AJCC Staging Moments
AJCC TNM Staging 8th Edition
Melanoma Case #1
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Melanoma Case # 1
Presentation of New Case

• Newly diagnosed melanoma patient

• Presentation at Cancer Conference for treatment recommendations and clinical staging
Melanoma Case # 1
History & Physical

• 83 yr old female who presented with 2 cm maximal diameter brown lesion right cheek over right malar eminence; no clinical evidence of ulceration, cervical lymphadenopathy, in-transit or satellite disease

• No family hx of melanoma
Melanoma Case # 1

Imaging Results

• No imaging
Melanoma Case # 1
Diagnostic Procedure

• Diagnostic Procedure
  – Excision skin lesion right cheek

• Pathology Report
  – Melanoma in situ
  – Lentigo maligna type
  – Peripheral margin involved
Melanoma Case # 1
Clinical Staging

• Clinical staging
  – Uses information from physical exam, imaging, and diagnostic biopsy including excision of primary tumor in melanoma
  – Excision of primary tumor includes shave bx, punch bx, incisional bx, excisional bx, or complete excisional bx (microstaging)

• Purpose
  – Select appropriate treatment
  – Estimate prognosis
Melanoma Case # 1
Clinical Staging

• Synopsis: patient with melanoma in situ with involved peripheral margin, no clinical lymphadenopathy

• What is the clinical stage?
  – T____
  – N____
  – M____
  – Stage Group______
Melanoma Case # 1
Clinical Staging

• Clinical Stage correct answer
  – cTis
  – cN0
  – cM0
  – Stage Group 0

• Based on stage, treatment is selected

• Review treatment guidelines for this stage
Melanoma Case # 1
Clinical Staging

• Rationale for staging choices
  – cTis for melanoma in situ
  – cN0 because nodes were clinically negative on physical exam*
  – cM0 because there were no signs or symptoms to suggest distant metastases*
  – * Additional tests would likely be performed if evidence of regional or distant disease before developing a treatment plan
Melanoma Case # 1
Treatment Options

• Review treatment guidelines for this stage

• Discuss appropriate treatment plans for this patient
Melanoma Case # 1
Surgery & Findings

• Surgery
  – Re-excision with 5mm margin

• Operative findings
  – No contributory information
Melanoma Case # 1
Pathology Results

• Residual melanoma in situ

• Lentigo maligna melanoma

• Extends close to, but does not involve, radial margins; deep margins uninvolved
Melanoma Case # 1
Pathological Staging

• Pathological staging
  – Uses information from clinical staging, operative findings, and resected specimen pathology report

• Purpose
  – Additional precise data for estimating prognosis
  – Calculating end results (survival data)
Melanoma Case # 1
Pathological Staging

• Synopsis: patient with melanoma in situ, no nodes removed, clinically nodes negative

• What is the pathological stage?
• T_____  
  – N_____  
  – M_____  
  – Stage Group_______
Melanoma Case # 1
Pathological Staging

• Pathological Stage - correct answer
  – pTis
  – cN0
  – cM0
  – Stage Group 0
Melanoma Case # 1
Pathological Staging

• Rationale for staging choices
  – pTis for melanoma in situ

  – cN0 because of exception for pathological Stage 0 and pT1 →
    they do not require microscopic evaluation of nodes

  – cM0 – use clinical M with pathological staging unless there is
    microscopic confirmation of distant metastasis
Prognostic Factors/Registry Data Collection

• Applicable to this case
  – Primary tumor thickness: not applicable
  – Ulceration: not applicable
Tis – melanoma in situ

Melanoma Case # 1
Recap

• **Summary of correct answers**
  
  – Clinical stage - cTis cN0 cM0 Stage Group 0
  
  – Pathological stage - pTis cN0 cM0 Stage Group 0

• **Staging classifications each have a different purpose and method of assessment so can be different. Do not go back and change the clinical staging based on pathological staging information.**
• Review site-specific information if needed

• Clinical Staging
  – Based on information before treatment
  – Used to select treatment options

• Pathological Staging
  – Based on clinical data PLUS operative findings and resected specimen pathology report
  – Used to evaluate end results (e.g. survival)