DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT OF SOFT TISSUE TUMORS IN CHILDREN: EXPERIENCE OF A LIMITED RESOURCE SERVICE



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Introduction: Imaging, and in particular MRI, is of capital importance in this management of soft tissue tumors. However, it remains very inaccessible and available in countries with limited resources making care difficult. The aim of our study was to describe the experience of the pediatric surgery unit of the Bouaké Hospital and University Center in the management of soft tissue tumors in children.

Methods This was an observational study with retrospective data collection carried out in the pediatric surgery unit of the Bouaké Hospital and University Center from January 2017 to December 2020. The variables studied were age, sex, consultation time, clinical signs, type of treatment, histological type and evolution.

Results: We collected 41 files, ie 12.5 cases / year. The sex ratio was 1.7. The average age was 2.8 years [2 days and 13 years]. The average consultation time was 196.95 days [2 days and 07 years]. The reason for consultation was mass in 21 cases (51.2%). MRI was not performed in any case. Height was ≤5cm in 33 cases (80.4%). The tumor was superficial in 32 cases (78.0%). An excisional biopsy was performed in 24 cases (58.5%). Benign tumors accounted for 37 cases (90.2%). In 4 cases (9.7%) it was sarcoma. The outcome was favorable in 38 cases (92.6%).

Table 1: distribution of patients by age group

age range	Effectif	Pourcentage(%)	
[0- 1ans]	20	48.7	
] 1an -5 ans [11	26.8	
>5ans	10	24.4	
Total	41	100	

Table 2: distribution of patients by histological type

Histological type	Effectif	Pourcentage(%
Lipoma	10	24,3
fibroliopoma	01	2,4
Lymphangioma cystic	05	12,1
Hémangioma child	03	7,3
Botryomycoma	01	2,4
Plexiform neurofibroma	02	4,8
Angioma	05	12,1
Condyloma	01	2,4
Epidermoid cyst	04	9,7
synovial cyst	01	2,4
Liposarcoma	02	4,8
Rhabdomyosarcoma	02	4,8
Giant cell tumor	01	2,4
plexiform fibrohistiocystic	01	2,4
TOTAL	41	100



figure 1: pre- and per-operative aspect of a low grade liposarcoma

Conclusion: Malignant soft tissue tumors in children are dominated by sarcomas. In a situation of limited resources where MRI is not available, the size and depth given by the ultrasound and the x-ray aid in management. Histological examination is essential for diagnosis.

Keywords: child - biopsy - sarcoma - surgery

Reference

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