

Table 2. *Common indications of surgery in MASCC.*

Mechanical instability of the vertebral column

Life expectancy ≥ 6 months

Unsuccessful application of radiation therapy (e.g. evolution of neurological deficits during radiotherapy)

or in cases of a recurrence when re-irradiation is not an option
or in cases of radiation-resistant tumours (e.g. renal cell carcinoma, sarcoma, melanoma etc..)

Cancer of unknown primary tumour (CUPT) (no histological diagnosis available)

Fulminant progression of neurological signs and/or symptoms

When the origin of the spinal cord compression is primarily mechanical (i.e. from posteriorly dislocated bone fragments, or from a deformed spinal column)

Metastatic lesion extending beyond the vertebral canal and into the paravertebral space