

Lesson 2

Purpose of Classifications and Use

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American Joint Committee on Cancer

Validating science. Improving patient care.

Classification

- Classification definition
 - Point in the care of cancer patient

- Classification criteria
 - Timeframe
 - Specific medical assessments and practices
 - Differences based on anatomy, histology, and biology



Purpose of Classifications

- Multiple points in the care of cancer patients
 - Identifies points in time
 - Differentiates between those points in time
- Valid data comparisons need these distinctions
 - Cannot compare patients with different classifications



Classifications and Basic Criteria

- Clinical – diagnosis, workup, until start of first treatment
- Pathologic – diagnosis, workup, definitive surgical resection operative findings, pathology report of resected specimen
- Postneoadjuvant Therapy – after neoadjuvant therapy, and after surgical resection following neoadjuvant therapy
- Retreatment – recurrence or progression
- Autopsy – postmortem exam when cancer not evident prior to death



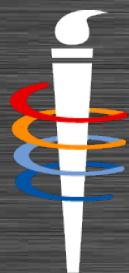
Use of Classifications

- Compare similar timeframes between patients
- Type of information and specificity varies by classifications
 - Physical exam and imaging
 - Limited microscopic exam of tissue for diagnosis
 - Extensive microscopic exam of resected specimen
- Assess response to neoadjuvant therapy
 - Compare postneoadjuvant therapy to clinical
- Compare various points of care for a patient
 - Diagnostic workup
 - Treatment
 - Recurrence/retreatment



Thank you

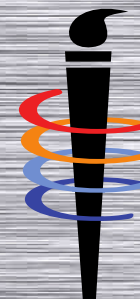
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