A local bone lesion can pertain to one (monostotic), several (oligoostotic) or multiple (polyostotic) sites of the skeleton. These forms of local osteopathies must be distinguished from systemic, metabolic forms and require an individual approach to diagnostic and therapeutic strategy. Various causes and mechanisms can underlie a local osteopathy:

- Dysplastic
- Circulatory
- Neural
- Immobilisation
- Traumatic
- Infectious
- Inflammatory
- Metabolic
- Haematopoietic
- Endocrinologic
- Cellular defects
- Neoplastic

Clinical evaluation of a bone lesion is always a diagnostic challenge. A quick clarification is necessary to exclude or to detect and treat a malignant process at an early stage!