SEER Lymph Node Codes Revisited

SEER Program Training Materials
October 2002

This Review Covers
✓ EOD Lymph Node Involvement
✓ Number of Regional Nodes Positive
✓ Number of Regional Nodes Examined
✓ Scope of Regional Lymph Node Surgery
✓ Number of Regional Lymph Nodes Examined
✓ Lymph Node Anatomy of Major Sites

EOD Lymph Node Involvement
✓ One digit hierarchical code
✓ Describes farthest lymph node involvement
  • regional
  • distant
✓ Corresponds to AJCC N, M fields where name of involved node chain is important

Lymph Node Involvement
✓ Code LN involvement 0 for all in situ cases
✓ Code distant lymph nodes if present
✓ Read each scheme–know when size, laterality, number of nodes and location of nodes is important
Lymph Node Involvement

Terms which do NOT indicate LN involvement (except for lymphoma)
- Palpable
- Enlarged
- Visible
- Swelling
- Shotty
- Lymphadenopathy

For lymphomas, any mention of lymph nodes is coded as involvement

Number of Regional LN Positive and Examined

- Each 2 digit numeric field
- Each cumulative over all first course procedures
- Number positive corresponds to AJCC N category for sites where number of involved nodes is a criterion
- Number examined useful to determine extent of regional node dissection

Number of Reg LN Positive and Examined--Guidelines

# Pos = the number pathologically examined that were positive even after pre-surgery therapy
# Exam = the number pathologically examined (reported in micro description)
Always code 9s for
- Bone marrow; leukemia/myeloma
- Lymphoma; mycosis/Sezary’s
- Unknown primary; ill-defined sites
- Brain tumor

Number of Regional Lymph Nodes Positive--Guidelines

- Special codes
  - 97 Nodes positive but number unknown OR aspirated node positive
  - 98 No nodes examined; no LN surgery
  - 99 Not known if nodes are positive or negative or field not applicable (unknown or ill-defined primary site)
Number of Regional Lymph Nodes Examined--Guidelines

Special codes
- 95 No nodes removed; aspiration
- 96 Sampling; number not known
- 97 Dissection; number not known
- 98 Procedure not described; number not known
- 99 Not known if nodes were examined; not applicable

Scope of Regional Lymph Node Surgery

- Regional lymph nodes only
- Procedure based
- No minimum number of nodes
- Neck dissections defined
- Hierarchical
- Not the same concept as EOD LN involvement field

Scope of Regional Lymph Node Surgery

Simple NO / YES format

Liver and Intrahepatic Bile Ducts
- 0 No regional LN removed
- 1 Regional lymph node(s) removed
- 9 Unknown; not stated; death certificate only

Scope of Regional Lymph Node Surgery

Specific procedures

Head and Neck
- 1 Regional lymph node(s) removed, NOS
- 2 Neck dissection, NOS
- 3 Selective, limited; nodal sampling; "berry picking"
- 4 Modified/modified radical
- 5 Radical
Scope of Regional Lymph Node Surgery

Colon--general terms
- Colic nodes
- Mesenteric nodes
- Peri-epi-para-colic

Colon--specific node chains
Examples:
- Anterior cecal
- Ileocolic
- Posterior cecal
- Right colic

Number of Regional Lymph Nodes Removed

✔ Not cumulative

Special Codes
- 90 Ninety or more regional nodes...
- 95 Aspiration
- 96 Sampling, number not stated
- 97 Dissections, number not stated
- 98 Nodes removed, number unknown, procedure not defined

Scope of Regional Lymph Node Surgery--Guidelines

✔ Code farthest nodes removed, even if negative
✔ Code node aspiration to NOS
✔ Nodes not in regional list are coded as distant

Number of Regional Lymph Nodes Removed--Guidelines

✔ 00 if no nodes in specimen
✔ 01 - 90 nodes examined
✔ Code "sampling," "dissection"
✔ Code aspiration if no nodes removed
Lymph Node Anatomy for Selected Sites

Major Lymph Node Chains of Head

CERVICAL LYMPH NODES
1. submental
2. submandibular
3. jugular (deep cervical)
4. superficial cervical
5. supraclavicular
6. prelaryngeal* and paratracheal*
7. retropharyngeal
8. parotid
9. buccal
10. retroauricular and occipital

* not shown

Lymph Nodes of Esophagus

Cervical esophagus primary

Intrathoracic esophagus primary

Mediastinal

Perigastric

Source: TNM-interactive, UICC, 1998

Lymph Nodes of Stomach

Source: TNM-interactive, UICC, 1998
**Lymph Nodes of Stomach**

Source: TNM-interactive, UICC, 1998

- Left gastric LN1
- Common hepatic LN4
- Splenic LN1
- Celiac LN4
- Hepatoduodenal nodes LN7

**Regional Nodes -- Colon**

Terms that apply to all segments:
- Colic LN1
- Peri-epi-para-Mesenteric LN6

**Regional Nodes -- Colon**

"Named" nodes are EOD LN code 2

- Regional nodes specific to each segment of colon
  - Cecum
  - Ascending
  - Hepatic flexure
  - Transverse
  - Splenic flexure
  - Descending
  - Sigmoid

**Gallbladder and Extrahepatic Bile Ducts Lymph Nodes**

Source: TNM-interactive, UICC, 1998

- Regional Lymph Nodes
  - Cystic duct node LN1
  - Pericholedochal LN1
  - Hilar LN1
  - Peripancreatic (head only) LN2
  - Periduodenal LN2
  - Periportal LN2
  - Celiac LN5
  - Superior Mesenteric LN8
  - Mesenteric LN8
Scope of Regional Lymph Node Surgery--Breast

Level I (N1, LN 1-4, 6; N2, LN5)
Superficial axillary nodes (low axillary, intramammary)

Level II (N1, LN 1-4, 6; N2, LN5)
Interpectoral axillary lymph nodes (Rotter's nodes)

Level III (N1, LN 1-4, 6; N2, LN5)
Deep axillary lymph nodes (high axillary, apical)
Internal mammary (N3, LN 7) (parasternal lymph nodes)

Lymph Nodes of Cervix

1. Paracervical
2. Parametrical
3. Internal iliac
4. External iliac
5. Common iliac
6. Obturator
(Lymph Nodes of Cervix)

Lymph Nodes of Corpus, Ovary, and Fallopian Tube

EOD LN Codes

Corpus | Ovary, Tube

Hypogastric | 1 | 1
Common iliac | 1 | 1
External iliac | 1 | 1
Internal iliac | 1 | 1
Iliofemoral | 1 | 1
Pararectal | 2 | 2
Inguinal | 6, 7 | 3

Lymph Nodes of Prostate

below the bifurcation of the common iliac arteries

LN7
LN6
LN1-3, 5
LN6, 7
LN# = EOD LN code 1-3 based on size of metastasis


**Lymph Nodes of Testis**

Abdominal paraaortic (periaortic)
1. Interaortocaval
2. Paracaval
3. Preaortic
4. Retrocaval
5. Precaval
6. Retroaortic

Under certain conditions:
- Intrapelvic
- External iliac
- Inguinal

Source: Cancer: PPO, DeVita et al

**Lymph Nodes for Kidney, Renal Pelvis and Ureter**

Kidney and Renal Pelvis
EOD LN code 1-3 or 5
1-3 based on size of metastasis
Hilar
Abdominal para-aortic
Paracaval
Ureter
EOD LN code 1-3 or 5
1-3 based on size of metastasis
Hilar
Paracaval
Intrapelvic (Pelvic, NOS)
Abdominal para-aortic

Source: TNM-interactive, UICC, 1998

**Lymph Nodes of Bladder**

below the bifurcation of the common iliac arteries

LN7
LN6
LN1-3, 5

Source: TNM-interactive, UICC, 1998

**Malignant Lymphoma**

Anatomic Lymph Node Regions for Ann Arbor Staging

For lymphomas, lymph node regions are counted in the EOD Extension field.

Graphic: Clinical Oncology: a multidisciplinary approach, 7th ed. P. Rubin

Fig 18-3. Anatomic staging: Anatomic definition of separate lymph node regions