

Lesson 23

T Category

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AJCC

American Joint Committee on Cancer

Validating science. Improving patient care.

Metachronous Primary

- Metachronous primary tumors in single organ
 - Are second or subsequent primary cancers
 - Staged independently

- y prefix
 - Not used for these cases
 - Unusual case where treatment of 2nd cancer warrants this use
 - Physician judgment call



Highest T Category

- If **diagnostic** biopsy proves highest T category
- Clinical staging
 - Used to assign cT
- Pathologic staging
 - **May** also be used to assign pT
 - Rationale: resection will not provide info to change T
- Additional requirements to assign pathologic stage
 - Surgical node dissection
 - Biopsy of highest N category
- If requirements not met
 - Do **NOT** record pT in registry database
 - Data fields for assigning stage, not for data collection



Info Overrides Pathology Report pT

- Information can override pathology report pT
- Clinical stage information
 - Physical exam
 - Imaging
 - Example for thyroid
 - Physical exam: subcutaneous soft tissues involved, voice hoarseness indicating laryngeal or recurrent laryngeal nerve involvement, T4a
 - Imaging: subcutaneous soft tissue & trachea involved, T4a
 - Path report: resection, involvement of perithyroid soft tissues, T3
 - Assign pT4a
- Operative findings during resection
 - Surgeon's observations
 - Example for colon
 - Operative findings: extended into retroperitoneum, not biopsied, T4b
 - Path report: subserosal fat, radial margin involved, T3
 - Assign pT4b



y for T Category

- y prefix for postneoadjuvant therapy T category
 - T uses same categories as for clinical and pathologic staging
- ycT
 - Used for clinical stage *after* neoadjuvant therapy
 - Registries do not have data field
- ypT
 - Used for pathologic stage *after* surgical resection *following* neoadjuvant therapy
 - Registries document in pathologic data field *and*
 - **MUST** use descriptor data field to indicate “y”



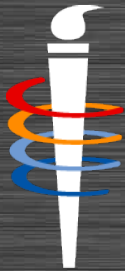
X and Blank for T Category

- X and Blank needed
 - Accommodate variability in cancer behavior and type of workup
- X
 - Information is unknown to physicians, cannot be assessed
 - Diagnostic workup did not provide info needed to assess and assign T category
 - Example: colonoscopy for colon cancer
 - Surgical resection but specimen not processed – unusual for T
- Blank
 - Patient did not meet staging criteria
 - No diagnostic workup for clinical stage
 - Example: emergency surgery for bowel obstruction finds colon ca
 - No surgical resection for pathologic stage



Thank you

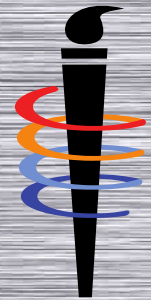
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