

## Orthopaedics Oncology Training Program in Sudan

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Musculoskeletal oncology is a sub-specialty of orthopaedic surgery focused on the diagnosis and treatment of benign and malignant tumors and other unusual lesions of both the pediatric and adult musculoskeletal system.

Orthopedic oncology in Africa is considered one of the rarest orthopaedics subspecialties. Numbers of Orthopedic oncologist in Africa is less than 50 surgeons. The biggest number of them is in Egypt with about 25 Orthopaedics oncology surgeons. Sudan is considered the only country in the east and central Africa region that have this unique subspecialty.

The new era of doing limb salvage surgery and complex advanced surgeries in Sudan was merged in beginning of this decade after the certified trained consultant came back from Malaysia and South Korea.

The Department of Musculoskeletal Oncology (Orthopaedics Oncology) is the only specialized unit in the country at future and Ibrahim Malik Hospitals.

The unit started a structured fellowship program enhances providing the best possible individualized diagnostic and treatment services to valued Sudanese patients. It provides training for orthopaedic surgeons to serve patients and to develop new orthopaedics oncology units at Sudan and its plan to extend training to reach doctors from the Middle East African countries under umbrella of International University of Africa.

Musculoskeletal Oncology program emphasizes the importance of developing all of the necessary skills to care for sarcoma patients in a multidisciplinary environment. Emphasis is placed on the proper diagnosis, workup, treatment planning and follow-up care for these complex patients. Training includes advanced surgical skills and techniques needed for limb sparing surgery, surgical approaches and relevant anatomy, musculoskeletal imaging and Orthopaedic pathology.

Fellows are encouraged to develop the leadership skills necessary to build and develop an Orthopaedic oncology program.

Musculoskeletal Oncology offers a unique and varied approach to Orthopaedic surgery. It includes expertise in the following areas

- Advanced diagnostic techniques, including minimally invasive biopsies.
- Interpretation of musculoskeletal lesions on cross sectional imaging, including MRI, CT scans.
- Plastic surgical techniques, specifically, the use of local muscle rotation flaps.
- Vascular surgical techniques that include exploration of all the major neurovascular structures.
- Major resections of the shoulder girdle, pelvic girdle and lower extremity joints with various techniques of reconstruction to include prosthetic replacements and intercalary replacements.

Expertise in all varied aspects of surgery is essential for a surgeon to successfully manage Orthopaedic oncology patients. The program also stresses the development of clinical research skills. All fellows are engaged in -at least- one research project and should be published during fellowship period of training. Use of a unit database facilitates development of research.