Lesson 22

Classifications

- Biopsy shows highest category

  – Performed during clinical staging time frame

- Highest category information used twice

  – Info MAY be used for pathological classification
    - Needs to meet other stage group rules
    - Not documented unless group rules are met
    - p designation

  – Info also still USED for clinical classification
    - c designation

- Pathological staging includes
  - Physical exam and imaging
  - Even though not tissue proven
  - If not overruled in pathology report, but not limited to path report

- Pathological staging depends on
  - Proven extent of disease, so if
  - Unreasonable to or cannot remove primary tumor then
  - Pathological staging criteria met without primary removal if
    - Microscopic confirmation of highest T and highest N or
    - Microscopic confirmation of M1
    - Note microscopic confirmation may be from biopsy only

- Carefully define neoadjuvant therapy

- Not all drugs given prior to surgery are neoadjuvant
  – Drugs given for other reasons
  – Treating symptoms, not treating cancer

- Example – prostate cancer
  – No neoadjuvant therapy exists outside of clinical trials
  – Clinical trials
    • For very specific high risk scenarios
    • 6 months to 3 years of neoadjuvant therapy

- Used for retreatment

    – Cancer that was never disease free (not a recurrence)

    – Cancer progression

    – Further treatment needs to be planned

    – Retreatment staging

        • Aids in selecting treatment plan

        • Most treatment guidelines based on AJCC staging

- Cannot use autopsy classification if

    – Any indication of cancer prior to death

    – Includes clinical suspicion

    – Even if not proven

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Thank You