Clinical

• Biopsy shows highest category
  – Performed during clinical staging time frame

• Highest category information used twice
  – Info **MAY** be used for pathologic classification
    • Needs to meet other stage group rules
    • Not documented unless group rules are met
    • p designation
  – Info also still **USED** for clinical classification
    • c designation
Pathologic staging includes
- Physical exam and imaging
- Even though not tissue proven
- If not overruled in pathology report, but not limited to path report

Pathologic staging depends on
- Proven extent of disease, so if
- Unreasonable to or cannot remove primary tumor then
- Pathologic staging criteria met without primary removal if
  - Microscopic confirmation of highest T and highest N or
  - Microscopic confirmation of M1
  - Note microscopic confirmation may be from biopsy only
Postneoadjuvant Therapy

• Carefully define neoadjuvant therapy

• Not all drugs given prior to surgery are neoadjuvant
  – Drugs given for other reasons
  – Treating symptoms, not treating cancer

• Example – prostate cancer
  – No neoadjuvant therapy exists outside of clinical trials
  – Clinical trials
    • For very specific high risk scenarios
    • 6 months of neoadjuvant therapy
Retreatment

• Used for retreatment
  – Cancer that was never disease free (not a recurrence)
  – Cancer progression
  – Further treatment needs to be planned
  – Retreatment staging
    • Aids in selecting treatment plan
    • Most treatment guidelines based on AJCC staging
Autopsy

• Cannot use autopsy classification if
  – Any indication of cancer prior to death
  – Includes clinical suspicion
  – Even if not proven
Thank you

Donna M. Gress, RHIT, CTR
AJCC Technical Specialist

AJCC
American Joint Committee on Cancer
Validating science, improving patient care.

633 N. Saint Clair, Chicago, IL 60611-3211
cancerstaging.org