

Neoadjuvant and Adjuvant Therapies for Esophageal and Gastric Cancers

José Lozada, M.D., F.A.C.P.

2 March 2019

Disclosures

- Speakers' bureau:
- Boehringer Ingelheim (afatinib)
- Seattle Genetics (brentuximab vedotin)
- Merck (pembrolizumab)
- Incyte (ruxolitinib)
- Amgen (denosumab, panitumumab)

Gastroesophageal Cancer: Treatment Overview

- Surgery is primary treatment for medically fit, resectable cases^[1]
- For advanced disease, treatment may include perioperative chemotherapy or preoperative chemoradiation
- Postoperative treatment options
 - Chemoradiation (fluoropyrimidine-based or capecitabine)
 - Palliative chemotherapy or best supportive care
- Recurrent or metastatic disease
 - Chemotherapy
 - Palliative chemotherapy, clinical trial, or best supportive care
- Significant need exists for deeper understanding of tumor subtypes, biomarkers for treatment response^[2]

1. NCCN. Clinical practice guidelines in oncology: gastric cancer, v2. 2011.

2. Power DG, et al. Cancer Treat Rev. 2010;36:384-392.



National
Comprehensive
Cancer
Network®

NCCN Guidelines Version 2.2018 Esophageal and Esophagogastric Junction Cancers

[NCCN Guidelines Index](#)
[Table of Contents](#)
[Discussion](#)

PRINCIPLES OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM APPROACH FOR ESOPHAGOGASTRIC CANCERS

Category 1 evidence supports the notion that the combined modality therapy is effective for patients with localized esophagogastric cancer.^{1,2,3} The NCCN Panel believes in an infrastructure that encourages multidisciplinary treatment decision-making by members of all disciplines taking care of this group of patients.



National
Comprehensive
Cancer
Network®

NCCN Guidelines Version 2.2018 Gastric Cancer

[NCCN Guidelines Index](#)
[Table of Contents](#)
[Discussion](#)

PRINCIPLES OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM APPROACH FOR ESOPHAGOGASTRIC CANCERS

Category 1 evidence supports the notion that the combined modality therapy is effective for patients with localized esophagogastric cancer.^{1,2,3} The NCCN Panel believes in an infrastructure that encourages multidisciplinary treatment decision-making by members of all disciplines taking care of this group of patients.



PRINCIPLES OF SYSTEMIC THERAPY

- Systemic therapy regimens recommended for advanced esophageal and EGJ adenocarcinoma, SCC of the esophagus, and gastric adenocarcinoma may be used interchangeably (except as indicated).
- Regimens should be chosen in the context of performance status (PS), comorbidities, and toxicity profile.
- Trastuzumab should be added to chemotherapy for HER2 overexpressing metastatic adenocarcinoma.
- Two-drug cytotoxic regimens are preferred for patients with advanced disease because of lower toxicity. Three-drug cytotoxic regimens should be reserved for medically fit patients with good PS and access to frequent toxicity evaluation.
- Modifications of category 1 regimen or use of category 2A or 2B regimens may be preferred (as indicated), with evidence supporting more favorable toxicity profile without compromising efficacy.¹
- Doses and schedules for any regimen that is not derived from category 1 evidence is a suggestion, and subject to appropriate modifications depending on the circumstances.
- Alternate combinations and schedules of cytotoxics based on the availability of the agents, practice preferences, and contraindications are permitted.
- Preoperative chemoradiation is the preferred approach for localized adenocarcinoma of the thoracic esophagus or EGJ.² Perioperative chemotherapy is an alternative option for distal esophagus and EGJ.^{3,4}
- In the adjuvant setting, upon completion of chemotherapy or chemoradiation, patients should be monitored for any long-term treatment-related complications.

NCCN Guidelines Version 2.2018

Gastric Cancer

PRINCIPLES OF SYSTEMIC THERAPY

- Systemic therapy regimens recommended for advanced esophageal and EGJ adenocarcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma of the esophagus, and gastric adenocarcinoma may be used interchangeably (except as indicated).
- Regimens should be chosen in the context of performance status (PS), medical comorbidities, and toxicity profile.
- Trastuzumab should be added to chemotherapy for HER2 overexpressing metastatic adenocarcinoma.
- Two-drug cytotoxic regimens are preferred for patients with advanced disease because of lower toxicity. Three-drug cytotoxic regimens should be reserved for medically fit patients with good PS and access to frequent toxicity evaluation.
- Modifications of category 1 regimen or use of category 2A or 2B regimens may be preferred (as indicated), with evidence supporting a more favorable toxicity profile without compromising efficacy.¹
- Doses and schedules for any regimen that is not derived from category 1 evidence are a suggestion, and are subject to appropriate modifications depending on the circumstances.
- Alternate combinations and schedules of cytotoxics based on the availability of the agents, practice preferences, and contraindications are permitted.
- Perioperative chemotherapy,^{2,3} or postoperative chemotherapy plus chemoradiation⁴ is the preferred approach for localized gastric cancer.
- Postoperative chemotherapy is recommended following primary D2 lymph node dissection.^{5,6} ([See Principles of Surgery \[GAST-C\]](#))
- In the adjuvant setting, upon completion of chemotherapy or chemoradiation, patients should be monitored for any long-term therapy-related complications.

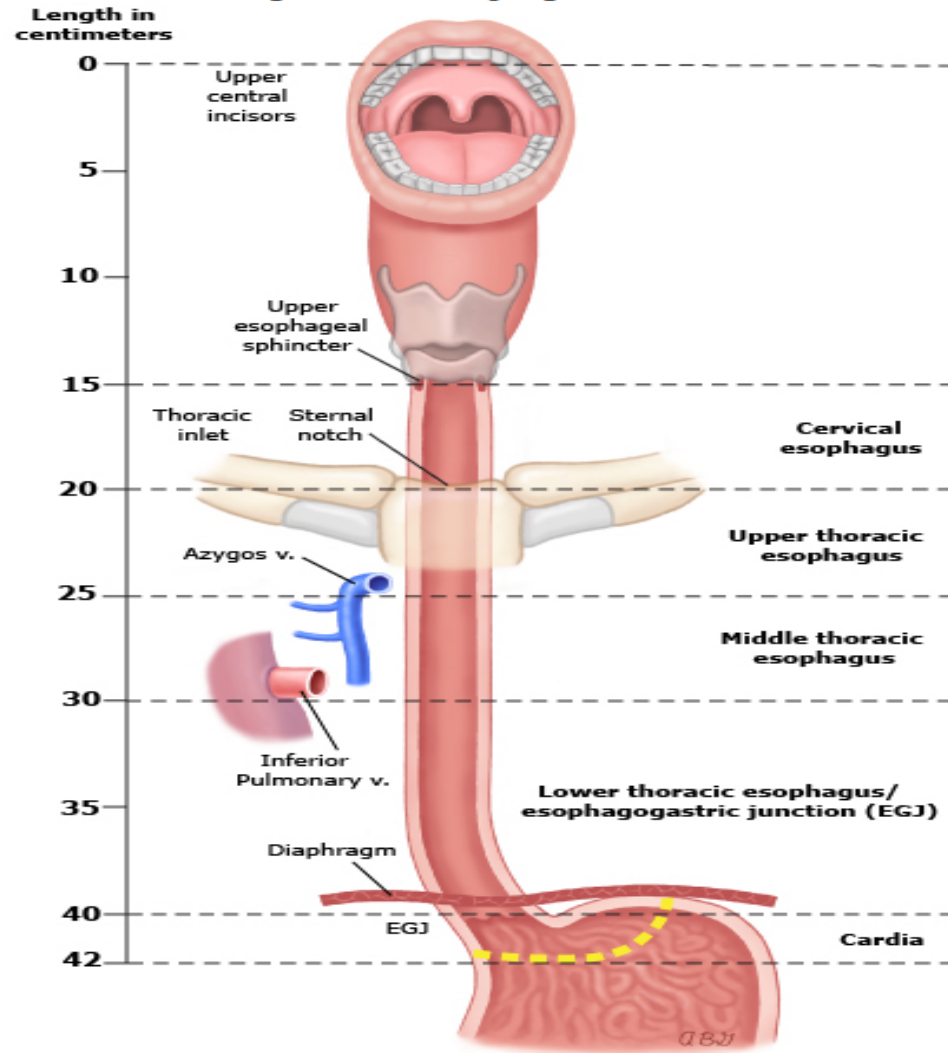
Epidemiology of esophageal cancer in the United States, 2012

| | Squamous cell | Adenocarcinoma |
|--|------------------|---------------------|
| Incidence rate, per 100,000 population | 1.2 | 2.8 |
| Male-to-female ratio | 2.5:1 | 6.5:1 |
| White-to-black ratio | 1:4 | 4:1 |
| Most common locations | Middle esophagus | Distal esophagus |
| Major risk factors | Smoking, alcohol | Barrett's esophagus |

Data from: Thrift AP. The epidemic of oesophageal carcinoma: Where are we now? *Cancer Epidemiol* 2016; 41:88.

UpToDate®

AJCC 8th edition regions of the esophagus



Anatomy of esophageal cancer primary site, including typical endoscopic measurements of each region measured from the incisors. Exact measurements depend on body size and height. For tumors of the EGJ and cardia, location of cancer primary site (ie, esophagus, stomach) is defined by cancer epicenter.

AJCC: American Joint Committee on Cancer; v: vein.

Modified from: Rice TW, Kelsen D, Blackstone EH, et al. Esophagus and esophagogastric junction. In: AJCC Cancer Staging Manual, 8th Ed, Amin MB (ed), Springer Science+Business Media, LLC, New York, 2017.



NCCN Guidelines Version 2.2018 Staging Esophageal and Esophagogastric Junction Cancers

Table 1

**American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC)
TNM Staging Classification for Carcinoma of the Esophagus and Esophagogastric Junction (8th ed., 2017)
Squamous Cell Carcinoma and Adenocarcinoma**

Definition of Primary Tumor (T)

| T Category | T Criteria |
|------------|--|
| TX | Primary tumor cannot be assessed |
| T0 | No evidence of primary tumor |
| Tis | High-grade dysplasia, defined as malignant cells confined to the epithelium by the basement membrane |
| T1 | Tumor invades the lamina propria, muscularis mucosae, or submucosa |
| T1a | Tumor invades the lamina propria or muscularis mucosae |
| T1b | Tumor invades the submucosa |
| T2 | Tumor invades the muscularis propria |
| T3 | Tumor invades adventitia |
| T4 | Tumor invades adjacent structures |
| T4a | Tumor invades the pleura, pericardium, azygos vein, diaphragm, or peritoneum |
| T4b | Tumor invades other adjacent structures, such as the aorta, vertebral body, or airway |

Definition of Regional Lymph Node (N)

| N Category | N Criteria |
|------------|--|
| NX | Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed |
| N0 | No regional lymph node metastasis |
| N1 | Metastasis in one or two regional lymph nodes |
| N2 | Metastasis in three to six regional lymph nodes |
| N3 | Metastasis in seven or more regional lymph nodes |

Definition of Distant Metastasis (M)

| M Category | M Criteria |
|------------|-----------------------|
| M0 | No distant metastasis |
| M1 | Distant metastasis |

Definition of Histologic Grade (G)

| G | G Definition |
|----|---|
| GX | Grade cannot be assessed |
| G1 | Well differentiated |
| G2 | Moderately differentiated |
| G3 | Poorly differentiated, undifferentiated |

Squamous Cell Carcinoma

Definition of Location (L)

| Location Category | Location Criteria |
|-------------------|---|
| X | Location unknown |
| Upper | Cervical esophagus to lower border of azygos vein |
| Middle | Lower border of azygos vein to lower border of inferior pulmonary vein |
| Lower | Lower border of inferior pulmonary vein to stomach, including gastroesophageal junction |

Note: Location is defined by the position of the epicenter of the tumor in the esophagus.

[Continued](#)

Used with permission of the American College of Surgeons, Chicago, Illinois. The original source for this information is the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual, Eighth Edition (2017) published by Springer International Publishing. (For complete information and data supporting the staging tables, visit www.springer.com.) Any citation or quotation of this material must be credited to the AJCC as its primary source. The inclusion of this information herein does not authorize any reuse or further distribution without the expressed, written permission of Springer SBM, on behalf of the AJCC.



NCCN Guidelines Version 2.2018 Staging Esophageal and Esophagogastric Junction Cancers

Table 1 (continued)

AJCC PROGNOSTIC STAGE GROUPS (Squamous Cell Carcinoma)

Clinical Staging (cTNM)

| | cT | c N | M |
|------------------|-------|-------|----|
| Stage 0 | Tis | N0 | M0 |
| Stage I | T1 | N0-1 | M0 |
| Stage II | T2 | N0-1 | M0 |
| | T3 | N0 | M0 |
| Stage III | T3 | N1 | M0 |
| | T1-3 | N2 | M0 |
| Stage IVA | T4 | N0-2 | M0 |
| | Any T | N3 | M0 |
| Stage IVB | Any T | Any N | M1 |

Pathological (pTNM)

| | pT | pN | M | G | Location |
|-------------------|-------|-------|----|------|--------------|
| Stage 0 | Tis | N0 | M0 | N/A | Any |
| Stage IA | T1a | N0 | M0 | G1 | Any |
| | T1a | N0 | M0 | GX | Any |
| Stage IB | T1a | N0 | M0 | G2-3 | Any |
| | T1b | N0 | M0 | G1-3 | Any |
| | T1b | N0 | M0 | GX | Any |
| | T2 | N0 | M0 | G1 | Any |
| Stage IIA | T2 | N0 | M0 | G2-3 | Any |
| | T2 | N0 | M0 | GX | Any |
| | T3 | N0 | M0 | Any | Lower |
| | T3 | N0 | M0 | G1 | Upper/middle |
| Stage IIB | T3 | N0 | M0 | G2-3 | Upper/middle |
| | T3 | N0 | M0 | GX | Any |
| | T3 | N0 | M0 | Any | Location X |
| | T1 | N1 | M0 | Any | Any |
| Stage IIIA | T1 | N2 | M0 | Any | Any |
| | T2 | N1 | M0 | Any | Any |
| Stage IIIB | T2 | N2 | M0 | Any | Any |
| | T3 | N1-2 | M0 | Any | Any |
| | T4a | N0-1 | M0 | Any | Any |
| Stage IVA | T4a | N2 | M0 | Any | Any |
| | T4b | N0-2 | M0 | Any | Any |
| | Any T | N3 | M0 | Any | Any |
| Stage IVB | Any T | Any N | M1 | Any | Any |

Postneoadjuvant Therapy (ypTNM)

| | yp T | yp N | M |
|-------------------|-------|-------|----|
| Stage I | T0-2 | N0 | M0 |
| Stage II | T3 | N0 | M0 |
| Stage IIIA | T0-2 | N1 | M0 |
| Stage IIIB | T3 | N1 | M0 |
| | T0-3 | N2 | M0 |
| | T4a | N0 | M0 |
| Stage IVA | T4a | N1-2 | M0 |
| | T4a | NX | M0 |
| | T4b | N0-2 | M0 |
| | Any T | N3 | M0 |
| Stage IVB | Any T | Any N | M1 |

Used with permission of the American College of Surgeons, Chicago, Illinois. The original source for this information is the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual, Eighth Edition (2017) published by Springer International Publishing. (For complete information and data supporting the staging tables, visit www.springer.com.) Any citation or quotation of this material must be credited to the AJCC as its primary source. The inclusion of this information herein does not authorize any reuse or further distribution without the expressed, written permission of Springer SBM, on behalf of the AJCC.



Table 1 (continued)

AJCC PROGNOSTIC STAGE GROUPS (Adenocarcinoma)

Clinical Staging (cTNM)

| | T | N | M |
|------------------|-------|-------|----|
| Stage 0 | Tis | N0 | M0 |
| Stage I | T1 | N0 | M0 |
| Stage IIA | T1 | N1 | M0 |
| Stage IIB | T2 | N0 | M0 |
| Stage III | T2 | N1 | M0 |
| | T3 | N0-1 | M0 |
| | T4a | N0-1 | M0 |
| Stage IVA | T1-4a | N2 | M0 |
| | T4b | N0-2 | M0 |
| | Any T | N3 | M0 |
| Stage IVB | any T | Any N | M1 |

Pathological (pTNM)

| | pT | pN | M | G |
|-------------------|-------|-------|----|------|
| Stage 0 | Tis | N0 | M0 | N/A |
| Stage IA | T1a | N0 | M0 | G1 |
| | T1a | N0 | M0 | GX |
| Stage IB | T1a | N0 | M0 | G2 |
| | T1b | N0 | M0 | G1-2 |
| | T1b | N0 | M0 | GX |
| Stage IC | T1 | N0 | M0 | G3 |
| | T2 | N0 | M0 | G1-2 |
| Stage IIA | T2 | N0 | M0 | G3 |
| | T2 | N0 | M0 | GX |
| Stage IIB | T1 | N1 | M0 | Any |
| | T3 | N0 | M0 | Any |
| Stage IIIA | T1 | N2 | M0 | Any |
| | T2 | N1 | M0 | Any |
| Stage IIIB | T2 | N2 | M0 | Any |
| | T3 | N1-2 | M0 | Any |
| | T4a | N0-1 | M0 | Any |
| Stage IVA | T4a | N2 | M0 | Any |
| | T4b | N0-2 | M0 | Any |
| | Any T | N3 | M0 | Any |
| Stage IVB | Any T | Any N | M1 | Any |

Postneoadjuvant Therapy (ypTNM)

| | yp T | yp N | M |
|-------------------|-------|-------|----|
| Stage I | T0 | N0 | M0 |
| Stage II | T3 | N0 | M0 |
| Stage IIIA | T0-2 | N1 | M0 |
| Stage IIIB | T3 | N1 | M0 |
| | T0-3 | N2 | M0 |
| | T4a | N0 | M0 |
| Stage IVA | T4a | N1-2 | M0 |
| | T4a | NX | M0 |
| | T4b | N0-2 | M0 |
| | Any T | N3 | M0 |
| Stage IVB | Any T | Any N | M1 |

Used with permission of the American College of Surgeons, Chicago, Illinois. The original source for this information is the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual, Eighth Edition (2017) published by Springer International Publishing. (For complete information and data supporting the staging tables, visit www.springer.com.) Any citation or quotation of this material must be credited to the AJCC as its primary source. The inclusion of this information herein does not authorize any reuse or further distribution without the expressed, written permission of Springer SBM, on behalf of the AJCC.



NCCN Guidelines Version 2.2018

Esophageal and Esophagogastric Junction Cancers

[NCCN Guidelines Index](#)
[Table of Contents](#)
[Discussion](#)

| HISTOLOGY | TUMOR CLASSIFICATION ^g | PRIMARY TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR MEDICALLY FIT PATIENTS |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Squamous cell carcinoma | cT1b-T4a, N0-N+ ^o | <p>Preoperative chemoradiation^{w,x} (non-cervical esophagus) (RT, 41.4–50.4 Gy + concurrent chemotherapy) → See Response Assessment (ESOPH-5)</p> <p>or</p> <p>Definitive chemoradiation^{w,x} (only for patients who decline surgery) (recommended for cervical esophagus) (RT, 50–50.4 Gy + concurrent chemotherapy) → Follow-up (See ESOPH-9)</p> <p>or</p> <p>Esophagectomy^{c,d,t,u} (non-cervical esophagus) (T1b/T2, N0 low-risk lesions: <2 cm, well differentiated) → See Surgical Outcomes After Esophagectomy (ESOPH-6)</p> |
| | cT4b ^p | <p>Definitive chemoradiation^{w,x} (RT, 50–50.4 Gy + concurrent chemotherapy) → See Response Assessment (ESOPH-5)</p> <p>Consider chemotherapy alone in the setting of invasion of trachea, great vessels, or heart^w See Palliative Management (ESOPH-10)</p> |

Esophageal Cancer

- Squamous vs. AdenoCA?
- Semin Radiat Oncol. 2007;17(1):38.
- The localization of AC is in 94% below the tracheal bifurcation, whereas SCC has contact to the tracheal bronchial tree in 75%.
- SCC shows an earlier lymphatic spread and a worse prognosis compared to AC.
- This has led some authors to suggest AC does not require radiation in induction, but there is no clear data to support this.
- A major area where data are lacking is nonsurgical management for adenocarcinomas.

Versus RT alone?

- **RTOG 85-01** – RT alone versus concurrent chemoradiotherapy (two cycles of infusional FU [1000 mg/m² per day, days 1 to 4, weeks 1 and 5] plus [cisplatin](#) [75 mg/m² day 1 of weeks 1 and 5] and RT [50 Gy in 25 fractions over five weeks]). Surgery was not part of the treatment schema.
- Analysis showed a significant survival advantage for chemoradiotherapy (five-year survival 27 versus 0 percent) However, despite this benefit, 46 percent of patients in the chemoradiotherapy group had locally recurrent or persistent disease in the esophagus at 12 months.
- As a result of this trial, definitive chemoradiotherapy became the standard of care for patients with inoperable disease

Versus surgery alone?

- **CALGB 9781** – CDDP+FU+ RT versus surgery. Five-year survival was 39 versus 16 percent in favor of trimodality therapy, although the difference was not statistically significant.
- **NEOCRTEC5010 trial** –RT concurrent with vinorelbine plus cisplatin or surgery alone. At surgery, the pCR rate was 43 percent in those receiving chemoradiotherapy. Compared with surgery alone, patients receiving neoadjuvant chemoradiotherapy had a higher R0 resection rate (98 versus 91 percent), better overall median survival (100 versus 66.5 months), better three-year overall survival (69 versus 59 percent), and longer median disease-free survival. The incidence of postoperative complications was similar between the two groups.
- **CROSS trial** –Preoperative chemoradiotherapy using weekly paclitaxel 50 mg/m² plus carboplatin [AUC] of 2) plus concurrent RT or surgery alone. The microscopically complete (R0) resection rate was higher with chemoradiotherapy (92 versus 69 percent), and 29 percent of those treated with chemoradiotherapy had a pathologic complete response (pCR). At a median follow-up of 32 months, median overall survival was significantly better with preoperative chemoradiotherapy (HR for death 0.657, 95% CI 0.495-0.871, three-year survival rate 58 versus 44 percent). The survival benefit persisted with longer (median 84-month) follow-up (five-year survival 47 versus 33 percent, HR for death 0.67, 95% CI 0.51-0.87).

Is Surgery needed?

- A Cochrane analysis concluded:
- ● There was high-quality evidence that the addition of esophagectomy had no significant impact on survival (HR 0.99, 95% CI 0.79-1.24).
- ● There was moderate-quality evidence that the addition of esophagectomy improved freedom from locoregional relapse (HR 0.55, 95% CI 0.39-0.76)
- ● Given that 93 percent of the patients enrolled in these trials had SCC, it cannot be determined whether these results can be applied to the treatment of adenocarcinomas or to individuals with a poor response to chemoradiotherapy.

Is RT needed?

- In contrast to the data on concurrent chemoradiotherapy, at least three trials comparing sequentially administered chemotherapy and RT followed by surgery with surgery alone have failed to show any survival advantage to combined modality therapy

PRINCIPLES OF SYSTEMIC THERAPY

Preoperative Chemoradiation

(Infusional fluorouracil can be replaced with capecitabine)

Preferred Regimens

- Paclitaxel and carboplatin (category 1)¹
- Fluorouracil^a and oxaliplatin (category 1)^{2,3}

Other Recommended Regimens

- Fluorouracil and cisplatin (category 1)^{4,5}
- Irinotecan and cisplatin (category 2B)⁶
- Paclitaxel and fluoropyrimidine (fluorouracil or capecitabine) (category 2B)⁷

Perioperative Chemotherapy

(Only for adenocarcinoma of the thoracic esophagus or EGJ)
(3 cycles preoperative and 3 cycle postoperative)

Preferred Regimens

- Fluoropyrimidine and oxaliplatin^b
- Fluorouracil, leucovorin, oxaliplatin, and docetaxel (FLOT)⁸ (category 1)^c

Other Recommended Regimens

- Fluorouracil and cisplatin (category 1)⁹

Preoperative Chemotherapy (2 cycles)

(Only for adenocarcinoma of the thoracic esophagus or EGJ)

- Fluorouracil and cisplatin (category 2B)¹⁰

Definitive Chemoradiation

Infusional fluorouracil can be replaced with capecitabine

Preferred Regimens

- Fluorouracil and cisplatin (category 1)¹¹
- Fluorouracil^a and oxaliplatin (category 1)^{2,3}
- Paclitaxel and carboplatin¹

Other Recommended Regimens

- Cisplatin with docetaxel or paclitaxel¹²⁻¹⁴
- Irinotecan and cisplatin (category 2B)⁶
- Paclitaxel and fluoropyrimidine (fluorouracil or capecitabine) (category 2B)⁷

Postoperative Chemoradiation

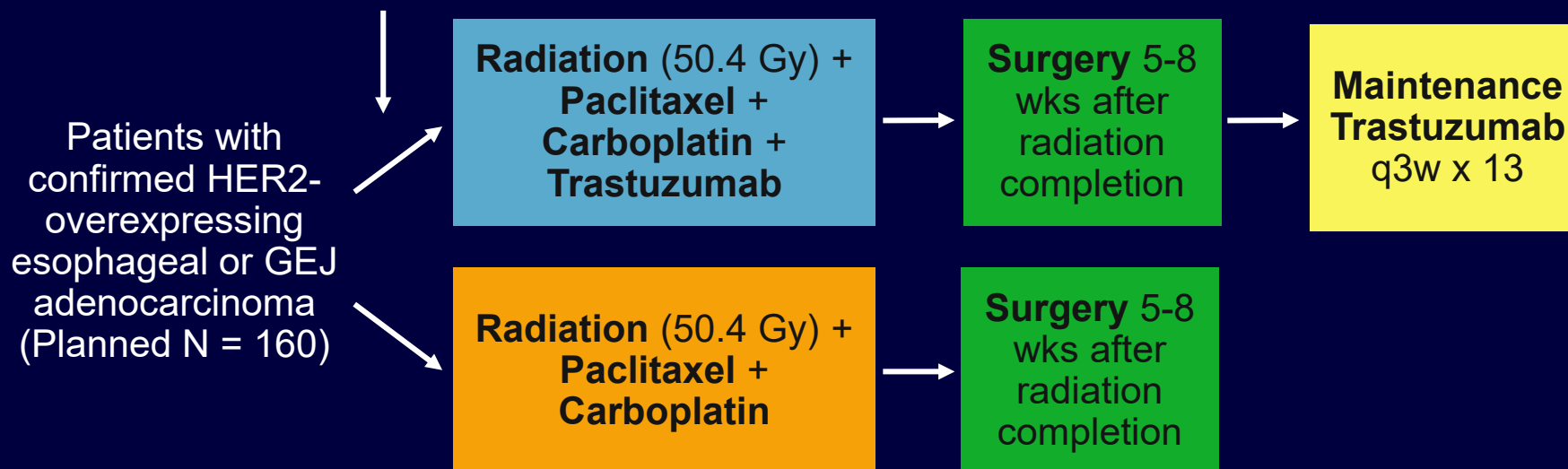
- Fluoropyrimidine (infusional fluorouracil^a or capecitabine) before and after fluoropyrimidine-based chemoradiation¹⁵

Postoperative Chemotherapy

- Capecitabine and oxaliplatin^{d,16}

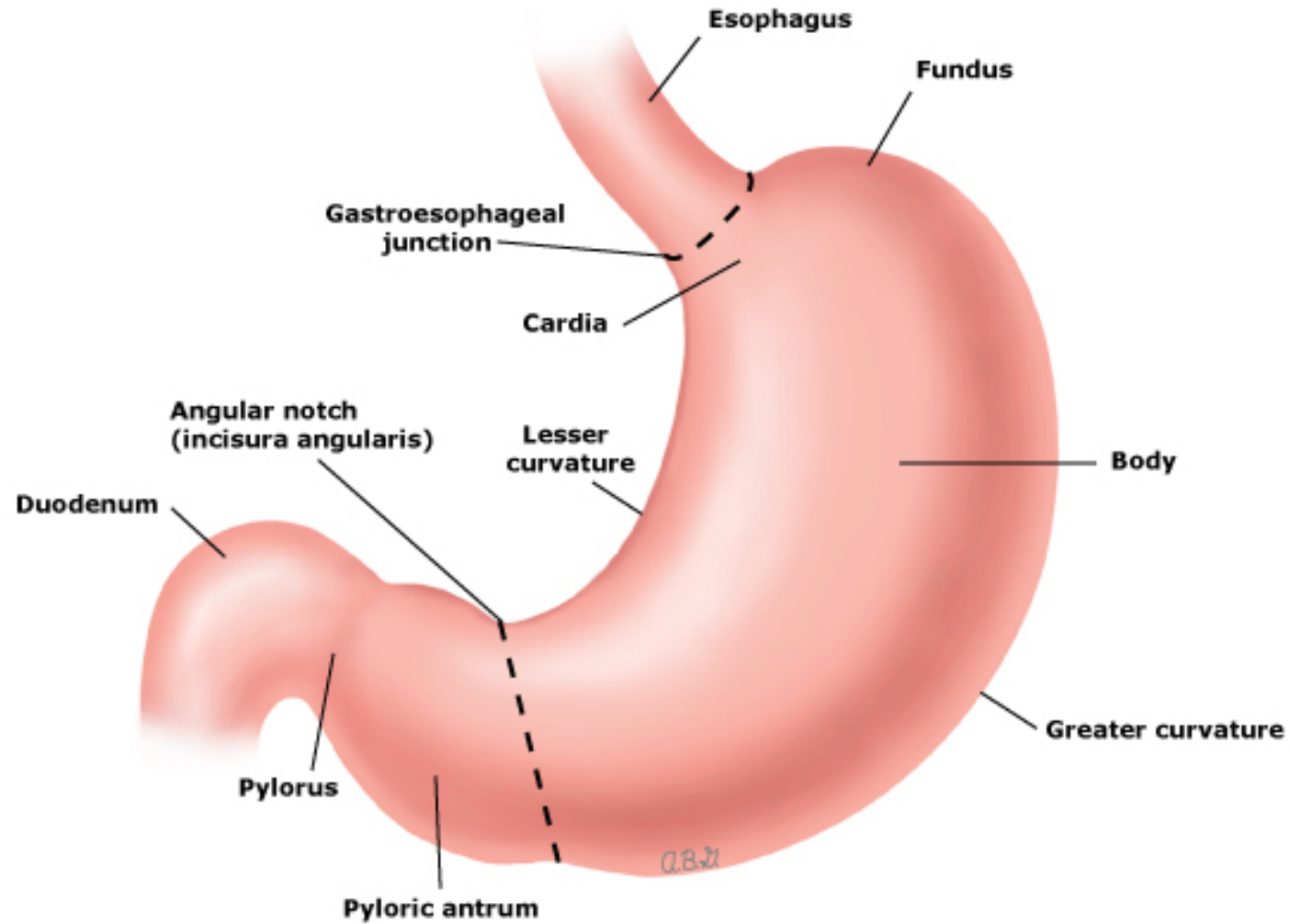
RTOG 1010: Neoadjuvant Phase III Trial in Esophageal/GEJ Adenocarcinoma

*Stratified by presence of adenopathy
and involved celiac nodes*



- Primary endpoint: DFS (15 → 27 mos; HR: 0.56)

Parts of the stomach



This drawing shows the parts of the anterior surface of the stomach. The body of the stomach is separated from the pyloric part by an oblique line that extends from the angular notch (incisura angularis) on the lesser curvature to the greater curvature.

UpToDate®

**Table 1**
**American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC)
TNM Staging Classification for Carcinoma of the Stomach (8th ed., 2017)**
Definition of Primary Tumor (T)

| T Category | T Criteria |
|------------|--|
| TX | Primary tumor cannot be assessed |
| T0 | No evidence of primary tumor |
| Tis | Carcinoma <i>in situ</i> : intraepithelial tumor without invasion of the lamina propria, high-grade dysplasia |
| T1 | Tumor invades the lamina propria, muscularis mucosae, or submucosa |
| T1a | Tumor invades the lamina propria or muscularis mucosae |
| T1b | Tumor invades the submucosa |
| T2 | Tumor invades the muscularis propria* |
| T3 | Tumor penetrates the subserosal connective tissue without invasion of the visceral peritoneum or adjacent structures**,*** |
| T4 | Tumor invades the serosa (visceral peritoneum) or adjacent structures**,*** |
| T4a | Tumor invades the serosa (visceral peritoneum) |
| T4b | Tumor invades adjacent structures/organs |

*A tumor may penetrate the muscularis propria with extension into the gastrocolic or gastrohepatic ligaments, or into the greater or lesser omentum, without perforation of the visceral peritoneum covering these structures. In this case, the tumor is classified as T3. If there is perforation of the visceral peritoneum covering the gastric ligaments or the omentum, the tumor should be classified as T4.

**The adjacent structures of the stomach include the spleen, transverse colon, liver, diaphragm, pancreas, abdominal wall, adrenal gland, kidney, small intestine, and retroperitoneum.

***Intramural extension to the duodenum or esophagus is not considered invasion of an adjacent structure, but is classified using the depth of the greatest invasion in any of these sites.

Definition of Regional Lymph Node (N)

| N Category | N Criteria |
|------------|--|
| NX | Regional lymph node(s) cannot be assessed |
| N0 | No regional lymph node metastasis |
| N1 | Metastasis in one or two regional lymph nodes |
| N2 | Metastasis in three to six regional lymph nodes |
| N3 | Metastasis in seven or more regional lymph nodes |
| N3a | Metastasis in seven to 15 regional lymph nodes |
| N3b | Metastasis in 16 or more regional lymph nodes |

Definition of Distant Metastasis (M)

| M Category | M Criteria |
|------------|-----------------------|
| M0 | No distant metastasis |
| M1 | Distant metastasis |

Definitions of Histologic Grade (G)

| G | G Definition |
|-----------|---|
| GX | Grade cannot be assessed |
| G1 | Well differentiated |
| G2 | Moderately differentiated |
| G3 | Poorly differentiated, undifferentiated |

[Continued](#)

Used with permission of the American College of Surgeons, Chicago, Illinois. The original source for this information is the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual, Eighth Edition (2017) published by Springer International Publishing. (For complete information and data supporting the staging tables, visit www.springer.com.) Any citation or quotation of this material must be credited to the AJCC as its primary source. The inclusion of this information herein does not authorize any reuse or further distribution without the expressed, written permission of Springer SBM, on behalf of the AJCC.

Table 1 (continued)

AJCC PROGNOSTIC STAGE GROUPS

Clinical Staging (cTNM)

| | cT | cN | M |
|------------------|-----------|---------------|----------|
| Stage 0 | Tis | N0 | M0 |
| Stage I | T1 | N0 | M0 |
| | T2 | N0 | M0 |
| Stage IIA | T1 | N1, N2, or N3 | M0 |
| | T2 | N1, N2, or N3 | M0 |
| Stage IIB | T3 | N0 | M0 |
| | T4a | N0 | M0 |
| Stage III | T3 | N1, N2, or N3 | M0 |
| | T4a | N1, N2, or N3 | M0 |
| Stage IVA | T4b | Any N | M0 |
| Stage IVB | Any T | Any N | M1 |

Pathological (pTNM)

| | pT | pN | M |
|-------------------|-----------|------------|----------|
| Stage 0 | Tis | N0 | M0 |
| Stage IA | T1 | N0 | M0 |
| Stage IB | T1 | N1 | M0 |
| | T2 | N0 | M0 |
| Stage IIA | T1 | N2 | M0 |
| | T2 | N1 | M0 |
| | T3 | N0 | M0 |
| Stage IIB | T1 | N3a | M0 |
| | T2 | N2 | M0 |
| | T3 | N1 | M0 |
| | T4a | N0 | M0 |
| | T4b | N0 | M0 |
| Stage IIIA | T2 | N3a | M0 |
| | T3 | N2 | M0 |
| | T4a | N1 or N2 | M0 |
| | T4b | N0 | M0 |
| | T4b | N0 | M0 |
| Stage IIIB | T1 | N3b | M0 |
| | T2 | N3b | M0 |
| | T3 | N3a | M0 |
| | T4a | N3a | M0 |
| | T4b | N1 or N2 | M0 |
| Stage IIIC | T3 | N3b | M0 |
| | T4a | N3b | M0 |
| | T4b | N3a or N3b | M0 |
| Stage IV | Any T | Any N | M1 |

Post-Neoadjuvant Therapy (ypTNM)

| | yp T | yp N | M |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|----------|
| Stage I | T1 | N0 | M0 |
| | T2 | N0 | M0 |
| | T1 | N1 | M0 |
| Stage II | T3 | N0 | M0 |
| | T2 | N1 | M0 |
| | T1 | N2 | M0 |
| | T4a | N0 | M0 |
| | T3 | N1 | M0 |
| | T2 | N2 | M0 |
| Stage III | T1 | N3 | M0 |
| | T4a | N1 | M0 |
| | T3 | N2 | M0 |
| | T2 | N3 | M0 |
| | T4b | N0 | M0 |
| | T4b | N1 | M0 |
| | T4a | N2 | M0 |
| | T3 | N3 | M0 |
| Stage IV | T4b | N2 | M0 |
| | T4b | N3 | M0 |
| | T4a | N3 | M0 |
| | Any T | Any N | M1 |

Used with permission of the American College of Surgeons, Chicago, Illinois. The original source for this information is the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual, Eighth Edition (2017) published by Springer International Publishing. (For complete information and data supporting the staging tables, visit www.springer.com.) Any citation or quotation of this material must be credited to the AJCC as its primary source. The inclusion of this information herein does not authorize any reuse or further distribution without the expressed, written permission of Springer SBM, on behalf of the AJCC.

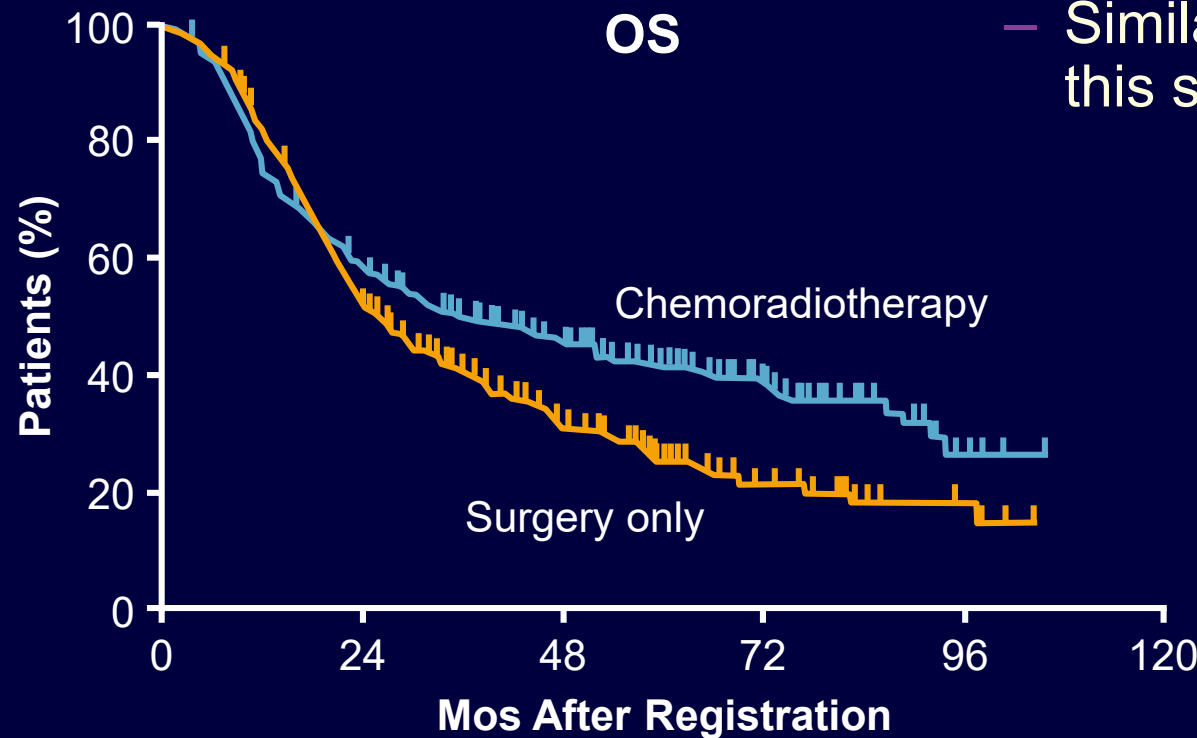
Gastric Cancer

- Surgical cure rates are high with lesions limited to the mucosa or submucosa (ie, T1)
- However, for patients with stage II or higher, 5-yr survival remains poor
- Patients increasingly presenting with T1 N0 disease, but proportion remains low
- 40% to 50% of patients will present with unresectable disease
- Overall 5-yr survival remains low
- This is a bad disease
 - After surgery, chances of long-term survival for most patients remains < 50%. Can we do better??

Gastric INT 116: Postoperative Chemoradiotherapy vs Surgery Alone

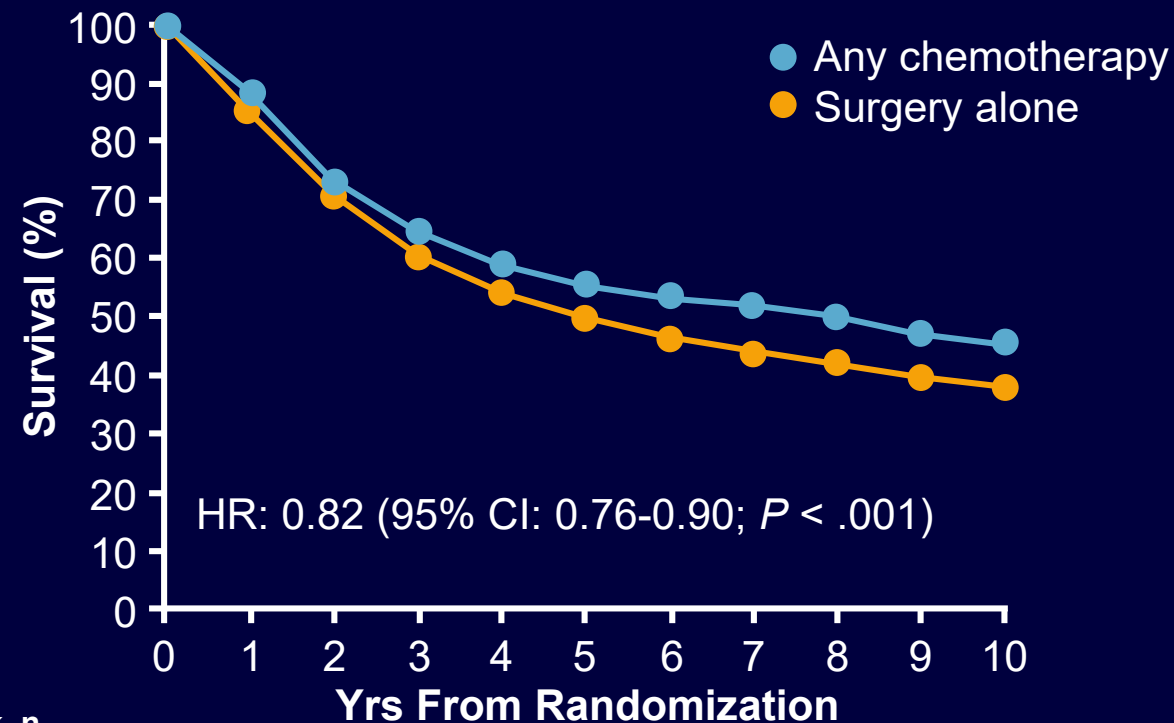
■ 20% were GEJ tumors

— Similar survival benefit in this subset



Meta-analysis: Surgery vs Surgery + Any Adj CT in Resectable GC

- Survival benefit for addition of chemotherapy



| Pts at Risk, n | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|------------------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Any chemotherapy | 1924 | 1688 | 1385 | 1217 | 1080 | 929 | 709 | 526 | 390 | 297 | 243 |
| Surgery along | 1857 | 1568 | 1300 | 1092 | 952 | 782 | 583 | 407 | 267 | 172 | 138 |

Chemotherapy in Resectable Gastric Cancer

- Addition of pre/peri/postsurgery chemotherapy consistently demonstrates benefit vs surgery alone

| Study | Regimens | Primary Endpoint | Primary Endpoint Results | P Value |
|---------------------------------|--|------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| CLASSIC ^[1] | Surgery vs surgery + adjuvant capecitabine/oxaliplatin | 3-yr DFS | 59% vs 74% | < .0001 |
| MAGIC ^[2] | Surgery vs surgery + periop ECF | 5-yr OS | 23% vs 36% | .009 |
| Sakuramoto et al ^[3] | Surgery vs surgery + adjuvant S-1 | 3-yr OS | 70% vs 80% | .003 |

1. Bang YJ, et al. Lancet. 2012;379:315-321. 2. Cunningham D, et al. N Engl J Med. 2006;355:11-20.
3. Sakuramoto S, et al. N Engl J Med. 2007;357:1810-1820.

Chemotherapy in Resectable Gastric Cancer

- However, resounding lack of progress in improving patient outcomes with any specific CT/CRT regimen vs any other chemotherapy regimen

| Study | Regimens | Primary Endpoint | Primary Endpoint Results | P Value |
|----------------------------|---|------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| CALGB 80101 ^[1] | Postop 5-FU/LV CRT vs ECF CRT | OS | 37 vs 38 mos | .80 |
| ARTIST ^[2] | Postop CT vs CRT (capecitabine/cisplatin) | 3-yr DFS | 74% vs 78% | .086 |

1. Fuchs CS, et al. ASCO 2011. Abstract 4003. 2. Lee J, et al. J Clin Oncol. 2012;30:268-273.

RT yes or no?

- **●ARTIST trial** – In one of the largest trials, the Adjuvant Chemoradiation Therapy in Stomach Cancer trial: six courses of postoperative capecitabine plus cisplatin or two courses of postoperative capecitabine plus cisplatin followed by chemoradiotherapy (45 Gy RT with concurrent capecitabine [825 mg/m² twice daily]) and two additional courses of capecitabine plus cisplatin .
- Aa median follow-up of 84 months, three-year DFS was not significantly better in patients who received combined modality therapy (HR 0.74), although an unplanned subset analysis did indicate a significantly better DFS with chemoradiotherapy in those with node-positive disease (three-year DFS 76 versus 72 percent, p = 0.004) Overall survival was not significantly different (HR 1.13).
- **●Dutch CRITICS trial** –induction chemotherapy (three courses of [epirubicin](#), [cisplatin/oxaliplatin](#), and [capecitabine](#)) followed by surgery and randomization to postoperative chemotherapy (three cycles of the same regimen) or chemoradiotherapy (45 Gy in 25 fractions with weekly cisplatin and daily capecitabine). At a median follow-up of 61 months, there were no significant differences in five-year overall survival or progression-free survival; local recurrence rates were 15 versus 11 percent. (NOTE all patients received chemotherapy)
- **●The only trial to show a significant survival benefit for the addition of RT** randomly assigned 68 patients undergoing complete resection with a D1 or D2 lymph node dissection for previously untreated gastric cancer to chemoradiotherapy (administered according to the INT 0116 trial but using intensity-modulated RT) or chemotherapy alone (five cycles of FU 425 mg/m² per day and LV calcium 25 mg/m² per day, given five days in a row once monthly). The three-year DFS rate was significantly higher in the chemoradiotherapy group (56 versus 29 percent), as was overall survival (68 versus 44 percent).
- However, the chemotherapy in this study may have been suboptimal.

NCCN Guidelines Version 2.2018

Gastric Cancer

PRIMARY TREATMENT FOR MEDICALLY FIT PATIENTS

RESPONSE ASSESSMENT

OUTCOME

ADDITIONAL MANAGEMENT

Perioperative
chemotherapy^o
or
Preoperative
chemoradiation^{o,p}

Chest/abdomen/pelvic
CT scan with contrast

No evidence
of disease

Surgery (preferred)
or
Surveillance^q
[See Follow-up \(GAST-7\)](#)

[Surgical Outcomes
for Patients Who Have
Received Preoperative
Therapy \(see GAST-5\)](#)

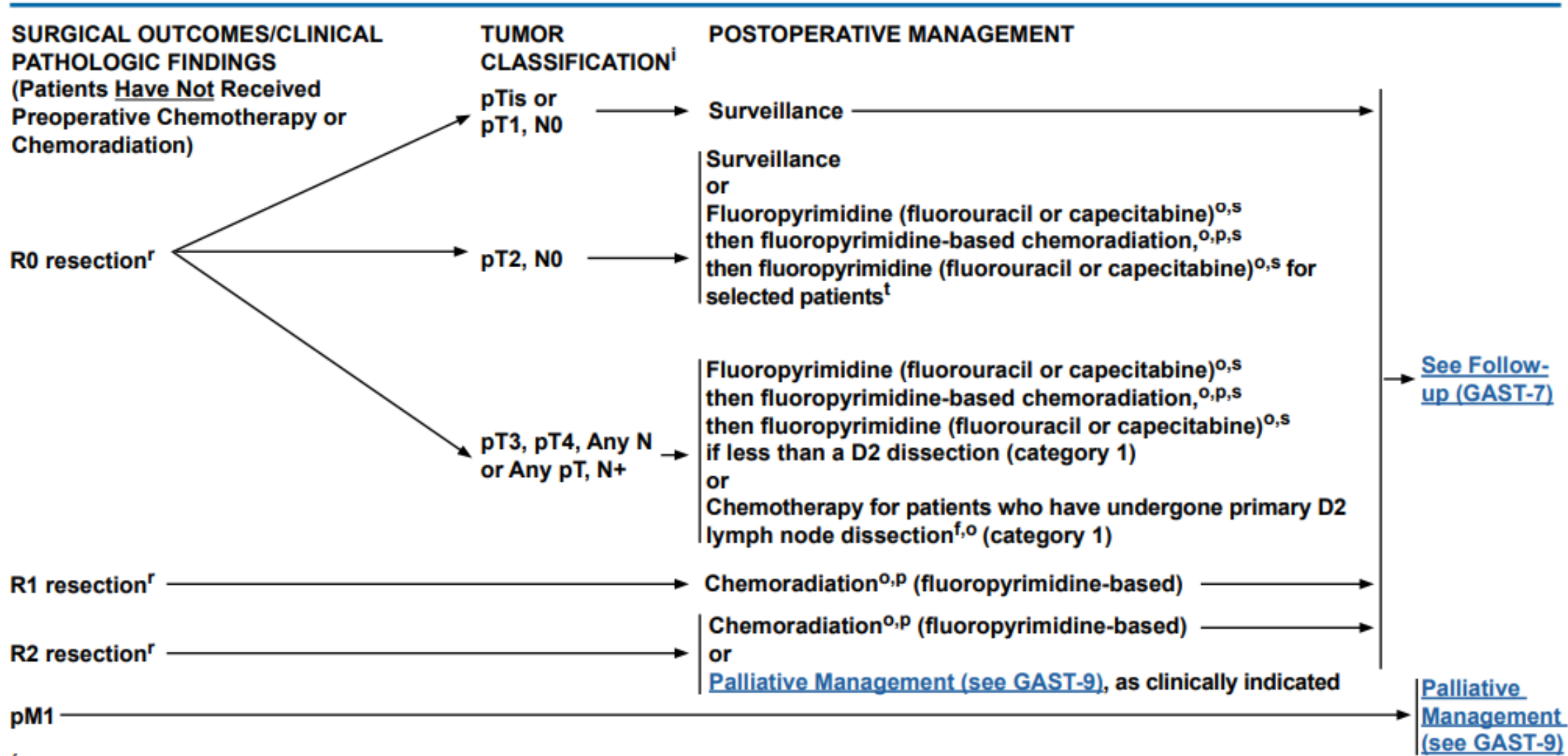
Persistent local
disease

Surgery^{d,f,n}
(preferred)
or
[Palliative Management \(see GAST-9\)](#)

[Surgical Outcomes
for Patients Who Have
Received Preoperative
Therapy \(see GAST-5\)](#)

Unresectable
or
Metastatic disease

[Palliative Management \(see GAST-9\)](#)



^fSee Principles of Surgery (GAST-6)

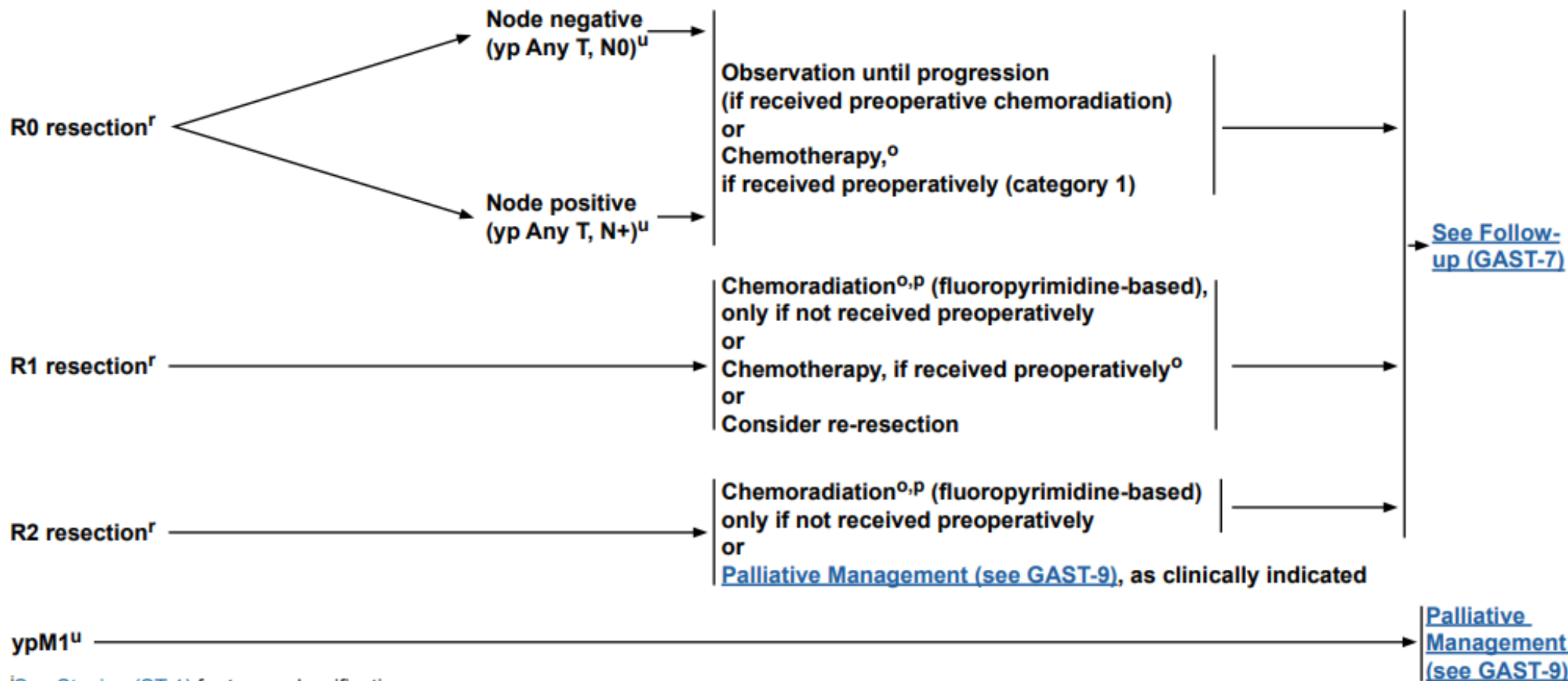
Resectable Tumors

- Tis or T1⁷ tumors limited to mucosa (T1a) may be candidates for EMR (in experienced centers).⁸
- T1b-T3⁹: Adequate gastric resection to achieve negative microscopic margins (typically ≥ 4 cm from gross tumor).
 - ▶ Distal gastrectomy
 - ▶ Subtotal gastrectomy
 - ▶ Total gastrectomy
- T4 tumors require en bloc resection of involved structures.
- Gastric resection should include the regional lymphatics—perigastric lymph nodes (D1) and those along the named vessels of the celiac axis (D2), with a goal of examining at least 15 or greater lymph nodes.¹⁰⁻¹²
 - ▶ Definition of D1 and D2 lymph node dissections
 - ◇ D1 dissection entails gastrectomy and the resection of both the greater and lesser omenta (which would include the lymph nodes along right and left cardiac, lesser and greater curvature, suprapyloric along the right gastric artery, and infrapyloric area);
 - ◇ D2 dissection is a D1 plus all the nodes along the left gastric artery, common hepatic artery, celiac artery, splenic hilum, and splenic artery.

SURGICAL OUTCOMES/CLINICAL PATHOLOGIC FINDINGS
(Patients Have Received Preoperative Chemotherapy or Chemoradiation)

TUMOR CLASSIFICATIONⁱ

POSTOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT



ⁱSee Staging (ST-1) for tumor classification.

^oSee Principles of Systemic Therapy (GAST-5)

NCCN Guidelines Version 2.2018 Gastric Cancer

PRINCIPLES OF SYSTEMIC THERAPY

Perioperative Chemotherapy

(3 cycles preoperative and 3 cycle postoperative)

Preferred Regimens

- Fluoropyrimidine and oxaliplatin^a
- Fluorouracil, leucovorin, oxaliplatin, and docetaxel (FLOT)^b (category 1)¹

Other Recommended Regimens

- Fluorouracil and cisplatin (category 1)²

Preoperative Chemoradiation

(Infusional fluorouracil can be replaced with capecitabine)

Preferred Regimens

- Paclitaxel and carboplatin (category 1)³
- Fluorouracil^c and oxaliplatin (category 1)^{4,5}

Other Recommended Regimens

- Fluorouracil and cisplatin (category 1)^{6,7}
- Paclitaxel and fluoropyrimidine (fluorouracil or capecitabine) (category 2B)⁸

Postoperative Chemoradiation

- Fluoropyrimidine (infusional fluorouracil^c or capecitabine) before and after fluoropyrimidine-based chemoradiation⁹

Postoperative Chemotherapy

(for patients who have undergone primary D2 lymph node dissection ([See Principles of Surgery \[GAST-C\]](#)))

- Capecitabine and oxaliplatin^d (category 1)¹⁰

Questions?

Thank you for your attention!!