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The role of core needle biopsy in the diagnosis of bone and soft tissue tumors

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Background: In the management of bone and soft tissue tumors, accurate diagnosis is critical to optimize outcome. On occasion, diagnosis may be made by careful history, physical examination and images alone; however, open incisional biopsy for tissue diagnosis is still the gold standard for accurate diagnosis in most of the cases.

Imaging-guided core needle biopsy is another well established technique for the diagnosis of bone and soft tissue tumors and tumor-like lesions in specialized orthopedic oncology centers. A few studies have compared the results of CT-guided core needle biopsy with open incisional biopsy. In these studies the samples numbers were less than 300 biopsies with high accuracy rate in most of them, the safety of the procedure was also demonstrated in most of the cases.

Objective: To present our results of computed tomography-guided core needle biopsy with assessment of the accuracy and complication rates of the technique.

Methods: About 2000 CT-guided core needle biopsy have been performed between July 1998 and December 2014 in the national oncology center, Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical center, Israel. All of the cases were managed by the same radiology, pathology and orthopedic oncology teams.

In this retrospective study, the accuracy of this procedure wil be determined by comparing the CT-guided core needle biopsy diagnosis to the final diagnosis achieved by definitive surgery if available, we will also compare the complications rate between the two procedures.