

Lesson 22

Classifications

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AJCC

American Joint Committee on Cancer

Validating science. Improving patient care.

Clinical

- Biopsy shows highest category
 - Performed during clinical staging time frame
- Highest category information used twice
 - Info **MAY** be used for pathologic classification
 - Needs to meet other stage group rules
 - Not documented unless group rules are met
 - p designation
 - Info also still **USED** for clinical classification
 - c designation



Pathologic

- Pathologic staging includes
 - Physical exam and imaging
 - Even though not tissue proven
 - If not overruled in pathology report, but not limited to path report

- Pathologic staging depends on
 - Proven extent of disease, so if
 - Unreasonable to or cannot remove primary tumor then
 - Pathologic staging criteria **met without primary removal** if
 - Microscopic confirmation of highest T and highest N or
 - Microscopic confirmation of M1
 - Note microscopic confirmation may be from biopsy only



Postneoadjuvant Therapy

- Carefully define neoadjuvant therapy
- Not all drugs given prior to surgery are neoadjuvant
 - Drugs given for other reasons
 - Treating symptoms, not treating cancer
- Example – prostate cancer
 - No neoadjuvant therapy exists outside of clinical trials
 - Clinical trials
 - For very specific high risk scenarios
 - 6 months of neoadjuvant therapy



Retreatment

- Used for retreatment
 - Cancer that was never disease free (not a recurrence)
 - Cancer progression
 - Further treatment needs to be planned
 - Retreatment staging
 - Aids in selecting treatment plan
 - Most treatment guidelines based on AJCC staging



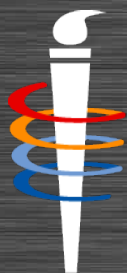
Autopsy

- Cannot use autopsy classification if
 - Any indication of cancer prior to death
 - Includes clinical suspicion
 - Even if not proven



Thank you

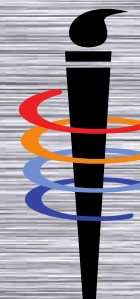
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