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Tumor of the scapula. Total shoulder reconstruction

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Aim: Malignant tumors of the scapula are very rare. Apart from limited small series and case reports, international literature on flat bone sarcoma is exiguous and not much is known about the oncological outcome. The aim of this study is to present our experience with shoulder reconstruction following total scapulectomy for malignant tumors of the shoulder girdle.

Materials and Methods: Four patients who underwent constrained scapular prosthetic replacement after total scapulectomy between 2006 and 2014 were reviewed retrospectively.

Diagnoses included Ewing's sarcoma in two patients, lung cancer metastasis in one patient, and malignant fibrous histiocytoma in one patient.

Results: At a mean follow-up of 24 months, one patient died of his disease. One patient showed recurrence and metastasis. Complications, including dislocation occurred in one patient. All patients had a stable, painless shoulder. All patients can raise their hands above their waist. All patients retained normal hand and elbow function.

Conclusion: Although there are limitations in the shoulder's active motion, reconstruction with a scapular prosthesis can provide oncologic salvage and result in good postoperative function with a low rate of complications.