Ewing’s Sarcoma

What is Ewing’s sarcoma?
Ewing’s sarcoma is the second most common type of bone cancer. Most often, this type of cancer is found in the flat bones like the pelvis and ribs or in the long bones in the arms and legs. It commonly spreads to other bones, the lungs, and bone marrow. It is most common in children between 10-15 years of age, and rarely under five years of age. It is more common in boys than girls.

What causes Ewing’s sarcoma?
Usually the cause is not known.

What are the symptoms?
Symptoms can be different for everybody. The most common are:
- Pain in the bone where the tumour is
- Swelling in the area near the tumour
- Pain when you touch the area where the tumour is
- Sometimes the tumour can cause the bone to fracture (break)
- Fever (high temperature) may sometimes occur
- Restricted movement of area where the tumour is located.

What tests will my child have? How is it diagnosed?
The first test is generally an x-ray of the affected bone. Tests to find out the size of the tumour will be done. These include CT or MRI scans. A biopsy is taken to see exactly what type of tumour it is. Other tests are taken to see if the tumour has spread, (metastasised), such as a chest x-ray, bone scans, bone marrow biopsy and blood tests. See procedure section for more information.

How do you treat Ewing’s sarcoma?
Treatment for Ewing’s sarcoma may include all three types available namely chemotherapy, surgery and radiotherapy.
Treatment protocols will depend on the size and the position of the tumour, and if it has spread to other parts of the body.

- **Chemotherapy**
  
  Chemotherapy is used initially with the aim of shrinking the size of the primary (main) tumour. This makes it easier to remove by surgery. The other purpose is to kill any cancer cells, which may have spread to other parts of the body. Chemotherapy is often used as well to ‘mop up’ any ‘left over’ cancer cells. Commonly used drugs include vincristine, cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin and etoposide.

- **Surgery**
  
  This is used to remove the tumour. The type of surgery required will depend on the location and extent of tumour. Your treating doctor will discuss all these factors with you.

- **Radiotherapy**
  
  This may be used if not all the tumour can be removed with surgery, or surgery is not possible at all. Please ask for section on radiotherapy if you require more information.

**Can my child be cured?**

Increasing numbers of patients are cured. Your treating doctor will discuss the specific information about your child with you.

**What follow-up care will my child need?**

Your doctor will see your child at regular intervals at the end of treatment. At these visits tests will be done to make sure the cancer has not come back. The visits will become less frequent as time progresses.

**Further Information**

For further information see the section ‘Sources of more information on cancer’ or ask any member of the team.