pM1 Meets Pathologic Stage Criteria

- Metastasis confirmed microscopically (pM1)
  - Criteria for pathologic classification is satisfied
  - Without surgical resection of primary tumor
  - Does not require resection of metastatic tumor
  - Assign pathologic stage using pM1
pM1 Diagnostic Biopsy

• Diagnostic biopsy proven distant metastasis is pM1
  – Grouped as both clinical and pathologic stage IV
  – Regardless of “c” or “p” status of T and N
  – Examples
    • cT1 cN1 pM1 clinical stage IV
    • cT1 cN1 pM1 pathologic stage IV
    • pT1 pN1 pM1 pathologic stage IV
Two Sites for M Subcategory

• M subcategory distinguishes between
  – One site, e.g. pM1a
  – Two or more sites, more than one site, e.g. pM1b

• Only one site must be microscopically proven for pM1b
  – Two metastatic sites criteria to assign pM1b subcategory
  – Do NOT need microscopic evidence of both sites to assign
  – Example
    • Biopsy of liver and bone scan both indicating metastatic disease
    • Assign pM1b subcategory to indicate two sites involved

• Since at least one metastatic site has been tissue proven
  – Not necessary to biopsy other site
  – Already proven cancer has metastasized
  – Clarification from AJCC physician experts
No y for M Category

• M category *never* uses y prefix for postneoadjuvant therapy
  – Do **NOT** use ycM
  – Do **NOT** use ypM
  – *Use* cM0, cM1, or pM1

• M category status defined *prior* to therapy
  – Never changes from original designation
  – Always use M category from clinical stage
  – Reflects patient’s true prognosis and risk of recurrence/progression
  – Example
    • Clinical stage: cT3 cN2 cM1
    • yPathologic stage: ypT1 ypN0 cM1 *regardless* of current M status
Blank needed, X **NOT** used
- Accommodate variability in cancer behavior and type of workup
- Information must be known, judgment call, X is **not** valid

Blank – physician staging
- 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

Blank – registry data fields
- Must be used when not correct M designation for stage group
- Must use data fields to indicate cM or pM **assigned**
- Relevant to appropriate clinical or pathologic classifications
- Appropriate if not used in clinical or pathologic classification
  - cM blank if diagnostic biopsy is positive
  - pM blank if no microscopic confirmation of mets
Thank you

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