

## Anatomical site (Core)

Recording anatomical site of the tumour is important as certain bone tumours have a preference for specific bones and do not occur in others, and there is a strong association between site and outcome. The latter is especially true for cartilaginous tumours, and as a consequence in the World Health Organization (WHO) Classification of Tumours, Soft Tissue and Bone Tumours, 5<sup>th</sup> edition, 2020,<sup>1</sup> a diagnosis of atypical cartilaginous tumours/chondrosarcoma grade 1, depends on whether the tumour is located in the appendicular or the axial skeleton, respectively. In the long and short tubular bones these tumours behave in a locally aggressive manner and do not metastasize, can be treated locally, and should not be classified as having full malignant potential. Therefore, the term ‘atypical cartilaginous tumour’ is used for these cartilaginous tumours in the appendicular skeleton (long and short tubular bones). In contrast, the term chondrosarcoma grade 1 is used for histologically similar tumours of the axial skeleton, including the pelvis, scapula and skull base (flat bones) – reflecting the poorer clinical outcome and the necessity of more aggressive treatment of these tumours at these sites. Please note that here we consider the scapula and skull base to be part of the axial skeleton. It should be noted that the definition of axial versus appendicular is not universally accepted; while the 2020 WHO Classification<sup>1</sup> categorises the scapula, and skull base as part of the axial skeleton, the Union for International Cancer Control<sup>2</sup>/American Joint Committee on Cancer<sup>3</sup> TNM 8<sup>th</sup> editions include these with appendicular skeleton.

## References

- 1 WHO Classification of Tumours Editorial Board (2020). *Soft Tissue and Bone Tumours. WHO Classification of Tumours, 5th Edition, Volume 3*. IARC Publications, Lyon.
- 2 Brierley JD, Gospodarowicz MK and Wittekind C (eds) (2016). *Union for International Cancer Control. TNM Classification of Malignant Tumours, 8th Edition*, Wiley, USA.
- 3 Amin MB, Edge S, Greene FL, Byrd DR, Brookland RK, Washington MK, Gershenwald JE, Compton CC, Hess KR, Sullivan DC, Jessup JM, Brierley JD, Gaspar LE, Schilsky RL, Balch CM, Winchester DP, Asare EA, Madera M, Gress DM and Meyer LR (eds) (2017). *AJCC Cancer Staging Manual. 8th ed*. Springer, New York.