

Supplementary article data

Prognostic factors for local recurrence and mortality in adult soft tissue sarcoma of the extremities and trunk wall

A cohort study of 922 consecutive patients

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The directed acyclic graph was computed using DAGitty software (Textor et al. 2011). The selection of which variables to include in our analyses in order to minimize bias was done based on the approach described by Shrier and Platt (2008). This approach consisted of the following 6 steps, where covariates are the variables chosen to minimize bias: (1) The covariates should not be caused by the exposure (i.e. descendants). (2) Delete variables that do not cause the exposure, do not cause the outcome and do not cause the covariates (i.e. non-ancestors). (3) Delete all lines emanating from the exposure. (4) Connect any 2 variables that both cause a third covariate. (5) Remove all arrowheads. (6) Delete all lines between the covariates and the variables.

In the Cox proportional hazard regression model, conditioning was done on: no covariates in the analyses of age; age and

grade in the analyses of duration of symptoms; duration of symptoms and grade in the analyses of tumor size; histological subtype in the analyses of location; duration of symptoms, size, and histological subtype in the analyses of depth; age and histological subtype in the analyses of grade; age, size, depth, location, compartmentalization, grade, and year of diagnosis in the analyses of margin; and age, depth, grade, margin, and year of diagnosis in the analyses of radiotherapy.

Shrier I, Platt R W. Reducing bias through directed acyclic graphs. *BMC Med Res Methodol* 2008; 8: 70,2288-8-70.

Textor J, Hardt J, Knuppel S. DAGitty: A graphical tool for analyzing causal diagrams. *Epidemiology* 2011; 22 (5): 745.

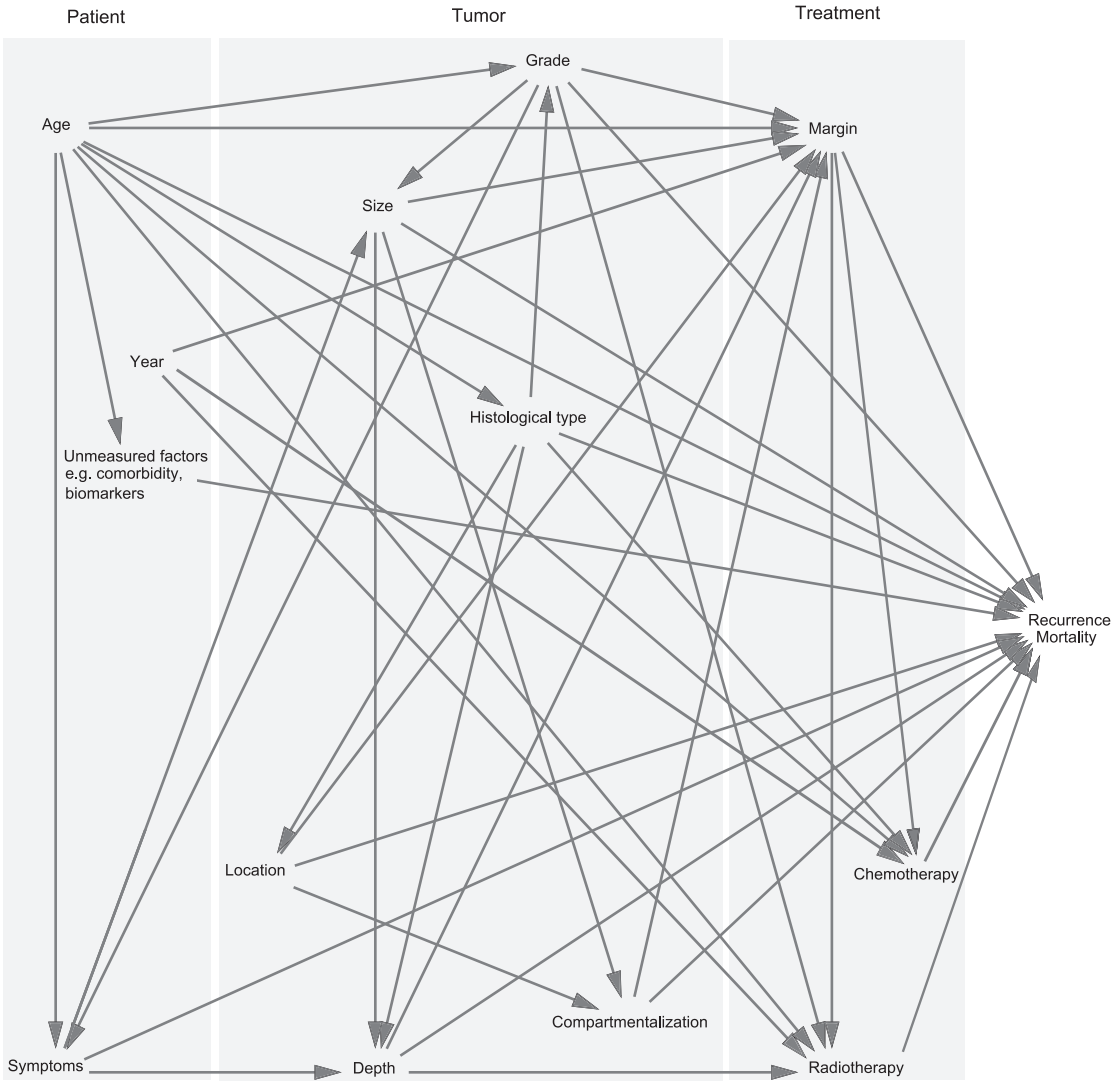


Figure 2. Possible relationship between patient-, tumor-, and treatment-related factors and outcomes in adult soft tissue sarcoma patients with non-metastatic disease.