

28th Annual Meeting of the European Musculo-Skeletal Oncology Society 16th EMSOS Nurse and Allied Professions Group Meeting

April 29th - May Ist 2015 Athens, Greece



PP-166

Tumors of the patella: our experience

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Introduction: Tumors of the patella are rare; the literature indicates that most primary tumors of the patella are benign, with giant cell tumor and chondroblastoma being the two most frequent. Reported cases of patellar metastases are extremely rare.

Matherial and Method: We report a total of eight cases of patellar tumors from Bone and soft tissue tumor registery at the referent center- Institute of pathology, Medical faculty, University of Belgrade in the past 50 years.

Results: Seven of those were benign primary bone tumors: 2 osteochondromas, chondroblastoma, enchondroma, osteoblastoma and cavernous hemangioma; the only malignant tumor was a metastasis of urothelial carcinoma. Interestingly, all the patients in our series were males, the youngest being a nine-years old boy with osteochondroma, and the oldest a sixty-three-years old man with solitary metastasis of urinary bladder urothelial carcinoma. The main clinical manifestation were pain and swelling. In metastatic carcinoma pathological fracture was detected. The therapy was surgical, with two cases of total patellectomy (chondroblastoma nad metastatic urothelial carcinoma).

Conclusion: Although very rare, tumors of the patella should a clinical consideration, because early diagnosis and therapy provide excellent prognosis.