synoptic report i.e. all required elements must be in the synoptic portion of the report in the format defined above.

**CAP Laboratory Accreditation Program Protocol Required Use Date: March 2018**

*Beginning January 1, 2018, the 8th edition AJCC Staging Manual should be used for reporting pTNM*

**CAP Bone Protocol Summary of Changes**

**Biopsy**
The following data elements were modified:
- Histologic Grade
- Lymphovascular Invasion

The following data elements were deleted:
- Tumor Size

**Resection**
The following data elements were modified:
- Histologic Grade
- Lymphovascular Invasion
- Pathologic Staging, Primary Tumor (pT)
- Distant Metastases
Surgical Pathology Cancer Case Summary

Protocol posting date: June 2017

**BONE: Biopsy**

**Note:** This case summary is recommended for reporting biopsy specimens, but is not required for accreditation purposes.

Select a single response unless otherwise indicated.

**Procedure**
- ___ Core needle biopsy
- ___ Curettage
- ___ Excisional biopsy
- ___ Other (specify): ____________________________
- ___ Not specified

**Tumor Site (Note A)**
- ___ Appendicular skeleton (specify bone, if known): ___________________
- ___ Spine (specify bone, if known): _________________________
- ___ Pelvis (specify bone, if known): _________________________
- ___ Not specified

**Tumor Location and Extent (select all that apply) (Note B)**
- ___ Epiphysis or apophysis
- ___ Metaphysis
- ___ Diaphysis
- ___ Cortex
- ___ Medullary cavity
- ___ Surface
- ___ Tumor involves joint
- ___ Tumor extension into soft tissue
- ___ Cannot be determined

**Histologic Type (World Health Organization [WHO] classification of bone tumors) (Note C)**
Specify: ____________________________
- ___ Cannot be determined

**+ Mitotic Rate (Note D)**
+ Specify: ___ /10 high-power fields (HPF)
  (1 HPF x 400 = 0.1734 mm²; X40 objective; most proliferative area)

**Necrosis (Note D)**
- ___ Not identified
- ___ Present
  - Extent: ___%
- ___ Cannot be determined

**Histologic Grade (Note D)**
- ___ G1: Well differentiated, low grade
- ___ G2: Moderately differentiated, high grade
- ___ G3: Poorly differentiated, high grade
- ___ GX: Cannot be assessed
- ___ Not applicable

+ Data elements preceded by this symbol are not required for accreditation purposes. These optional elements may be clinically important but are not yet validated or regularly used in patient management.
+ Lymphovascular Invasion (Note E)
+ ___ Not identified
+ ___ Present
+ ___ Cannot be determined

+ Additional Pathologic Findings
+ Specify: ____________________________

Ancillary Studies (required only if applicable)

Immunohistochemistry (specify): ____________________________
___ Not performed

Cytogenetics (specify): ____________________________
___ Not performed

Molecular Pathology (specify): ____________________________
___ Not performed

+ Radiographic Findings (Note F)
+ Specify: ____________________________
+ ___ Not available

+ Comment(s)
Surgical Pathology Cancer Case Summary

Protocol posting date: June 2017

BONE: Resection

Select a single response unless otherwise indicated.

Procedure (Note G)
___ Intralesional resection
___ Marginal resection
___ Segmental/wide resection
___ Radical resection
___ Other (specify): ____________________________
___ Not specified

Tumor Site (Note A)
___ Appendicular skeleton (specify bone, if known): __________________
___ Spine (specify bone, if known): _________________________
___ Pelvis (specify bone, if known): _________________________
___ Not specified

Tumor Location and Extent (select all that apply) (Note B)
___ Epiphysis or apophysis
___ Metaphysis
___ Diaphysis
___ Cortical
___ Medullary cavity
___ Surface
___ Tumor involves joint
___ Tumor extension into soft tissue
___ Cannot be determined

Tumor Size
Greatest dimension (centimeters): ___ cm
+ Additional dimensions (centimeters): ___ x ___ cm
___ Cannot be determined
___ Multifocal tumor/discontinuous tumor at primary site (skip metastasis)

Histologic Type (World Health Organization [WHO] classification of bone tumors) (Note C, Note H)
Specify: ____________________________
___ Cannot be determined

+ Mitotic Rate (Note D)
+ Specify: ___ /10 high-power fields (HPF)
  (1 HPF x 400 = 0.1734 mm²; X40 objective; most proliferative area)

Necrosis (macroscopic or microscopic) (Note D)
___ Not Identified
___ Present
  Extent: ___%

Histologic Grade (Note D)
___ G1: Well differentiated, low grade
___ G2: Moderately differentiated, high grade

+ Data elements preceded by this symbol are not required for accreditation purposes. These optional elements may be clinically important but are not yet validated or regularly used in patient management.
___ G3: Poorly differentiated, high grade
___ GX: Cannot be assessed
___ Not applicable

Margins (Note I)
___ Cannot be assessed
___ Uninvolved by sarcoma
   Distance of sarcoma from closest margin (centimeters): ___ cm
   Specify margin (if known): ________________________________
___ Involved by sarcoma
   Specify margin(s) (if known): ________________________________

+ Lymphovascular Invasion (Note E)
+ ___ Not identified
+ ___ Present
+ ___ Cannot be determined

Regional Lymph Nodes (Note K)
___ No lymph nodes submitted or found

Lymph Node Examination (required only if lymph nodes are present in the specimen)
Number of Lymph Nodes Involved: ______
___ Number cannot be determined (explain): ________________________________
Number of Lymph Nodes Examined: ______
___ Number cannot be determined (explain): ________________________________

Pathologic Stage Classification (pTNM, AJCC 8th Edition) (Note J)
Note: Reporting of pT, pN, and (when applicable) pM categories is based on information available to the pathologist at the time the report is issued. Only the applicable T, N, or M category is required for reporting; their definitions need not be included in the report. The categories (with modifiers when applicable) can be listed on 1 line or more than 1 line.

TNM Descriptors (required only if applicable) (select all that apply)
___ m (multiple)
___ r (recurrent)
___ y (posttreatment)

Primary Tumor (pT)

Appendicular Skeleton, Trunk, Skull, and Facial Bones
___ pTX: Primary tumor cannot be assessed
___ pT0: No evidence of primary tumor
___ pT1: Tumor ≤8 cm in greatest dimension
___ pT2: Tumor > 8 cm in greatest dimension
___ pT3: Discontinuous tumors in the primary bone site

Spine
___ pTX: Primary tumor cannot be assessed
___ pT0: No evidence of primary tumor
___ pT1: Tumor confined to one vertebral segment or two adjacent vertebral segments
___ pT2: Tumor confined to three adjacent vertebral segments
___ pT3: Tumor confined to four or more adjacent vertebral segments, or any nonadjacent vertebral segments
___ pT4: Extension into the spinal canal or great vessels
___ pT4a: Extension into the spinal canal

+ Data elements preceded by this symbol are not required for accreditation purposes. These optional elements may be clinically important but are not yet validated or regularly used in patient management.
___ pT4b: Evidence of gross vascular invasion or tumor thrombus in the great vessels

**Pelvis**

___ pTX: Primary tumor cannot be assessed
___ pT0: No evidence of primary tumor
___ pT1: Tumor confined to one pelvic segment with no extraosseous extension
___ pT1a: Tumor ≤8 cm in greatest dimension
___ pT1b: Tumor >8 cm in greatest dimension
___ pT2: Tumor confined to one pelvic segment with extraosseous extension or two segments without extraosseous extension
___ pT2a: Tumor ≤8 cm in greatest dimension
___ pT2b: Tumor >8 cm in greatest dimension
___ pT3: Tumor spanning two pelvic segments with extraosseous extension
___ pT3a: Tumor ≤8 cm in greatest dimension
___ pT3b: Tumor >8 cm in greatest dimension
___ pT4: Tumor spanning three pelvic segments or crossing the sacroiliac joint
___ pT4a: Tumor involves sacroiliac joint and extends medial to the sacral neuroforamen
___ pT4b: Tumor encasement of external iliac vessels or presence of gross tumor thrombus in major pelvic vessels

**Regional Lymph Nodes (pN) (Note K)**

___ pNX: Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed*
___ pN0: No regional lymph node metastasis
___ pN1: Regional lymph node metastasis

*Note: Because of the rarity of lymph node involvement in bone sarcomas, the designation NX may not be appropriate, and cases should be considered N0 unless clinical node involvement clearly is evident.

**Distant Metastasis (pM) (required only if confirmed pathologically in this case)**

___ pM1a: Lung
___ pM1b: Metastasis involving distant sites other than lung
   Specify site(s), if known: ________________________________

+ **Additional Pathologic Findings**
+ Specify: ________________________________

**Ancillary Studies (required only if applicable)**

Immunohistochemistry (specify): ________________________________
   ___ Not performed

Cytogenetics (specify): ________________________________
   ___ Not performed

Molecular Pathology (specify): ________________________________
   ___ Not performed

+ **Radiographic Findings (Note F)**
+ Specify: ________________________________
+ ___ Not available

+ **Preresection Treatment (select all that apply)**
+ ___ No known preresection therapy
+ ___ Chemotherapy performed
+ ___ Radiation therapy performed
+ ___ Therapy performed, type not specified
+ ___ Not specified

+ Data elements preceded by this symbol are not required for accreditation purposes. These optional elements may be clinically important but are not yet validated or regularly used in patient management.
Treatment Effect (select all that apply) (Note L)
___ No known presurgical therapy
___ Not identified
___ Present
   + Specify percentage of necrotic tumor (compared with pretreatment biopsy, if available): _____%
___ Cannot be determined

+ Comment(s)

+ Data elements preceded by this symbol are not required for accreditation purposes. These optional elements may be clinically important but are not yet validated or regularly used in patient management.
These recommendations are used for all primary malignant tumors of bone except hematopoietic neoplasms, ie, lymphoma and plasma cell neoplasms.

A. Tumor Site and Processing

Tumor Site
Given the strong association between the primary anatomic site and outcome, the 8th edition of the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual uses the following site groups for staging purposes:

- Appendicular skeleton, including trunk, skull, and facial bones
- Pelvis
- Spine

This site grouping is reflected by the provision of separate definitions for the primary tumor (T) for each anatomic site.

Fixation
Tissue specimens from bone tumors optimally are received fresh/unfixed because of the importance of ancillary studies, such as cytogenetics, which require fresh tissue.

Tissue Submission for Histologic Evaluation
One section per centimeter of maximum dimension is usually recommended, although fewer sections are needed for very large tumors, especially if they are homogeneous. Tumors known to be high grade from a previous biopsy do not require as many sections as those that were previously diagnosed as low grade, as documentation of a high-grade component will change stage and prognosis in the latter case. Sections should be taken of grossly heterogeneous areas, and there is no need to submit more than 1 section of necrotic tumor (always with a transition to viable tumor), with the exception of chemotherapy effect on osteosarcomas and Ewing sarcoma. Occasionally, gross pathology can be misleading, and areas that appear to be grossly necrotic may actually be myxoid or edematous. When this happens, additional sections of these areas should be submitted for histologic examination. When estimates of gross necrosis exceed those of histologic necrosis, the greater percentage of necrosis should be recorded on the surgical pathology report. In general, most tumors require 12 sections or fewer, excluding margins. Tumors with greater areas of heterogeneity may need to be sampled more thoroughly.

Fresh tissue for special studies should be submitted at the time the specimen is received. Note that classification of many subtypes of sarcoma is not dependent upon special studies, such as cytogenetics or molecular genetics, but frozen tissue may be needed to enter patients into treatment protocols. Discretion should be used in triaging tissue from sarcomas. Adequate tissue should be submitted for conventional light microscopy before tissue has been taken for cytogenetics, electron microscopy, or molecular analysis.

Molecular Studies
It is important to snap freeze a small portion of tissue whenever possible. This tissue can be used for a variety of molecular assays for tumor-specific molecular translocations (see Table 1) that help in classifying bone tumors. In addition, treatment protocols increasingly require fresh tissue for correlative studies. Approximately 1 cm$^3$ of fresh tissue (less is acceptable for small specimens, including core biopsies) should be cut into small, 0.2-cm fragments, reserving sufficient tissue for histologic examination. This frozen tissue should ideally be stored at minus (-)70°C and can be shipped on dry ice to facilities that perform molecular analysis.
Table 1. Characteristic Cytogenetic and Molecular Events of Bone Tumors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Histologic Type</th>
<th>Cytogenetic Events</th>
<th>Molecular Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chondrosarcoma of bone</td>
<td>Complex</td>
<td>IDH1 and IDH2 mutations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ewing sarcoma</td>
<td>t(11;22)(q24;q12)</td>
<td>EWSR1-FLI1 fusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>t(21;22)(q12;q12)</td>
<td>EWSR1-ERG fusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>t(2;22)(q33;q12)</td>
<td>EWSR1-FEV fusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>t(7;22)(p22;q12)</td>
<td>EWSR1-ETV1 fusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>t(17;22)(q12;q12)</td>
<td>EWSR1-E1AF fusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>inv(22)(q12q12)</td>
<td>EWSR1-ZSG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>t(16;21)(p11;q22)</td>
<td>FUS-ERG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>t(2;16)(q35;p11)</td>
<td>FUS-FEV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ewing-like sarcomas*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>t(20;22)(q13;q12)</td>
<td>EWSR1-NFATC2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>t(6;22)(p21;q12)</td>
<td>EWSR1-POU5F1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>t(4;22)(q31;q12)</td>
<td>EWSR1-SMARCA5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Submicroscopic inv(22)in t(1;22)(p36.1;q12)</td>
<td>EWSR1-PATZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>t(2;22)(q31;q12)</td>
<td>EWSR1-SP3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>t(4;19)(q35;q13)</td>
<td>CIC-DUX4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osteosarcoma</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low grade central</td>
<td>Simple</td>
<td>MDM2 amplification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parosteal</td>
<td>Ring chromosomes</td>
<td>12q13-15 amplification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High grade</td>
<td>Complex</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Ewing-like sarcomas are similar both clinically and histologically to Ewing sarcoma, but it is not known at the present time whether they represent true Ewing sarcomas. They are treated the same as true Ewing sarcomas.

B. Location of Neoplasms of Bone

Relevant Radiologic Findings
Radiographic imaging plays an especially critical role in the diagnosis of bone tumors. Close collaboration with an experienced musculoskeletal radiologist and orthopedic surgeon is recommended.

Figure 1 is a diagrammatic representation of the “anatomic” regions of a long bone. These locations are very important in classifying bone tumors. For instance, chondroblastomas almost always arise in the epiphysis. Epiphyses and apophyses are secondary ossification centers and therefore are embryonic equivalents. The greater and lesser trochanters are apophyses, while the epiphyses are at the ends of long bones.
C. Classification of Bone Tumors

Intraoperative Consultation
Histologic classification of bone tumors is sufficiently complex that, in many cases, it is unreasonable to expect a precise classification of these tumors based on an intraoperative consultation. A complete understanding of the surgeon’s treatment algorithm is recommended before rendering a frozen section diagnosis. In the case of primary bone tumors, an intraoperative diagnosis of benign versus malignant will generally guide the immediate decision to curette, excise, or wait for permanent sections, and certain therapeutic options may be lost if the wrong path is pursued. Intraoperative consultation is useful in assessing if “lesional” tissue is present and whether or not this tissue is necrotic, and in constructing a differential diagnosis that can direct the proper triage of tissue for flow cytometry (lymphoma), electron microscopy, and molecular studies/cytogenetics. Tissue triage optimally is performed at the time of frozen section. In many cases, it is important that a portion of tissue be submitted for ancillary studies, even from fine-needle aspiration (FNA) and core needle biopsy specimens, once sufficient tissue has been submitted for histologic evaluation.

Tumor Classification From Biopsies
It is not always possible to classify bone tumors precisely based on biopsy material, especially FNA and core needle biopsy specimens. Although pathologists should make every attempt to classify lesions in small biopsy specimens, on occasion, stratification into very basic diagnostic categories, such as lymphoma, carcinoma, melanoma, and sarcoma, is all that is possible. In some cases, precise classification is only possible in open biopsies or resection specimens.

WHO Classification of Malignant Bone Tumors
Classification of tumors should be made according to the World Health Organization (WHO) classification of bone tumors listed below.\(^5\)
WHO Classification of Malignant Bone Tumors

Chondrogenic Tumors
Intermediate (locally aggressive)
- Chondromyxoid fibroma
- Atypical cartilaginous tumor/chondrosarcoma grade I
Intermediate (rarely metastasizing)
- Chondroblastoma
Malignant
- Chondrosarcoma
  - Grade II, Grade III
- Dedifferentiated chondrosarcoma
- Clear cell chondrosarcoma
- Mesenchymal chondrosarcoma

Chondrogenic Tumors
Intermediate (locally aggressive)
- Chondromyxoid fibroma
- Atypical cartilaginous tumor/chondrosarcoma grade I
Intermediate (rarely metastasizing)
- Chondroblastoma
Malignant
- Chondrosarcoma
  - Grade II, Grade III
- Dedifferentiated chondrosarcoma
- Clear cell chondrosarcoma
- Mesenchymal chondrosarcoma

Osteogenic Tumors
Intermediate (locally aggressive)
- Osteoblastoma
Malignant
- Low-grade central osteosarcoma
- Conventional osteosarcoma
  - Chondroblastic
  - Fibroblastic
  - Osteoblastic
- Telangiectatic
- Small cell
- Secondary
- Parosteal
- Periosteal
- High grade surface

Fibrogenic Tumors
Intermediate (locally aggressive)
- Desmoplastic fibroma of bone
Malignant
- Fibrosarcoma of bone

Hematopoietic Tumors*
- Plasma cell myeloma*
- Solitary plasmacytoma of bone*
- Primary non-Hodgkin lymphoma, NOS*

Osteoclastic Giant Cell Rich Tumors
Intermediate (locally aggressive, rarely metastasizing)
- Giant cell tumor of bone
Malignant
- Malignancy in giant cell tumor of bone

Notochordal Tumors
Malignant
- Chordoma

Vascular Tumors
Intermediate (locally aggressive, rarely metastasizing)
- Epithelioid hemangioma
Malignant
Epithelioid hemangioendothelioma
Angiosarcoma

Myogenic Tumors
Leiomyosarcoma of bone

Lipogenic Tumors
Liposarcoma of bone

Tumors of Undefined Neoplastic Nature
Intermediate (locally aggressive)
Aneursymal bone cyst
Langerhans cell histiocytosis
Monostotic
Polyostotic

Miscellaneous Tumors
Ewing sarcoma
Adamantinoma
Undifferentiated high-grade pleomorphic sarcoma

* Primary malignant lymphomas and plasma cell neoplasms are not staged using the AJCC system for malignant bone tumors.

D. Grading

The grading of bone tumors is largely driven by the histologic diagnosis, and traditionally grading has been based on the system advocated by Broders, which assesses cellularity and nuclear features/degree of anaplasia. The eighth edition of the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual recommends a 2-tiered system (low vs high grade) for recording grading. Histologic grading uses a 3-tiered system: G1 is considered low grade, and G2 and G3 are grouped together as high grade for biological grading. However, we advocate a more pragmatic approach to grading aggressive and malignant primary tumors of bone.

Two bone tumors that are locally aggressive and metastasize infrequently, and thus are usually low grade, are low-grade central osteosarcoma and parosteal osteosarcoma. Periosteal osteosarcoma is generally regarded as a grade 2 osteosarcoma. Primary bone tumors that are generally high grade include malignant giant cell tumor, Ewing sarcoma, angiosarcoma, dedifferentiated chondrosarcoma, conventional osteosarcoma, telangiectactic osteosarcoma, small cell osteosarcoma, secondary osteosarcoma, and high-grade surface osteosarcoma.

Grading of conventional chondrosarcoma is based on cellularity, cytologic atypia, and mitotic figures. Grade 1 (low-grade) chondrosarcoma is hypocellular and similar histologically to enchondroma. Grade 2 (intermediate-grade) chondrosarcoma is more cellular than grade 1 chondrosarcoma; has more cytologic atypia, greater hyperchromasia and nuclear size; or has extensive myxoid stroma. Grade 3 (high-grade) chondrosarcoma is hypercellular, pleomorphic, and contains prominent mitotic activity.

Mesenchymal chondrosarcoma, fibrosarcoma, leiomyosarcoma, liposarcoma, undifferentiated high-grade pleomorphic sarcoma of bone and other “soft tissue-type” sarcomas that rarely occur in bone can be graded according to the French Federation of Cancer Centers Sarcoma Group (FNCLCC) grading system (see College of American Pathologists protocol for soft tissue tumors).

Chordomas are locally aggressive lesions with a propensity for metastasis late in their clinical course and are not graded. Adamantinomas tend to have a low-grade clinical course, but this is variable. Fortunately, they are very rare. According to the WHO classification of tumors of bone, adamantinomas are considered low grade.

Bone Tumor Grades (Summary)

Grade 1 (Low Grade)
Low-grade intramedullary (central) osteosarcoma
Parosteal osteosarcoma
Grade I chondrosarcoma
Clear cell chondrosarcoma

Grade 2
Periosteal osteosarcoma
Grade II chondrosarcoma
Classic adamantinoma
Chordoma

Grade 3 (High Grade)
Ewing sarcoma
Conventional osteosarcoma
Telangiectactic osteosarcoma
Mesenchymal chondrosarcoma
Small cell osteosarcoma
Secondary osteosarcoma
High-grade surface osteosarcoma
Dedifferentiated chondrosarcoma
Dedifferentiated chordoma
Malignancy in giant cell tumor
Grade III chondrosarcoma
Soft-tissue type sarcomas (eg, leiomyosarcoma)
Undifferentiated high-grade pleomorphic sarcoma

Mitotic rate is determined by counting mitotic figures in 10 contiguous high-power fields (HPF) (40x objective), in the most mitotically active area of the tumor, away from areas of necrosis. The area of 1 HPF originally used measured 0.1734 mm². However, the area of 1 HPF using most modern microscopes with wider 40x lenses will most likely be higher. Pathologists are encouraged to determine the field area of their 40x lenses and divide 0.1734 by the obtained field area to obtain a conversion factor. The number of mitotic figures in 10 HPF multiplied by the obtained conversion factor and rounded to the nearest whole number should be used for reporting purposes.

TNM Grading
The 8th edition of the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) and International Union Against Cancer (UICC) staging system for bone tumors includes a 3-grade system but effectively collapses into high grade and low grade. Grading in the TNM grading system is based on differentiation only and does not generally apply to sarcomas.

GX Grade cannot be assessed
G1 Well differentiated, low grade
G2 Moderately differentiated, high grade
G3 Poorly differentiated, high grade

For purposes of using the AJCC staging system (see note J), 3-grade systems can be converted to a 2-grade (TNM) system as follows: grade 1 = low-grade; grade 2 and grade 3 = high-grade.

E. Lymphovascular Invasion
Lymphovascular invasion (LVI) indicates whether microscopic lymphovascular invasion is identified. LVI includes lymphatic invasion, vascular invasion, or lymphovascular invasion. By AJCC/UICC convention, LVI does not affect the T category indicating local extent of tumor unless specifically included in the definition of a T category.

F. Relevant Radiologic Findings
Radiographic imaging plays an especially critical role in the diagnosis of bone tumors. Close collaboration with an experienced musculoskeletal radiologist and orthopedic surgeon is recommended.
G. Definition of Procedures
The following is a list of guidelines to be used in defining what type of procedure has been performed. This is based on the surgeon's intent and not based on the pathologic assessment of the margins.

Intralesional Resection
Leaving gross tumor behind. Partial debulking or curettage are examples.

Marginal Resection
Removing the tumor and its pseudocapsule with a relatively small amount of adjacent tissue. There is no gross tumor at the margin; however, microscopic tumor may be present. Note that occasionally, a surgeon will perform an "excisional" biopsy, which effectively accomplishes the same thing as a marginal resection.

Segmental/Wide Resection
An intracompartmental resection. A single piece of bone is resected, including the lesion and a cuff of normal bone.

Radical Resection
The removal of an entire bone, or the excision of the adjacent muscle groups if the tumor is extracompartmental.

H. Histologic Classification of Treated Lesions
Due to extensive treatment effects, such as necrosis, fibrosis, and chemotherapy-induced and radiation-induced pleomorphism, it may not be possible to classify some lesions that were either never biopsied or where the biopsy was insufficient for a precise diagnosis. In problematic cases, the grade of the pretreatment specimen (if available) should take precedence.

I. Margins
It has been recommended that for all margins <2 cm, the distance of the tumor from the margin be reported in centimeters. However, there is a lack of agreement on this issue. We recommend specifying the location of all margins <2 cm. Margins from bone tumors should be taken as perpendicular margins, if possible. If the tumor is >2 cm from the margin, the marrow can be scooped out and submitted as a margin.

J. Pathologic Stage Classification (TNM and Stage Groupings)
The 8th edition TNM staging system for bone tumors of the AJCC and the UICC is recommended.1,9

The classification is to be applied to all primary tumors of bone. Anatomic site is known to influence outcome; therefore, outcome data should be reported specifying site. Site groups for bone sarcomas are the following: appendicular skeleton, including trunk, skull and facial bones, pelvis, and spine. Pathologic staging includes pathologic data obtained from examination of a resected specimen sufficient to evaluate the highest T category, histopathologic type and grade, regional lymph nodes as appropriate, or distant metastasis. Because regional lymph node involvement from bone tumors is rare, the pathologic stage grouping includes any of the following combinations: pT pG pN pM, or pT pG cN cM, or cT cN pM

TNM Descriptors
For identification of special cases of TNM or pTNM classifications, the "m" suffix and the "y" and "r" prefixes are used. Although they do not affect the stage grouping, they indicate cases needing separate analysis.

The "m" suffix indicates the presence of multiple primary tumors in a single site and is recorded in parentheses: pT(m)NM.

The "y" prefix indicates those cases in which classification is performed during or following initial multimodality therapy (ie, neoadjuvant chemotherapy, radiation therapy, or both chemotherapy and radiation therapy). The cTNM or pTNM category is identified by a "y" prefix. The ycTNM or ypTNM categorizes the extent of tumor actually present at the time of that examination. The "y" categorization is not an estimate of tumor prior to multimodality therapy (ie, before initiation of neoadjuvant therapy).
The "r" prefix indicates a recurrent tumor when staged after a documented disease-free interval, and is identified by the "r" prefix: rTNM.

**T Category Considerations** (Figures 2 and 3)

Spine segments for staging:

![Spine segments for staging.](image1)

**Figure 2.** Spine segments for staging. Used with permission of the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC), Chicago, Illinois. The original source for this material is the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual (2017) published by Springer Science and Business Media LLC, www.springerlink.com.

Pelvic segments for staging:

![Pelvic segments for staging.](image2)

**Figure 3.** Pelvic segments for staging. Used with permission of the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC), Chicago, Illinois. The original source for this material is the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual (2017) published by Springer Science and Business Media LLC, www.springerlink.com.
N Category Considerations
Because of the rarity of lymph node involvement in sarcomas, the designation NX may not be appropriate and could be considered N0 if no clinical involvement is evident.

Stage Groupings

Appendicular Skeleton, Trunk, Skull, and Facial Bones

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Grade Grouping</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stage IA</td>
<td>T1</td>
<td>N0</td>
<td>M0</td>
<td>G1,GX</td>
<td>Low grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage IB</td>
<td>T2</td>
<td>N0</td>
<td>M0</td>
<td>G1,GX</td>
<td>Low grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage IIA</td>
<td>T1</td>
<td>N0</td>
<td>M0</td>
<td>G2,G3</td>
<td>High grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage IIB</td>
<td>T2</td>
<td>N0</td>
<td>M0</td>
<td>G2,G3</td>
<td>High grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage III</td>
<td>T3</td>
<td>N0</td>
<td>M0</td>
<td>G2,G3</td>
<td>High grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage IVA</td>
<td>Any T</td>
<td>N0</td>
<td>M1a</td>
<td>Any G</td>
<td>Any grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage IVB</td>
<td>Any T</td>
<td>N1</td>
<td>Any M</td>
<td>Any G</td>
<td>Any grade</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* M0 is defined as no distant metastasis.

Spine and Pelvis
There are no AJCC prognostic stage groupings for spine and pelvis.

Additional Descriptors

Residual Tumor (R)
Tumor remaining in a patient after therapy with curative intent (e.g., surgical resection for cure) is categorized by a system known as R classification, shown below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RX</th>
<th>Presence of residual tumor cannot be assessed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R0</td>
<td>No residual tumor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R1</td>
<td>Microscopic residual tumor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R2</td>
<td>Macroscopic residual tumor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For the surgeon, the R classification may be useful to indicate the known or assumed status of the completeness of a surgical excision. For the pathologist, the R classification is relevant to the status of the margins of a surgical resection specimen. That is, tumor involving the resection margin on pathologic examination may be assumed to correspond to residual tumor in the patient and may be classified as macroscopic or microscopic according to the findings at the specimen margin(s).

K. Lymph Nodes
Regional lymph node metastasis is extremely rare in adult bone sarcomas. Nodes are not sampled routinely, and it is not necessary to exhaustively search for nodes. When present, regional lymph node metastasis has prognostic importance and should be reported.

L. Response to Chemotherapy/Radiation Therapy Effect
It is essential to estimate neoadjuvant treatment effect in primary Ewing sarcoma and osteosarcoma of bone, as these have been shown to have prognostic significance. An entire representative slice of the tumor taken through the long axis should be mapped using a grid pattern diagram, photocopy, or radiologic film to indicate the site for each tumor block. In addition, the remainder of the neoplasm should be sampled at the rate of 1 section per centimeter. Areas of soft tissue extension and the interface of tumor with normal tissue should also be sampled. The sum of all viable areas measured microscopically is divided by the total cross-sectional area occupied by tumor to arrive at a percentage. Prognostically significant therapy response in osteosarcoma, according to most series, is defined at 90%, with those tumors showing 90% therapy response associated with a favorable prognosis. There are 2 protocols to assess response to therapy in Ewing sarcoma. Response can be assessed in the same manner as osteosarcoma or by the system of Picci, which is expressed as grade I (macroscopic viable tumor), grade II (microscopic viable tumor), or grade III (no viable tumor).
References