Lesson 26
Stage Group

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

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Any T and Any N in Stage Groups

• Any T
  – Includes all T categories except Tis

• Any N
  – Includes all N categories

• Commonly used in stage groups to simplify tables
  – Extra lines not needed to list all T or N categories included

• Indicates either T or N not driving factor in assigning stage
  – Group will remain the same regardless of T or N
  – Group assigned based on other categories
Working Stage

• Working stage **ONLY** for physicians
  – Used as necessary for medical care of patient

• Working stage
  – May combine clinical and pathologic information
  – Used for either clinical or pathologic classification
  – When only partial information is available

• Example: mastectomy in elderly patient, no nodes sampled
  – Inappropriate to subject this patient to risk of node procedure
  – Physician uses clinical N with pT and cM for working stage group
  – Directs further care and provides prognosis for patient

• **NOT** for registrar use, **NOT** for registry data fields
y for Stage Group

• yc stage group assigned, and consists of
  – ycT ycN c/pM

• yp stage group assigned, and consists of
  – ypT ypN c/pM

• yp complete response
  – ypT0 ypN0 cM0
  – NO stage group assigned
  – NOT stage 0

• cTNM is used for
  – Estimate of disease prior to neoadjuvant therapy
  – Case comparisons and population studies
Blank Only – No X for Stage Group

- **Blank needed, X NOT used**
  - Accommodate variability in cancer behavior and type of workup
  - X is *not* a valid stage group

- **Blank**
  - Patient did not meet staging criteria
    - All categories and stage group are blank
  - No diagnostic workup for clinical stage
    - Example: cancer was incidental finding during surgery
  - No surgical resection for pathologic stage
    - Example: cancer was treated with systemic and/or radiation therapy
    - Example: surgical procedures or some type of resection performed but did *not* meet pathologic surgical resection criteria in chapter
  - Category combinations with incomplete or missing information
    - Information lacking to assign stage group
Thank you

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