

Improved imaging of neonatal soft-tissue tumors can help radiologists improve patient care

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Better understanding of practical imaging techniques with regard to neonatal soft-tissue tumors can improve patient care, according to an article published in the July 2017 issue of the *American Journal of Roentgenology* (AJR).

Neonatal soft-tissue tumors are congenital neoplasms discovered during the first month of life. Because of their rarity, these tumors often pose diagnostic challenges for clinicians and specialists, including radiologists. "From an epidemiologic point of view, there has been no unified method of reporting neonatal soft-tissue tumors. As a result, the exact prevalence, sites of origin, and pathologic nature of the tumors are unknown," said the article's lead author, Dr. Richard Restrepo, of the Department of Radiology, Nicklaus Children's Hospital, of Miami, Florida.

Titled "Up-To-Date Practical Imaging Evaluation of Neonatal Soft-Tissue Tumors: What Radiologists Need to Know," the article noted that neonatal soft-tissue tumors are a unique set of neoplasms that often have characteristic clinical and imaging findings. Imaging evaluation, mainly with ultrasound and MRI, plays an important role in the initial [diagnosis](#), staging, preoperative assessment, and follow-up evaluation.

"Clear understanding of practical imaging techniques combined with up-to-date knowledge of characteristic imaging findings can help the

radiologist provide a timely and accurate diagnosis of these neoplasms and can lead to optimal neonatal [patient care](#)," the article stated.

Although some tumors may have characteristic imaging findings that can point to the correct diagnosis, biopsy or even excision may be required for a definitive diagnosis, according to the review. Some neonatal soft-tissue tumors may spontaneously regress and carry a better prognosis. However, the management of benign but locally aggressive and malignant neonatal soft-tissue tumors is often challenging and may require a combination of chemotherapy and resection by a multidisciplinary team.

More information: Ricardo Restrepo et al. Up-To-Date Practical Imaging Evaluation of Neonatal Soft-Tissue Tumors: What Radiologists Need to Know, *American Journal of Roentgenology* (2017). [DOI: 10.2214/AJR.16.17576](#)

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