

Volume 6, No. 1 (Supplement)

June 2011

ISSN 1823-2140

The National University
with an INTERNATIONAL REACH



UNIVERSITI
KEBANGSAAN
MALAYSIA
National University of Malaysia

MEDICINE & Health

The Official Journal of The Faculty of Medicine UKM

7th Malaysia Indonesia Brunei Medical Sciences Conference "TOWARDS A HOLISTIC AND INTEGRATIVE APPROACH IN HEALTHCARE"



22nd - 24th July 2011

Equatorial Hotel, Bangi, Selangor,
MALAYSIA

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ASSESSMENT OF OSTEOARTICULAR TUMOURS IN A GENERAL PATHOLOGY LABORATORY: THE UKM EXPERIENCE

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Background:

The assessment of osteoarticular tumours is a highly specialized area which ideally requires the expertise of a dedicated specialist tertiary centre. The Histopathology Department at the University Kebangsaan Malaysia Medical Centre (UKMMC) has recently begun reporting osteoarticular bone tumours pre and post neo-adjuvant chemotherapy. We would like to share our experience and delineate practical methods in osteoarticular tumour reporting.

Materials and Methods:

Our department is not a dedicated osteoarticular tumour reporting centre. However, our laboratory was adequately equipped to facilitate the processing of these specimens. We modified certain sampling methods based on existing laboratory equipment. We based our sampling and histopathology reporting methods on the latest edition of the College of American Pathologists (CAP) protocol for malignant bone tumour specimen examination. A standard proforma, adapted from the CAP protocol was used in the reporting of our cases. All of our cases were from patients who received neo-adjuvant chemotherapy. Thus, the quantification of tumour response to chemotherapy was a vital data point in our reporting criteria. These cases were discussed at a joint Multi Disciplinary Team Meeting (MDT) following verification of our reports.

Results:

To date, we have reported three cases of osteoarticular tumours comprising osteoblastic osteosarcoma and Ewing tumour. The reports were released within an adequate time frame prior to patient review in the outpatients' setting. Our methodology has been implemented as the standard protocol in the management of such cases.

Conclusion:

We have been able to adhere to good reporting guidelines in producing timely and accurate reports for osteoarticular tumours by using existing laboratory equipment and applying up-to-date reporting protocols. These protocols are reproducible in most general histopathology laboratories and thus, the reporting of osteoarticular tumours can be adequately performed in other centres in the country.

Keywords:

osteoarticular tumours, histopathology reporting protocols