



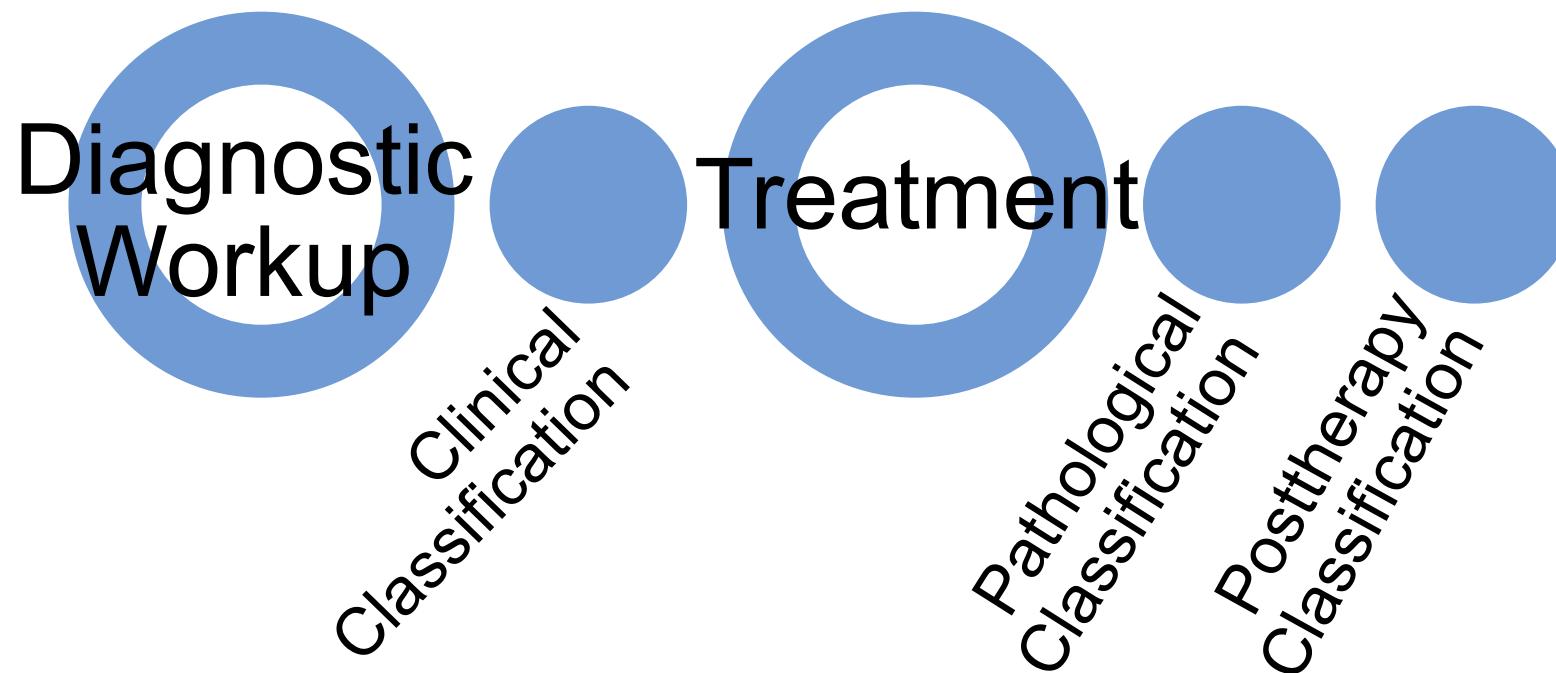
AJCC Staging Classifications

Debunking Urban Legends in Staging



Staging Classifications

- Stage defined at number of points in care of the cancer patient
- Points in time are called classifications



Staging Classifications

- **Clinical**
 - Used for making treatment decisions
 - Evaluate treatment choices
 - Only point in time to compare all cancer patients
- **Pathological**
 - Adjuvant treatment planning
 - More precise data
 - Estimate prognosis
 - Calculate end results
- **Posttherapy Clinical**
 - Clinical assessment of response to neoadjuvant therapy
 - Determines appropriate surgical resection
- **Posttherapy Pathological**
 - Provide response to therapy
 - Guides further adjuvant radiation and/or systemic therapy

- Clinical staging includes information
 - Prior to any definitive treatment (or no Rx decision)
 - Or within 4 months
 - Whichever is *shorter*
- Not changed by subsequent information
- Clinical staging is same as pre-treatment staging

- Eligible information is diagnostic workup
- Diagnostic workup includes
 - Physical exam
 - Imaging studies
 - Lab tests
 - Biopsy of primary site
 - Biopsy of lymph node
 - Biopsy of sentinel nodes
 - Biopsy of a metastatic site
- Clinical stage used to
 - Review treatment guidelines
 - Develop treatment plan

- Pathological staging includes information
 - Through completion of definitive surgery (1st course Rx)
 - Or within 4 months
 - Whichever is *longer*
 - But no systemic or radiation therapy initiated
 - No clear disease progression

- Eligible information
 - All information
 - Clinical staging info combined with
 - Surgical/operative findings (operative report) and
 - Exam of resected tissue (pathology report) required
- Pathological stage
 - Develop plans for adjuvant treatment
 - Prognosis and outcome

Posttherapy Classification

- Measures response to therapy
 - Prognostic
 - Guides subsequent surgery or other therapy
- yc
 - Clinical staging after systemic/radiation Rx
- yp
 - Pathological staging after systemic/radiation Rx/surgery

Posttherapy Clinical Classification

- Timing
 - After neoadjuvant therapy
 - Before planned surgery

- Eligible information
 - Clinical history and physical examination
 - Any imaging studies
 - Any diagnostic procedures including biopsies

Posttherapy Pathological Classification

- Timing
 - After neoadjuvant therapy including surgery
 - Systemic/radiation Rx must be primary therapy
- Eligible information
 - All information
 - Posttherapy clinical info combined with
 - Surgical/operative findings (operative report) and
 - Exam of resected tissue (pathology report) required
- No residual cancer
 - ypT0 ypN0 cM0
 - No stage group is assigned