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#### Dr. Anita B Sajjanar

Associate Professor, Department of Pathology, D.Y Patil Medical College, Kasaba Bawada, Kolhapur, Maharashtra, India

#### Dr. Archa Rajagopal

Post Graduate Resident, Department of Pathology, D.Y Patil Medical College, Kasaba Bawada, Kolhapur, Maharashtra, India

#### Dr. SS More

Head of Department, Department of Pathology, D.Y Patil Medical College, Kasaba Bawada, Kolhapur, Maharashtra, India

Corresponding Author:
Dr. Anita B Sajjanar
Associate Professor,
Department of Pathology, D.Y
Patil Medical College, Kasaba
Bawada, Kolhapur,
Maharashtra, India

# A histopathological study of bone lesions in a tertiary care hospital in Kolhapur

### Dr. Anita B Sajjanar, Dr. Archa Rajagopal and Dr. SS More

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#### Abstract

**Introduction:** Bone lesions are relatively uncommon in comparison to other lesions. For the correct diagnosis of bone lesions, charting out treatment plan and estimating prognosis, interpretation of biopsy material proves to be absolutely necessary. This present histopathological study helps us to understand the variety of bone lesions and gives an idea of their relative frequencies, age, sex distributions and site of occurrence.

**Materials and Methods:** This study consists of 83 cases collected over a period of 2 years from October 2017 to October 2019 from patients admitted at Dr. D. Y Patil Hospital, Kolhapur a tertiary care centre with radiologically apparent bone lesions. Hematoxylin and Eosin sections were examined. Detailed microscopic study was done and findings and diagnosis were noted and compared to other studies

Results: Out of the 83 cases studied over the period of 2 years, 41 lesions were non-neoplastic (49.4%), and 42 lesions were neoplastic (50.6%), out of which 33 cases are benign (39.7%) and 9 cases are malignant (10.8%). Males were affected more commonly than females, with a male: female ratio of 1.37:1. Bone lesions were more common in between the age group of 25 to 50 years. Amongst non-neoplastic lesions, Chronic osteomyelitis were the most common (21 cases, 51.3%), followed by avascular necrosis (10 cases, 24.4%). Amongst the benign neoplastic lesions, Giant cell tumor (Osteoclastoma) was the most common (10 cases, 30.3%), Osteochondroma (Exostosis) was the second most common (8 cases, 24.3%). The most common malignant lesion was Chondrosarcoma (3 cases, 33.33%), followed by metastasis to bone (3 cases, 33.33%). Most of the lesions were found in the femur (24 cases, 28.9%).

**Conclusion:** Histopathological study of bone lesions includes variety of non-neoplastic and neoplastic lesions. Although benign and malignant lesions of bone are distinct and well studied, there are some benign lesions that often mimic cancer-causing diagnostic dilemma. Therefore, if diagnosed with clinical, radiological and histopathology, proper diagnosis and treatment can be made.

Keywords: Histopathology, bone tumors, osteomyelitis, chondrosarcoma

#### Introduction

Bone lesions are relatively uncommon in comparison to other lesions. Bone lesions can present in any form varying from inflammatory, metabolic, degenerative and neoplastic tumors. Bone lesions can affect children, adults and even elderly persons, they can occur quickly or abruptly or can even occur as a slow growing palpable mass. Bone tumors constitute only 0.5% of total world cancer incidence [1-3].

It is important to remember that some inflammatory lesions such as osteomyelitis can mimic malignant lesions and some malignant lesions such as metastasis or myeloma can mimic benign. It is difficult to determine radiologically whether a bone lesion is benign or malignant [4].

For the correct diagnosis of bone lesions, charting out treatment plan and estimating prognosis, interpretation of biopsy material proves to be absolutely necessary.

In 1958, Jaffe pointed out the importance of cooperation among the surgeon, the radiologist and pathologist in diagnosing a lesion of bone. Therefore an integrated approach involving radiographic, histologic and clinical data are necessary to form an accurate diagnosis and to determine the degree of activity and malignancy in each lesion <sup>[5]</sup>.

This present histopathological study helps us to understand the variety of bone lesions and gives an idea of their relative frequencies, age, sex distributions and site of occurrence.

#### **Materials and Methods**

This study consists of 83 cases collected over a period of 2 years from October 2017 to October 2019. The material was obtained from patients admitted at Dr D. Y Patil Hospital, Kolhapur a tertiary care centre.

The inclusion criteria for selection were patients with radiologically apparent bone lesions.

The records of patients with a diagnosis of any bone lesion in the histopathological registers in the Pathology Department of D. Y Patil Medical College constitute the study materials

Brief essential clinical history such as the age, sex, anatomical site, radiological findings, histopathological findings as well as record of other investigations were noted from the patient's case paper.

The histopathological slides were retrieved for reexamination. Where necessary when histopathological work up was required, new sections were prepared from the paraffin blocks and stained with hematoxylin and eosin stains.

For newly received specimens from the Orthopedics department, soft tissue was fixed overnight in 10% formalin while for bone 3 to 5 mm thick sections were made and adequately fixed in 10 % buffered formalin and then decalcification was done in 10 % nitric acid. After fixation, representative areas were sampled according to standard protocols. Paraffin embedded blocks were sectioned using microtome and stained with routine hematoxylin and eosin. Detailed microscopic study was done and findings and diagnosis were noted.

#### Results

Out of the 83 cases studied over the period of 2 years, 41 lesions were non-neoplastic (49.4%), and 42 lesions were

neoplastic (50.6%), out of which 33 cases are benign (39.7%) and 9 cases are malignant (10.8%). (Table 1)

48 out of the 83 lesions were seen in males (57.9%) and 35 out of the total 83 lesions were seen in females (42.1%), therefore males were affected more commonly than females, with a male: female ratio of 1.37:1. (Table 2)

Bone lesions were more common in between the age group of 25 to 50 years, followed by age less than 25 years and least common more than 50 years of age. (Table 3)

Amongst non-neoplastic lesions, Chronic osteomyelitis were the most common (21 cases, 51.3%), followed by avascular necrosis (10 cases, 24.4%), tuberculous osteomyelitis (3 cases, 7.3%), fibrous dysplasia (3 cases, 7.3%), Myositis ossificans (2 cases, 4.9%), Calcaneal spur (1 case, 2.4%), extra-medullary hematopoiesis (1 case, 2.4%) (Table 1)

Amongst the benign neoplastic lesions, Giant cell tumor (Osteoclastoma) was the most common (10 cases, 30.3%), Osteochondroma (exostosis) was the second most common (8 cases, 24.3%), followed by Aneurysmal bone cyst(6 cases,18.3%), Simple bone cyst(3 cases,9.1%),Osteoma, Osteoblastoma, Chondroblastoma, Chordoma, Glomus tumor, Fibroma(1 case, 3% each). (Table 1)

Amongst the malignant neoplastic lesions, the most common lesion was Chondrosarcoma (3 cases, 33.33%), followed by metastasis to bone (3 cases, 33.33%), Ewing's sarcoma, Epitheloid osteogenic sarcoma, malignant round cell tumor (1 case, 11.11% respectively). (Table 1)

Most of the lesions were found in the femur (24 cases, 28.9%), followed by tibia and fibula (15 cases, 18%), humerus and scapula (11 cases, 13.3%), small bones (9 cases, 10.9%), radius and ulna, spine and skull, hip bone(6 cases, 7.2% each), foot bones (4 cases, 4.8%), patella and ribs (1 case, 1.2% each). (Table 4)

**Table 1:** Proportion and distribution of the bone lesions

	Non monlectic	Neoplastic		
	Non neoplastic	Benign	Malignant	
	1. TB osteomyelitis-3	1. Chondroblastoma-1	1. Chondrosarcoma-3	
	2. Avascular necrosis-10	2. Osteochondroma-8	2. Ewings sarcoma-1	
	3. Chronic Osteomyelitis-21	3. Fibroma-1	3. Osteosarcoma-1	
	4. Extramedullary hematopoeisis-1	4. Giant Cell Tumor-10	4.Secondaries-3	
	5. Fibrous dysplasia-3	5. Glomus tumor-1	5. Malignant round cell tumor – 1	
	6. Myositis ossificans-2	6. Osteoblastoma-1		
	7. Spur-1	7. Osteoma-1		
		8. Simple bone cyst-3		
		9. Aneurysmal bone cyst-6		
		10. Chordoma-1		
Total	41	33	9	

Table 2: Gender distribution of the bone lesions

Pana lasions	Non neoplastic	Nec	Tatal	
Bone lesions		Benign	Malignant	Total
Male	26	18	4	48
Female	15	15	5	35
Total	41	33	9	83

**Table 3:** Age wise distribution of the bone lesions

A (i	Non monitorio	Nec	Takal	
Age (in years)	Non neoplastic	Benign	Malignant	Total
<25	13	17	2	32
25-50	19	14	4	37
>50	9	2	3	14
Total	41	33	9	83

Neoplastic Bone Non neoplastic Benign Malignant Femur 8 Tibia and fibula 8 0 7 Humerus and scapula 5 1 6 Radius and ulna 2 3 1 Spine and skull 3 3 0 Small bones 3 0 6 Foot 2 0 2 Hip 5 0 1 Patella 0 1 0 Ribs 0 0

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Table 4: Anatomical distributions of the bone lesions

#### Discussion

Bone lesions contribute a small fraction compared to other lesions in a person. It is very important to know all the clinical details like age, gender, site of lesion and radiological findings before giving a histopathological diagnosis of any bone lesions. Few benign entities can be confused clinically with malignant entities, for example, osteomyelitis and Ewing's sarcoma, traumatic and pathological fracture, Osteoblastoma and osteosarcoma, Tuberculosis and malignancy.

Total

Therefore, histopathological diagnosis is the gold standard for exact diagnosis and for helping the clinician to predict the prognosis of the variety of bone lesions.

This present study helped us understand the variety of bone lesions in a tertiary hospital in Kolhapur and gives an idea of the relative frequencies, age, sex and site of occurrence.

In our study of 83 bone lesions in Dr D.Y Patil Hospital, Kolhapur. Most bone lesions showed male predominance, with a male: female ratio of 1.37:1. Same findings were

found in other studies done is other parts of the world [6-8].

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In our study, neoplastic lesions are more common than non – neoplastic lesions confirming to study done by Settakom *et al.* <sup>[9]</sup>. Benign lesions are more common than malignant lesions <sup>[10-14]</sup>. Amongst non-neoplastic lesions, Chronic osteomyelitis were the most common similar to Kethireddy S, Raghu K, Chandra Sekhar KPA, *et al.* 2016, followed by avascular necrosis.

In our study, Giant cell tumor was the most common benign tumor followed by Osteochondroma similar to studies like in Modi D, Rathod GB, Delwadia KN, *et al* 2016 <sup>[15]</sup>, in some other studies Osteochondroma was the most common followed by giant cell tumor <sup>[16-17]</sup>.

The peak incidence for bone lesions was between 25 to 50 years of age. Most metastatic bone tumors were found in older age above 40 years.

Most common site of involvement is the femur similar to Kethireddy S, Raghu K, Chandra Sekhar KPA, *et al.* <sup>[18]</sup>.

	Our study	Nigeria <sup>19</sup>	Pakistan <sup>20</sup>	Mexico <sup>6</sup>	Cameron <sup>21</sup>	India <sup>16</sup>	Thailand <sup>21</sup>
Total number of cases	83	79	222	566	268	50	1001
Males	48	51	150	304	166	31	550
Females	35	26	72	262	102	19	451
Benign	33	61	179	405	129	34	147
Malignant	9	16	43	161	139	3	854
Giant cell tumour	10	18	17	59	17	10	37
Osteochondroma	8	34	15	117	26	22	25
Chondrosarcoma	3	1	0	14	9	0	10
Osteosarcoma	1	7	7	48	48	1	58

Table 5: Comparison of our study with other studies from different countries

#### Conclusion

Histopathological study of bone lesions includes variety of non-neoplastic and neoplastic lesions. Although benign and malignant lesions of bone are distinct and well-studied, there are some benign lesions that often mimic cancer-causing diagnostic dilemma. Therefore, if diagnosed with clinical, radiological and histopathology, proper diagnosis and treatment can be made.

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