

Lesson 1

Why Staging is Necessary and How Staging is Used

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AJCC

American Joint Committee on Cancer

Validating science. Improving patient care.

Common Language

- AJCC TNM staging is the common language of cancer
- Allows for worldwide consistency
- Essential for accurate communication



Reasons for Assigning Stage

- Discuss case with multidisciplinary cancer care team
 - Primary care physician
 - Surgeon
 - Radiologist
 - Pathologist
 - Medical Oncologist
 - Radiation Oncologist
- Choose appropriate diagnostic workup and treatment
 - Guidelines include T, N, M, and stage group criteria
- Analyze treatment results for recurrence and survival
- Data analysis of various factors stratified by stage



Role in Patient Care and Research

- Patient care – stage needed to
 - Discuss necessary diagnostic workup
 - Communicate extent of cancer with the patient
 - Describe appropriate treatment options
 - Help patient make informed decisions
 - Provide patient with their prognosis, recurrence risk and survival
- Research – stratify analysis by stage
 - Diagnostic workup
 - Treatment
 - Pathology specifics, biomarkers, other test results
 - Recurrence
 - Survival



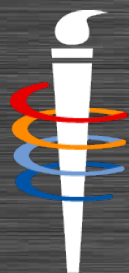
Uses of Stage

- Patient care
 - Aids in communication between physicians for patient care
 - Provides patients with evaluation of their cancer and prognosis
- Guidelines
 - Diagnostic workup criteria
 - Stratifies patients for treatment decisions
- Research, clinical trials, and surveillance community
 - Criteria to stratify patient participation
 - Develop study arms for treatment
 - Groups patients for outcomes and survival
 - Evaluate incidence, treatment and survival



Thank you

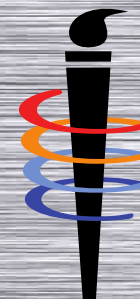
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