

Long Bone Soft Tissue Mass vs. Cyst Protocol (Upper Extremity)

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General parameters (1.5 T magnets):

For all T1 sequences, please keep TE below 20 (between 10 and 15 if possible); TR 500-600.

For all T2 FS sequences, use equivalent of FSE/TSE. TE of mid to upper 50's is the most ideal for Siemens, 60-65 for GE, and ~ 60 for Toshiba.

It is important to have TE long enough for T2 weighting but not so long that it is signal starved.

For STIR, TI = ~ 135

- ax T1
 - ax T2 FS
 - if lesion anterior or posterior
 - sag T1
 - sag T2 FS or STIR
 - ax T1 FS pre contrast
 - ax T1 FS post contrast
 - sag T1 FS post contrast
- if lesion medial or lateral
cor T1
cor T2 FS or STIR
ax T1 FS pre contrast
ax T1 FS post contrast
cor T1 FS post contrast

If the mass is thought to be a lipoma, no intravenous contrast is needed. Single plane T1 FS sequence should do – may need radiologist to check.