Which Operations of Musculoskeletal Tumors Should Be Accompanied by A Vascular Surgeon?

Hangi Musculoskeletal Tümörlerin Cerrahisine Damar Cerrahi Eşlik Etmelidir?

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ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION: Benign and malignant tumors of the musculoskeletal system may be related with the critical neurovascular structures. Therefore, some surgical procedures are applied with cardiovascular surgeons. In this study, demographic examination of the musculoskeletal tumors which might be related with neurovascular structures was aimed.

METHODS: Between 2010 and 2014, 58 patients who were operated with cardiovascular surgeon due to musculoskeletal tumors in orthopedics and traumatology clinic were included in the study. Patients were examined for age, sex, benign/malignant features, bone-soft tissue location, histopathological diagnosis and tumor localization.

RESULTS: Among 30 male and 28 female patients with a mean age of 36 ± 0.17 (2-76 years), 15 patients had benign and 43 patients had malignant musculoskeletal tumors. The most common tumor was a malignant mesenchymal tumor and it was seen in 14 cases. The most common benign tumor was osteochondroma and it was found in 6 cases. The most common tumor localization with cardiovascular surgeon requirement was thigh and knee.

DISCUSSION and CONCLUSION: Musculoskeletal tumors may be closely related to the neurovascular structures and therefore they are needed to be operated with cardiovascular surgeons; can be seen in kind of ages. These are often malignant tumors. The most common localizations are thigh and knee.

Keywords: cardiovascular surgeon, musculoskeletal tumors, neurovascular involvement, surgical treatment

INTRODUCTION

Vascular invasion of musculoskeletal tumors is rare. In a multicenter study, main vessel involvement was shown as 3.3% in primary bone tumors and 9.0% in soft tissue sarcomas (1). However, in patients who have extremity musculoskeletal tumors, the presence and level of vascular involvement is necessary for determination of surgical treatment (2).
Accurate identification of the presence and level of vascular involvement is necessary for determination of surgical treatment in patients who have extremity musculoskeletal tumors. Moreover, some tumors which have rich vascularity own enlarged feeding arteries and therefore they can cause severe bleeding during surgery (3).

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is the primary imaging modality for the evaluation of extremity sarcomas. Today, computed tomography (CT) and contrast-enhanced CT can often be used to determine tumor characteristics and resectability in patients who cannot undergo MR or in addition to MR. Several studies have examined musculoskeletal sarcomas using conventional angiography or MR angiography (2-4).

When a musculoskeletal system tumor is diagnosed, orthopedic surgeons should carefully evaluate the lesion before surgery and should be able to determine whether radiotherapy or chemotherapy is needed to reduce the size of the tumor (5).

In this study, the patients who underwent surgical operation accompanied with cardiovascular surgeons in our clinic were retrospectively analyzed and demographic data of these cases were presented.

METHOD

Between January 2010 and December 2014, 58 patients who were operated accompanied with cardiovascular surgeons because of musculoskeletal tumors in our clinic were retrospectively analyzed.

The study was planned with the patients who had benign and malign musculoskeletal tumors. The patients who were treated with neoadjuvant chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatment also included to the study and the main goal was to identify the cardiovascular surgeon requirement for those cases.

Statistical analysis

All statistical analyzes were performed using IBM SPSS 22.0 statistical software (IBM Corp., Armonk, NY, USA). Descriptive statistics were expressed as mean ± Standard deviation, frequency and percentage.

RESULTS

30 of the patients were male, 28 were female, and the age range was between 2-76 years. The mean age was 36 ± 0.17 std. 15 patients had benign tumor, 43 patients had malignant tumor. When benign tumors were evaluated, the diagnoses were osteochondroma in 6 patients, fibromatosis in 3 patients, aneurysmal bone cyst in 2 patients, solitary fibrous tumor in 2 patients, giant cell tumor of bone in 1 patient and hemangioma in 1 patient.

When malignant tumors were evaluated, 14 patients had malign mesenchymal tumors (MMT), 13 patients had osteosarcoma, 3 patients had Ewing's sarcoma, 3 patients had chondrosarcoma, 2 patients had angiosarcoma, 1 patient had synovial sarcoma, 2 patients had fibrosarcoma, 1 patient had rhabdomyosarcoma, 1 patient had soft tissue Ewing's sarcoma, 1 patient had chondromyxoid sarcoma, 1 patient had liposarcoma and 1 patient had metastasis.

When the tumor localizations were evaluated, tumor were at bone in 31 patients and were at soft tissue in 27 patients. Tumor's localization was proximal femur in 13 patients and distal femur in 10 patients, popliteal soft tissue region in 7 patients, pelvic soft tissue region in 6 patients, cubital soft tissue region in 5 patients, proximal humerus in 3 patients, distal humerus in 1 patient, axilla in 3 patients, kruris in 3 patients, ankle soft tissue in 2 patients, proximal tibia in 3 patients, proximal fibula in 1 patients and gluteal soft tissue area in 1 patient.

DISCUSSION

Complete resection improves local tumor control and survival in musculoskeletal tumors. Involvement of vascular structures during resection is very important (7). In these days, adequate surgical margins can be achieved with advanced imaging techniques, adjuvant chemotherapy and radiation protocols. Thus, there is no requirement of radical resection or amputation (8,9).

If the sarcomas show vascular invasion, the vessels should be resected (10,11). Soft tissue sarcoma surrounding by a plane of normal tissue can be dissected from major blood vessels. By longitudinally splitting the adventitia opposite the tumor, a rim of normal
tissue is preserved in the vessel-tumor interface (10,12). However, vascular resection increases the extent of their section margin. Therefore, vascular resection is indicated when a large resection margin cannot be achieved without vascular resection (7,10,11).

In this study, it was aimed that the clinicians should be able to get an idea about that in which localizations, ages or histopathological diagnoses of the tumors are more related to blood vessels. According to our results, it cannot be said that the musculoskeletal tumors have a narrow age range in which vascular involvement is frequent. There are cases between the ages of 2 and 76 in our study.

The most common localizations in our study were thigh, femur and knee. Therefore, we know that the most commonly affected structures are femoral and popliteal vessel-nerve packs. In the literature, there are studies about vessel involvement and treatment of tumors in these localizations (7,10,14,15).

According to our study, the most common vessel-associated tumors are malignant mesenchymal tumors and osteosarcomas. Although osteochondromas are the most common benign tumors, they rarely show vascular complications.

**CONCLUSIONS**
It is important to know which tumors and which localizations are associated with neurovascular structures. For the tumors that are close to the neurovascular structure; cardiovascular surgeon is obligatory needed. The most common tumors among these cases are malign mesenchymal tumors. The most common localizations are thigh and knee. Correct identification of the tumor and to know tumor’s relation with adjacent vascular structures is very important for successful surgical operation.

**Conflict of interest:** None

**REFERENCES**