AJCC 8th Edition Staging

Breast Staging

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American Joint Committee on Cancer
Validating science. Improving patient care.
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The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
Learning Objectives

• Select appropriate stage group table

• Examine prognostic stage group criteria

• Inspect clarifications for assigning categories

• Identify changes in breast staging
Learning Assessments

• Testing effect or retrieval practice
  – Testing yourself on idea or concept to help you remember it

• Many experts have agreed for centuries
  – Act of retrieving info over and over, makes it retrievable when needed
  – Aristotle: exercise in repeatedly recalling strengthens memory

• Why retrieval/quizzing slows forgetting, helps remembering
  – Memory is dynamic (keeps changing), retrieval helps it change
  – Test often for better results

• Quizzes
  – Pretest as part of registration
  – Quiz during lecture
  – Posttest emailed weeks later to assess retention
  – Also assesses clarity of instruction and instructor
Selecting Appropriate Stage Group Table
• **May never** use anatomic stage group table
  – Even if prognostic factor categories are missing
  – Even if stage group will be unknown
  – Will skew stage group data

• ONLY for global regions where biomarker tests unavailable

• **Cancer registries in U.S. must** use prognostic tables
Stage Group Tables

• Clinical prognostic stage group table
  – Used for all patients with diagnostic workup for ca

• Pathological prognostic stage groups
  – Used when surgical resection is initial treatment
  – Does not apply to surgical resection following neoadjuvant therapy

• No stage group table for posttherapy staging
Genomic Profiles in Staging

• Other (non-Oncotype Dx) genomic profiles/multigene panels
  – Only used for patient care
  – Because Level I data not available at this time
  – These profiles **not** used for assigning prognostic stage

• Specific chapter wording for other multigene panels:
  …low-risk score/range, regardless of T size, places the tumor into the same prognostic category as T1a–T1b N0 M0.
Genomic Profiles in Staging

• Pathological prognostic staging with Oncotype Dx score <11
  – Modify stage group to IA as indicated
  – Assign with Genomic Profile for Pathologic Prognostic Staging table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>And TNM is...</th>
<th>And Grade is...</th>
<th>And HER2 Status is...</th>
<th>And ER Status is...</th>
<th>And PR Status is...</th>
<th>Then the Pathological Prognostic Stage Group is...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T1 N0 M0</td>
<td>Any</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>Any</td>
<td>IA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T2 N0 M0</td>
<td>Any</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>Any</td>
<td>IA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Other genomic profiles used to guide patient care
  – May **not** be used at this time to modify stage group
  – Assign using Pathological Prognostic Stage table
  – Do **not** use genomic profile table
Scenario

- Pt with 21mm UOQ tumor and negative axilla. Ductal ca, SBR 6 points, HER2 neg, ER/PR positive, breast bx.
  Lumpectomy and SLNB showing 21mm tumor, SBR 7 points, 3 sentinel nodes negative.

- Clinical: cT2 cN0 cM0 Gr2 HER2- ER/PR+ stage grp IB

- Pathological: pT2 pN0(sn) cM0 Gr2 HER2- ER/PR+ stage grp IA

- Note different stage groups for clinical and pathological
Prognostic Stage Group Criteria
Grade Category in Stage Group

• **Must** be Nottingham for invasive ca, **not** nuclear grade
  – Assign G1 – G3

• Nuclear grade
  – Just one of three components of Nottingham
  – **Least reproducible** of three components
  – Must **not** use for grade category to assign stage group
  – If nuclear grade, code as A-D, stage group **not** assigned
### Grade for Invasive & *In Situ*

#### Invasive

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>G</th>
<th>G Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GX</td>
<td>Grade cannot be assessed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G1</td>
<td>Low combined histologic grade (favorable), SBR score of 3–5 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G2</td>
<td>Intermediate combined histologic grade (moderately favorable); SBR score of 6–7 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G3</td>
<td>High combined histologic grade (unfavorable); SBR score of 8–9 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### In Situ

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<td>G3</td>
<td>High nuclear grade</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Biomarkers for Stage Group

- Biomarkers consist of
  - Hormone receptors  ER & PR
  - HER2

- Assay results for assigning stage
  - Most often only tested on biopsy specimen
  - If retested on resection specimen, positive results take priority
  - If bx specimen not tested, use resection tests for clinical staging
Scenario

• Pt with 21mm UOQ tumor and negative axilla. Ductal ca, nuclear gr 2, breast bx.

Lumpectomy and SLNB showing 21mm tumor, SBR 7 points, 3 sentinel nodes negative, HER2 neg, ER/PR positive.

• Clinical: cT2 cN0 cM0 GrX HER2- ER/PR+ stage grp 99

• Pathological: pT2 pN0(sn) cM0 Gr2 HER2- ER/PR+ stage grp IA

• Grade clinical may be coded as B, but not used for AJCC
Clarifications
Stage Groups Tables Differ

• Stage group tables **different** for clinical & pathological
  – Same TNM G Biomarker combinations **not** same c & p group
  – Based on outcome data

• Examples
  – Clinical T2 N0 M0 G3 HER2- ER/PR+ stage IIA
  – Pathological T2 N0 M0 G3 HER2- ER/PR+ stage IB
  – Clinical T3 N0 M0 G2 HER2- ER/PR- stage IIIB
  – Pathological T3 N0 M0 G2 HER2- ER/PR- stage IIB

• Reason for differences between clinical & pathological group
  – Tumor size may vary between imaging and resection
  – Negative nodes on exam/imaging contain mets when resected
Posttherapy Staging Critical

• Critical posttherapy staging regardless of response
  – Even if tumor does not respond, stays the same
  – Even if tumor larger or more nodal involvement
  – Not considered progression of disease
  – Posttherapy staging must be assigned

• Need data on all patients undergoing neoadjuvant therapy
  – Not just those with partial or complete response
  – Do not skew data by eliminating those with no response

• Assign ypT, ypN, and c/pM categories

• No posttherapy stage group
Breast Neoadjuvant Therapy

• Breast neoadjuvant therapy
  – **Must** meet standard guidelines, such as NCCN or ASCO
  – Usually 4-6 cycles of chemo, sometimes more
  – Usually 4-6 months of endocrine therapy, may be up to 1 year
  – Short course endocrine therapy does **NOT** qualify
  – Rule for staging, not for registry treatment data items

• Must assign posttherapy staging
  – Even if chemo changed to different group of chemo drug
  – Even if endocrine therapy changed

• CoC states surgical resection coded even if no response
Stage Data

• Stage is more than just the group

• Assign T, N, M, and prognostic factor categories
  – Even if stage group doesn’t exist
  – Especially with missing info and stage group can’t be assigned

• Value not tied only to stage group
  – Studies performed on TNM data, not just stage groups
  – Critical comparisons between cT cN and ypT ypN
Breast Sentinel Node Procedure

• Sentinel lymph node procedure includes
  – Sentinel nodes with dye/radiotracer
  and
  – Non-sentinel nodes, palpably abnormal, without dye/radiotracer
  – Use (sn) suffix for N category

• Sentinel node procedure results
  – Pathologist reports to surgeon in Operating Room
  – Surgeon needs results to decide if node dissection needed

• Waiting for results
  – If you don’t wait for SLN path results, no reason to perform it
  – Next steps based on frozen sections of those sentinel nodes
Scenario

- Pt with 48mm UOQ tumor and enlarged axillary node. Ductal ca, SBR 6 points, HER2 neg, ER/PR positive, breast bx. Axillary node FNA positive for mets.

Neoadjuvant chemo. No response, tumor 60mm, ycT3.

Mastectomy showing 58mm tumor, SBR 7 points, 4/10 axillary nodes positive.

- Clinical: cT2 cN1(f) cM0 Gr2 HER2- ER/PR+ stage grp IIA

- Posttherapy: ypT3 ypN2a cM0 Gr2 HER2- ER/PR+ stage grp not assigned
Additional Changes to Breast
LCIS

Lobular carcinoma in situ (LCIS) is removed as a pTis category for T categorization. Lobular carcinoma in situ is treated as a benign entity and is removed from TNM staging.

- Lobular carcinoma *in situ* no longer assigned a stage
  - Please discuss reportability with your standard setter

- In situ category may only be
  - Tis (DCIS)
  - Tis (Paget)
Rounding Caution for Tumor Size

- **Breast exception T category**
  - >1.0 mm to 1.4 mm **rounded to 2 mm**
  - Avoid assigning “microinvasion” category to cancer >1.0 mm
  - Other sizes rounded for T category assignment
    - Round down between 1 and 4
    - Round up between 5 and 9

- **Critical for prognosis and data analysis**
  - T1mi “microinvasion” must **only** represent ≤1 mm
Scenario

• Pt’s screening mammogram identified 1.1mm tumor with negative axilla. Ductal ca, intermediate combined histologic grade, HER2 neg, ER/PR positive, breast bx.

  Lumpectomy and SLNB showing no residual tumor, 2 sentinel nodes negative, 1 non-sentinel node negative.

• Clinical: cT1a cN0 cM0 Gr2 HER2- ER/PR+ stage grp IA

• Pathological: pT1a pN0(sn) cM0 Gr2 HER2- ER/PR+ stage grp IA
Information and Questions on AJCC Staging
AJCC Web site

- https://cancerstaging.org

- Ordering information
  - Cancerstaging.net

- General information
  - Education
  - Articles
  - Updates
CAnswer Forum

• Submit questions to AJCC Forum
  – NEW 8th Edition Forum
  – 7th Edition Forum will remain
  – Located within CAnswer Forum
  – Provides information for all
  – Allows tracking for educational purposes

• http://cancerbulletin.facs.org/forums/
Quiz
Summary
Summary

• Comprehend appropriate stage group table usage

• Identify prognostic stage group criteria

• Interpret clarifications for assigning categories

• Examine changes in breast staging
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