



Stage Grouping

Debunking Urban Legends in Staging



- Prognostic Stage Groups
 - Defines prognosis for the patient
 - Denotes significance of selective use of nonanatomic factors
 - Structure still based on important anatomic information

- Need complete T, N, M
- Use of X
 - Rarely results in stage grouping
 - Minimize for T and N
 - Eliminated for M
- Clinical stage doesn't change with subsequent info
- Physicians may assign lower/less advanced group if any doubt between groups
- Registrars must assign unknown if doubt between groups

- Group requires non-anatomic factor
 - Physicians
 - If not available, use lowest category for that factor
 - Registrars
 - If not available, assign unknown
- Both clinical and pathological stage groups assigned
 - cT cN pM1 clinical stage group IV
 - cT cN pM1 pathological stage group IV
 - Assigned when no surgical treatment performed

Stage Grouping Cautions – Reminders

- Clinical stage group
 - May use either cM0, cM1 or pM1
- Pathological stage group
 - May use either cM0, cM1 or pM1
- Posttherapy Clinical and Posttherapy Pathological stage group
 - Use cM0, cM1 or pM1 from clinical stage
- X for any component makes case unstageable
 - Unless other components make it the highest stage
- No residual after neoadjuvant treatment
 - No stage group