

SEER Inquiry System - Report

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Question 20230063

References:

#1: 2018 EOD Manual. General Instructions; SEER*RSA Melanoma Skin

#2: SEER Summary Stage 2000. Skin

Question:

EOD 2018/EOD Regional Nodes--Melanoma: Can central cancer registries code Extent of Disease (EOD) Regional Nodes as 000 based on Breslow's depth and/or Clark's Level (per EOD and/or Summary Stage) from a melanoma pathology only report with a localized tumor and no information on regional lymph nodes or mets. See Discussion.

Discussion:

Based on the EOD General instructions for accessible sites, the following three requirements must be met

- a. There is no mention of regional lymph node involvement in the physical examination, pre-treatment diagnostic testing, or surgical exploration;
- b. The patient has localized disease;
- c. The patient receives what would be the standard treatment to the primary site (treatment appropriate to the stage of disease as determined by the physician), or patient is offered usual treatment but refuses it.

As a central registry, we receive a lot of melanoma path reports but never receive an abstract since the patients are seen at a dermatology office that does not report to the central registry. In these scenarios, we have both the diagnosis and wide excision or Mohs surgery from which we create a consolidated record. It is not often that lymph nodes are removed which indicates there were no palpable nodes.

Since the Breslow's and Clark's level allow for summary staging, is it possible to have central registry guidelines that allow for coding lymph nodes other than 999? The path reports meet two of the three criteria. Is there any new literature that supports coding lymph nodes 000 based on a Clark's level or Breslow measure providing the patient has a wide excision?

Answer:

Assign 000 for EOD Regional Nodes when you have a pathology only report with a localized tumor based on Breslow's depth and/or Clark's Level (per EOD and/or Summary Stage) and no information on regional lymph nodes or mets. When the tumor is noted to be regional or distant based on Breslow's Depth and/or Clark's based on the definitions in EOD and/or Summary Stage, do not assume that the nodes are negative and assign 999. Clarification will be added to the EOD manual.

Cancer Site Category:

Melanoma

Data Item Category:

EOD 2018

Other Category:

Summary Stage 2018

Year:

2023