

# INTRODUCTION

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Although bone and soft-tissue tumors are rare, they constitute an important and often perplexing problem to the orthopaedist, radiologist, and oncologist.

Arriving at a correct diagnosis is a complex process, requiring close cooperation amongst the individuals who treat the patient. Once the diagnosis is made, the surgeon is faced with the problems of management which are often quite complex. Deciding on an appropriate surgical plan, determining when and if radiation or adjuvant chemotherapy is indicated, is difficult. Once again the surgeon must call upon his colleagues in radiology, pathology, radiation therapy, and oncology to help in arriving at a management scheme.

It is seldom that we encounter a tumorous condition in an average private orthopaedic clinic, yet the clinician is expected to treat and give a correct prognosis based on statistics for such a condition. We therefore, have tried to develop a computer program that imitates the usual steps followed by the average clinician, to support him when confronted with such a situation.

It is beyond the scope of this essay to include the very rare congenital malformations and the mucopolysaccharide disorders, or the delve into the infectious diseases or diseases of the jawbones in

much detail. The lesions presented in depth are those that are most common and those that present the greatest diagnostic difficulties.