



Know Your Options

Osteosarcoma Decision Aid

Limb Salvage Surgery

| Pros | Cons |
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| The leg appears normal. | There will be a long scar and the leg may be smaller in diameter due to the removal of muscle or surrounding tissue around the tumor. |
| The leg can be lengthened for children. | There are limits to how much the leg can be lengthened. For this reason, LSS may not be considered a good option for young children. |
| Some people do very well with LSS and can be very active though surgeons may advise no high impact activities. | Future surgeries are expected, some minor, some major. Sometimes the entire implant will need to be replaced. Surgeries can be expensive. |
| You keep your leg so there is no need for a prosthesis. | You may need to use a cane or crutches at times. |
| | It can be difficult for some patients to regain their range of motion after a lengthening. |
| | You will not know how many surgeries you will need and those are often unexpected. |
| | Common complications include foot drop, where the patient loses feeling and control of their foot. This can cause tripping and walking problems. |
| | Pain can vary from short term to chronic daily pain. It is uncertain who will experience pain or how long it will last. |
| | Removal of the quadriceps muscle in front of the thigh can affect the ability to go up and down stairs, walk distances, bike, etc. Some patients have a brace made to help control balance. |
| | Amputations after limb salvage surgery may result in a shorter femur above the implant. The residual limb might not be long enough to get a good prosthetic fit. |