

Basic Science Summary

Sarcomas are thought to arise from cells of mesenchymal lineage
The cells show the hallmarks of cancer as outlined by Hanahan and Weinberg

There are two major groups:

1. Complex karyotypes
 - Multiple chromosomal changes
 - Examples: Osteosarcoma, Angiosarcoma
2. Simple karyotypes
 - Characteristic genetic abnormality such as a translocation
 - Examples: Ewing Family Tumour

Molecular techniques increasingly important to distinguish subtypes.

Many subtypes, but can be grouped according to behaviour into:

1. Low grade lesions with high potential for local recurrence
2. High grade lesions with high potential for systemic recurrence

Predicted behaviour is essential to management, and so subtyping is critical

Basic Science discoveries lead to novel therapies

E.g. gastro-intestinal stromal tumour and the monoclonal antibody Imatinib