

AJCC Staging Moments

AJCC TNM Staging 8th Edition

Colon Case #1



AJCC

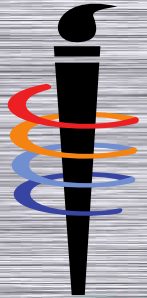
American Joint Committee on Cancer

Validating science. Improving patient care.

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Colon Case # 1

Presentation of New Case

- Potential colon cancer patient
- Presentation at Cancer Conference for treatment recommendations and clinical staging



Colon Case # 1

History & Physical

- 51 yr old female with family history of colon cancer presents for her first screening colonoscopy



Colon Case # 1

Diagnostic Procedure

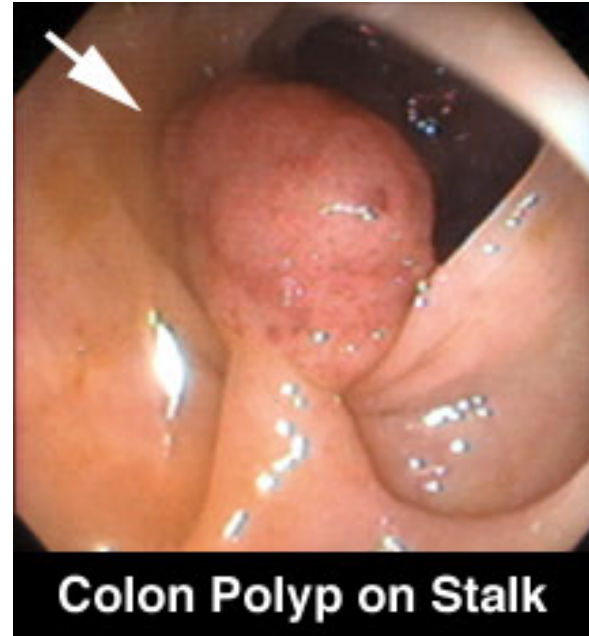
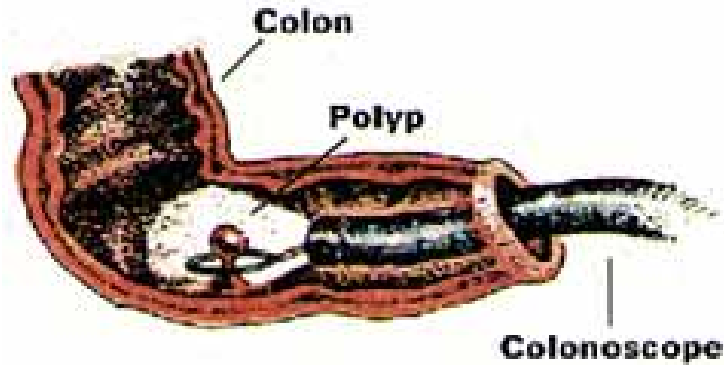
- Procedure
 - Screening colonoscopy shows pedunculated polyp in the proximal transverse colon which is removed via colonoscopic polypectomy
- Pathology Report
 - Adenocarcinoma
 - Grade 3
 - Invasion into submucosa
 - Stalk margins widely free, clear by 4mm



Colon Case # 1

Endoscopic Findings

- Surgery
 - 1.5cm pedunculated polyp at 60cm in transverse colon



Colon Case # 1

Imaging Results

- Computerized tomography (CT) with contrast: No evidence of peritoneal or visceral metastases; nodes cannot be assessed
- Lab: CEA 5.6 (patient smokes 1ppd)



Colon Case # 1

Clinical Staging

- Clinical staging
 - Uses information from physical examination, endoscopic findings, specimen removal or biopsy findings.
- Purpose
 - Planning additional management



Colon Case # 1

Clinical Staging

- Synopsis: pedunculated polyp with invasion into submucosa, clear margins in stalk
- What is the clinical stage?
 - T_____
 - N_____
 - M_____
 - Stage Group_____



Colon Case # 1

Clinical Staging

- Clinical Stage correct answer
 - cT1
 - cNX
 - cM0
 - Stage: cannot assign clinical stage based on unknown nodal category
- Based on clinical information, there is more information to estimate prognosis, but surgical treatment is indicated



Colon Case # 1

Clinical Staging

- Rationale for staging choices
 - cT1 for invasion of submucosa
 - cNX since imaging cannot effectively assess nodal status
 - cM0 – use clinical M with pathological staging unless there is microscopic confirmation of distant metastases



Colon Case # 1

Treatment Options

- Review treatment guidelines for this stage
- Discuss appropriate treatment plans for this patient



Colon Case #1

Presentation after Surgery

- Additional surgical management recommended based on
 - Polyp shows evidence of invasion of submucosa
 - Surgical evaluation of mesenteric nodes is mandatory, since imagining cannot predict nodal involvement, in an otherwise healthy patient
- Presentation at Cancer Conference for treatment recommendations and pathologic staging



Colon Case #1

Surgery & Findings

- Procedure
 - Laparoscopic right hemicolectomy with primary ileo-colostomy
- Operative findings
 - No distant mets on abdominal exploration



Colon Case #1

Pathology Results

- No additional tumor found in removed colon specimen; margins are clear
- 26 lymph nodes free of tumor
- 2 tumor deposits found in mesentery of right colon adjacent to subserosa



Colon Case # 1

Pathological Staging

- Pathological staging
 - Uses information from clinical staging, operative findings, and resected specimen pathology report
- Purpose
 - Additional precise data for estimating prognosis
 - Calculating end results (survival data)



Colon Case #1

Pathological Staging

- Synopsis: patient with no residual tumor, nodes negative, 2 tumor deposits in mesentery adjacent to serosa
- What is the pathological staging?
 - T_____
 - N_____
 - M_____
 - Stage Group_____



Colon Case #1

Pathological Staging

- Pathological Stage correct answer
 - pT1
 - pN1c
 - cM0
 - Stage Group IIIA
- Based on pathological stage, there is more information to estimate prognosis and adjuvant treatment is discussed
- Adjuvant chemotherapy indicated based on pathological staging



Colon Case #1

Pathological Staging

- Rationale for staging choices
 - pT1 based on invasion into submucosa
 - pN1c based on tumor deposits found adjacent to subserosa with no other nodal metastases
 - cM0 based on absence of clinical metastases noted via imaging and at abdominal exploration



Prognostic Factors/Registry Data Collection

- Applicable to this case
 - CEA: 5.6



T1

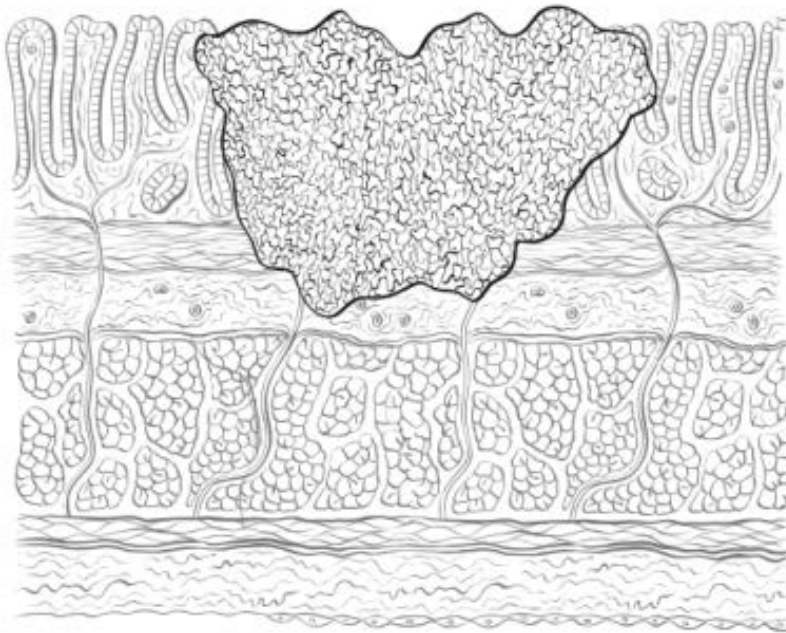
T1

Mucosa

Lamina propria
Muscularis mucosae
Submucosa

Muscularis propria

Subserosa
Serosa



T1 invades submucosa
(through muscularis
mucosa but not into
muscularis propria)



Colon Case # 1

Recap of Staging

- Summary of correct answers
 - Clinical stage cT1 cNX cM0 Stage Group unknown
 - Pathological stage pT1 pN1c cM0 Stage Group IIIA
- The staging classifications have a different purpose and therefore can be different. Do not go back and change the clinical staging based on pathological staging information.



Staging Moments Summary

- Review site-specific information if needed
- Clinical Staging
 - Based on information before treatment
 - Used to select treatment options
- Pathological Staging
 - Based on clinical data PLUS operative findings and resected specimen pathology report
 - Used to evaluate end-results (survival)

