Lesson 2
Purpose of Classifications and Use

Donna M. Gress, RHIT, CTR

American Joint Committee on Cancer
Validating science. Improving patient care.
Classification

• Classification definition
  – Point in the care of cancer patient

• Classification criteria
  – Timeframe
  – Specific medical assessments and practices
  – Differences based on anatomy, histology, and biology
Purpose of Classifications

• Multiple points in the care of cancer patients
  – Identifies points in time
  – Differentiates between those points in time

• Valid data comparisons need these distinctions
  – Cannot compare patients with different classifications
Classifications and Basic Criteria

• Clinical – diagnosis, workup, until start of first treatment

• Pathologic – diagnosis, workup, definitive surgical resection operative findings, pathology report of resected specimen

• Postneoadjuvant Therapy – after neoadjuvant therapy, and after surgical resection following neoadjuvant therapy

• Retreatment – recurrence or progression

• Autopsy – postmortem exam when cancer not evident prior to death
Use of Classifications

• Compare similar timeframes between patients

• Type of information and specificity varies by classifications
  – Physical exam and imaging
  – Limited microscopic exam of tissue for diagnosis
  – Extensive microscopic exam of resected specimen

• Assess response to neoadjuvant therapy
  – Compare postneoadjuvant therapy to clinical

• Compare various points of care for a patient
  – Diagnostic workup
  – Treatment
  – Recurrence/retreatment