Lesson 16
T Category

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• No evidence of primary tumor

• Site of primary tumor is unknown

• T0 assigned in above cases
  – Based on clinical suspicion of primary site
  – Nodes or distant metastasis pathologically c/w primary site

• Examples
  – Axillary nodes c/w ductal ca, no apparent breast tumor
    • T0 N1 M0 stage IIA
  – Lung mass c/w renal cell ca, no apparent kidney tumor
    • T0 N0 M1 stage IV
Multiple Tumors

• Synchronous tumors of same histology in one organ
  – Simultaneous multiple tumors
  – Assign T by most advanced tumor, highest T category

• Indicate multiplicity
  – (m) suffix, T2(m)
  – (number) suffix, T2(5)

• Example: two T2 and one T3 tumors in one organ
  – Assign T3(m) or T3(3)

• Registries must record (m) in AJCC stage descriptor
  – Data field for AJCC y prefix or m, E, S, suffixes
  – Indicates burden of disease for data analysis
Multiple Tumors

• Synchronous primary tumors in paired organs
  – Simultaneous multiple tumors
  – Stage and report independently

• Example: T2 tumor in lt adrenal, T3 tumor in rt adrenal
  – Report as two cancers
  – Do NOT use (m) suffix
  – Report lt adrenal cancer and assign T2
  – Report rt adrenal cancer and assign T3
Multiple Tumors

- Multiplicity is criterion for T category in following sites
  - Thyroid
    • Assign T1 – T4 and add (s) for solitary or (m) for multifocal
  - Liver
    • T3 and T4 used for multiple tumors
  - Ovary
    • T1b or higher for both ovaries

- Do not use (m) suffix rules for these sites
  - Thyroid is (s) or (m), not just the (m) or (number)

- Do not consider as separate independent primaries
Thank you

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