

Long Bone Soft Tissue Mass vs. Cyst Protocol (Lower 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 – unilateral
- ax T2 FS – unilateral

if lesion anterior or posterior

- sag T1 – unilateral
- sag T2 FS or STIR – unilateral
- ax T1 FS pre contrast
- ax T1 FS post contrast
- sag T1 FS post contrast

if lesion medial or lateral

- cor T1 – unilateral
- cor T2 FS or STIR – unilateral
- ax T1 FS pre contrast
- ax T1 FS post contrast
- cor T1 FS post

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.