

Understanding malignant PEComa

Malignant PEComa is a type of cancer known as a soft tissue sarcoma. Soft tissue sarcoma forms in soft tissues, including fat, blood vessels, muscles, and nerves.

Getting diagnosed

PEComas may be detected by imaging with an X-ray, CT scan, or MRI. If a tumor is detected, your doctor will perform a biopsy to examine the tumor and determine what type of tumor it is. Some PEComas are associated with gene mutations. For additional information, speak to your doctor.

Treating malignant PEComa

There are different approaches to treating malignant PEComa. Typically, if your cancer is localized, or in one place, surgery may be considered to remove the tumor. However, if the cancer has metastasized, or spread to other parts of the body, there may be other treatment options. You and your healthcare team will discuss which approach is best for you.

PEComa=perivascular epithelioid cell tumor.



Actor portrayal.

FAST FACTS



Malignant PEComa affects both women and men, but it is more common in women. Malignant PEComa often starts in female reproductive organs such as the uterus

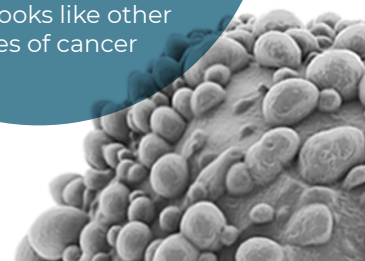
48-67

Patients with malignant PEComa are typically diagnosed between the ages of **48-67 years**



Malignant PEComa is a very rare type of cancer:

There is only about 1 case per year out of every 1 million people in the world. It can be difficult to diagnose because it often looks like other types of cancer



Commonly asked questions

What are symptoms of PEComa?

Signs and symptoms of PEComa vary by person, tumor location, and tumor size. Some PEComas cause no symptoms and are found only under imaging. PEComas may form a visible, painful or painless mass. For more information, please speak to your doctor.

Where can I find patient and caregiver support?

A few organizations who can provide sarcoma or PEComa information and support are:

- Sarcoma Foundation of America - curesarcoma.org
- Sarcoma Alliance - sarcomaalliance.org
- American Cancer Society - cancer.org
- National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) - rarediseases.org

Helpful terms

PEComa [pek-o-muh]

Also called perivascular epithelioid cell tumors. These are very rare tumors that start in the soft tissues of the stomach, intestines, lungs, female reproductive organs, and/or urinary organs.

Malignant [muh-lig-nunt]

Refers to cancer cells. These cells can grow out of control and spread to other parts of the body.

Metastatic [meh-tuh-sta-tuhk]

Describes cancer that has spread from where it started (for example, the lungs) to other parts of the body (for example, the brain).

Mutation [myoo-tay-shn]

A change in a cell's DNA sequence.