

Protocol for the Examination of Specimens from Patients with Carcinoma of the Ureter and Renal Pelvis

Protocol applies to invasive, noninvasive and in situ carcinomas of the ureter and renal pelvis.

Version: UreterRenalPelvis 1.0.0.0

Protocol Posting Date: February 2017

Includes pTNM requirements from the 7th Edition, AJCC Staging Manual

Procedures

- Biopsy
- Nephroureterectomy or Ureterectomy

Accreditation Requirements

This protocol can be utilized for a variety of procedures and tumor types for clinical care purposes. For accreditation purposes, only the definitive primary cancer resection specimen is required to have the core and conditional data elements reported in a synoptic format.

- Core data elements are required in reports to adequately describe appropriate malignancies. For accreditation purposes, essential data elements must be reported in all instances, even if the response is “not applicable” or “cannot be determined.”
- Conditional data elements are only required to be reported if applicable as delineated in the protocol. For instance, the total number of lymph nodes examined must be reported, but only if nodes are present in the specimen.
- Optional data elements are identified with “+” and although not required for CAP accreditation purposes, may be considered for reporting as determined by local practice standards.

The use of this protocol is not required for recurrent tumors or for metastatic tumors that are resected at a different time than the primary tumor. Use of this protocol is also not required for pathology reviews performed at a second institution (ie, secondary consultation, second opinion, or review of outside case at second institution).

CAP Laboratory Accreditation Program Protocol Required Use Date: November 2017*

* Beginning January 1, 2018, the 8th edition AJCC Staging Manual should be used for reporting pTNM. The CAP will offer a revised 8th edition version of this protocol by mid-year 2017.

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CAP Ureter, Renal Pelvis Protocol Revision History

Summary of Changes

The following changes have been made since the October 2013 release.

URETER, RENAL PELVIS: Biopsy

The following data elements have been modified:

- Histologic Type
- Associated Epithelial Lesions
- Additional Pathologic Findings

The following data elements have been deleted:

- Tumor Type
- Pathologic Staging (pTNM)

RENAL PELVIS AND URETER: Resection/Nephroureterectomy, Partial or Complete/Ureterectomy

The following data elements have been modified:

- Procedure
- Histologic Type
- Associated Epithelial Lesions
- Microscopic Tumor Extension
- Margins
- Lymph Node Dissection
- Additional Pathologic Findings
- Pathologic Findings in Ipsilateral Nonneoplastic Renal Tissue

The following data elements have been added:

- Tumor Location
- Tumor Focality
- Lymph Node Dissection

The following data element has been deleted:

- Tumor Type

URETER: Resection

This case summary was combined with the Renal Pelvis: Resection/Nephroureterectomy case summary.

Surgical Pathology Cancer Case Summary

Protocol posting date: February 2017

URETER, RENAL PELVIS: Biopsy

Note: Use of case summary for biopsy specimens is optional.

Select a single response unless otherwise indicated.

+ Specimen (Note A)

- + Renal pelvis
- + Ureter
- + Other (specify): _____
- + Not specified

+ Specimen Laterality

- + Left
- + Right
- + Not specified

+ Histologic Type (select all that apply) (Note B)

Urothelial

- Papillary urothelial carcinoma, noninvasive
- Papillary urothelial carcinoma, invasive
- Urothelial carcinoma in situ
- Urothelial carcinoma, invasive
- Urothelial carcinoma, nested (including large nested) variant
- Urothelial carcinoma, microcystic variant
- Urothelial carcinoma, micropapillary variant
- Urothelial carcinoma, lymphoepithelioma-like variant
- Urothelial carcinoma, plasmacytoid / signet ring / diffuse variant
- Urothelial carcinoma, sarcomatoid variant
- Urothelial carcinoma, giant cell variant
- Urothelial carcinoma, poorly differentiated variant
- Urothelial carcinoma, lipid-rich variant
- Urothelial carcinoma, clear cell variant
- Urothelial carcinoma with squamous differentiation
 - + Specify percentage of squamous differentiation: _____%
- Urothelial carcinoma with glandular differentiation
 - + Specify percentage of glandular differentiation: _____%
- Urothelial carcinoma with trophoblastic differentiation
 - + Specify percentage of trophoblastic differentiation: _____%
- Urothelial carcinoma with Müllerian differentiation
 - + Specify percentage of Müllerian differentiation: _____%

Squamous

- Pure squamous cell carcinoma
- Verrucous carcinoma
- Squamous cell carcinoma in situ (no invasive carcinoma identified)

Glandular

- Adenocarcinoma
- Adenocarcinoma, enteric

+ Data elements preceded by this symbol are not required for accreditation purposes. These optional elements may be clinically important but are not yet validated or regularly used in patient management.

- Adenocarcinoma, mucinous
- Adenocarcinoma, mixed
- Adenocarcinoma in situ (no invasive carcinoma identified)

Tumors of Müllerian Type

- Clear cell carcinoma
- Endometrioid carcinoma

Neuroendocrine Tumors

- Small cell neuroendocrine carcinoma
 - + Specify percentage of small cell neuroendocrine component: _____%
- Large cell neuroendocrine carcinoma
 - + Specify percentage of large cell neuroendocrine component: _____%
- Well-differentiated neuroendocrine carcinoma
 - + Specify percentage of well-differentiated neuroendocrine component: _____%
- + Other histologic type not listed (specify): _____

+ Associated Epithelial Lesions (select all that apply) (Note C)

- + None identified
- + Urothelial papilloma
- + Urothelial papilloma, inverted type
- + Papillary urothelial neoplasm, low malignant potential (PUNLMP)
- + Urothelial proliferation of uncertain malignant potential
- + Urothelial dysplasia
- + Cannot be determined

+ Histologic Grade (Note C)

- + Not applicable
- + Cannot be determined
- + For urothelial carcinoma, other variants, or divergent differentiation
 - + Low-grade
 - + High-grade
- + For squamous cell carcinoma or adenocarcinoma
 - + GX: Cannot be assessed
 - + G1: Well-differentiated
 - + G2: Moderately differentiated
 - + G3: Poorly differentiated
 - + Other (specify): _____

+ Tumor Configuration (select all that apply)

- + Papillary
- + Solid/nodule
- + Flat
- + Ulcerated
- + Cannot be determined
- + Other (specify): _____

+ Presence of Muscularis Propria for Determining T Category (Note D)

- + Muscularis propria not identified
- + Muscularis propria present
- + Cannot be determined

+ Microscopic Tumor Extension (Note E)

- + Cannot be assessed
- + No evidence of primary tumor
- + Noninvasive papillary carcinoma
- + Carcinoma in situ
- + Tumor invades subepithelial connective tissue
- + Tumor invades the muscularis
- + Tumor invades beyond muscularis into peripelvic fat or the renal parenchyma (for renal pelvis only)
- + Tumor invades beyond muscularis into periureteric fat (for ureter only)
- + Tumor invades adjacent organs, or through the kidney into the perinephric fat

+ Additional Pathologic Findings (select all that apply)

- + Inflammation/regenerative changes
- + Therapy-related changes
- + Cautery artifact
- + Cystitis cystica et glandularis
- + Keratinizing squamous metaplasia
- + Intestinal metaplasia
- + Other (specify): _____

+ Comment(s)

Surgical Pathology Cancer Case Summary

Protocol web posting date: February 2017

RENAL PELVIS AND URETER: Resection/Nephroureterectomy, Partial or Complete/Ureterectomy

Select a single response unless otherwise indicated.

Procedure (Note F)

- Nephroureterectomy, partial
 Nephroureterectomy, complete
 Ureterectomy
 Other (specify): _____
 Not specified

Specimen Laterality

- Right
 Left
 Not specified

Tumor Site

- Ureter
 Renal pelvis
 Ureter and renal pelvis
 Kidney
 Cannot be determined

Tumor Focality

- Unifocal
 Multifocal (≥ 2)
 Cannot be determined

+ Tumor Size

- + Greatest dimension: ___ cm
 + Additional dimensions: ___ x ___ cm
 + ___ Cannot be determined

Histologic Type (select all that apply) (Note B)Urothelial

- Papillary urothelial carcinoma, noninvasive
 Papillary urothelial carcinoma, invasive
 Urothelial carcinoma in situ
 Urothelial carcinoma, invasive
 Urothelial carcinoma, nested (including large nested) variant
 Urothelial carcinoma, microcystic variant
 Urothelial carcinoma, micropapillary variant
 Urothelial carcinoma, lymphoepithelioma-like variant
 Urothelial carcinoma, plasmacytoid / signet ring / diffuse variant
 Urothelial carcinoma, sarcomatoid variant
 Urothelial carcinoma, giant cell variant
 Urothelial carcinoma, poorly differentiated variant
 Urothelial carcinoma, lipid-rich variant
 Urothelial carcinoma, clear cell variant
 Urothelial carcinoma with squamous differentiation

- + Specify percentage of squamous differentiation: _____%
- Urothelial carcinoma with glandular differentiation
 - + Specify percentage of glandular differentiation: _____%
- Urothelial carcinoma with trophoblastic differentiation
 - + Specify percentage of trophoblastic differentiation: _____%
- Urothelial carcinoma with Müllerian differentiation
 - + Specify percentage of Müllerian differentiation: _____%

Squamous

- Pure squamous cell carcinoma
- Verrucous carcinoma
- Squamous cell carcinoma in situ (no invasive carcinoma identified)

Glandular

- Adenocarcinoma
- Adenocarcinoma, enteric
- Adenocarcinoma, mucinous
- Adenocarcinoma, mixed
- Adenocarcinoma in situ (no invasive carcinoma identified)

Tumors of Müllerian Type

- Clear cell carcinoma
- Endometrioid carcinoma

Neuroendocrine Tumors

- Small cell neuroendocrine carcinoma
 - + Specify percentage of small cell neuroendocrine component: _____%
- Large cell neuroendocrine carcinoma
 - + Specify percentage of large cell neuroendocrine component: _____%
- Well-differentiated neuroendocrine carcinoma
 - + Specify percentage of well-differentiated neuroendocrine component: _____%
- Other histologic type not listed (specify): _____

+ Associated Epithelial Lesions (select all that apply) (Note C)

- + None identified
- + Urothelial papilloma
- + Urothelial papilloma, inverted type
- + Papillary urothelial neoplasm, low malignant potential (PUNLMP)
- + Urothelial proliferation of uncertain malignant potential
- + Urothelial dysplasia
- + Cannot be determined

Histologic Grade (Note C)

- Not applicable
- Cannot be determined

For urothelial carcinoma, other variants, or divergent differentiation:

- Low-grade
- High-grade
- Other (specify): _____

For squamous cell carcinoma or adenocarcinoma:

- GX: Cannot be assessed
- G1: Well-differentiated
- G2: Moderately differentiated

+ Data elements preceded by this symbol are not required for accreditation purposes. These optional elements may be clinically important but are not yet validated or regularly used in patient management.

- G3: Poorly differentiated
- Other (specify): _____

Microscopic Tumor Extension (Note E)

- Cannot be assessed
- No evidence of primary tumor
- Noninvasive papillary carcinoma
- Carcinoma in situ
- Tumor invades subepithelial connective tissue
- Tumor invades the muscularis
- Tumor invades beyond muscularis into periureteral fat or peripelvic fat or the renal parenchyma
- Tumor invades adjacent organs, or through the kidney into the perinephric fat

+ Tumor Configuration (select all that apply)

- + Papillary
- + Solid/nodule
- + Flat
- + Ulcerated
- + Cannot be determined
- + Other (specify): _____

Margins (select all that apply) (Note G)

- Cannot be assessed
- Involved by invasive carcinoma
 - Proximal ureteral margin
 - Distal ureteral margin
 - Deep soft tissue margin
 - Other margin(s) (specify)[#]: _____
- Involved by carcinoma in situ/noninvasive high-grade urothelial carcinoma
 - Proximal ureteral margin
 - Distal ureteral margin
 - Other margin(s) (specify)[#]: _____
- Uninvolved by invasive carcinoma/carcinoma in situ/noninvasive high-grade urothelial carcinoma
 - + Distance of carcinoma from closest margin: mm
 - + Specify closest margin: _____
 - + Other significant changes at margin (specify margin): _____
 - + Low-grade dysplasia
 - + Noninvasive low-grade urothelial carcinoma

[#] If the specimen is received unoriented, precluding identification of margins as distal or proximal, it should be denoted here.

+ Lymphovascular Invasion (Note H)

- + Not identified
- + Present
- + Cannot be determined

Regional Lymph Nodes

No lymph nodes submitted or found

Lymph Node Examination (required only if lymph nodes are present in the specimen)

Number of Lymph Nodes Involved: _____
 Number cannot be determined (explain): _____

Number of Lymph Nodes Examined: _____

+ Data elements preceded by this symbol are not required for accreditation purposes These optional elements may be clinically important but are not yet validated or regularly used in patient management.

___ Number cannot be determined (explain): _____

+ Size of Largest Metastatic Deposit (millimeter): ___ mm
+ Specify Location: _____

+ Size of Largest Lymph Node Involved (centimeter): ___ cm
+ Specify Location: _____

+ Extranodal Extension

- + ___ Not identified
- + ___ Present
- + ___ Cannot be determined

Pathologic Stage Classification (pTNM, AJCC 7th Edition) (Note E)

TNM Descriptors (required only if applicable) (select all that apply)

- ___ m (multiple)
- ___ r (recurrent)
- ___ y (posttreatment)

Primary Tumor (pT)

- ___ pTX: Cannot be assessed
- ___ pT0: No evidence of primary tumor
- ___ pTa: Papillary noninvasive carcinoma
- ___ pTis: Flat carcinoma in situ
- ___ pT1: Tumor invades subepithelial connective tissue (lamina propria)
- ___ pT2: Tumor invades muscularis propria
- ___ pT3: Tumor invades beyond muscularis into periuretral fat or peripelvic fat or the renal parenchyma
- ___ pT4: Tumor invades adjacent organs, or through the kidney into the perinephric fat

Regional Lymph Nodes (pN)

- ___ pNX: Cannot be assessed
- ___ pN0: No regional lymph node metastasis
- ___ pN1: Metastasis in a single regional lymph node, 2 cm or less in greatest dimension
- ___ pN2: Metastasis in a single regional lymph node, more than 2 cm but not more than 5 cm in greatest dimension, or multiple lymph nodes, none more than 5 cm in greatest dimension
- ___ pN3: Metastasis in a regional lymph node more than 5 cm in greatest dimension

Distant Metastasis (pM) (required only if applicable)

- ___ pM1: Distant metastasis
Specify site(s), if known: _____

+ Additional Pathologic Findings (select all that apply)

- + ___ Inflammation/regenerative changes
- + ___ Therapy-related changes (specify): _____
- + ___ Cautery artifact
- + ___ Cystitis cystica et glandularis
- + ___ Keratinizing squamous metaplasia
- + ___ Intestinal metaplasia
- + ___ Other (specify): _____

Pathologic Findings in Ipsilateral Nonneoplastic Renal Tissue (select all that apply) (Note I)

No or insufficient renal parenchyma

Significant pathologic alterations:

None identified

Glomerular disease (specify type): _____

Tubulointerstitial disease (specify type): _____

Vascular disease (specify type): _____

Inflammation (specify type): _____

Other (specify): _____

+ Comment(s)

Explanatory Notes

A. History

A relevant history is important for interpretation of all upper urinary tract (renal pelvis and ureter) specimens. A history of renal stones, recent urinary tract procedures, infections, or obstruction can influence the interpretation of random biopsies obtained from patients with hematuria. Any neoplasms previously diagnosed should be specified, including the histologic type, primary site, and histologic grade. Primary tumors may be associated with hereditary nonpolyposis colon cancer (HNPCC) syndrome (Lynch syndrome II). Renal pelvic tumors are more often seen in analgesic abusers, who often have analgesic nephropathy, including papillary necrosis. If prior therapy has been given, it should be described (systemic or intravesical chemotherapy, immunotherapy, radiation, etc). The method of collection and date also should be specified in urine cytology specimens. Cytologic specimens from the ureter or renal pelvis may be over-interpreted if their site of sampling is not stated.

B. Histologic Type

Like the urinary bladder, the vast majority (more than 95%) of carcinomas of the renal pelvis and ureter are urothelial in origin.¹⁻⁷ The most recent 2016 World Health Organization (WHO) classification of tumors of the urothelial tract, including urethra, urinary bladder, ureter, and renal pelvis, is provided in this note. Benign tumors are included in this classification because, within the same patient, a spectrum of differentiation from benign to malignant tumors may be seen, either at the same time or over the clinical course of the disease. The full spectrum of invasive urothelial carcinoma and its variants as found in the urinary bladder may also be found in the upper tract. The distinction between a urothelial carcinoma with divergent squamous, glandular, or Müllerian differentiation, and a pure squamous cell carcinoma, adenocarcinoma or Müllerian is rather arbitrary. Most authorities, including the 2016 WHO classification, require a pure histology of squamous cell carcinoma, adenocarcinoma or Müllerian to designate a tumor as such, all others with recognizable papillary, invasive, or flat carcinoma in situ (CIS) urothelial component being considered as urothelial carcinoma with divergent differentiation. A malignant neoplasm with small cell neuroendocrine carcinoma component arising in the urinary tract is designated as small cell carcinoma.

Lynch syndrome, also known as hereditary nonpolyposis colorectal cancer, predisposes patients to urological cancer, particularly upper tract urothelial carcinoma. Upper tract urothelial carcinoma develops in up to 28% of patients with known Lynch syndrome. Therefore, pathologists should be aware of Lynch syndrome and their important role of identifying Lynch syndrome patients by considering appropriate tissue tests. Recently several guidelines have been published regarding when and what tissue testing is appropriate for screening patients with upper tract urothelial carcinoma.^{8,9}

2016 WHO Classification of Tumors of the Urothelial Tract

Urothelial tumors

Infiltrating urothelial carcinoma

- Nested, including large nested
- Microcystic
- Micropapillary
- Lymphoepithelioma-like
- Plasmacytoid/signet ring cell/diffuse
- Sarcomatoid
- Giant cell
- Poorly differentiated

Noninvasive urothelial lesions

- Urothelial carcinoma in situ
- Noninvasive papillary urothelial carcinoma, low grade
- Noninvasive papillary urothelial carcinoma, high grade
- Papillary urothelial neoplasm of low malignant potential
- Urothelial papilloma
- Inverted urothelial papilloma
- Urothelial proliferation of uncertain malignant potential

Urothelial dysplasia

Squamous cell neoplasms

Pure squamous cell carcinoma
Verrucous carcinoma
Squamous cell papilloma

Glandular neoplasms

Adenocarcinoma, NOS
 Enteric
 Mucinous
 Mixed
Villous adenoma

Tumors of Mullerian type

Clear cell carcinoma
Endometrioid carcinoma

Neuroendocrine tumors

Small cell neuroendocrine carcinoma
Large cell neuroendocrine carcinoma
Well-differentiated neuroendocrine tumor
Paraganglioma

C. Histologic Grade

The grading system is identical to that for urinary bladder neoplasms. Flat intraepithelial lesions and papillary and invasive lesions are graded separately. There has been significant controversy in the classification of these lesions.¹⁰ Due to variable classification systems and the need for a universally acceptable system, the World Health Organization/International Society of Urological Pathology (WHO/ISUP) consensus classification was proposed.¹¹ This system is utilized in the WHO 2004 classification,¹ the 2004 Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) fascicle,² and 2016 WHO classification,³ and has been validated by many studies to be prognostically significant. Other systems (that were being used previously) may still be used according to institutional preference. Urothelial carcinomas of the renal pelvis tend to more often be high grade^{4,12} compared to urinary bladder carcinomas.

Flat and papillary urothelial hyperplasia has been renamed as “urothelial proliferation of uncertain malignant potential” in 2016 WHO classification.

Squamous carcinomas and adenocarcinomas may be graded as well-differentiated, moderately differentiated, and poorly differentiated.

D. Extent of Invasion

Depth of invasion and pathologic stage are the most important prognostic indicators for patients with neoplasms of the upper urinary tract.^{13,14} A critical role of the surgical pathologist is to diagnose the depth and extent of invasion into the subepithelial connective tissue/lamina propria (pT1), muscularis propria (pT2), or beyond (pT3 or pT4). The patterns of invasion are similar to the urinary bladder, except that for renal pelvis carcinoma, the type of tumor involvement of the kidney, when present, impacts stage. Also, it is important to note that the lamina propria is absent beneath the urothelium lining the renal papillae in the pelvis and is thin along the minor calyces.¹⁵ As in the urinary bladder, in papillary tumors, invasion occurs most often at the base of the tumor and very infrequently in the stalk. Tumor infiltrating the lamina propria is pT1 and, like the urinary bladder, there is no accepted approach for assessing depth of lamina propria invasion. However, pathologists are encouraged to provide some assessment as to the extent of lamina propria invasion (ie, focal versus extensive, or depth in millimeters, or by level – above, at, or below muscularis mucosae). Designation of a tumor as merely muscle-invasive is inappropriate, but the type of muscle invasion, ie, muscularis mucosae (pT1 tumors) versus muscularis propria (pT2 tumors) invasion, needs to be clearly stated. Descriptive terminology, such as “urothelial carcinoma with muscle invasion, indeterminate for type of muscle invasion,” may be used when it is not possible to be certain

whether the type of muscle invaded by the tumor is hypertrophic muscularis mucosae or muscularis propria. For renal pelvic tumors, in-situ extension of carcinoma into renal collecting ducts and renal tubules does not affect stage, while carcinoma invading into the renal parenchyma is pT3. Renal pelvic carcinoma that invades through the kidney into perinephric fat is pT4. Patients with upper tract urothelial carcinoma often present at higher stage compared to patients with urinary bladder carcinoma.^{4,9}

E. TNM and Stage Groupings

The TNM Staging System for carcinomas of the ureter and renal pelvis of the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) and the International Union Against Cancer (UICC) is recommended and shown below.¹⁶

By AJCC/UICC convention, the designation “T” refers to a primary tumor that has not been previously treated. The symbol “p” refers to the pathologic classification of the TNM, as opposed to the clinical classification, and is based on gross and microscopic examination. pT entails a resection of the primary tumor or biopsy adequate to evaluate the highest pT category, pN entails removal of nodes adequate to validate lymph node metastasis, and pM implies microscopic examination of distant lesions. Clinical classification (cTNM) is usually carried out by the referring physician before treatment during initial evaluation of the patient or when pathologic classification is not possible.

Pathologic staging is usually performed after surgical resection of the primary tumor. Pathologic staging depends on pathologic documentation of the anatomic extent of disease, whether or not the primary tumor has been completely removed. If a biopsied tumor is not resected for any reason (eg, when technically unfeasible) and if the highest T and N categories or the M1 category of the tumor can be confirmed microscopically, the criteria for pathologic classification and staging have been satisfied without total removal of the primary cancer.

Primary Tumor (T) (Figure 1)

The suffix “m” should be added to the appropriate T category to indicate multiple tumors. The suffix “is” may be added to any T to indicate the presence of associated carcinoma in situ.

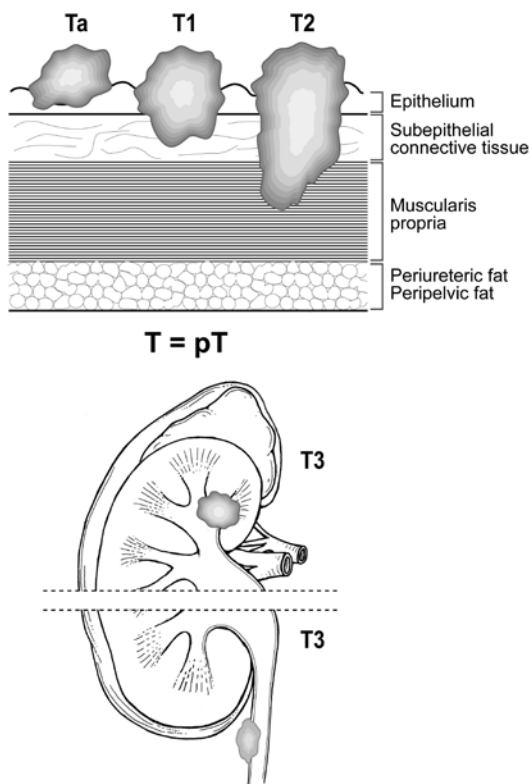


Figure 1. Depiction of pTa, pT1, pT2, and pT3.

Anatomic Stage/Prognostic Groups

Stage 0a	Ta	N0	M0 [#]
Stage 0is	Tis	N0	M0
Stage I	T1	N0	M0
Stage II	T2	N0	M0
Stage III	T3	N0	M0
Stage IV	T4	N0	M0
	Any T	N1,2,3	M0
	Any T	Any N	M1

[#]M0 is defined as no distant metastasis.

TNM Descriptors

For identification of special cases of TNM or pTNM classifications, the “m” suffix and “y” and “r” prefixes are used. Although they do not affect the stage grouping, they indicate cases needing separate analysis.

The “m” suffix indicates the presence of multiple primary tumors in a single site and is recorded in parentheses: pT(m)NM.

The “y” prefix indicates those cases in which classification is performed during or following initial multimodality therapy (ie, neoadjuvant chemotherapy, radiation therapy, or both chemotherapy and radiation therapy). The cTNM or pTNM category is identified by a “y” prefix. The ycTNM or ypTNM categorizes the extent of tumor actually present at the time of that examination. The “y” categorization is not an estimate of tumor prior to multimodality therapy (ie, before initiation of neoadjuvant therapy).

The “r” prefix indicates a recurrent tumor when staged after a documented disease-free interval, and is identified by the “r” prefix: rTNM.

Additional DescriptorsResidual Tumor (R)

Tumor remaining in a patient after therapy with curative intent (eg, surgical resection for cure) is categorized by a system known as R classification, shown below.

RX	Presence of residual tumor cannot be assessed
R0	No residual tumor
R1	Microscopic residual tumor
R2	Macroscopic residual tumor

For the surgeon, the R classification may be useful to indicate the known or assumed status of the completeness of a surgical excision. For the pathologist, the R classification is relevant to the status of the margins of a surgical resection specimen. That is, tumor involving the resection margin on pathologic examination may be assumed to correspond to residual tumor in the patient and may be classified as macroscopic or microscopic according to the findings at the specimen margin(s).

F. Sections for Microscopic Evaluation

Tissue samples include ureteroscopic biopsies, needle biopsies, segmental ureterectomy specimens, and radical nephroureterectomy with urinary bladder cuff resection specimens.

Ureteroscopic biopsies are entirely submitted. Since these are often minute in size, one approach to processing is to submit the biopsy sample for cytology cell block preparation.

Needle core biopsies of renal masses, including urothelial carcinoma involving the kidney, should be completely submitted.

Segmental ureterectomy is performed for tumors of the proximal or mid ureter. The length and diameter of the intact ureter is recorded, with a search for a mass by palpation and visual inspection. Proximal and distal cross-section margins are taken, and the outer aspect of the ureter is inked. The ureter is then opened longitudinally and assessed for mucosal abnormalities. After fixation in 10% formalin, sections are taken to demonstrate the deepest invasion of any lesion(s). At least one section of uninvolved ureter should be submitted.

Radical nephroureterectomy with bladder cuff. Gross examination and sampling should document the relationship of tumor to adjacent renal parenchyma, peripelvic fat, nearest soft tissue margin, and ureter. Sections of grossly unremarkable kidney, pelvis, and ureter should be obtained. The important urothelial margin is the urinary bladder cuff, which can be sampled as shave sections.

Lymph Nodes

Regional lymph nodes are not always submitted or identified in cases of resection,⁴ but evaluation of these nodes is important. Submit one section from each grossly positive lymph node. All other lymph nodes should be entirely submitted, as presence of nodal disease may be used as an indication for adjuvant therapy. Limited data indicate that the presence of extranodal extension may be clinically significant.

The regional lymph nodes for the renal pelvis are renal hilar, paracaval, aortic, and retroperitoneal. The regional lymph nodes for the ureter are renal hilar, iliac (common, internal [hypogastric], external), paracaval, periureteral, and pelvic.

Involvement of lymph nodes beyond the regional lymph nodes is considered distant metastasis (M1).

G. Margins

Resection margins, including those mentioned in Note **F**, should be carefully specified. Statements about deep soft tissue margins should specify whether peritoneal surfaces are involved by tumor. In renal pelvis, ureter, and nephroureterectomy specimens, the margins may include radial hilar soft tissue margin; bladder cuff; and ureteral, renal parenchymal, and Gerota's fascia margins, depending on the type of surgical specimen.

H. Lymph-Vascular Invasion

Urothelial carcinoma may invade blood vessels or lymphatic channels. This is an important prognostic factor in upper urinary tract urothelial carcinoma.^{4,17,18} In suspicious cases, blood vessels can be highlighted by immunohistochemical staining for factor VIII-related antigen, CD31 or CD34. Staining can help resolve the problem of differentiating lymphatic versus artifactual space formation by tumor cells, a frequent finding seen in urothelial tumors invading the lamina propria. Retraction artifact is also prominent in the "micropapillary variant" of urothelial carcinoma.

I. Pathologic Findings in Nonneoplastic Kidney

It is important to recognize that medical kidney diseases may be present in nonneoplastic renal tissue in nephrectomy and nephroureterectomy specimens.^{19,20} Arterionephrosclerosis (or hypertensive nephropathy) and diabetic nephropathy are seen in approximately 30% and 20% of cases, respectively. Other medical renal diseases that have been identified include thrombotic microangiopathy, focal segmental glomerulosclerosis, and IgA nephropathy. The findings of greater than 20% global glomerulosclerosis or advanced diffuse diabetic glomerulosclerosis are predictive of significant decline in renal function 6 months after radical nephrectomy.²⁰ Evaluation for medical renal disease should be performed in each case; PAS and/or Jones methenamine silver stains should be applied if necessary. Consultation with a nephropathologist should be pursued as needed.

However, no studies have specifically measured peritumoral-related changes in the renal cortex. Some tumors have no peritumoral changes. Oncocytoma is the best example. While some large tumors often have a large zone of peritumoral changes compared with smaller tumors. The pseudocapsule may contain sclerotic glomeruli, tubular atrophy and show fibrointimal thickening of arteries, followed by a zone of several millimeters of acute tubular injury, none of which is representative of the cortex elsewhere.²¹ A judgement whether the amount of non-neoplastic renal parenchyma is sufficient for evaluation of medical kidney diseases should be made on a case by case basis. Two studies have used 1-5 mm as the cut-off for insufficient renal parenchyma.^{22,23} Five mm of non-neoplastic renal parenchyma is a reasonable recommendation.

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