The incidence of soft tissue sarcoma in Dakshina Kannada: Study in a district government hospital

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Dear Sir,

I read the above article by Gupta et al. with great interest and would like to make the following comments.

I must congratulate the authors for undertaking this extensive retrospective study from a District General Hospital in South India. Patient records form the basis of any audit or research and medical record keeping, especially, in the out patient clinics remains an unattended task in the Indian government hospitals.

It is distressing to note that the rural patients in India, the emerging global power, continue not to present to treatment centers at the early curable stages of the neoplastic disorders and therefore lose the opportunity to

obtain appropriate treatment. The referral patterns and the dearth in the multidisciplinary management remains to be addressed.

Authors did not explain the criteria for some patients (excluded from study) to be ‘managed as outpatients’ and the histopathological diagnosis in this patient group. Perhaps this explains the difference observed in the histological pattern with MSKCC study.

Clinical outcomes such as postoperative outcomes, long term follow up, type of chemotherapy, modalities of palliative care (medical, surgical) are not mentioned. It is understandably difficult to collate the information in a retrospective study, but the study remains incomplete without these details.

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