

63.2. Urethra: Prostatic Urethra

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Emerging Prognostic Factors for Clinical Care

The prognostic role of HPV subtyping has been studied extensively in squamous cell carcinoma of other anatomic locations. The prognostic role of HPV subtyping of primary male or female squamous cell carcinoma has yet to be determined.

Risk Assessment Models

The American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) recently has established guidelines that will be used to evaluate published statistical prediction models for the purpose of granting endorsement for clinical use.¹ Although this is a monumental step toward the goal of precision medicine, this work was published only very recently. For this reason, existing models that have been published or may be in clinical use have not been evaluated yet for this cancer site by the Precision Medicine core of the AJCC. In the future, the statistical prediction models for this cancer site will be evaluated, and those that meet all AJCC criteria will be endorsed.

Recommendations for Clinical Trial Stratification

Therapy for metastatic urothelial cancer failing initial systemic therapy is particularly challenging and represents a substantial unmet need. These patients should be categorized separately from patients who have no prior systemic therapy. A retrospective analysis of pooled prospective phase II trials (n = 570) in the second line setting has shown that baseline performance status (PS), hemoglobin, presence or absence of liver metastases, and time since prior chemotherapy were significant prognostic factors. More recently, serum albumin also has been validated as a prognostic factor in the second-line setting.³⁸

Bibliography

1. Kattan MW, Hess KR, Amin MB, et al. American Joint Committee on Cancer acceptance criteria for inclusion of risk models for individualized prognosis in the practice of precision medicine. *CA: a cancer journal for clinicians*. 2016.