Lesson 23
T Category

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American Joint Committee on Cancer
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Metrachronous Primary

• Metachronous primary tumors in single organ
  – Are second or subsequent primary cancers
  – Staged independently

• y prefix
  – Not used for these cases
  – Unusual case where treatment of 2\textsuperscript{nd} cancer warrants this use
    • Physician judgment call
Highest T Category

• If diagnostic biopsy proves highest T category

• Clinical staging
  – Used to assign cT

• Pathologic staging
  – May also be used to assign pT
  – Rationale: resection will not provide info to change T

• Additional requirements to assign pathologic stage
  – Surgical node dissection
  – Biopsy of highest N category

• If requirements not met
  – Do NOT record pT in registry database
  – Data fields for assigning stage, not for data collection
Info Overrides Pathology Report pT

• Information can override pathology report pT

• Clinical stage information
  – Physical exam
  – Imaging
  – Example for thyroid
    • Physical exam: subcutaneous soft tissues involved, voice hoarseness indicating laryngeal or recurrent laryngeal nerve involvement, T4a
    • Imaging: subcutaneous soft tissue & trachea involved, T4a
    • Path report: resection, involvement of perithyroid soft tissues, T3
    • Assign pT4a

• Operative findings during resection
  – Surgeon’s observations
  – Example for colon
    • Operative findings: extended into retroperitoneum, not biopsied, T4b
    • Path report: subserosal fat, radial margin involved, T3
    • Assign pT4b
• y prefix for postneoadjuvant therapy T category
  – T uses same categories as for clinical and pathologic staging

• ycT
  – Used for clinical stage after neoadjuvant therapy
  – Registries do not have data field

• ypT
  – Used for pathologic stage after surgical resection following neoadjuvant therapy
  – Registries document in pathologic data field and
  – MUST use descriptor data field to indicate “y”
• X and Blank needed
  – Accommodate variability in cancer behavior and type of workup

• X
  – Information is unknown to physicians, cannot be assessed
  – Diagnostic workup did not provide info needed to assess and assign T category
    • Example: colonoscopy for colon cancer
  – Surgical resection but specimen not processed – unusual for T

• Blank
  – Patient did not meet staging criteria
  – No diagnostic workup for clinical stage
    • Example: emergency surgery for bowel obstruction finds colon ca
  – No surgical resection for pathologic stage
Thank you

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