

QUALITY PROGRAMS of the AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS



# Lesson 9

**T Category** 



#### T Criteria



- T criteria based on size and/or direct extension
- Criteria specific to
  - Anatomy of primary site
    - Homogeneous or heterogeneous (different tissue layers)
  - Biologic behavior of cancers for that site
    - How it grows and spreads, involvement that changes the prognosis
- Criteria for clinical classification cT
  - Physical exam, imaging, endoscopy, biopsy, surgical exploration
- Criteria for pathological classification pT
  - Resection of tumor, may require resection of organ/structure



### **Tumor Size**



- Tumor size recorded using whole millimeters
- For size reported
  - In smaller units such as tenth or hundredth of mm.
  - Round to nearest whole millimeter for assigning stage
  - Round 1-4 down, 5-9 up
- Breast Exception:
  - >1mm to <2mm reported as 2mm</p>
  - Prevents classifying these as microinvasive T1mi
- Rationale
  - Staging groups similar cases together



## Multiple Tumor Pieces



- pT generally based on single resected specimen
- Tumor resected in multiple pieces
  - Reasonable estimate of size and extension
  - Guidance from disease specific rules
- Estimate may require
  - Orientation by surgeon
  - Comparison to imaging
  - Pathologist working with surgeon and radiologist to determine T
- Registrar
  - Cannot add tumor pieces to assign size and/or extension
  - Does not know orientation of tumor pieces



### **Uncertain Information**



- Define uncertain information
  - Ambiguity about involvement
  - Details to meet staging criteria are unclear
  - Choosing between two categories
- Correct T category for uncertain information
  - For Physicians only: lower or less advanced category used
  - For Registrars: T category blank
- Correct T subcategory for uncertain information
  - For Physicians only: lower or less advanced subcategory used
  - For Registrars: main T category used



### **Unknown Information**



- Uncertain is different from unknown
- Define unknown information
  - Unknown to the physician
  - Not used to describe situation where registrar does not have access to the information
- Correct T category for unknown information
  - Never assign lowest category
  - For Physicians only: assign TX
  - For Registrars:
    - If physicians state TX, registrars assign TX
    - Without evidence unknown to physicians, registrars assign T blank

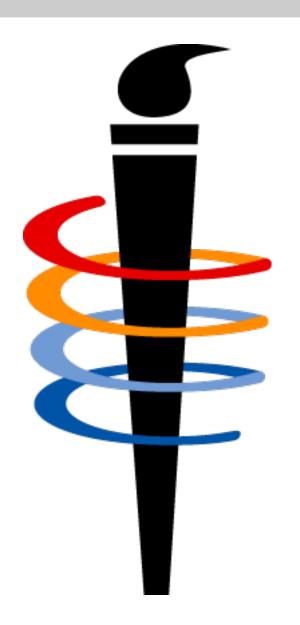




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Thank You

