Rare Case Of Proximal Ulna Osteosarcoma. Challenges In Management

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INTRODUCTION:
Proximal ulna is a rare site for osteosarcoma. A review over 27 years of 1650 osteosarcoma cases from Royal Orthopaedic Hospital in Birmingham revealed only 2 cases to originate from proximal ulna1. We discuss the challenges of treating osteosarcoma at this rare site.

MATERIALS & METHODS:
A previously healthy 21 years old gentleman presented with a painful swelling over his left elbow for 5 months duration. He progressively lost the ability to fully extend the elbow and limitation in pronation and supination. After imaging studies, an open biopsy was done to reveal a conventional osteosarcoma. He underwent neoadjuvant chemotherapy with Doxorubicin and Cisplatin.

RESULTS:
Our patient had good clinical response to neoadjuvant chemotherapy. He underwent wide resection of proximal ulna with custom made endoprosthesis reconstruction. As the pre chemotherapy MRI showed soft tissue extension around the radial head, embloc resection of proximal ulna with proximal radius was done.

DISCUSSIONS:
Proximal ulna is an extremely rare site for osteosarcoma. A review of 1650 osteosarcoma cases revelaed only 2 cases of proximal ulna osteosarcoma1. A 23 years multcenter review of osteosarcoma over upper limb, showed only 3 cases arising at proximal ulna2. Being extremely rare, managing a proximal ulna osteosarcoma poses several challenges. 1)The surgical technique is not well described. 2)The implant need to be custom made and requires detailed planning in manufacturing it. 3)We assume it should behave as any other osteosarcoma although our patient presented at later age of 21 years old. 4) Long term oncological and reconstructive outcome of such tumour is not documented in the literature.

CONCLUSION:
Proximal ulna osteosarcoma poses challenge to the treating surgeon as it is extremely rare. Treating it as any other osteosarcoma is probably the best treatment for proximal ulna osteosarcoma.

REFERENCES: