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**Disparities among limb-salvage rates in pediatric sarcoma patients**

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**Introduction:**

Racial and ethnic disparities in limb-salvage surgery have been reported among adult sarcoma patients. The purpose of this work was to explore treatment patterns by ethnicity, gender and physical attributes in a cohort of pediatric sarcoma patients

**Methods:**

A retrospective review was conducted of all consecutive patients under the age of 18 treated for sarcoma at the study institution with diagnoses from 1999 to 2011 who underwent surgery for limb salvage or amputation. Statistical analysis of patient demographics (age, gender, ethnicity, height, weight and BMI) was performed to assess for factors associated with limb salvage surgery.

**Results:**

51 pediatric patients who underwent surgery for extremity sarcoma in the defined study period were included. Multivariate analysis was performed to evaluate for predictors of amputation. Male gender ( $p=0.016$ ) increasing height ( $p=0.007$ ) and elevated BMI were associated with greater likelihood of amputation. Hispanic ethnicity was not an independent predictor for amputation ( $p=0.386$ ).

**Conclusions:**

Male gender, increasing height and elevated BMI were predictors of amputation in a cohort of pediatric sarcoma patients undergoing surgical treatment. Further study should be devoted to identifying underlying factors for gender discrepancies between treatment groups.