SYMPTOMS OF PRIMARY BONE CANCERS & TUMOURS

BY ANATOMICAL SITES

Chondrosarcoma and chordoma are slow growing tumours. Because their location is close to major nerves, tumours can press on these nerves, causing nerve-based symptoms.

**VERTEBRAL COLUMN**
4% of all cases
Chondrosarcoma, Ewing sarcoma, chordoma. More common in adults.

Most common symptoms:
Bone pain, often NOT at the site of the tumour, loss of strength in limbs, stiffness and issues with balance, numbness in limbs and fatigue.

Less common symptoms:
Limp or issues walking, weight loss.

**RIBS**
9% of all cases
Ewing sarcoma, chondrosarcoma, chordoma. More common in children and TYAs.

Most common symptoms:
Bone pain, which can occur away from the site of the tumour and fatigue.

Less common symptoms:
Stiffness / reduced movement & headaches.

**LOWER LIMBS**
34% of all cases
Ewing sarcoma, chondrosarcoma, osteosarcoma, adamantinoma. More common in children and TYAs, but significant in adults.

Most common symptoms:
Bone pain, which is particularly worse at night, often intermittent and intensifies with time. Stiffness, bone fractures and fatigue, a palpable or visible lump.

Less common symptoms:
Weight loss, fever, bruising easily and headaches.

**UPPER LIMBS**
17% of all cases
Ewing sarcoma, chondrosarcoma, osteosarcoma. More common in children and TYAs, but significant in adults.

Most common symptoms:
Bone pain, which is particularly worse at night, often intermittent and intensifies with time. Stiffness, bone fractures and fatigue, a palpable or visible lump.

Less common symptoms:
Weight loss, fever, bruising easily and headaches.

**PELVIC BONES**
18% of all cases
Ewing sarcoma, chondrosarcoma and osteosarcoma. More common in adults.

Most common symptoms:
Bone pain, often radiating down legs or up the back. Stiffness and a limp or inability to walk and fatigue.

Less common symptoms:
A palpable or visible lump.

**HEAD**
14% of all cases
More common in adults
Skull: Chondrosarcoma, chordoma and Ewing sarcoma.

Most common Symptoms:
Headaches / migraines and eye problems

Less common symptoms:
Issues with balance, bone pain.

Jaw: Osteosarcoma & Ewing sarcoma.

Most common symptoms:
Toothache and headaches. A lump can often be seen / felt.

Less common symptoms:
Bone pain, fatigue, weight loss.

Tumours in the skull and jaw often present symptoms that are non-specific and can mimic those of more common conditions.

Most common misdiagnoses for tumours in the skull: Migraines and eye sight issues.

Most common misdiagnoses for tumours in the jaw: An abscess or cyst on the jaw.

Although the presence of a lump is a common symptom, some patients with tumours in the upper limbs do not report the presence of a lump.

Most common misdiagnoses: Sporting injuries / pulled muscles and tendinitis. In younger patients growing pains. Arthritis in older patients.

Although pelvic tumours are more common in adults, a significant number of teenagers and young adults present with Ewing sarcoma in the pelvic bones. Some chondrosarcomas are painless and only manifest through a fracture where the bone has been weakened by the tumour.

Most common misdiagnoses: Nerve damage and sporting injuries / pulled muscles. In younger patients growing pains.

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