What are the Symptoms of Spindle Cell Sarcoma?

When the connective tissue cells present in our body become malignant or cancerous, then the condition is termed as sarcoma. And if these malignant cells are spindle shaped then it is known as spindle cell sarcoma. It’s not easy to notice the occurrence of this cancer as the symptoms are usually very general like malaise and fatigue which can be associated with any other serious disease. The size, site and the growth stage of the sarcoma tumor can influence the symptoms. It’s always good that the spindle cell sarcoma is discovered at the first stage, the earlier the better. But it is usually difficult to diagnose this condition at the early stage as the symptoms are latent or resemble other common diseases.

What Is a Spindle Cell Sarcoma?
The malignant connective tissue cells are released by our body when we get injured. But these cells are separate from the wounded site cells that have the capacity to divide and grow into a predetermined number very fast so that the wound can heal rapidly in general situations. But when these cells become cancerous, they grow fast and in uncountable number forming the malignant spindle cell sarcoma. Many patients have been found to have genetic history of spindle cell sarcoma. Inflammation and injury can increase chances of this cancer in such patients.

What are the Types of Spindle Cell Sarcoma?
Adults above the age group of 40 years are more prone to spindle cell sarcoma and it has also been traced in dogs, cats and even younger humans. Medical science has identified four various differentiations of spindle cell sarcoma arising from the connective tissue. These are:

1. Undifferentiated sarcoma of the bone: In this type of sarcoma the cells do not show proper specialization. Since these cells do not belong to any other category of connective tissue cancerous cells they are termed as undifferentiated sarcoma cells.
2. Malignant fibrous histiocytoma: This type of spindle cell sarcoma mostly affects legs and arms and is very rare. It is more common amongst middle aged adults.
3. Fibrosarcoma: This type of sarcoma affects the thigh bone.
4. Leiomyosarcoma: Not much is known about this type of sarcoma till date.

How does the prognosis of Spindle Cell Sarcoma happen?
In case of spindle cell sarcoma, connective tissue cells present under the skin, around the organs and the muscles start showing small swellings leading to formation of tumor. Initially in stage 1, the condition is confined to one particular area. But as the cells become malignant, the symptoms also spread to other parts of the body. So as to diagnose the reason of the formation of tumor, a small piece is cut and observed under microscope. If the cells are spindle shaped and malignant then it's the onset of spindle cell sarcoma. The prognosis of this tumor is good if it is found in the first stage and it can be removed successfully. When it progresses to the second or third stage, the situation becomes grim. This is so because in the second stage vital organs or those located remotely get affected such as kidneys, liver and lungs. Due to this the usual survival rate which is 5 years decreases further.

What are the Diagnostic methods and treatments for Spindle Cell Sarcoma?
The spindle cell sarcoma affecting the bones majorly affect shins, lower thighs and arms and these areas experience extreme pain that tend to elevate during nights. Swelling and difficulty in moving are the common symptoms. Tiredness, fatigue, weight loss, fever are also some of the symptoms. Diagnosis of this type of cancer is done by performing various tests like X-ray, biopsy, MRI scan or bone scan. The different treatments of spindle cell sarcoma include radiology, surgery and chemotherapy. In many cases a particular part of the body has to be amputated if the sarcoma has become too severe to cure.

External References
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