

Scope

The dataset has been developed for the reporting of resection specimens from patients with carcinoma of the urethra. The protocol applies to primary carcinomas (non-invasive and invasive), with or without associated epithelial lesions. Urothelial tumours diagnosed as papilloma or papillary urothelial neoplasm of low malignant potential are not carcinomas and this dataset does not apply to those diagnoses. Biopsy and transurethral resection specimens are dealt with in a separate dataset. Carcinomas arising in the distal penile urethra (glans region) are included in the Carcinoma of the penis and distal urethra dataset and are not to be reported using this dataset.¹ This dataset is to be used for adenocarcinoma arising in the accessory glands of the urethra (Skene, Littre, Cowper).² Most studies of primary urethral carcinoma exclude cases of urothelial carcinoma developing as a site of recurrence following cystectomy.³ The latter is much more frequent than primary urothelial carcinomas arising “de novo”.^{4,5}

It should be noted that primary carcinomas of the urethra are rare tumours and as such there are limited data regarding most parameters and their prognostic significance. As noted in the most recent European Association of Urology (EAU) guidelines on primary urethral carcinomas, “because primary urethral cancer belongs to the family of rare cancers, most studies are retrospective, and recommendations given in these guidelines are mainly based on level 3 evidence”.⁶ The same can be said for the pathologic features discussed in this dataset. The only study to date that has applied multivariate analysis to prognostic features is a study of urethral carcinomas in men using Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program (SEER) data with the limitations that such an analysis engenders.³

References

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