

Lesson 18

M Category

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AJCC

American Joint Committee on Cancer

Validating science. Improving patient care.

Isolated Tumor Cells in Metastatic Sites

- Isolated tumor cells in metastatic sites
 - Circulating cells in the blood
 - Micrometastasis ($\leq 0.2\text{mm}$) in bone marrow or nonregional tissue
 - Histologically visible micrometastasis

 - Identified by
 - IHC
 - Molecular techniques

 - Designated as cM0(i+)
 - Note this is clinical M0 since pM0 does not exist

 - Defined in chapters where this commonly occurs

 - May be prognostic for recurrence or survival



CTC and DTC

- Circulating tumor cells – CTC
- CTC are identified in
 - Blood
- Disseminated tumor cells – DTC
- DTC are identified in
 - Distant organs or nonregional tissue
 - Bone Marrow



M Category for Classification

- Assign appropriate M category for clinical classification
- Clinical stage M category based on assessment method
- Example for colon cancer diagnostic workup
 - CT guided liver biopsy positive for mets
 - CT chest shows lung mets
 - Assign pM1 for clinical stage

 - Do **NOT** record cM1 **and** pM1 in registry data fields
 - Stage is **NOT** to document all findings
 - Only one M category for each stage
 - AJCC does not have rules to assign cT cN cM pM clinical stage



M Category for Classification

- Assign appropriate M category for pathologic classification
- Pathologic stage M category based on assessment method
- Example for breast cancer mastectomy
 - CT chest shows lung mets
 - Bone biopsy positive for mets
 - Assign pM1 for pathologic stage

 - Do **NOT** record cM1 **and** pM1 in registry data fields
 - Stage is **NOT** to document all findings
 - Only one M category for each stage
 - AJCC does not have rules to assign pT pN cM pM pathologic stage



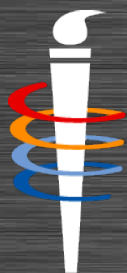
M Category for Classification

- Do **NOT** use registry M data fields to document test results
 - Difference between coding systems and assigning AJCC stage
- Coding systems
 - All data fields are utilized to document all available information
 - Code every field, none are left blank
- Assigning AJCC stage
 - Only **one** M category assigned for each stage
 - M category assigned independently for each classification
 - Not based on M category used in other classifications
 - Assign M category based on
 - Assessment method
 - For classification time frame



Thank you

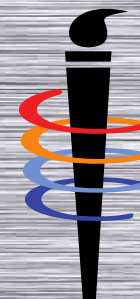
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