Stage Groups

Pathologic Stage Groups (pTNM)

Historically, pathologic stage grouping after esophagectomy alone has been the sole basis for all cancer staging. Today, pathologic staging is losing its clinical relevance for advanced-stage cancer as post-neoadjuvant therapy replaces esophagectomy alone. However, it remains relevant for early-stage cancers and as an important staging and survival reference point.

Adenocarcinoma.

Stage subgroups increased from nine in the seventh edition to 10 in the eighth (Fig. 4A).

- pStage 0 is restricted to high-grade glandular dysplasia, pTis.
- Subcategorization of T1 combined with grade requires three pStage I subgroups: pStage IA (pT1aN0M0G1), pStage IB (pT1aN0M0G2 and pT1bN0M0G1-2), and pStage IC (pT1N0M0G3 and pT2N0M0G1-2).
- pT2N0M0G3 remains the sole cancer in pStage IIA.
- pStage IIB comprises T3N0M0 and pT1N1M0.
- pStage III is reserved for advanced cancers with relatively good survival. pT2N1M0 and pT1N2M0 form pStage IIIA, whereas pT2N2M0, pT3N1-2M0, and pT4aN0-1M0 form pStage IIIB.
- pStage IVA was subcategorized with the realization that the most locally advanced cancers have survival similar to that of cancers with metastasis to distant sites (M1).
  - pT4aN2M0, pT4bN0-2M0, and pTanyN3M0 are pStage IVA.
  - Cancers with metastasis to distant sites (M1) are restricted to pStage IVB.

Squamous cell carcinoma.

In the eighth edition, there is no net change in the number of stage subgroups; there is, however, significant rearrangement and renaming (Fig. 4B).

- pStage 0 is restricted to high-grade glandular dysplasia, pTis.
- Subcategorization of T1 combined with grade requires two pStage I subgroups: pStage IA (pT1aN0M0G1) and pStage IB (pT1aN0M0G2-3, pT1bN0M0, and pT2N0M0G1).
- pStage IIA comprises pT2N0M0G2-3 cancers, pT3N0M0 cancers of the lower thoracic esophagus, and pT3N0M0G1 cancers of the upper middle thoracic esophagus.
- pStage IIB comprises T3N0M0G2-3 cancers of the upper middle thoracic esophagus and pT1N1M0 cancers.
- pStage III and pStage...