

Lesson 26

Stage Group

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AJCC

American Joint Committee on Cancer

Validating science. Improving patient care.

Any T and Any N in Stage Groups

- Any T
 - Includes all T categories **except** Tis
- Any N
 - Includes all N categories
- Commonly used in stage groups to simplify tables
 - Extra lines not needed to list all T or N categories included
- Indicates either T or N **not** driving factor in assigning stage
 - Group will remain the same regardless of T or N
 - Group assigned based on other categories



Working Stage

- Working stage **ONLY** for physicians
 - Used as necessary for medical care of patient
- Working stage
 - May combine clinical and pathologic information
 - Used for either clinical or pathologic classification
 - When only partial information is available
- Example: mastectomy in elderly patient, no nodes sampled
 - Inappropriate to subject this patient to risk of node procedure
 - Physician uses clinical N with pT and cM for working stage group
 - Directs further care and provides prognosis for patient
- **NOT** for registrar use, **NOT** for registry data fields



y for Stage Group

- yc stage group assigned, and consists of
 - ycT ycN c/pM
- yp stage group assigned, and consists of
 - ypT ypN c/pM
- yp complete response
 - ypT0 ypN0 cM0
 - **NO** stage group assigned
 - **NOT** stage 0
- cTNM is used for
 - Estimate of disease prior to neoadjuvant therapy
 - Case comparisons and population studies



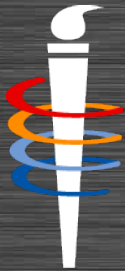
Blank Only – No X for Stage Group

- Blank needed, X **NOT** used
 - Accommodate variability in cancer behavior and type of workup
 - X is **not** a valid stage group
- Blank
 - Patient did not meet staging criteria
 - All categories and stage group are blank
 - No diagnostic workup for clinical stage
 - Example: cancer was incidental finding during surgery
 - No surgical resection for pathologic stage
 - Example: cancer was treated with systemic and/or radiation therapy
 - Example: surgical procedures or some type of resection performed but did **not** meet pathologic surgical resection criteria in chapter
 - Category combinations with incomplete or missing information
 - Information lacking to assign stage group



Thank you

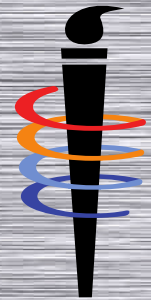
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