

The Musculoskeletal Tumor Registry (MsTR) Opens to New Participants

The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) is pleased to expand the Musculoskeletal Tumor Registry (MsTR) following the culmination of a successful year-long pilot program. The process of making the MsTR available nationwide has potential to fill a gap in current sarcoma care by focusing on quality-of-life and functional outcomes at a scale not previously attempted.

This is AAOS' first diagnosis-based versus procedure-based registry. The newly expanded registry for orthopaedic oncology data joins the Academy's growing roster of data collection platforms, which comprise the American Joint Replacement Registry (AJRR), the Shoulder & Elbow Registry, and the American Spine Registry (ASR) – a collaboration with the American Association of Neurological Surgeons that launched January 2020.

WHAT?

The MsTR Registry pilot laid the foundation for North American orthopaedic oncologists to collaborate in a revolutionary new way. With its wide-spread rollout March 2020, the MsTR now allows surgeons to combine data about rare bone and soft tissue tumors from institutions around the country, thereby potentially answering treatment and outcome questions that are otherwise unable to be answered due to the rarity of the disease. Six pilot registry sites helped determine the most efficient, simplest and most accurate methods to obtain high-yield data with appropriate statistical power that can drive future patient care.

WHY NOW?

Most sarcomas or bone tumors are benign (not cancerous or life-threatening) and, in most cases, will not spread to other parts of the body. Depending upon the type of tumor, treatment options are wide-ranging—from simple observation to surgery to remove the tumor.

Some bone tumors, however, are malignant (cancerous bone tumors that could metastasize) and can cause cancer cells to spread throughout the body. In almost all cases, treatment for malignant tumors involves a combination of chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery.

The MsTR feedback and dashboards will help clinicians and health systems track function, complications, and outcomes in patients treated for these sarcomas with the potential to expand to other musculoskeletal tumors and metastatic bone diseases in the future.

HOW CAN SITES OR SURGEONS ENROLL?

All centers with orthopaedic oncology programs are encouraged to participate. Enrollment begins with contacting the AAOS Registry Program Engagement team to answer questions and start the contracting process. The registry can be implemented in five simple steps as outlined below:

1. **Identify Registry Implementation Leadership** – Select surgeon or staff champion to facilitate the process;
2. **Review Data Specifications** – Review the data collection and submission requirements;
3. **Execute the Appropriate Agreements** – Complete the appropriate AAOS participation agreements;
4. **Submit Your Data** – Set up your site's data submission structure and submit on a monthly basis;

5. **Access Your Data for Quality Improvement** – Learn how to maximize your data use through webinars and one-on-one instruction; utilize personalized dashboards and national benchmarks; reuse data for requirements in accreditation, certification, and value-based reimbursement; participate in the Registry User Group.

For more information, visit the AAOS' [website](#).

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