

Extra-skeletal Ewing's Sarcoma

Ewing's sarcoma is usually associated with primary tumors of bone but in a small percentage of cases, Ewing's sarcoma can occur in soft tissue completely unattached to the skeletal system. However, the histological appearance and the clinical picture associated with soft tissue Ewing's sarcoma is basically the same as that of skeletal Ewing's. This condition is seen in patients between the age 15 and 30 years. It occurs in males and females equally and is rare in black patients. The most common location is the chest wall, followed by the lower extremities and the paravertebral area, pelvic and hip region, and retroperitoneum. The least common location is the upper extremity. The reciprocal translocation of the long arm of chromosomes 11 and 22 is seen in soft tissue Ewing's, just as it is in skeletal Ewing's. The prognosis for five-year survival is approximately 65 per cent, similar to that of skeletal Ewing's. Treatment consists of wide resection when possible, followed by local radiation therapy, if indicated. Adjuvant chemotherapy is commonly used because of the excellent response, similar to that of skeletal Ewing's sarcoma.