Protocol for the Examination of Biopsy Specimens From Patients With Carcinoma of the Urethra and Periurethral Glands

Version: 4.2.0.1
Protocol Posting Date: June 2024

The use of this protocol is recommended for clinical care purposes but is not required for accreditation purposes.

This protocol may be used for the following procedures AND tumor types:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biopsy</td>
<td>Includes specimens designated biopsy or transurethral resection</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tumor Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carcinomas</td>
<td>Includes invasive carcinomas of the urinary tract, including urothelial carcinoma and its morphological subtypes, and other carcinoma such as squamous cell carcinoma, adenocarcinoma, Müllerian carcinoma, and neuroendocrine carcinoma#</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# This protocol is recommended for reporting noninvasive urothelial tumors (papillary and flat), but it is not required for accreditation purposes.

The following should NOT be reported using this protocol:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resection</td>
<td>(consider the Urethra Resection protocol)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cytologic specimens</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following tumor types should NOT be reported using this protocol:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tumor Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lymphoma</td>
<td>(consider the Precursor and Mature Lymphoid Malignancies protocol)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarcoma</td>
<td>(consider the Soft Tissue protocol)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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With guidance from the CAP Cancer and CAP Pathology Electronic Reporting Committees.
* Denotes primary author.

Accreditation Requirements
The use of this case summary is recommended for clinical care purposes but is not required for accreditation purposes. The core and conditional data elements are routinely reported. Non-core data elements are indicated with a plus sign (+) to allow for reporting information that may be of clinical value.
Summary of Changes
v 4.2.0.1

- Cover page correction to Procedure table
Reporting Template

Protocol Posting Date: June 2024
Select a single response unless otherwise indicated.

CASE SUMMARY: (URETHRA: Biopsy)
Standard(s): AJCC-UICC 8
This case summary is recommended for reporting biopsy specimens, but is not required for accreditation purposes.

SPECIMEN (Note A)

Specimen
___ Urethra
___ Other (specify): _________________
___ Not specified

TUMOR

Tumor Site (select all that apply)

Male
___ Penile urethra
___ Bulbomembranous urethra
___ Prostatic urethra

Female
___ Anterior urethra
___ Posterior urethra

Other
___ Urethra, NOS: _________________

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

Urothelial
___ Papillary urothelial carcinoma, noninvasive
___ Papillary urothelial carcinoma, invasive
___ Urothelial carcinoma in situ
___ Urothelial carcinoma, invasive (conventional)
___ Urothelial carcinoma, micropapillary
___ Urothelial carcinoma, nested
___ Urothelial carcinoma, tubular and microcystic
___ Urothelial carcinoma, lymphoepithelioma-like
___ Urothelial carcinoma, plasmacytoid
___ Urothelial carcinoma, sarcomatoid
___ Urothelial carcinoma, giant cell
___ Urothelial carcinoma, poorly differentiated
___ Urothelial carcinoma, lipid-rich
___ Urothelial carcinoma, clear cell (glycogen-rich)
___ Urothelial carcinoma with squamous differentiation
___ Urothelial carcinoma with glandular differentiation
___ Urothelial carcinoma with trophoblastic differentiation
___ Urothelial carcinoma with Müllerian differentiation

*Squamous*
___ Squamous cell carcinoma
___ Verrucous carcinoma
___ Squamous cell carcinoma in situ (no invasive carcinoma identified)
___ HPV-associated squamous cell carcinoma

*Glandular*
___ Adenocarcinoma, NOS
___ Adenocarcinoma, enteric
___ Adenocarcinoma, mixed
___ Adenocarcinoma, mucinous
___ Adenocarcinoma, signet-ring cell
___ Adenocarcinoma in situ (no invasive carcinoma identified)

*Müllerian*
___ Clear cell adenocarcinoma
___ Endometrioid carcinoma

*Neuroendocrine*
___ Small cell neuroendocrine carcinoma
___ Large cell neuroendocrine carcinoma
___ Well-differentiated neuroendocrine tumor

*Other*
___ Littre gland adenocarcinoma
___ Skene gland adenocarcinoma
___ Cowper gland adenocarcinoma
___ Other histologic type not listed (specify): _________________
___ Carcinoma, type cannot be determined: _________________

+Specify Percentages of Histologic Subtypes and Divergent Differentiations Present (totaling 100%)* (select all that apply)

# Applicable for mixed subtypes, divergent differentiations, and other carcinomas
___ Urothelial carcinoma, invasive (conventional): _________________ %
___ Urothelial carcinoma, micropapillary: _________________ %
___ Urothelial carcinoma, nested: _________________ %
___ Urothelial carcinoma, large nested: _________________ %
___ Urothelial carcinoma, tubular and microcystic: _________________ %
___ Urothelial carcinoma, lymphoepithelioma-like: _________________ %
___ Urothelial carcinoma, plasmacytoid: _________________ %
___ Urothelial carcinoma, sarcomatoid: _________________ %
___ Urothelial carcinoma, giant cell: _________________ %
___ Urothelial carcinoma, poorly differentiated: _________________ %
___ Urothelial carcinoma, lipid-rich: _________________ %
___ Clear cell (glycogen-rich): _________________ %
___ Squamous differentiation: _________________ %
___ Glandular (adenocarcinoma) differentiation: _________________ %
___ Trophoblastic differentiation: _________________ %
___ Müllerian differentiation: _________________ %
___ Small cell neuroendocrine carcinoma: _________________ %
___ Large cell neuroendocrine carcinoma: _________________ %
Other (specify): ____________________

Histologic Type Comment: ____________________

Histologic Grade (Note C)

For urothelial carcinoma, other variants, or divergent differentiation
___ Low-grade
___ High-grade

For squamous cell carcinoma or adenocarcinoma
___ G1, well-differentiated
___ G2, moderately differentiated
___ G3, poorly differentiated
___ GX, cannot be assessed: ____________________

Other
___ Other (specify): ____________________
___ Cannot be assessed: ____________________
___ Not applicable: ____________________

Tumor Extent (Note D)

Male
___ Carcinoma of penile and bulbomembranous urethra
   ___ Noninvasive urothelial papillary carcinoma
   ___ Carcinoma in situ
   ___ Invades subepithelial connective tissue
   ___ Invades adjacent structure(s)

Select all that apply
   ___ Corpus spongiosum
   ___ Periurethral muscle
   ___ Tunica albuginea
   ___ Corpus cavernosum
   ___ Scrotum
   ___ Urinary bladder wall
   ___ Rectum
___ Other (specify): ____________________

___ Carcinoma of prostatic urethra
   ___ Carcinoma in situ, involving prostatic urethra
   ___ Carcinoma in situ, involving prostatic ducts
   ___ Invades urethral subepithelial connective tissue immediately underlying the urothelium
   ___ Invades prostatic stroma surrounding ducts either by direct extension from the urothelial surface or by invasion from prostatic ducts
   ___ Invades periprostatic fat
   ___ Invades adjacent structure(s)

Select all that apply
   ___ Extraprostatic invasion of the bladder wall
___ Other (specify): ____________________

Female
___ Noninvasive urothelial papillary carcinoma
___ Carcinoma in situ
___ Invades subepithelial connective tissue
___ Invades adjacent structure(s)
   *Select all that apply*
   ___ Periurethral muscle (fibromuscular and adipose tissue)
   ___ Anterior vagina
   ___ Urinary bladder wall
   ___ Rectum
   ___ Other (specify): _________________

*Other*
___ Cannot be determined: _________________
___ No evidence of primary tumor

+Lymphatic and / or Vascular Invasion
___ Not identified
___ Present
___ Cannot be determined: _________________

+Tumor Configuration (select all that apply)
___ Papillary
___ Solid / nodule
___ Flat
___ Ulcerated
___ Other (specify): _________________
___ Cannot be determined: _________________

+Tumor Comment: _________________

ADDITIONAL FINDINGS

+Associated Epithelial Lesions (Note C) (select all that apply)
___ None identified
___ Condyloma acuminata
___ Squamous dysplasia (low, intermediate, high grade)
___ Urothelial papilloma
___ Urothelial papilloma, inverted type
___ Papillary urothelial neoplasm, low malignant potential (PUNLMP)
___ Urothelial dysplasia
___ Other (specify): _________________
___ Cannot be determined: _________________

+Additional Findings (select all that apply)
___ Keratinizing squamous metaplasia
___ Inflammation / regenerative changes
___ Therapy-related changes (specify): _________________
___ Cautery artifact
___ Urethritis cystica et glandularis
___ Intestinal metaplasia
___ Other (specify): ________________

COMMENTS

Comment(s): ________________
Explanatory Notes

A. History
A relevant history is important for the interpretation of urethral biopsies. A history of renal stones, recent urinary tract procedures, infections, obstruction, or prior therapy (intravesical or systemic chemotherapy, local radiation) can lead to reactive epithelial changes potentially mimicking malignancy. Any neoplasms previously diagnosed should be specified, including the histologic type, primary site, and histologic grade.

B. Histologic Type
Carcinomas of the urethra vary in histologic type, depending on type of epithelium lining the urethra in a given anatomic location.\textsuperscript{1,2,3,4} In women, squamous cell carcinoma is the most common histologic subtype (approximately 75%) and is most common in the anterior urethra (distal third). Urothelial carcinoma is next in frequency, followed by adenocarcinoma (approximately 10% to 15% each). Clear cell adenocarcinomas comprise a significant proportion of adenocarcinomas in women but are quite rare in men. In the male, most tumors involve the bulbomembranous urethra, followed by penile urethra and prostatic urethra. Most carcinomas of the male urethra (80%) are squamous cell carcinoma, followed by urothelial origin. As in women, urothelial carcinomas are typically more proximal. Primary urethral adenocarcinomas are rare in men. Adenocarcinomas may rarely arise from the periurethral Skene’s (female) or Littre’s (male) glands. The distinction between a urothelial carcinoma with divergent squamous, glandular, or Müllerian differentiation and a pure squamous cell carcinoma, adenocarcinoma or Müllerian should be made. The 2022 World Health Organization (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.

2022 WHO Classification of Epithelial Tumors of the Urothelial Tract

Urothelial tumors

\textit{Invasive urothelial carcinoma}
   - Conventional urothelial carcinoma
   - Urothelial carcinoma with squamous differentiation
   - Urothelial carcinoma with glandular differentiation
   - Urothelial carcinoma with trophoblastic differentiation
   - Nested urothelial carcinoma
   - Tubular and microcystic urothelial carcinomas
   - Micropapillary urothelial carcinoma
   - Lymphoepithelioma-like urothelial carcinoma
   - Plasmacytoid urothelial carcinoma
   - Giant cell urothelial carcinoma
   - Lipid-rich urothelial carcinoma
   - Clear cell (glycogen-rich) urothelial carcinoma
   - Urothelial carcinoma, poorly differentiated

\textit{Noninvasive urothelial lesions}
   - Urothelial carcinoma in situ
   - Noninvasive papillary urothelial carcinoma, high grade
   - Noninvasive papillary urothelial carcinoma, low grade
Papillary urothelial neoplasm of low malignant potential
Urothelial papilloma
Inverted urothelial papilloma

**Squamous cell neoplasms**
Squamous cell carcinoma
Verrucous carcinoma
Squamous papilloma

**Glandular neoplasms**
Adenocarcinoma, NOS
  - Enteric
  - Mucinous
  - Mixed
  - Signet-ring cell
  - Adenocarcinoma in situ
Villous adenoma

**Urachal and diverticular neoplasms**
Urachal carcinoma
Diverticular carcinoma

**Tumors of Mullerian type**
Clear cell adenocarcinoma
Endometrioid carcinoma

**Neuroendocrine neoplasms**
Small cell neuroendocrine carcinoma
Large cell neuroendocrine carcinoma
Mixed neuroendocrine neoplasm
Well-differentiated neuroendocrine tumor
Paraganglioma

**Urethral accessory glands**
Carcinoma of Littre glands
Carcinoma of Skene glands
Carcinoma of Cowper glands

**References**
C. Histologic Grade

Squamous cell carcinoma and adenocarcinoma are graded on a 3-tiered system that is based on tumor differentiation as well differentiated (grade 1), moderately differentiated (grade 2), or poorly differentiated (grade 3). For urothelial neoplasia, flat intraepithelial lesions and papillary and invasive lesions are graded separately. A more universally acceptable system, the World Health Organization/International Society of Urological Pathology (WHO/ISUP) consensus classification, was proposed in 1998 by ISUP and has been adopted in the 2004 WHO classification system and has been validated by many studies to be prognostically significant. This grading system has also been upheld in the 2016 and 2022 WHO classifications with slight modifications. Other systems (that were being used previously) may still be used according to institutional preferences. Tumor grade according to both the 2004 WHO/ISUP system and the older 1973 WHO system may be concurrently used.

References


D. Extent of Invasion

A critical role of the surgical pathologist is to diagnose the depth/extent of invasion into the tissues surrounding the urethra. The surrounding anatomic structures vary by gender and location within the urethra and may include at least the subepithelial connective tissue, periurethral muscle, prostate, and corpus spongiosum in transurethral resection specimens. Identification of these anatomic landmarks and
documentation of their tumor involvement is important. In the prostatic urethra, invasion may arise from a tumor lining the urethral lumen or from carcinoma in situ colonizing prostatic ducts. The T1 designation should only be applied to superficial invasion arising from the urethral lining; invasion arising from the prostatic ducts into the prostatic stroma is designated as T2. A urethral urothelial carcinoma may occur concurrently with bladder urothelial carcinoma, thus, prostatic tumor involvement in urethral transurethral resections should not be automatically considered as transmural bladder extension by bladder cancer.

References