



Lesson 4

Stage Groups Put Together Cases with Similar Prognosis



Purpose of Stage Groups

- Reproducible and easily communicated summary of staging information
- Patient care
 - Helps patients understand the extent of their disease
 - Communicate treatment and prognosis with patients
 - Ease of communication between physicians
- Data analysis
 - Larger numbers of similar patients
 - Statistically significant

Creation of Stage Groups

- Basic premise – patients with similar prognosis
- Stage group made up of these categories
 - T
 - N
 - M
 - Can include other additional categories
- Group patients with similar prognosis
 - Creates groups with specific category criteria
 - Consolidates many combinations into a few groups
- Groups may contain
 - Variance within categories, T1 N0 M0 and T2 N0 M0
 - Variance between categories, T1 N1 M0 and T2 N0 M0
 - As long as their outcomes are similar

Designation of Stage Groups

- Roman numerals I through IV
 - Higher numbers indicate increasing severity
 - 0 (zero) also used
- General meaning of stage groups, exceptions allowed
 - 0 – in situ
 - I – small tumors, less deeply invasive, negative nodes
 - II – increasing tumor and nodal extent
 - III – increasing tumor and nodal extent
 - IV – distant metastasis
- Subsets
 - Expand groupings using A, B, C
 - More refined prognostic information

Meaning of Stage Groups

- Stage groups have prognostic meaning
 - Must have statistically significant separation between stages
 - Higher number stages must have worse prognosis than lower numbers
 - Not just split of cases between numbers I through IV
 - Not just a range of better to worse and patients fit on that continuum

- All cases within group have same outcome
 - Even though their burden of disease may vary

Changes in Stage Groups

- Category combinations moved when outcomes change
- Must maintain separation between stages for outcomes analysis
- Changes may be due to
 - Improved clinical staging techniques better define the disease
 - Improvements in treatment change prognosis in certain types of involvement, for example
 - New surgical techniques for local extent
 - New systemic drugs for nodal involvement



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Thank You