Protocol for the Examination of Resection Specimens From Patients With Primary Tumors of Bone

Version: 4.1.1.0
Protocol Posting Date: July 2021
CAP Laboratory Accreditation Program Protocol Required Use Date: March 2022

The changes included in this current protocol version affect accreditation requirements. The new deadline for implementing this protocol version is reflected in the above accreditation date.

For accreditation purposes, this protocol should be used for the following procedures and tumor types:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resection</td>
<td>Includes specimens designated intralesional resection, marginal resection,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>segmental/wide resection, or radical resection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tumor Type</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary malignant bone</td>
<td>Includes chondrogenic tumors, osteogenic tumors, fibrogenic tumors,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tumors</td>
<td>osteoclastic giant cell rich tumors, notochordal tumors, vascular tumors,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>myogenic tumors, lipogenic tumors, undifferentiated small round cell sarcomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and other mesenchymal tumors arising in bone.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This protocol is NOT required for accreditation purposes for the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biopsy (includes core needle biopsy, curettage, or excisional biopsy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary resection specimen with no residual cancer (eg, following neoadjuvant therapy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cytologic specimens</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following tumor types should NOT be reported using this protocol:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tumor Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plasma cell neoplasms (consider the Plasma Cell Neoplasms protocol)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lymphoma (consider the Hodgkin or non-Hodgkin Lymphoma protocols)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatric Ewing sarcoma (consider the Ewing Sarcoma protocol)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soft tissue sarcoma (consider the Soft Tissue protocol)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Authors
Javier A. Laurini*

With guidance from the CAP Cancer and CAP Pathology Electronic Reporting Committees.
* Denotes primary author.
Accreditation Requirements
This protocol can be utilized for a variety of procedures and tumor types for clinical care purposes. For accreditation purposes, only the definitive primary cancer resection specimen is required to have the core and conditional data elements reported in a synoptic format.

- **Core data elements** are required in reports to adequately describe appropriate malignancies. For accreditation purposes, essential data elements must be reported in all instances, even if the response is “not applicable” or “cannot be determined.”
- **Conditional data elements** are only required to be reported if applicable as delineated in the protocol. For instance, the total number of lymph nodes examined must be reported, but only if nodes are present in the specimen.
- **Optional data elements** are identified with “+” and although not required for CAP accreditation purposes, may be considered for reporting as determined by local practice standards.

The use of this protocol is not required for recurrent tumors or for metastatic tumors that are resected at a different time than the primary tumor. Use of this protocol is also not required for pathology reviews performed at a second institution (ie, secondary consultation, second opinion, or review of outside case at second institution).

Synoptic Reporting
All core and conditionally required data elements outlined on the surgical case summary from this cancer protocol must be displayed in synoptic report format. Synoptic format is defined as:

- **Data element:** followed by its answer (response), outline format without the paired **Data element:** Response format is NOT considered synoptic.
- The data element should be represented in the report as it is listed in the case summary. The response for any data element may be modified from those listed in the case summary, including “Cannot be determined” if appropriate.
- Each diagnostic parameter pair (Data element: Response) is listed on a separate line or in a tabular format to achieve visual separation. The following exceptions are allowed to be listed on one line:
  - Anatomic site or specimen, laterality, and procedure
  - Pathologic Stage Classification (pTNM) elements
  - Negative margins, as long as all negative margins are specifically enumerated where applicable
- The synoptic portion of the report can appear in the diagnosis section of the pathology report, at the end of the report or in a separate section, but all **Data element:** Responses must be listed together in one location.

Organizations and pathologists may choose to list the required elements in any order, use additional methods in order to enhance or achieve visual separation, or add optional items within the synoptic report. The report may have required elements in a summary format elsewhere in the report IN ADDITION TO but not as replacement for the synoptic report ie, all required elements must be in the synoptic portion of the report in the format defined above.
Summary of Changes

v 4.1.1.0

- Fixed incorrect staging classification for pT1 under pT Category for Appendicular Skeleton, Trunk, Skull, and Facial Bones
  - Changed “Tumor greater than or equal…” to “Tumor less than or equal…”
- Fixed incorrect staging classification for pT1a under pT Category for Pelvis
  - Changed to “Tumor less than or equal to…”

v 4.1.0.0

- General Reformatting
- Revised Margins Section
- Revised Lymph Nodes Section
- Added Distant Metastasis Section
- Removed pTX and pNX Staging Classification
- New WHO 5th Edition Histological Updates
Reporting Template

Protocol Posting Date: July 2021
Select a single response unless otherwise indicated.

CASE SUMMARY: (BONE: Resection)
Standard(s): AJCC-UICC 8

CLINICAL (Note A)

+Radiographic Findings (Note B)
  ___ Specify: ____________________
  ___ Not available

+Preresection Treatment (select all that apply)
  ___ No known preresection therapy
  ___ Chemotherapy performed
  ___ Radiation therapy performed
  ___ Therapy performed, type not specified
  ___ Not specified

SPECIMEN

Procedure (Note C)
  ___ Intralesional resection
  ___ Marginal resection
  ___ Segmental / wide resection
  ___ Radical resection
  ___ Other (specify): ____________________
  ___ Not specified

TUMOR

Multiple Sites
  ___ Not applicable
  ___ Multifocal tumor / discontinuous tumor at primary bone site
  ___ Additional primary bone site(s) present
Please complete a separate checklist for each primary bone site

Tumor Site (Note D)
  ___ Appendicular skeleton (specify bone, if known): _________________
  ___ Spine (specify bone, if known): _________________
  ___ Pelvis (specify bone, if known): _________________
  ___ Not specified

Tumor Size
  ___ Greatest dimension in Centimeters (cm): _________________ cm
  +Additional Dimension in Centimeters (cm): ____ x ____ cm
  ___ Cannot be determined: ____________________
Tumor Location and Extent (Note B) (select all that apply)
___ Epiphysis or apophysis
___ Metaphysis
___ Diaphysis
___ Cortex
___ Medullary cavity
___ Surface
___ Involves joint
___ Extends into soft tissue
___ Cannot be determined: ____________________________

Histologic Type (World Health Organization [WHO] Classification of Malignant Bone Tumors) (Note E)
___ Chondrogenic Tumors
    ___ Chondrosarcoma
    ___ Dedifferentiated chondrosarcoma
    ___ Periosteal chondrosarcoma
    ___ Clear cell chondrosarcoma
    ___ Mesenchymal chondrosarcoma
___ Osteogenic Tumors
    ___ Low grade central osteosarcoma
    ___ Osteosarcoma NOS
    ___ Conventional osteosarcoma
    ___ Telangiectatic osteosarcoma
    ___ Small cell osteosarcoma
    ___ Parosteal osteosarcoma
    ___ Periosteal osteosarcoma
    ___ High grade surface osteosarcoma
    ___ Secondary osteosarcoma
    +Precipitating Factor for Secondary Osteosarcoma: ____________________________
___ Undifferentiated Small Round Cell Sarcomas
    ___ Ewing sarcoma
    ___ Round cell sarcoma with EWSR1-non ETS fusions
    ___ CIC-rearranged sarcoma
    ___ Sarcoma with BCOR genetic alterations
___ Fibrogenic Tumors - Fibrosarcoma of bone
___ Malignancy in giant cell tumor of bone
___ Notochordal Tumors
    ___ Chordoma NOS
    ___ Chondroid chordoma
    ___ Poorly differentiated chordoma
    ___ Dedifferentiated chordoma
___ Vascular Tumors
    ___ Epithelioid hemangioendothelioma
    ___ Angiosarcoma
___ Other Mesenchymal Tumors
___ Leiomyosarcoma of bone
___ Adamantinoma
___ Dedifferentiated adamantinoma
___ Undifferentiated high-grade pleomorphic sarcoma
___ Cannot be determined: _________________
___ Other histologic type not listed (specify): _________________

+Histologic Type Comment: _________________

Histologic Grade (Note F)
___ G1, well differentiated, low grade
___ G2, moderately differentiated, high grade
___ G3, poorly differentiated, high grade
___ GX, cannot be assessed: _________________
___ Not applicable

+Mitotic Rate (Note G)
___ Specify mitotic rate per mm²: _________________ mitoses per mm²
___ Specify mitotic rate per 10 high-power fields (HPF): _________________ mitoses per 10 high-power fields (HPF)
___ Cannot be determined (explain): _________________

Necrosis (macroscopic or microscopic) (Note C)
___ Not identified
___ Present
   Extent of Necrosis
   ___ Specify percentage: _________________ %
   ___ Cannot be determined (explain): _________________
   ___ Cannot be determined

Treatment Effect (Note H)
___ No known presurgical therapy
___ Not identified
___ Present
   Extent of Treatment Effect (compared with pretreatment biopsy, if available)
   ___ Specify percentage of non-viable tumor: _________________ %
   ___ Cannot be determined (explain): _________________
   ___ Cannot be determined

+Lymphovascular Invasion (Note I)
___ Not identified
___ Present
___ Cannot be determined: _________________

+Tumor Comment: _________________
MARGINS (Note J)

Margin Status
___ All margins negative for tumor

Closest Margin(s) to Tumor
___ Specify closest margin(s): _________________
___ Cannot be determined (explain): _________________

Distance from Tumor to Closest Margin
Specify in Centimeters (cm)
___ Exact distance: _________________ cm
___ Greater than: _________________ cm
___ At least: _________________ cm
___ Less than: _________________ cm
___ Less than 2 cm
___ Other (specify): _________________
___ Cannot be determined: _________________

Other Close Margin(s) to Tumor (less than 2 cm)
___ Specify other close margin(s): _________________
___ Cannot be determined (explain): _________________
___ Not applicable
___ Tumor present at margin

Margin(s) Involved by Tumor
___ Specify involved margin(s): _________________
___ Cannot be determined: _________________
___ Other (specify): _________________
___ Cannot be determined (explain): _________________
___ Not applicable

+Margin Comment: _________________

REGIONAL LYMPH NODES (Note K)

Regional Lymph Node Status
___ Not applicable (no regional lymph nodes submitted or found)
___ Regional lymph nodes present
___ All regional lymph nodes negative for tumor
___ Tumor present in regional lymph node(s)

Number of Lymph Nodes with Tumor
___ Exact number (specify): _________________
___ At least (specify): _________________
___ Other (specify): _________________
___ Cannot be determined (explain): _________________
___ Other (specify): _________________
___ Cannot be determined (explain): _________________
Number of Lymph Nodes Examined
___ Exact number (specify): _________________
___ At least (specify): _________________
___ Other (specify): _________________
___ Cannot be determined (explain): _________________

Regional Lymph Node Comment: _________________

DISTANT METASTASIS
Distant Site(s) Involved, if applicable (select all that apply)
___ Not applicable
___ Lung: _________________
___ Bone: _________________
___ Other (specify): _________________
___ Cannot be determined: _________________

PATHOLOGIC STAGE CLASSIFICATION (pTNM, AJCC 8th Edition) (Note L)
Reporting of pT, pN, and (when applicable) pM categories is based on information available to the pathologist at the time the report is issued. As per the AJCC (Chapter 1, 8th Ed.) it is the managing physician’s responsibility to establish the final pathologic stage based upon all pertinent information, including but potentially not limited to this pathology report.

TNM Descriptors (select all that apply)
___ Not applicable
___ m (multiple)
___ r (recurrent)
___ y (post-treatment)

pT Category
___ Appendicular Skeleton, Trunk, Skull, and Facial Bones

pT Category
___ pT not assigned (cannot be determined based on available pathological information)
___ pT0: No evidence of primary tumor
___ pT1: Tumor less than or equal to 8 cm in greatest dimension
___ pT2: Tumor greater than 8 cm in greatest dimension
___ pT3: Discontinuous tumors in the primary bone site

Spine
___ pT not assigned (cannot be determined based on available pathological information)
___ pT0: No evidence of primary tumor
___ pT1: Tumor confined to one vertebral segment or two adjacent vertebral segments
___ pT2: Tumor confined to three adjacent vertebral segments
___ pT3: Tumor confined to four or more adjacent vertebral segments, or any nonadjacent vertebral segments

pT4: Extension into the spinal canal or great vessels
___ pT4a: Extension into the spinal canal
___ pT4b: Evidence of gross vascular invasion or tumor thrombus in the great vessels
___ pT4 (subcategory cannot be determined)
Pelvis

**pT Category**

- **pT not assigned** (cannot be determined based on available pathological information)
- **pT0**: No evidence of primary tumor
- **pT1**: Tumor confined to one pelvic segment with no extraosseous extension
  - **pT1a**: Tumor less than or equal 8 cm in greatest dimension
  - **pT1b**: Tumor greater than 8 cm in greatest dimension
  - **pT1** (subcategory cannot be determined)
- **pT2**: Tumor confined to one pelvic segment with extraosseous extension or two segments without extraosseous extension
  - **pT2a**: Tumor less than or equal to 8 cm in greatest dimension
  - **pT2b**: Tumor greater than 8 cm in greatest dimension
  - **pT2** (subcategory cannot be determined)
- **pT3**: Tumor spanning two pelvic segments with extraosseous extension
  - **pT3a**: Tumor less than or equal to 8 cm in greatest dimension
  - **pT3b**: Tumor greater than 8 cm in greatest dimension
  - **pT3** (subcategory cannot be determined)
- **pT4**: Tumor spanning three pelvic segments or crossing the sacroiliac joint
  - **pT4a**: Tumor involves sacroiliac joint and extends medial to the sacral neuroforamen
  - **pT4b**: Tumor encasement of external iliac vessels or presence of gross tumor thrombus in major pelvic vessels
  - **pT4** (subcategory cannot be determined)

**pN Category (Note K)**

- **pN not assigned** (no nodes submitted or found)
- **pN not assigned** (cannot be determined based on available pathological information)
- **pN0**: No regional lymph node metastasis
- **pN1**: Regional lymph node metastasis

**pM Category (required only if confirmed pathologically)**

- **Not applicable** - pM cannot be determined from the submitted specimen(s)
- **pM1**: Distant metastasis
  - **pM1a**: Lung
  - **pM1b**: Bone or other distant sites
  - **pM1** (subcategory cannot be determined)

**ADDITIONAL FINDINGS**

+**Additional Findings (specify): _________________**

**SPECIAL STUDIES**

**Immunohistochemistry**

- **Specify**: _________________
- **Not performed**: _________________
- **Not applicable**

**Cytogenetics**

- **Specify**: _________________
- **Not performed**: _________________
- **Not applicable**
Molecular Pathology

___ Specify: ____________________
___ Not performed: ____________________
___ Not applicable

COMMENTS

Comment(s): ____________________
Explanatory Notes

A. Scope of Guidelines
These recommendations are used for all primary malignant tumors of bone except hematopoietic neoplasms, ie, lymphoma and plasma cell neoplasms.

B. Tumor Location and Extent
Radiographic imaging plays an especially critical role in the diagnosis of bone tumors. Close collaboration with an experienced musculoskeletal radiologist and orthopedic surgeon is recommended.

Figure 1 is a diagrammatic representation of the “anatomic” regions of a long bone. These locations are very important in classifying bone tumors. For instance, chondroblastomas almost always arise in the epiphysis. Epiphyses and apophyses are secondary ossification centers and therefore are embryonic equivalents. The greater and lesser trochanters are apophyses, while the epiphyses are at the ends of long bones.

Figure 1. Important anatomic landmarks for tumor diagnosis in long bones. Adapted from Gray’s Anatomy.1

References

C. Procedure / Tissue Processing
The following is a list of guidelines to be used in defining what type of procedure has been performed. This is based on the surgeon’s intent and not based on the pathologic assessment of the margins.

Intralesional Resection: Leaving gross tumor behind. Partial debulking or curettage are examples.

Marginal Resection: Removing the tumor and its pseudocapsule with a relatively small amount of adjacent tissue. There is no gross tumor at the margin; however, microscopic tumor may be present. Note that
occasionally, a surgeon will perform an "excisional" biopsy, which effectively accomplishes the same thing as a marginal resection.

**Segmental/Wide Resection**: An intracompartmental resection. A single piece of bone is resected, including the lesion and a cuff of normal bone.

**Radical Resection**: The removal of an entire bone, or the excision of the adjacent muscle groups if the tumor is extracompartmental

**Fixation**

Tissue specimens from bone tumors optimally are received fresh/unfixed in case fresh tissue for ancillary studies, such as cytogenetics or molecular studies, needs to be collected. All tissue should be processed in a manner that would allow molecular studies to be undertaken successfully. Decalcification using harsh acid reagents may be detrimental for nucleic acid-based molecular studies and therefore utilization of EDTA as decalcifying agent has been recommended. Freezing a portion of the sample and/or fixing soft portions of the lesion in buffered formalin is encouraged.

**Tissue Submission for Histologic Evaluation**

One section per centimeter of maximum dimension is usually recommended, although fewer sections are needed for very large tumors, especially if they are homogeneous. Tumors known to be high grade from a previous biopsy do not require as many sections as those that were previously diagnosed as low grade, as documentation of a high-grade component will change stage and prognosis in the latter case. Sections should be taken of grossly heterogeneous areas, and there is no need to submit more than 1 section of necrotic tumor (always with a transition to viable tumor), with the exception of specimens obtained to assess chemotherapy effect on osteosarcomas and Ewing sarcoma. Occasionally, gross pathology can be misleading, and areas that appear to be grossly necrotic may actually be myxoid or edematous. When this happens, additional sections of these areas should be submitted for histologic examination. When estimates of gross necrosis exceed those of histologic necrosis, the greater percentage of necrosis should be recorded on the surgical pathology report. In general, most tumors require 12 sections or fewer, excluding margins. Tumors with greater areas of heterogeneity may need to be sampled more thoroughly.

**Molecular Studies**

Additionally, it may be important to snap freeze a small portion of tissue as availability of frozen tissue may be a requirement for patient enrollment in clinical trials. Approximately 1 cm³ of fresh tissue (less is acceptable for small specimens, including core biopsies) should be cut into small, 0.2-cm fragments, reserving sufficient tissue for histologic examination. This frozen tissue should ideally be stored at minus (-)70°C and can be shipped on dry ice to facilities that perform molecular analysis. Discretion should be used in triaging tissue from bone sarcomas. Adequate tissue should be submitted for conventional light microscopy before tissue has been taken for cytogenetics, electron microscopy, or molecular analysis.

**References**

D. Tumor Site

Given the strong association between the primary anatomic site and outcome, the 8th edition of the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual uses the following site groups for staging purposes:

- Appendicular skeleton, including trunk, skull, and facial bones
- Pelvis
- Spine

This site grouping is reflected by the provision of separate definitions for the primary tumor (T) for each anatomic site.

References


E. Classification of Bone Tumors

Intraoperative Consultation

Histologic classification of bone tumors is sufficiently complex that, in many cases, it is unreasonable to expect a precise classification of these tumors based on an intraoperative consultation. A complete understanding of the surgeon’s treatment algorithm is recommended before rendering a frozen section diagnosis. In the case of primary bone tumors, an intraoperative diagnosis of benign versus malignant will generally guide the immediate decision to curette, excise, or wait for permanent sections, and certain therapeutic options may be lost if the wrong path is pursued. Intraoperative consultation is useful in assessing if “lesional” tissue is present and whether or not this tissue is necrotic, and in constructing a differential diagnosis that can direct the proper triage of tissue for flow cytometry (lymphoma), electron microscopy, and molecular studies/cytogenetics. Tissue triage optimally is performed at the time of frozen section. In many cases, it is important that a portion of tissue be submitted for ancillary studies, even from fine-needle aspiration (FNA) and core needle biopsy specimens, once sufficient tissue has been submitted for histologic evaluation.

Histologic Classification of Treated Lesions

Due to extensive treatment effects, such as necrosis, fibrosis, and chemotherapy-induced and radiation-induced pleomorphism, it may not be possible to classify some lesions that were either never biopsied or where the biopsy was insufficient for a precise diagnosis. In problematic cases, the grade of the pretreatment specimen (if available) should take precedence.

WHO Classification of Malignant Bone Tumors

Classification of tumors should be made according to the 2020 World Health Organization (WHO) classification of bone tumors. As part of the WHO classification system, soft tissue tumors are divided into 4 categories: benign, intermediate (locally aggressive), intermediate (rarely metastasizing), and malignant. Primary malignant lymphomas and plasma cell neoplasms are not staged using the AJCC system for malignant bone tumors.
F. Grading

The grading of bone tumors is largely driven by the histologic diagnosis, and traditionally grading has been based on the system advocated by Broders, which assesses cellularity and nuclear features/degree of anaplasia. The eighth edition of the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual recommends a 2-tiered system (low vs high grade) for recording grading. Histologic grading uses a 3-tiered system: Grade 1 is considered low grade, and Grade 2 and Grade 3 are grouped together as high grade for biological grading. In bone sarcomas, the histologic subtype often determines the clinical behaviour and grade. Therefore, a more pragmatic approach to grading aggressive and malignant primary tumors of bone can be used.

Two bone tumors that are locally aggressive and metastasize infrequently, and thus are usually low grade, are low-grade central osteosarcoma and parosteal osteosarcoma. Periosteal osteosarcoma is generally regarded as a grade 2 osteosarcoma. Primary bone tumors that are generally high grade include malignant giant cell tumor, Ewing sarcoma, angiosarcoma, dedifferentiated chondrosarcoma, conventional osteosarcoma, telangiectactic osteosarcoma, small cell osteosarcoma, secondary osteosarcoma, and high-grade surface osteosarcoma.

Grading of conventional chondrosarcoma is based on cellularity, cytologic atypia, and mitotic figures, following the grading system proposed by Evans et al. Grade 1 (low-grade) chondrosarcoma is hypocellular and similar histologically to enchondroma. Grade 2 (intermediate-grade) chondrosarcoma is more cellular than grade 1 chondrosarcoma; has more cytologic atypia, greater hyperchromasia and nuclear size; or has extensive myxoid stroma. Grade 3 (high-grade) chondrosarcoma is hypercellular, pleomorphic, and contains prominent mitotic activity.

Mesenchymal chondrosarcoma, fibrosarcoma, leiomyosarcoma, liposarcoma, undifferentiated high-grade pleomorphic sarcoma of bone and other “soft tissue-type” sarcomas that rarely occur in bone can be graded according to the French Federation of Cancer Centers Sarcoma Group (FNCLCC) grading system (see College of American Pathologists protocol for soft tissue tumors).

Chordomas are locally aggressive lesions with a propensity for metastasis late in their clinical course and are not graded. Adamantinomas tend to have a low-grade clinical course, but this is variable. Fortunately, they are very rare. According to the 2020 WHO classification of tumors of bone, adamantinomas are not graded.

Bone Tumor Grades (Summary)

**Grade 1 (Low Grade)**
- Low-grade intramedullary (central) osteosarcoma
- Parosteal osteosarcoma
- Grade I chondrosarcoma
- Clear cell chondrosarcoma

**Grade 2**
- Periosteal osteosarcoma
- Grade II chondrosarcoma
Grade 3 (High Grade)
Ewing sarcoma
Conventional osteosarcoma
Telangiectactic osteosarcoma
Mesenchymal chondrosarcoma
Small cell osteosarcoma
Secondary osteosarcoma
High-grade surface osteosarcoma
Dedifferentiated chondrosarcoma
Dedifferentiated chordoma
Malignancy in giant cell tumor
Grade III chondrosarcoma
Soft-tissue type sarcomas (eg, leiomyosarcoma)
Undifferentiated high-grade pleomorphic sarcoma

TNM Grading
The 8th edition of the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) and International Union Against Cancer (UICC) staging system for bone tumors includes a 3-grade system but effectively collapses into high grade and low grade.\(^{2,5}\) Grading in the TNM grading system is based on differentiation only and does not generally apply to sarcomas.

GX Grade cannot be assessed
G1 Well differentiated, low grade
G2 Moderately differentiated, high grade
G3 Poorly differentiated, high grade

For purposes of using the AJCC staging system (see note J), 3-grade systems can be converted to a 2-grade (TNM) system as follows: grade 1 = low-grade; grade 2 and grade 3 = high-grade.

References
G. Mitotic Rate
Mitotic rate is determined by counting mitotic figures in the most mitotically active area, away from areas of necrosis, in either 10 consecutive high-power fields (HPF) (use the X40 objective) (1 HPF x 400 = 0.1734 mm²) or in the appropriate number of HPF to encompass 1 mm² based on each individual microscope.

The area of 1 HPF originally used measured 0.1734 mm². However, the area of 1 HPF using most modern microscopes with wider 40x lenses will most likely be higher. Pathologists are encouraged to determine the field area of their 40x lenses and divide 0.1734 by the obtained field area to obtain a conversion factor. The number of mitotic figures in 10 HPF multiplied by the obtained conversion factor and rounded to the nearest whole number should be used for reporting purposes.

An important change in the 5th Edition of the WHO Classification of Tumours series\(^1\) is the conversion of mitotic count from the traditional denominator of 10 HPFs to a defined area expressed in mm², as an attempt to standardize the area used for mitotic count. Table 1 shows the approximate number of fields required to encompass 1 mm² based on the field diameter and its corresponding area.

**Table 1. Approximate number of fields per 1 mm² based on field diameter and its corresponding area**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field diameter (mm)</th>
<th>Area (mm²)</th>
<th>Approximate number of fields per 1 mm²</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.40</td>
<td>0.126</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.41</td>
<td>0.132</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.42</td>
<td>0.138</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.43</td>
<td>0.145</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.44</td>
<td>0.152</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>0.159</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>0.47</td>
<td>0.173</td>
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<td>0.48</td>
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<td>0.66</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.68</td>
<td>0.363</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.69</td>
<td>0.374</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
H. Response to Chemotherapy / Radiation Therapy Effect
It is essential to estimate neoadjuvant treatment effect in primary Ewing sarcoma and osteosarcoma of bone, as these have been shown to have prognostic significance. An entire representative slice of the tumor taken through the long axis should be mapped using a grid pattern diagram, photocopy, or radiologic film to indicate the site for each tumor block. In addition, the remainder of the neoplasm should be sampled at the rate of 1 section per centimeter. Areas of soft tissue extension and the interface of tumor with normal tissue should also be sampled. The sum of all viable areas measured microscopically is divided by the total cross-sectional area occupied by tumor to arrive at a percentage. Prognostically significant therapy response in osteosarcoma, according to most series, is defined at 90%, with those tumors showing 90% therapy response associated with a favorable prognosis. There are 2 protocols to assess response to therapy in Ewing sarcoma. Response can be assessed in the same manner as osteosarcoma or by the system of Picci, which is expressed as grade I (macroscopic viable tumor), grade II (microscopic viable tumor), or grade III (no viable tumor).

References

I. Lymphovascular Invasion
Lymphovascular invasion (LVI) indicates whether microscopic lymphovascular invasion is identified. LVI includes lymphatic invasion, vascular invasion, or lymphovascular invasion. By AJCC/UICC convention, LVI does not affect the T category indicating local extent of tumor unless specifically included in the definition of a T category.

J. Margins
It has been recommended that for all margins located less than 2 cm, the distance of the tumor from the margin be reported in centimeters. However, there is a lack of agreement on this issue. We recommend specifying the location of all margins located less than 2 cm. Margins from bone tumors should be taken as perpendicular margins, if possible. If the tumor is located more than 2 cm from the margin, the marrow can be scooped out and submitted as a margin.

References
K. Regional Lymph Nodes
Regional lymph node metastasis is extremely rare in adult bone sarcomas. Nodes are not sampled routinely, and it is not necessary to exhaustively search for nodes. When no lymph nodes are resected, the pathologic ‘N’ category is not assigned (pNX is not used for bone tumors). When present, regional lymph node metastasis has prognostic importance and should be reported. Patients whose nodal status is not determined to be positive for tumor, either clinically or pathologically, should be designated as N0.

References

L. Pathologic Stage Classification (TNM and Stage Groupings)
The 8th edition TNM staging system for bone tumors of the AJCC and the UICC is recommended.

The classification is to be applied to all primary tumors of bone. Anatomic site is known to influence outcome; therefore, outcome data should be reported specifying site. Site groups for bone sarcomas are the following: appendicular skeleton, including trunk, skull and facial bones, pelvis, and spine. Pathologic staging includes pathologic data obtained from examination of a resected specimen sufficient to evaluate the highest T category, histopathologic type and grade, regional lymph nodes as appropriate, or distant metastasis. Because regional lymph node involvement from bone tumors is rare, the pathologic stage grouping includes any of the following combinations: pT pG pN pM, or pT pG cN cM, or cT cN pM

TNM Descriptors
For identification of special cases of TNM or pTNM classifications, the “m” suffix and the “y” and “r” prefixes are used. Although they do not affect the stage grouping, they indicate cases needing separate analysis.

The “m” suffix indicates the presence of multiple primary tumors in a single site and is recorded in parentheses: pT(m)NM.

The “y” prefix indicates those cases in which classification is performed during or following initial multimodality therapy (ie, neoadjuvant chemotherapy, radiation therapy, or both chemotherapy and radiation therapy). The cTNM or pTNM category is identified by a “y” prefix. The ycTNM or ypTNM categorizes the extent of tumor actually present at the time of that examination. The “y” categorization is not an estimate of tumor prior to multimodality therapy (ie, before initiation of neoadjuvant therapy).

The “r” prefix indicates a recurrent tumor when staged after a documented disease-free interval, and is identified by the “r” prefix: rTNM.
T Category Considerations (Figures 2 and 3)

Spine segments for staging:

**Figure 2.** Spine segments for staging. Used with permission of the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC), Chicago, Illinois. The original source for this material is the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual (2017) published by Springer Science and Business Media LLC, [www.springerlink.com](http://www.springerlink.com).

**Figure 3.** Pelvic segments for staging. Used with permission of the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC), Chicago, Illinois. The original source for this material is the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual (2017) published by Springer Science and Business Media LLC, [www.springerlink.com](http://www.springerlink.com).
N Category Considerations

Because of the rarity of lymph node involvement in sarcomas, the designation NX may not be appropriate and could be considered N0 if no clinical involvement is evident.

References