Lesson 1
Why Staging is Necessary and How Staging is Used

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Common Language

- AJCC TNM staging is the common language of cancer
- Allows for worldwide consistency
- Essential for accurate communication
Reasons for Assigning Stage

• Discuss case with multidisciplinary cancer care team
  – Primary care physician
  – Surgeon
  – Radiologist
  – Pathologist
  – Medical Oncologist
  – Radiation Oncologist

• Choose appropriate diagnostic workup and treatment
  – Guidelines include T, N, M, and stage group criteria

• Analyze treatment results for recurrence and survival

• Data analysis of various factors stratified by stage
Role in Patient Care and Research

• Patient care – stage needed to
  – Discuss necessary diagnostic workup
  – Communicate extent of cancer with the patient
  – Describe appropriate treatment options
  – Help patient make informed decisions
  – Provide patient with their prognosis, recurrence risk and survival

• Research – stratify analysis by stage
  – Diagnostic workup
  – Treatment
  – Pathology specifics, biomarkers, other test results
  – Recurrence
  – Survival
Uses of Stage

- **Patient care**
  - Aids in communication between physicians for patient care
  - Provides patients with evaluation of their cancer and prognosis

- **Guidelines**
  - Diagnostic workup criteria
  - Stratifies patients for treatment decisions

- **Research, clinical trials, and surveillance community**
  - Criteria to stratify patient participation
  - Develop study arms for treatment
  - Groups patients for outcomes and survival
  - Evaluate incidence, treatment and survival