

Lesson 25

M Category

Donna M. Gress, RHIT, CTR



AJCC
American Joint Committee on Cancer

Validating science. Improving patient care.

pM1 Meets Pathologic Stage Criteria

- Metastasis confirmed microscopically (pM1)
 - Criteria for pathologic classification is satisfied
 - Without surgical resection of primary tumor
 - Does not require resection of metastatic tumor
 - Assign pathologic stage using pM1



pM1 Diagnostic Biopsy

- Diagnostic biopsy proven distant metastasis is pM1
 - Grouped as both clinical and pathologic stage IV
 - Regardless of “c” or “p” status of T and N
 - Examples
 - cT1 cN1 pM1 clinical stage IV
 - cT1 cN1 pM1 pathologic stage IV
 - pT1 pN1 pM1 pathologic stage IV



Two Sites for M Subcategory

- M subcategory distinguishes between
 - One site, e.g. pM1a
 - Two or more sites, more than one site, e.g. pM1b
- Only **one** site must be microscopically proven for pM1b
 - Two metastatic sites criteria to assign pM1b subcategory
 - Do **NOT** need microscopic evidence of both sites to assign
 - Example
 - Biopsy of liver and bone scan both indicating metastatic disease
 - Assign pM1b subcategory to indicate two sites involved
- Since at least one metastatic site has been tissue proven
 - Not necessary to biopsy other site
 - Already proven cancer has metastasized
 - Clarification from AJCC physician experts



No y for M Category

- M category *never* uses y prefix for postneoadjuvant therapy
 - Do **NOT** use ycM
 - Do **NOT** use ypM
 - **Use** cM0, cM1, or pM1
- M category status defined *prior* to therapy
 - Never changes from original designation
 - Always use M category from clinical stage
 - Reflects patient's true prognosis and risk of recurrence/progression
 - Example
 - Clinical stage: cT3 cN2 cM1
 - yPathologic stage: ypT1 ypN0 cM1 *regardless* of current M status



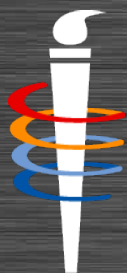
Blank Only – No X for M Category

- Blank needed, X **NOT** used
 - Accommodate variability in cancer behavior and type of workup
 - Information must be known, judgment call, X is **not** valid
- Blank – physician staging
 - 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
- Blank – registry data fields
 - Must be used when not correct M designation for stage group
 - Must use data fields to indicate cM or pM **assigned**
 - Relevant to appropriate clinical or pathologic classifications
 - Appropriate if not used in clinical or pathologic classification
 - cM blank if diagnostic biopsy is positive
 - pM blank if no microscopic confirmation of mets



Thank you

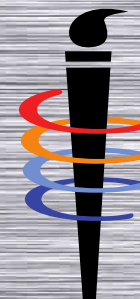
Donna M. Gress, RHIT, CTR
AJCC Technical Specialist



AJCC

American Joint Committee on Cancer

Validating science. Improving patient care.



633 N. Saint Clair, Chicago, IL 60611-3211

cancerstaging.org