



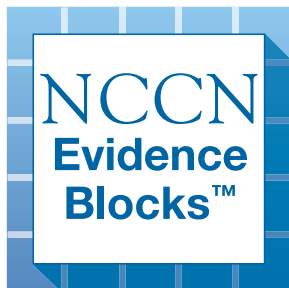
National Comprehensive  
Cancer Network®

NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines®)

# Testicular Cancer

**NCCN Evidence Blocks™**

Version 2.2020 — November 20, 2019



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# NCCN Guidelines Version 2.2020

## Testicular Cancer

### NCCN Evidence Blocks™

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**Clinical Trials:** NCCN believes that the best management for any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.

To find clinical trials online at NCCN Member Institutions, [click here: nccn.org/clinical\\_trials/member\\_institutions.aspx](#).

**NCCN Categories of Evidence and Consensus:** All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.

See [NCCN Categories of Evidence and Consensus](#).

**NCCN Categories of Preference:** All recommendations are considered appropriate.

See [NCCN Categories of Preference](#).

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#### NCCN EVIDENCE BLOCKS CATEGORIES AND DEFINITIONS

|   |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| 5 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1 |  |  |  |  |  |

**E = Efficacy of Regimen/Agent**  
**S = Safety of Regimen/Agent**  
**Q = Quality of Evidence**  
**C = Consistency of Evidence**  
**A = Affordability of Regimen/Agent**

#### Example Evidence Block

|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 |   |   |   |   |   |
| 4 | ■ | ■ |   | ■ |   |
| 3 | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| 2 | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| 1 | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |

**E = 4**  
**S = 4**  
**Q = 3**  
**C = 4**  
**A = 3**

#### Efficacy of Regimen/Agent

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 5 | <b>Highly effective:</b> Cure likely and often provides long-term survival advantage                     |
| 4 | <b>Very effective:</b> Cure unlikely but sometimes provides long-term survival advantage                 |
| 3 | <b>Moderately effective:</b> Modest impact on survival, but often provides control of disease            |
| 2 | <b>Minimally effective:</b> No, or unknown impact on survival, but sometimes provides control of disease |
| 1 | <b>Palliative:</b> Provides symptomatic benefit only   |

#### Safety of Regimen/Agent

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 5 | <b>Usually no meaningful toxicity:</b> Uncommon or minimal toxicities; no interference with activities of daily living (ADLs)                   |
| 4 | <b>Occasionally toxic:</b> Rare significant toxicities or low-grade toxicities only; little interference with ADLs                              |
| 3 | <b>Mildly toxic:</b> Mild toxicity that interferes with ADLs  |
| 2 | <b>Moderately toxic:</b> Significant toxicities often occur but life threatening/fatal toxicity is uncommon; interference with ADLs is frequent |
| 1 | <b>Highly toxic:</b> Significant toxicities or life threatening/fatal toxicity occurs often; interference with ADLs is usual and severe         |

**Note: For significant chronic or long-term toxicities, score decreased by 1**

#### Quality of Evidence

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 5 | <b>High quality:</b> Multiple well-designed randomized trials and/or meta-analyses               |
| 4 | <b>Good quality:</b> One or more well-designed randomized trials                                 |
| 3 | <b>Average quality:</b> Low quality randomized trial(s) or well-designed non-randomized trial(s) |
| 2 | <b>Low quality:</b> Case reports or extensive clinical experience                                |
| 1 | <b>Poor quality:</b> Little or no evidence   |

#### Consistency of Evidence

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 5 | <b>Highly consistent:</b> Multiple trials with similar outcomes  |
| 4 | <b>Mainly consistent:</b> Multiple trials with some variability in outcome   |
| 3 | <b>May be consistent:</b> Few trials or only trials with few patients, whether randomized or not, with some variability in outcome |
| 2 | <b>Inconsistent:</b> Meaningful differences in direction of outcome between quality trials   |
| 1 | <b>Anecdotal evidence only:</b> Evidence in humans based upon anecdotal experience   |

#### Affordability of Regimen/Agent (includes drug cost, supportive care, infusions, toxicity monitoring, management of toxicity)

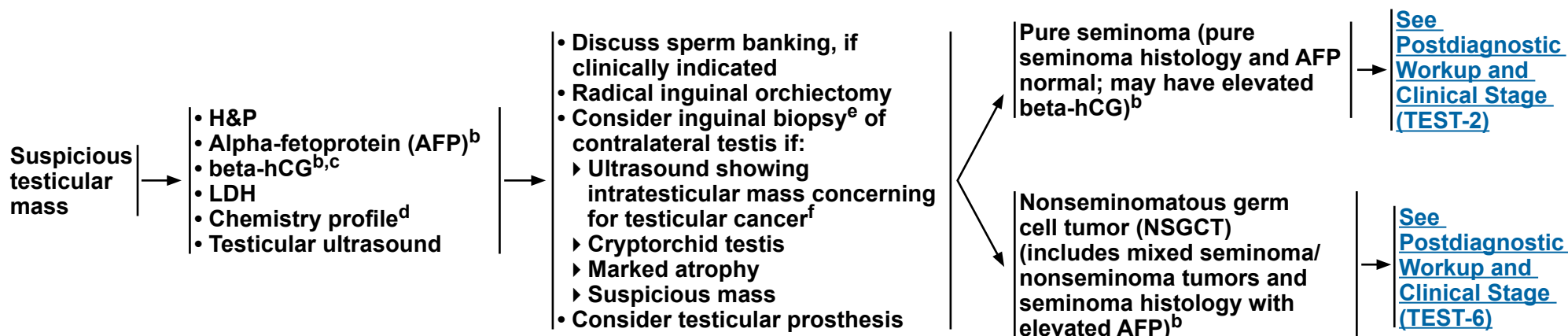
|   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 5 | <b>Very inexpensive</b>     |
| 4 | <b>Inexpensive</b>          |
| 3 | <b>Moderately expensive</b> |
| 2 | <b>Expensive</b>            |
| 1 | <b>Very expensive</b>       |



**WORKUP**

**PRIMARY TREATMENT<sup>a</sup>**

**PATHOLOGIC DIAGNOSIS**



<sup>a</sup> Though rare, when a patient presents with rapidly increasing beta-hCG or AFP and symptoms related to disseminated disease with a testicular mass, chemotherapy can be initiated immediately without waiting for a biopsy diagnosis or performing orchiectomy.

<sup>b</sup> Mildly elevated, non-rising AFP levels may not indicate presence of germ cell tumor. Decisions to treat should not be based on AFP values <20 ng/mL. Further workup should be considered before initiating treatment for mildly elevated beta-hCG (generally <20 IU/L) since other factors, including hypogonadism and marijuana use, can cause false-positive results. [See Discussion](#).

<sup>c</sup> Quantitative analysis of beta subunit.

<sup>d</sup> Consider measuring baseline levels of gonadal function.

<sup>e</sup> Inguinal exploration with exposure of testis, with direct observation and directed biopsy.

<sup>f</sup> Biopsies are not recommended for microcalcifications.

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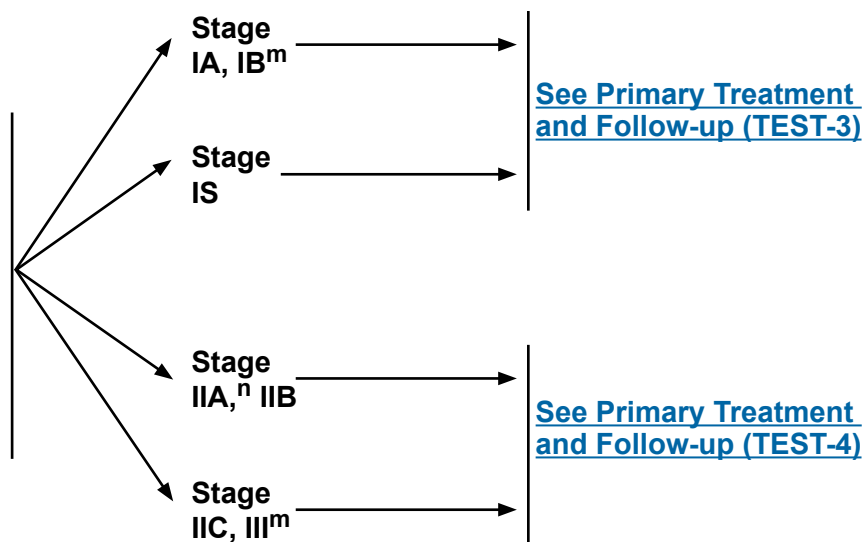
**PATHOLOGIC DIAGNOSIS**

**POSTDIAGNOSTIC WORKUP**

**CLINICAL STAGE**

Pure seminoma<sup>g</sup>  
 (pure seminoma histology and AFP normal;<sup>h</sup> may have elevated beta-hCG<sup>b</sup>)

- Abdominal/pelvic CT<sup>i</sup>
- Chest x-ray
- Chest CT<sup>i</sup> if:
  - ▶ Positive abdominal CT or abnormal chest x-ray
- Repeat beta-hCG, LDH, and AFP since TNM staging is based on post-orchietomy values<sup>b,j</sup>
- Brain MRI,<sup>k</sup> if clinically indicated<sup>l</sup>
- Recommend sperm banking, if clinically indicated



<sup>b</sup> Mildly elevated, non-rising AFP levels may not indicate presence of germ cell tumor. Decisions to treat should not be based on AFP values <20 ng/mL. Further workup should be considered before initiating treatment for mildly elevated beta-hCG (generally <20 IU/L) since other factors, including hypogonadism and marijuana use, can cause false-positive results. [See Discussion](#).

<sup>g</sup> Mediastinal primary seminoma should be treated by risk status used for gonadal seminomas with etoposide/cisplatin for 4 cycles or bleomycin/etoposide/cisplatin for 3 cycles.

<sup>h</sup> If AFP is elevated, treat as nonseminoma.

<sup>i</sup> With contrast.

<sup>j</sup> Elevated values should be followed after orchietomy with repeated determination to allow precise staging. Follow declining markers until normalization or plateau. Staging is based on marker levels at the time that the patient starts postorchietomy therapy (for example, for patients starting chemotherapy for disseminated disease, prognostic category and staging should be assigned based on the serum tumor marker levels on day 1 of cycle 1 of chemotherapy).

<sup>k</sup> With and without contrast.

<sup>l</sup> Eg, beta-hCG >5000 IU/L, or extensive lung metastasis.

<sup>m</sup> The panel recommends staging tumors with discontinuous invasion of the spermatic cord as pT3 (high-risk stage I) and not as M1 (stage III) as is recommended in the 8th edition of the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual. If surveillance is elected, the pelvis should be included in the imaging due to a higher risk of pelvic relapses in these patients. [See Discussion](#).

<sup>n</sup> For select cases of clinical stage IIA disease with borderline retroperitoneal lymph nodes, waiting 4–6 weeks and repeating imaging (chest/abdomen/pelvic CT with contrast) to confirm staging before initiating treatment can be considered.

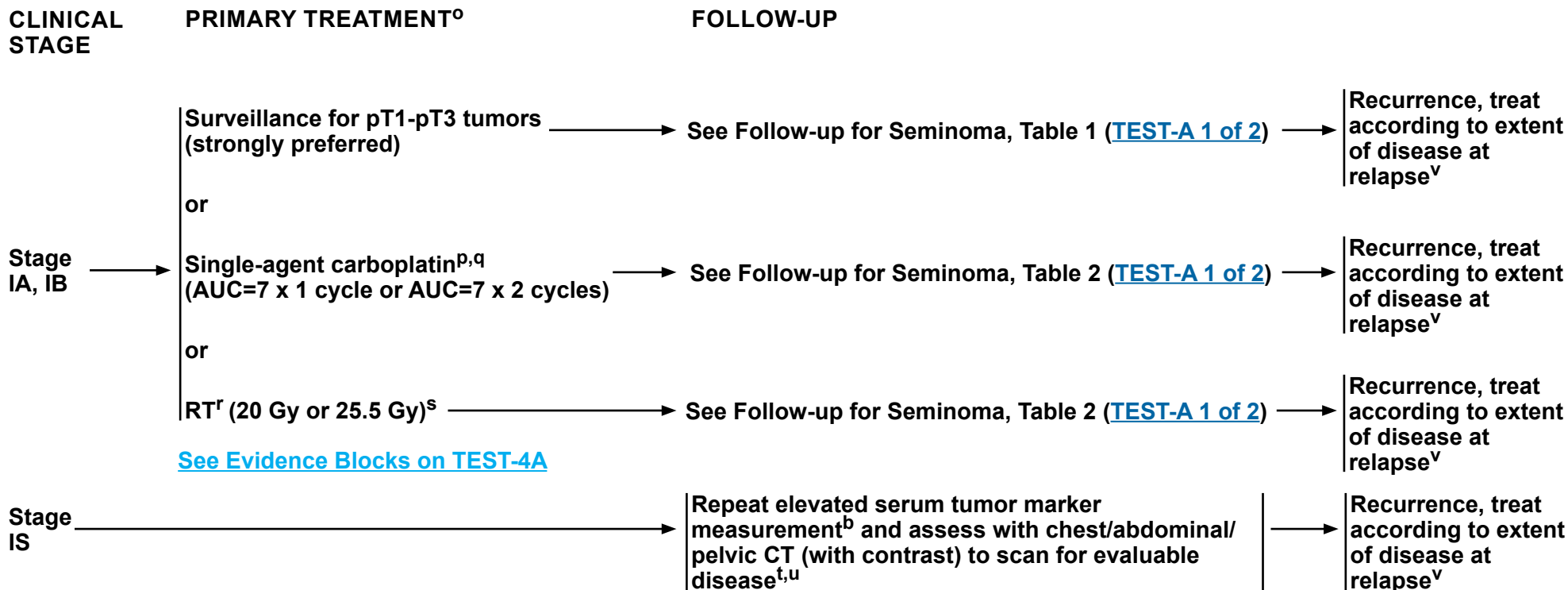
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## Testicular Cancer - Pure Seminoma

### NCCN Evidence Blocks™



<sup>b</sup> Mildly elevated, non-rising AFP levels may not indicate presence of germ cell tumor. Decisions to treat should not be based on AFP values <20 ng/mL. Further workup should be considered before initiating treatment for mildly elevated beta-hCG (generally <20 IU/L) since other factors, including hypogonadism and marijuana use, can cause false-positive results. [See Discussion](#).

<sup>o</sup> Discuss sperm banking prior to chemotherapy or radiation treatment.

<sup>p</sup> Recommend abdomen/pelvic CT scan and chest x-ray or CT scan within the 4 weeks prior to the initiation of chemotherapy to confirm staging, even if scan was done previously. [See Principles of Imaging \(TEST-I\)](#).

<sup>q</sup> There are limited long-term follow-up data on the toxicity and efficacy of carboplatin. A recent population-based study suggested patients with larger tumors, rete testis involvement, or both derive a smaller reduction in relapse rate with 1 cycle of carboplatin than previously reported. [See Discussion](#).

<sup>r</sup> [See Principles of Radiotherapy for Pure Testicular Seminoma \(TEST-C\)](#).

<sup>s</sup> For stage I seminoma, long-term follow-up studies indicate an increase in late toxicities with radiation treatment. [See Discussion](#).

<sup>t</sup> For further information on stage IS, [see Discussion](#).

<sup>u</sup> Elevated tumor markers increase the risk of disease outside of the retroperitoneum. Therefore, systemic therapy should be encouraged. See Primary Chemotherapy Regimens for Germ Cell Tumors (TEST-E).

<sup>v</sup> Patients should not be treated based upon an elevated LDH alone.

**Note: For more information regarding the categories and definitions used for the NCCN Evidence Blocks™, see page [EB-1](#).**

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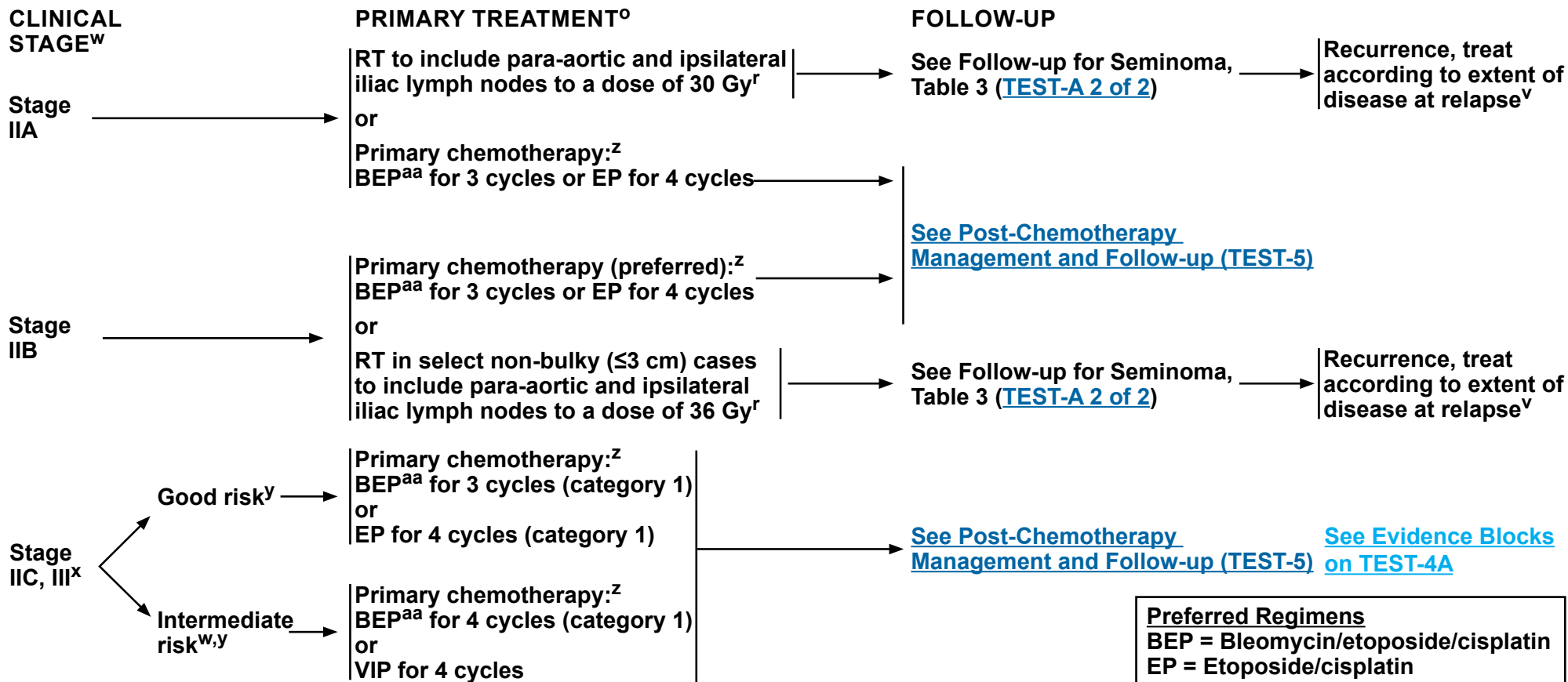
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# NCCN Guidelines Version 2.2020

## Testicular Cancer - Pure Seminoma

### NCCN Evidence Blocks™



**Preferred Regimens**  
 BEP = Bleomycin/etoposide/cisplatin  
 EP = Etoposide/cisplatin

**Other Recommended Regimens**  
 VIP = Etoposide/ifosfamide/cisplatin

<sup>o</sup> Discuss sperm banking prior to chemotherapy or radiation treatment.  
<sup>r</sup> See [Principles of Radiotherapy for Pure Testicular Seminoma \(TEST-C\)](#).  
<sup>v</sup> Patients should not be treated based upon an elevated LDH alone.  
<sup>w</sup> Intermediate risk in seminoma is based on metastases to organs other than the lungs (stage IIIC). Stage IIIB does not apply to pure seminomas. Patients with elevated AFP have nonseminomas. In patients with a serum beta-hCG >1000 IU/L, consider the possibility of an NSGCT, re-review surgical specimen with pathology, and consider discussion with a high-volume center. LDH and beta-hCG alone should not be used to stage or risk stratify patients with pure seminoma.

<sup>x</sup> All stage IIC and stage III seminomas are considered good-risk disease except for stage III disease with non-pulmonary visceral metastases (eg, bone, liver, brain), which is considered intermediate risk.  
<sup>y</sup> See [Risk Classification for Advanced Disease \(TEST-D\)](#).  
<sup>z</sup> See [Primary Chemotherapy Regimens for Germ Cell Tumors \(TEST-E\)](#).  
<sup>aa</sup> Consider a bleomycin-free regimen in patients with reduced or borderline GFR and in patients older than 50 years of age.

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# NCCN Guidelines Version 2.2020

## Testicular Cancer - Pure Seminoma

### NCCN Evidence Blocks™

|   |   |   |   |   |                                    |
|---|---|---|---|---|------------------------------------|
| 5 |   |   |   |   | E = Efficacy of Regimen/Agent      |
| 4 |   |   |   |   | S = Safety of Regimen/Agent        |
| 3 |   |   |   |   | Q = Quality of Evidence            |
| 2 |   |   |   |   | C = Consistency of Evidence        |
| 1 |   |   |   |   | A = Affordability of Regimen/Agent |
|   | E | S | Q | C | A                                  |

#### PRIMARY TREATMENT FOR PURE SEMINOMA

| Stage IA-IB                    |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Carboplatin (AUC = 7x1 cycles) |  |
| Carboplatin (AUC = 7x2 cycles) |  |

| Stage IIA, IIB, IIC, III*                |  |
|--|--|
| Preferred regimens                       |  |
| Bleomycin/Etoposide/Cisplatin (3 cycles) |  |
| Etoposide/Cisplatin (4 cycles)           |  |

| Stage III**                                     |  |
|---|--|
| Preferred regimens                              |  |
| Bleomycin/Etoposide/Cisplatin (4 cycles)        |  |
| Other recommended regimens                      |  |
| Etoposide/Mesna/Ifosfamide/Cisplatin (4 cycles) |  |

\* Good Risk  
\*\* Intermediate Risk

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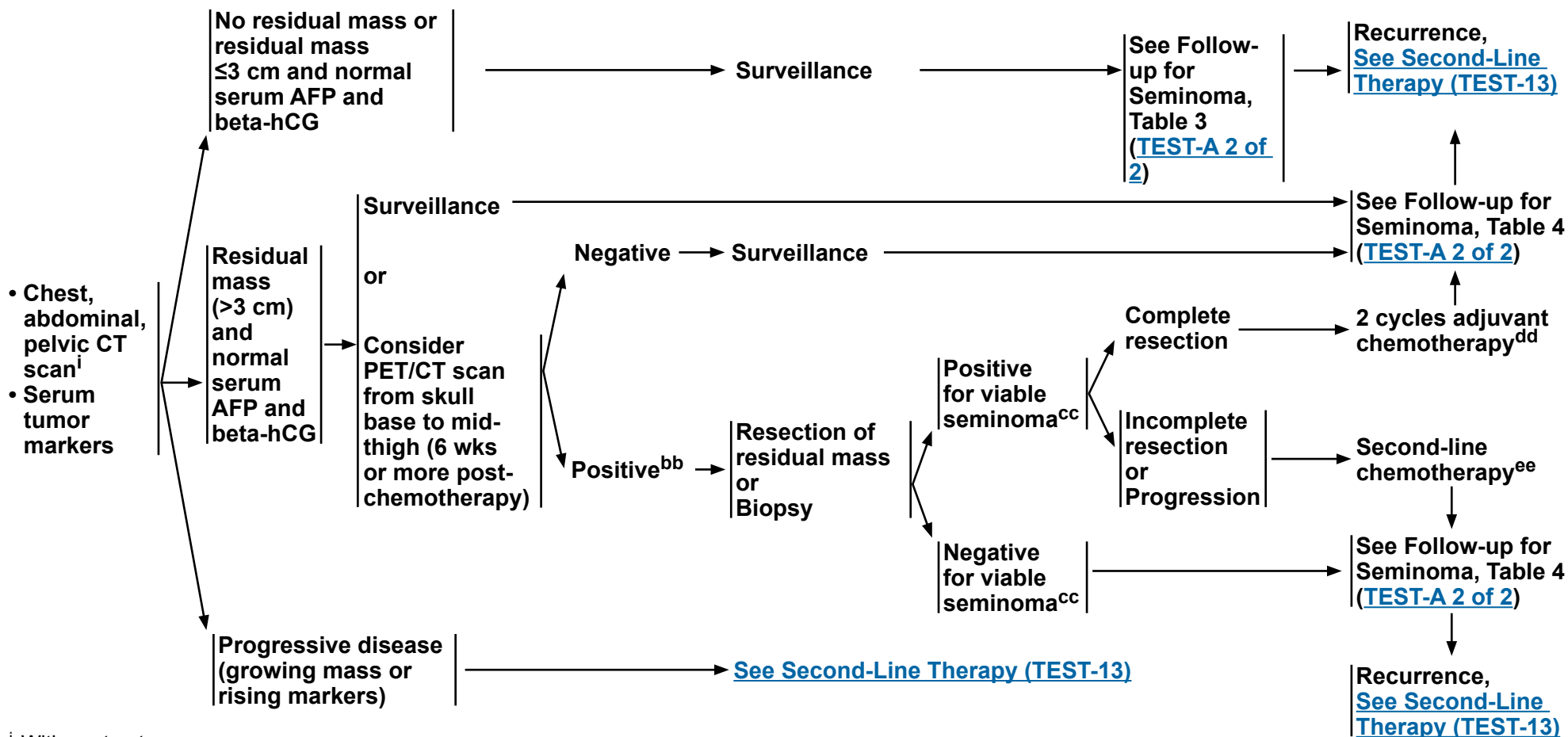
## Testicular Cancer - Pure Seminoma

### NCCN Evidence Blocks™

#### STAGE IIA, IIB, IIC, III AFTER PRIMARY TREATMENT WITH CHEMOTHERAPY

#### POST-CHEMOTHERAPY MANAGEMENT

#### FOLLOW-UP



<sup>i</sup> With contrast.

<sup>bb</sup> If PET/CT is borderline, consider surveillance and repeat PET/CT or CT. [See Principles of Imaging \(TEST-I\)](#).

<sup>cc</sup> In rare cases, nonseminomatous elements will be identified, and if they are non-teratomatous then proceed in the same fashion as for viable seminoma above.

<sup>dd</sup> If complete resection of all residual disease, consider chemotherapy for 2 cycles (EP or TIP or VIP or VeIP). If resection incomplete, full course of second-line therapy is recommended ([see TEST-13](#)). If a biopsy is performed and is positive, consider surgery if complete resection is possible or full course of second-line chemotherapy.

<sup>ee</sup> [See Second-Line Chemotherapy Regimens for Metastatic Germ Cell Tumors \(TEST-F\)](#).

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**PATHOLOGIC DIAGNOSIS**

**POSTDIAGNOSTIC WORKUP<sup>ff</sup>**

**CLINICAL STAGE**

NSGCT (includes mixed seminoma/nonseminoma tumors and seminoma histology with elevated AFP)<sup>b</sup>

- Chest/abdominal/pelvic CT<sup>i</sup>
- Repeat beta-hCG, LDH, AFP because TNM staging is based on post-orchietomy values<sup>b,j</sup>
- Brain MRI,<sup>k</sup> if clinically indicated<sup>gg</sup>
- Recommend sperm banking, if clinically indicated

Stage I with and without risk factors<sup>m,hh</sup>

[See Primary Treatment \(TEST-7\)](#)

Stage IIA,IIB

[See Primary Treatment \(TEST-8\)](#)

Stage IS, IIC, IIIA,<sup>m</sup> IIIB,<sup>m</sup> IIIC,<sup>m</sup> and brain metastasis

[See Primary Treatment \(TEST-11\)](#)

<sup>b</sup> Mildly elevated, non-rising AFP levels may not indicate presence of germ cell tumor. Decisions to treat should not be based on AFP values <20 ng/mL. Further workup should be considered before initiating treatment for mildly elevated beta-hCG (generally <20 IU/L) since other factors, including hypogonadism and marijuana use, can cause false-positive results. [See Discussion](#).

<sup>i</sup> With contrast.

<sup>j</sup> Elevated values should be followed after orchietomy with repeated determination to allow precise staging. Follow declining markers until normalization or plateau. Staging is based on marker levels at the time that the patient starts postorchietomy therapy (for example, for patients starting chemotherapy for disseminated disease, prognostic category and staging should be assigned based on the serum tumor marker levels on day 1 of cycle 1 of chemotherapy).

<sup>k</sup> With and without contrast.

<sup>m</sup> The panel recommends staging tumors with discontinuous invasion of the spermatic cord as pT3 (high-risk stage I) and not as M1 (stage III) as is recommended in the 8th edition of the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual. If surveillance is elected, the pelvis should be included in the imaging due to a higher risk of pelvic relapses in these patients. [See Discussion](#).

<sup>ff</sup> PET/CT scan is not clinically indicated for nonseminoma.

<sup>gg</sup> Eg, beta-hCG >5000 IU/L, extensive lung metastasis, choriocarcinoma, neurologic symptoms, non-pulmonary visceral metastasis, or AFP >10,000 ng/mL.

<sup>hh</sup> Risk factors include lymphovascular invasion or invasion of spermatic cord or scrotum. Some centers consider predominance of embryonal carcinoma as an additional risk factor for relapse.

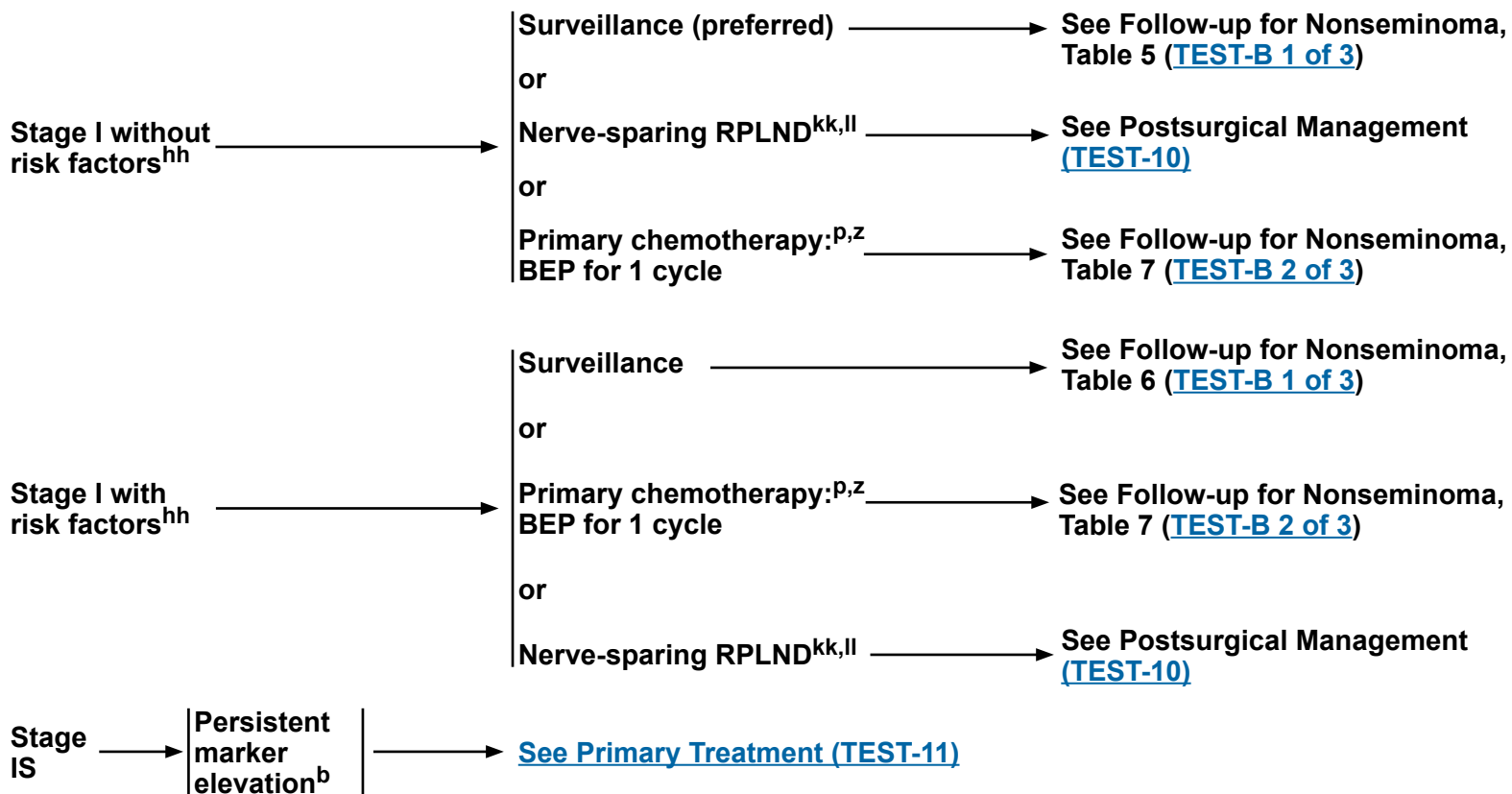
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**CLINICAL STAGE**

**PRIMARY TREATMENT<sup>ii,jj</sup>**



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<sup>p</sup> Recommend abdomen/pelvic CT scan and chest x-ray or CT scan within the 4 weeks prior to the initiation of chemotherapy to confirm staging, even if scan was done previously. [See Principles of Imaging \(TEST-I\)](#).

<sup>z</sup> [See Primary Chemotherapy Regimens for Germ Cell Tumors \(TEST-E\)](#).

<sup>hh</sup> Risk factors include lymphovascular invasion or invasion of spermatic cord or scrotum. Some centers consider predominance of embryonal carcinoma as an additional risk factor for relapse.

<sup>ii</sup> Treatment options listed based on preference. [See Discussion](#).

<sup>jj</sup> Retroperitoneal lymph node dissection (RPLND) is preferred as primary treatment for tumors with transformed teratoma. Patients with stage I pure teratoma and normal markers should receive either surveillance or RPLND. [See Discussion](#).

<sup>kk</sup> RPLND is recommended within 4 weeks of CT scan and 7–10 days of marker measurement.

<sup>ll</sup> [See Principles of Surgery for Germ Cell Tumors \(TEST-H\)](#).

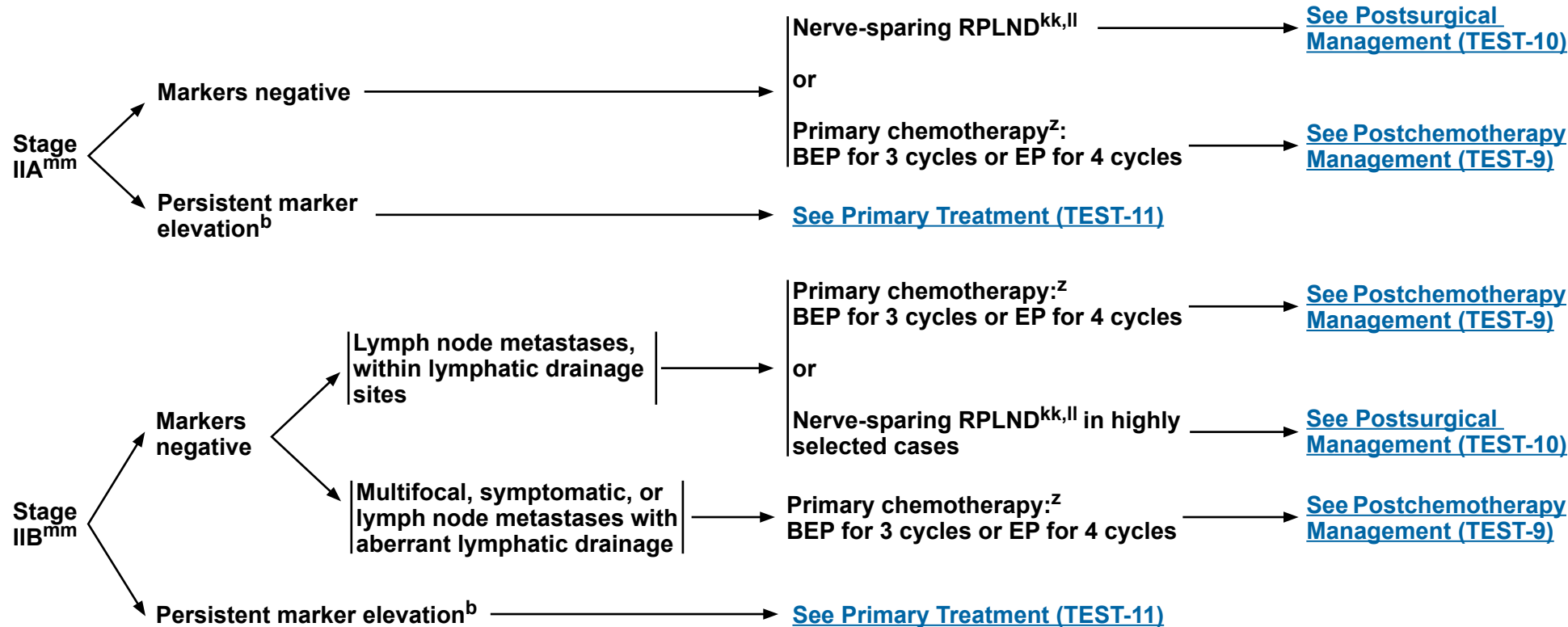
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**CLINICAL STAGE**



**Preferred Regimens**  
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<sup>z</sup> [See Primary Chemotherapy Regimens for Germ Cell Tumors \(TEST-E\).](#)

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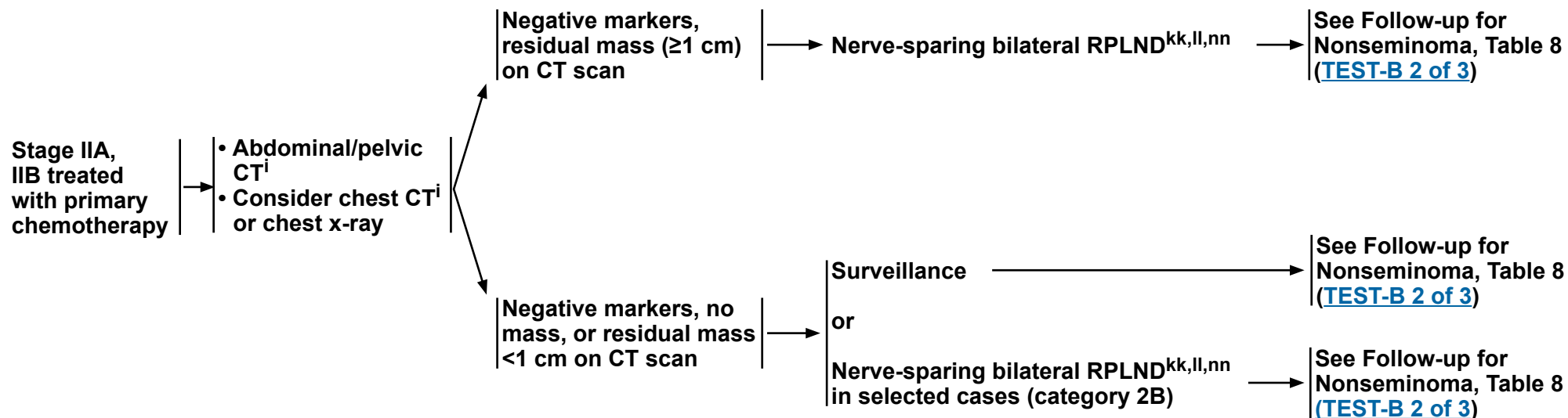
<sup>ll</sup> [See Principles of Surgery for Germ Cell Tumors \(TEST-H\).](#)

<sup>mm</sup> RPLND is preferred as primary treatment for stage II tumors with transformed teratoma, and should be considered for stage II tumors with teratoma predominance in patients with normal markers. [See Discussion.](#)

**Note: For more information regarding the categories and definitions used for the NCCN Evidence Blocks™, see page EB-1.**  
All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.  
Clinical Trials: NCCN believes that the best management of any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.



**POSTCHEMOTHERAPY MANAGEMENT**



<sup>i</sup> With contrast.

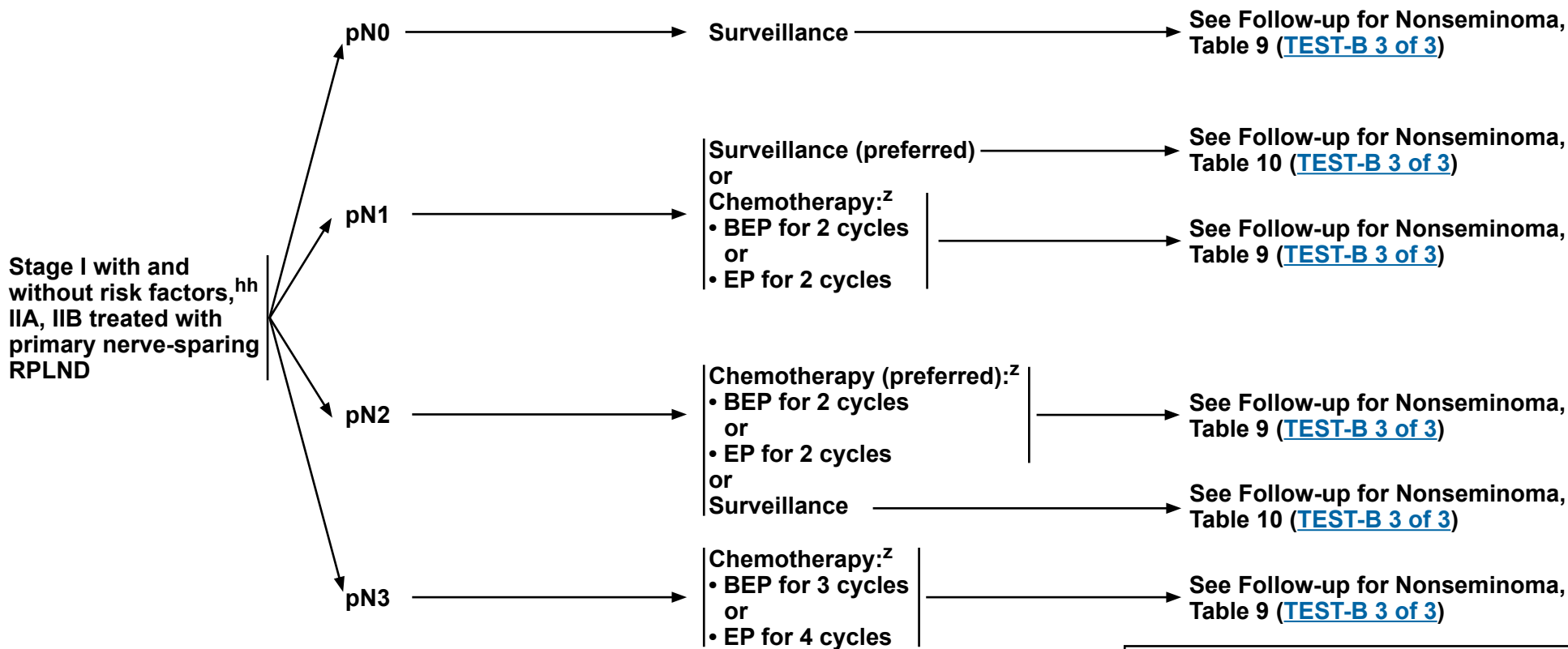
<sup>kk</sup> RPLND is recommended within 4 weeks of CT scan and 7–10 days of marker measurement.

<sup>ll</sup> [See Principles of Surgery for Germ Cell Tumors \(TEST-H\)](#).

<sup>nn</sup> Referral to high-volume centers should be considered for surgical resection of masses post-chemotherapy.

**Note: For more information regarding the categories and definitions used for the NCCN Evidence Blocks™, see page EB-1.**  
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#### POSTSURGICAL MANAGEMENT



[See Evidence Blocks on TEST-10A](#)

|  |
|--|
| <p>pN1, pN2<br/> <b>Preferred Regimens</b><br/>                     EP = Etoposide/cisplatin</p> <p><b>Other Recommended Regimens</b><br/>                     BEP = Bleomycin/etoposide/cisplatin</p> |
| <p>pN3<br/> <b>Preferred Regimens</b><br/>                     BEP = Bleomycin/etoposide/cisplatin<br/>                     EP = Etoposide/cisplatin</p>   |

<sup>z</sup> See Primary Chemotherapy Regimens for Germ Cell Tumors (TEST-E).

<sup>hh</sup> Risk factors include lymphovascular invasion or invasion of spermatic cord or scrotum. Some centers consider predominance of embryonal carcinoma as an additional risk factor for relapse.

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 Clinical Trials: NCCN believes that the best management of any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.

**POSTSURGICAL MANAGEMENT AFTER RPLND**

| Stage I with and without risk factors<br>Stage IIA, IIB (pN1) |  |
|---|--|
| Preferred regimens  |  |
| Etoposide/Cisplatin (2 cycles)                                |  |
| Other recommended regimens                                    |  |
| Bleomycin/Etoposide/Cisplatin (2 cycles)                      |  |

| Stage I with and without risk factors<br>Stage IIA, IIB (pN2) |  |
|---|--|
| Preferred regimens  |  |
| Etoposide/Cisplatin (2 cycles)                                |  |
| Other recommended regimens                                    |  |
| Bleomycin/Etoposide/Cisplatin (2 cycles)                      |  |

| Stage I with and without risk factors<br>Stage IIA, IIB (pN3) |  |
|---|--|
| Preferred regimens  |  |
| Bleomycin/Etoposide/Cisplatin (3 cycles)                      |  |
| Etoposide/Cisplatin (4 cycles)                                |  |

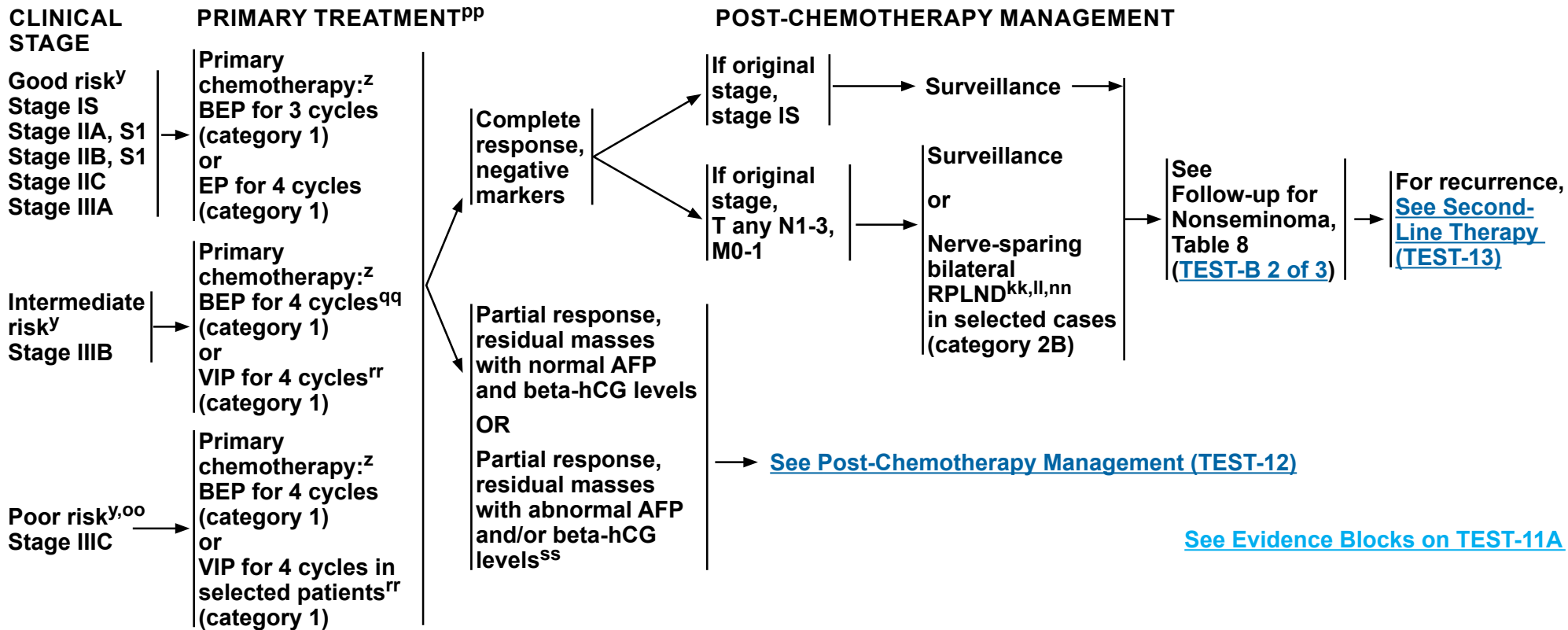
**Note:** For more information regarding the categories and definitions used for the NCCN Evidence Blocks™, see page [EB-1](#).  
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# NCCN Guidelines Version 2.2020

## Testicular Cancer - Nonseminoma

### NCCN Evidence Blocks™



**Preferred Regimens**  
 BEP = Bleomycin/etoposide/cisplatin  
 EP = Etoposide/cisplatin

**Other Recommended Regimens**  
 VIP = Etoposide/ifosfamide/cisplatin

<sup>y</sup> See Risk Classification for Advanced Disease (TEST-D).

<sup>z</sup> See Primary Chemotherapy Regimens for Germ Cell Tumors (TEST-E).

<sup>kk</sup> RPLND is recommended within 4 weeks of CT scan and 7–10 days of marker-measurement.

<sup>ll</sup> See Principles of Surgery for Germ Cell Tumors (TEST-H).

<sup>nn</sup> Referral to high-volume centers should be considered for surgical resection of masses post-chemotherapy.

<sup>oo</sup> Consider consultation with a high-volume center.

<sup>pp</sup> To assess response after treatment, CT with contrast of chest/abdomen/pelvis and any other sites of disease is recommended.

<sup>qq</sup> If intermediate risk is based on LDH 1.5–3 times the upper limit of normal, then BEP for 3 cycles can be considered.

<sup>rr</sup> Patients who may not tolerate bleomycin.

<sup>ss</sup> Recommend referral to a high-volume center.

Note: For more information regarding the categories and definitions used for the NCCN Evidence Blocks™, see page EB-1.

All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.

Clinical Trials: NCCN believes that the best management of any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.



# NCCN Guidelines Version 2.2020

## Testicular Cancer - Nonseminoma

### NCCN Evidence Blocks™

|   |           |                                    |
|---|-----------|------------------------------------|
| 5 |           | E = Efficacy of Regimen/Agent      |
| 4 |           | S = Safety of Regimen/Agent        |
| 3 |           | Q = Quality of Evidence            |
| 2 |           | C = Consistency of Evidence        |
| 1 |           | A = Affordability of Regimen/Agent |
|   | E S Q C A |                                    |

#### PRIMARY TREATMENT FOR NONSEMINOMA

| Stage I with and without risk factors   |  |
|---|--|
| Bleomycin/Etoposide/Cisplatin (1 cycle) |  |

| Stage IIA*, IIB*, IIC, IIIA              |  |
|--|--|
| Preferred regimens                       |  |
| Bleomycin/Etoposide/Cisplatin (3 cycles) |  |
| Etoposide/Cisplatin (4 cycles)           |  |

| Stage IIIB**                                    |  |
|---|--|
| Preferred regimens                              |  |
| Bleomycin/Etoposide/Cisplatin (4 cycles)        |  |
| Other recommended regimens                      |  |
| Etoposide/Mesna/Ifosfamide/Cisplatin (4 cycles) |  |

| Stage IIIC***                                   |  |
|---|--|
| Preferred regimens                              |  |
| Bleomycin/Etoposide/Cisplatin (4 cycles)        |  |
| Other recommended regimens                      |  |
| Etoposide/Mesna/Ifosfamide/Cisplatin (4 cycles) |  |

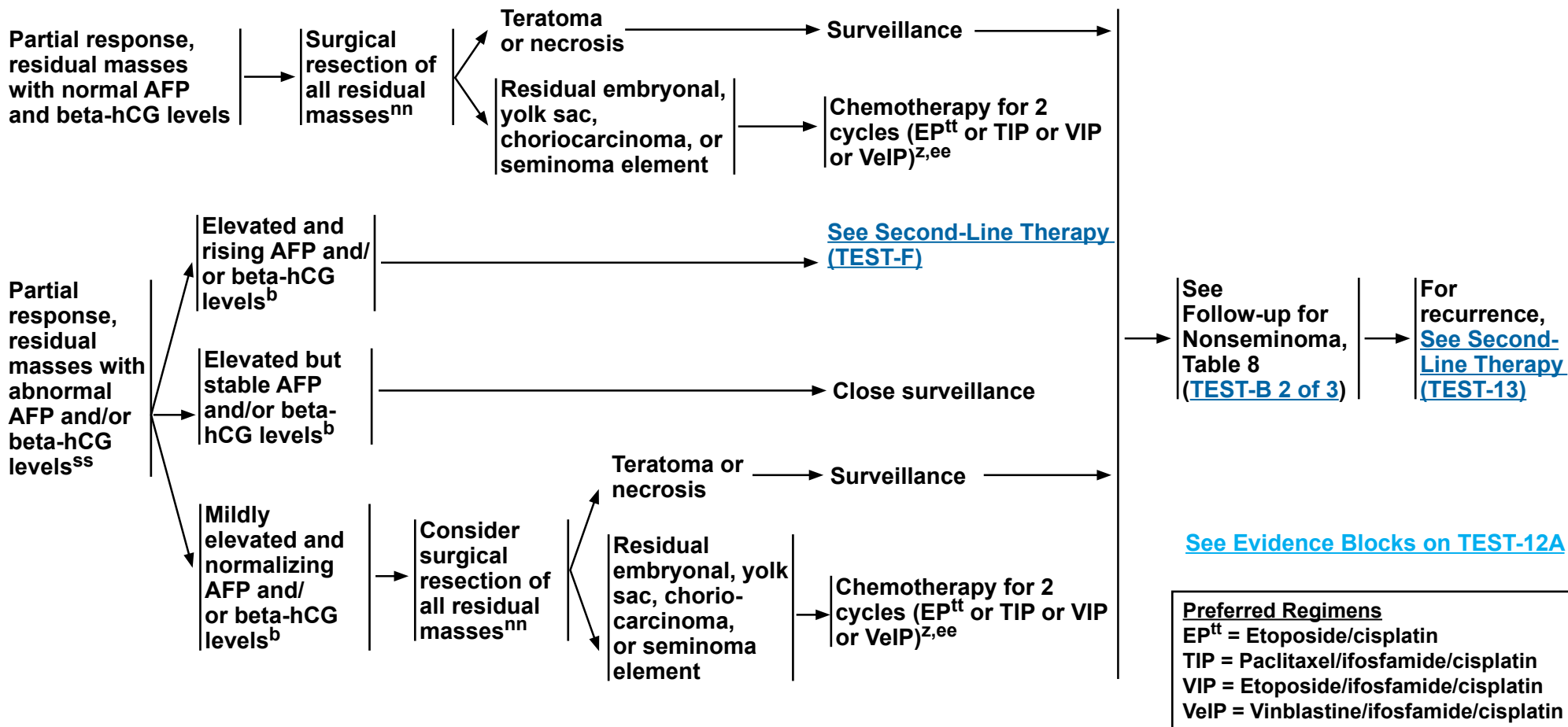
| Brain Metastases                     |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Preferred regimens                   |  |
| Etoposide/Cisplatin                  |  |
| Bleomycin/Etoposide/Cisplatin        |  |
| Other recommended regimens           |  |
| Etoposide/Mesna/Ifosfamide/Cisplatin |  |

- \* Good risk
- \*\* Intermediate risk
- \*\*\* Poor risk

**Note:** For more information regarding the categories and definitions used for the NCCN Evidence Blocks™, see page [EB-1](#).  
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**RESPONSE AFTER PRIMARY TREATMENT**

**POST-CHEMOTHERAPY MANAGEMENT**



<sup>b</sup> Mildly elevated, non-rising AFP levels may not indicate presence of germ cell tumor. Decisions to treat should not be based on AFP values <20 ng/mL. Further workup should be considered before initiating treatment for mildly elevated beta-hCG (generally <20 IU/L) since other factors, including hypogonadism and marijuana use, can cause false-positive results. [See Discussion](#).

<sup>z</sup> [See Primary Chemotherapy Regimens for Germ Cell Tumors \(TEST-E\)](#).

<sup>ee</sup> [See Second-Line Chemotherapy Regimens for Metastatic Germ Cell Tumors \(TEST-F\)](#).

<sup>nn</sup> Referral to high-volume centers should be considered for surgical resection of masses post-chemotherapy.

<sup>ss</sup> Recommend referral to a high-volume center.

<sup>tt</sup> Consider EP for low-volume residual disease.

**Note: For more information regarding the categories and definitions used for the NCCN Evidence Blocks™, see page EB-1.**  
 All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.  
 Clinical Trials: NCCN believes that the best management of any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.

**Preferred Regimens**  
 EP<sup>tt</sup> = Etoposide/cisplatin  
 TIP = Paclitaxel/ifosfamide/cisplatin  
 VIP = Etoposide/ifosfamide/cisplatin  
 VeIP = Vinblastine/ifosfamide/cisplatin



|   |   |   |   |   |                                    |
|---|---|---|---|---|------------------------------------|
| 5 |   |   |   |   | E = Efficacy of Regimen/Agent      |
| 4 |   |   |   |   | S = Safety of Regimen/Agent        |
| 3 |   |   |   |   | Q = Quality of Evidence            |
| 2 |   |   |   |   | C = Consistency of Evidence        |
| 1 |   |   |   |   | A = Affordability of Regimen/Agent |
|   | E | S | Q | C | A                                  |

**SECOND-LINE CHEMOTHERAPY MANAGEMENT AFTER PARTIAL OR INCOMPLETE RESPONSE**

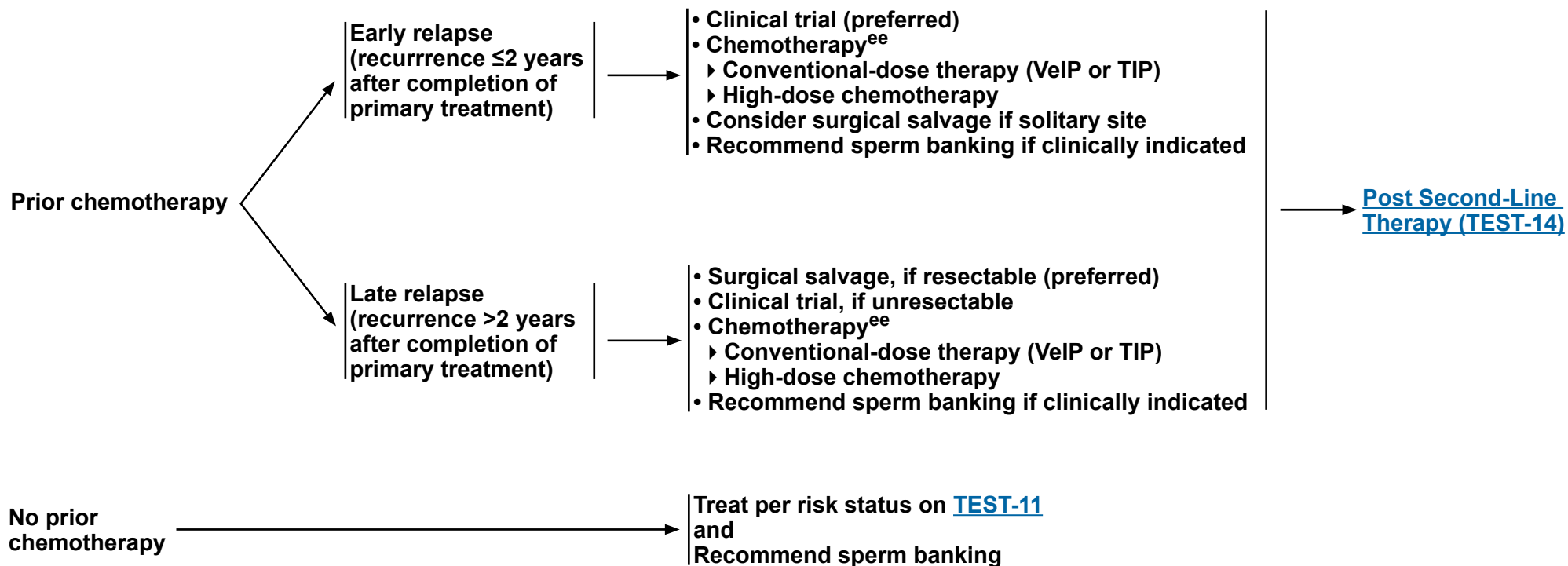
|   | All Stages |
|---|------------|
| Etoposide/Cisplatin (2 cycles)                    |            |
| Paclitaxel/Ifosfamide/Mesna/Cisplatin (2 cycles)  |            |
| Etoposide/Mesna/Ifosfamide/Cisplatin (2 cycles)   |            |
| Vinblastine/Mesna/Ifosfamide/Cisplatin (2 cycles) |            |

**Note:** For more information regarding the categories and definitions used for the NCCN Evidence Blocks™, see page [EB-1](#).  
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Clinical Trials: NCCN believes that the best management of any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.



**RECURRENCE<sup>uu</sup>**

**SECOND-LINE THERAPY<sup>pp,vv</sup>**



[See Evidence Blocks on TEST-F \(EB-1\)](#)

**Preferred Regimens**

- High-dose chemotherapy<sup>ee</sup>
- TIP = Paclitaxel/ifosfamide/cisplatin
- VeIP = Vinblastine/ifosfamide/cisplatin

<sup>ee</sup> See [Second-Line Chemotherapy Regimens for Metastatic Germ Cell Tumors \(TEST-F\)](#).

<sup>pp</sup> To assess response after treatment, CT with contrast of chest/abdomen/pelvis and any other sites of disease is recommended.

<sup>uu</sup> It is preferred that patients with recurrent nonseminoma be treated at centers with expertise in the management of this disease.

<sup>vv</sup> Includes best supportive care and palliative care. [See NCCN Guidelines for Palliative Care](#).

**Note: For more information regarding the categories and definitions used for the NCCN Evidence Blocks™, see page [EB-1](#).**  
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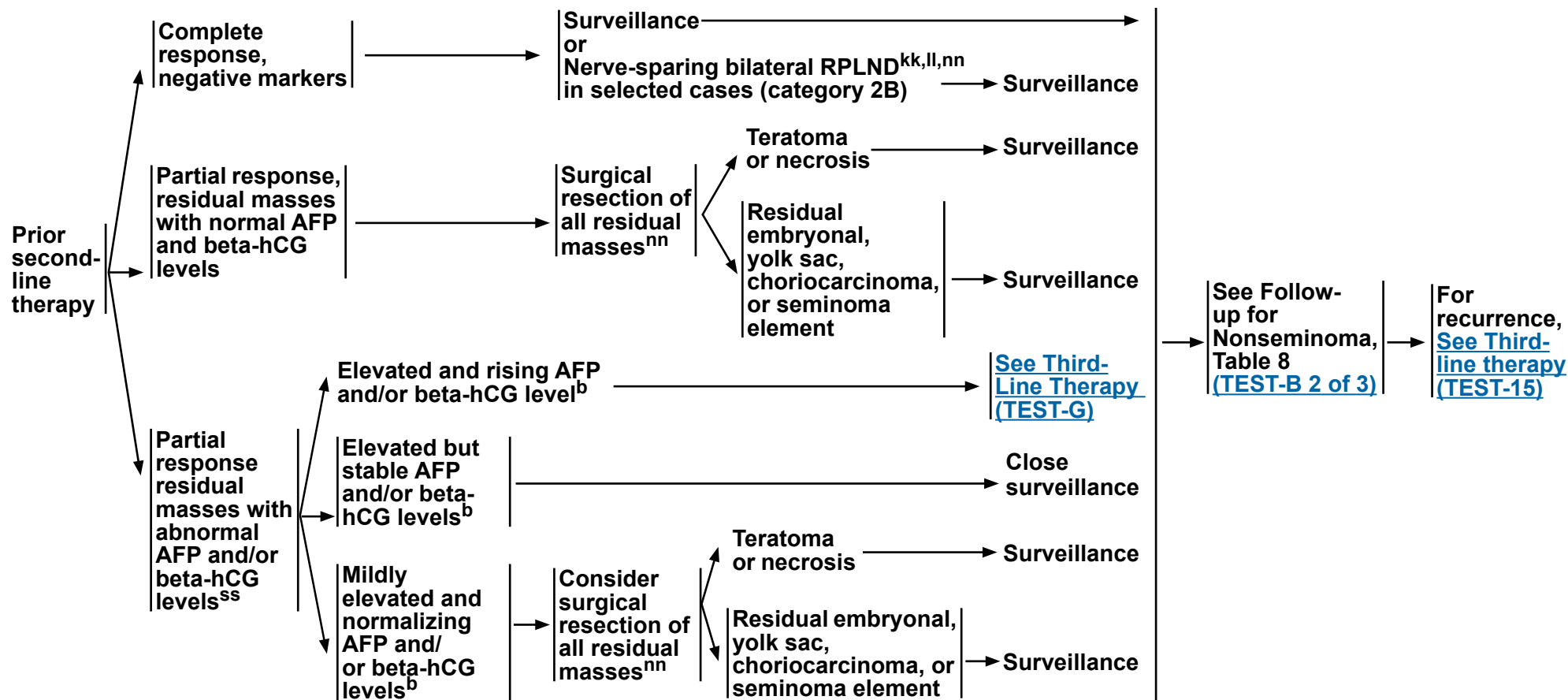
# NCCN Guidelines Version 2.2020

## Testicular Cancer - Nonseminoma

### NCCN Evidence Blocks™

#### RECURRENCE<sup>uu</sup>

#### POST SECOND-LINE THERAPY<sup>pp,vv</sup>



<sup>b</sup> Mildly elevated, non-rising AFP levels may not indicate presence of germ cell tumor. Decisions to treat should not be based on AFP values <20 ng/mL. Further workup should be considered before initiating treatment for mildly elevated beta-hCG (generally <20 IU/L) since other factors, including hypogonadism and marijuana use, can cause false-positive results. [See Discussion.](#)

<sup>kk</sup> RPLND is recommended within 4 weeks of CT scan and 7–10 days of marker measurement.

<sup>ll</sup> [See Principles of Surgery for Germ Cell Tumors \(TEST-H\).](#)

<sup>nn</sup> Referral to high-volume centers should be considered for surgical resection of masses post-chemotherapy.

<sup>pp</sup> To assess response after treatment, CT with contrast of chest/abdomen/pelvis and any other sites of disease is recommended.

<sup>ss</sup> Recommend referral to a high-volume center.

<sup>uu</sup> It is preferred that patients with recurrent nonseminoma be treated at centers with expertise in the management of this disease.

<sup>vv</sup> Includes best supportive care and palliative care. [See NCCN Guidelines for Palliative Care.](#)

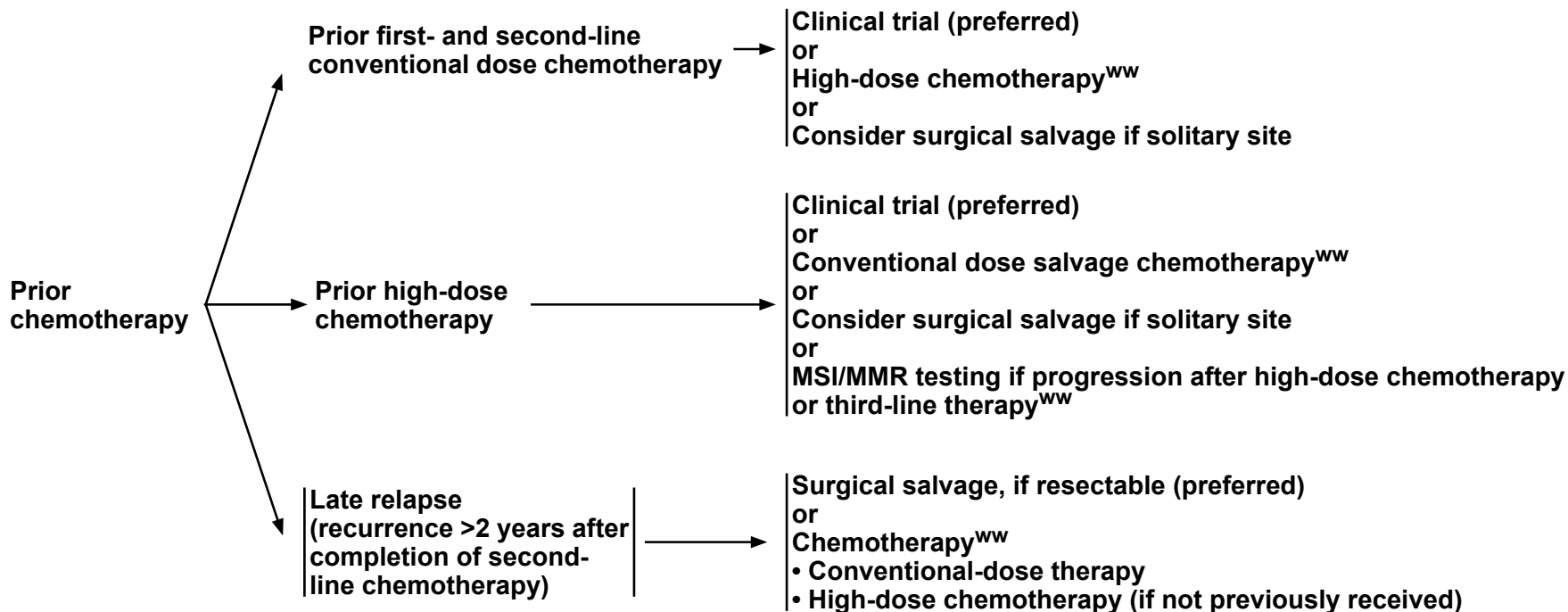
**Note: For more information regarding the categories and definitions used for the NCCN Evidence Blocks™, see page EB-1.**

**All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.**

**Clinical Trials: NCCN believes that the best management of any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.**

**RECURRENCE<sup>uu</sup>**

**THIRD-LINE THERAPY<sup>pp,vv</sup>**



<sup>pp</sup> To assess response after treatment, CT with contrast of chest/abdomen/pelvis and any other sites of disease is recommended.

<sup>uu</sup> It is preferred that patients with recurrent nonseminoma be treated at centers with expertise in the management of this disease.

<sup>vv</sup> Includes best supportive care and palliative care. [See NCCN Guidelines for Palliative Care.](#)

<sup>ww</sup> [See Third-Line Chemotherapy Regimens for Metastatic Germ Cell Tumors \(TEST-G\).](#)

**Note: For more information regarding the categories and definitions used for the NCCN Evidence Blocks™, see page EB-1.**

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#### FOLLOW-UP FOR SEMINOMA

No single follow-up plan is appropriate for all patients. The follow-up for seminoma tables are to provide guidance, and should be modified for the individual patient based on sites of disease, biology of disease, and length of time on treatment *and may be extended beyond 5 years at the discretion of the physician*. Reassessment of disease activity should be performed in patients with new or worsening signs or symptoms of disease, regardless of the time interval from previous studies. Further study is required to define optimal follow-up duration. [See NCCN Guidelines for Survivorship](#).

**Table 1 Clinical Stage I Seminoma: Surveillance After Orchiectomy**

|                                      | Year (at month intervals)   |            |               |                |                |
|--------------------------------------|---|------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                      | 1   | 2          | 3             | 4              | 5 <sup>d</sup> |
| H&P <sup>a,b</sup>                   | Every 3–6 mo  | Every 6 mo | Every 6–12 mo | Annually       | Annually       |
| Abdominal ± Pelvic CT <sup>c,e</sup> | At 3, 6, and 12 mo  | Every 6 mo | Every 6–12 mo | Every 12–24 mo |                |
| Chest x-ray                          | As clinically indicated, consider chest CT with contrast in symptomatic patients. |            |               |                |                |

If Recurrence, treat according to extent of disease at relapse

**Table 2 Clinical Stage I Seminoma: Surveillance After Adjuvant Treatment (Chemotherapy or Radiation)**

|                                      | Year (at month intervals)   |               |          |          |                |
|--------------------------------------|---|---------------|----------|----------|----------------|
|                                      | 1   | 2             | 3        | 4        | 5 <sup>d</sup> |
| H&P <sup>a,b</sup>                   | Every 6–12 mo   | Every 6–12 mo | Annually | Annually | Annually       |
| Abdominal ± Pelvic CT <sup>c,e</sup> | Annually  | Annually      | Annually | —        |                |
| Chest x-ray                          | As clinically indicated, consider chest CT with contrast in symptomatic patients. |               |          |          |                |

If Recurrence, treat according to extent of disease at relapse

<sup>a</sup> Serum tumor markers are optional.

<sup>b</sup> Testicular ultrasound for any equivocal exam.

<sup>c</sup> With or without contrast.

<sup>d</sup> CT is not recommended beyond 5 years unless clinically indicated.

<sup>e</sup> In select circumstances, an MRI can be considered to replace an abdominal/pelvic CT. The MRI protocol should include all the nodes that need to be assessed. The same imaging modality (CT or MRI) should be used throughout surveillance. [See Principles of Imaging \(TEST-I\)](#).

**Note:** For more information regarding the categories and definitions used for the NCCN Evidence Blocks™, see page [EB-1](#).

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**FOLLOW-UP FOR SEMINOMA**

**Table 3 Clinical Stage IIA and Non-Bulky IIB Seminoma: Surveillance After Radiotherapy or Post-Chemotherapy<sup>f</sup>**

|                                      | Year (at month intervals) |            |            |                         |                |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|----------------|
|                                      | 1                         | 2          | 3          | 4                       | 5 <sup>d</sup> |
| H&P <sup>a,b</sup>                   | Every 3 mo                | Every 6 mo | Every 6 mo | Every 6 mo              | Every 6 mo     |
| Abdominal ± Pelvic CT <sup>e,g</sup> | At 3 mo, then at 6–12 mo  | Annually   | Annually   | As clinically indicated |                |
| Chest x-ray <sup>h</sup>             | Every 6 mo                | Every 6 mo | —          |                         |                |

If Recurrence, treat according to extent of disease at relapse

**Table 4 Bulky Clinical Stage IIB, IIC, and Stage III Seminoma: Surveillance Post-Chemotherapy**

|   | Year (at month intervals) |                         |            |            |                         |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|
|   | 1                         | 2                       | 3          | 4          | 5 <sup>d</sup>          |
| H&P and markers <sup>b</sup>                | Every 2 mo                | Every 3 mo              | Every 6 mo | Every 6 mo | Annually                |
| Abdominal/ Pelvic CT <sup>e,g,h,i,j,k</sup> | Every 4 mo                | Every 6 mo              | Annually   | Annually   | As clinically indicated |
| Chest x-ray <sup>h</sup>                    | Every 2 mo <sup>l</sup>   | Every 3 mo <sup>l</sup> | Annually   | Annually   | Annually                |

If Recurrence, [see TEST-13](#).

<sup>a</sup> Serum tumor markers are optional.

<sup>b</sup> Testicular ultrasound for any equivocal exam.

<sup>d</sup> CT is not recommended beyond 5 years unless clinically indicated.

<sup>e</sup> In select circumstances, an MRI can be considered to replace an abdominal/pelvic CT. The MRI protocol should include all the nodes that need to be assessed. The same imaging modality (CT or MRI) should be used throughout surveillance. [See Principles of Imaging \(TEST-1\)](#).

<sup>f</sup> Assuming no residual mass or residual mass <3 cm and normal tumor markers.

<sup>g</sup> With contrast.

<sup>h</sup> Chest x-ray may be used for routine follow-up, but chest CT with contrast is preferred in the presence of thoracic symptoms.

<sup>i</sup> Patients with PET-negative residual mass measuring >3 cm following chemotherapy should undergo an abdominal/pelvic CT scan with contrast every 6 months for the first year then annually for 5 years.

<sup>j</sup> Patients with residual masses may require more frequent imaging based on clinical judgment.

<sup>k</sup> PET/CT scan of skull base to mid-thigh as clinically indicated.

<sup>l</sup> Add chest CT with contrast if supradiaphragmatic disease present at diagnosis.

**Note: For more information regarding the categories and definitions used for the NCCN Evidence Blocks™, see page EB-1.**

**All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.**

**Clinical Trials: NCCN believes that the best management of any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.**

**FOLLOW-UP FOR NONSEMINOMA**

No single follow-up plan is appropriate for all patients. The follow-up for nonseminoma tables are to provide guidance, and should be modified for the individual patient based on sites of disease, biology of disease, and length of time on treatment *and may be extended beyond 5 years at the discretion of the physician*. Reassessment of disease activity should be performed in patients with new or worsening signs or symptoms of disease, regardless of the time interval from previous studies. Further study is required to define optimal follow-up duration.

**Table 5 Clinical Stage I without Risk Factors, NSGCT: Active Surveillance**

|                                      | Year (at month intervals) |            |              |                         |          |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------|--------------|-------------------------|----------|
|                                      | 1                         | 2          | 3            | 4                       | 5        |
| H&P and markers <sup>a</sup>         | Every 2 mo                | Every 3 mo | Every 4–6 mo | Every 6 mo              | Annually |
| Abdominal ± Pelvic CT <sup>b,c</sup> | Every 4–6 mo              | Every 6 mo | Annually     | As clinically indicated |          |
| Chest x-ray <sup>d</sup>             | At mo 4 and 12            | Annually   | Annually     | Annually                | Annually |

If Recurrence, see [TEST-13](#).

**Table 6 Clinical Stage I with Risk Factors, NSGCT: Active Surveillance**

|                                      | Year (at month intervals) |              |              |            |                         |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|-------------------------|
|                                      | 1                         | 2            | 3            | 4          | 5                       |
| H&P and markers <sup>a</sup>         | Every 2 mo                | Every 3 mo   | Every 4–6 mo | Every 6 mo | Annually                |
| Abdominal ± Pelvic CT <sup>b,c</sup> | Every 4 mo                | Every 4–6 mo | Every 6 mo   | Annually   | As clinically indicated |
| Chest x-ray <sup>d</sup>             | Every 4 mo                | Every 4–6 mo | Every 6 mo   | Annually   | As clinically indicated |

If Recurrence, see [TEST-13](#).

<sup>a</sup> Testicular ultrasound for any equivocal exam.

<sup>b</sup> With contrast.

<sup>c</sup> In select circumstances, an MRI can be considered to replace an abdominal/pelvic CT. The MRI protocol should include all the nodes that need to be assessed. The same imaging modality (CT or MRI) should be used throughout surveillance. [See Principles of Imaging \(TEST-1\)](#).

<sup>d</sup> Chest x-ray may be used for routine follow-up, but chest CT with contrast is preferred in the presence of thoracic symptoms.

**Note:** For more information regarding the categories and definitions used for the NCCN Evidence Blocks™, see page [EB-1](#).

All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.

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**FOLLOW-UP FOR NONSEMINOMA**

**Table 7 Clinical Stage IA/B NSGCT: Treated with 1 Cycle of Adjuvant BEP Chemotherapy or Primary RPLND**

|                                      | Year (at month intervals) |                       |            |            |          |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------|------------|----------|
|                                      | 1                         | 2                     | 3          | 4          | 5        |
| H&P and markers <sup>a</sup>         | Every 3 mo                | Every 3 mo            | Every 6 mo | Every 6 mo | Annually |
| Abdominal ± Pelvic CT <sup>b,c</sup> | Annually                  | Annually <sup>e</sup> | —          | —          | —        |
| Chest x-ray <sup>d</sup>             | Every 6–12 mo             | Annually              | —          | —          | —        |

If Recurrence, see [TEST-13](#).

**Table 8 Clinical Stage II–III NSGCT: Surveillance After Complete Response to Chemotherapy ± Post-chemotherapy RPLND<sup>f</sup>**

|  | Year (at month intervals) |               |                       |                                      |            |
|--|---------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|
|  | 1                         | 2             | 3                     | 4                                    | 5          |
| H&P and marker <sup>a</sup>            | Every 2 mo                | Every 3 mo    | Every 6 mo            | Every 6 mo                           | Every 6 mo |
| Abdominal ± Pelvic CT <sup>b,c,g</sup> | Every 6 mo                | Every 6–12 mo | Annually              | As clinically indicated <sup>j</sup> |            |
| Chest x-ray <sup>d,h</sup>             | Every 6 mo                | Every 6 mo    | Annually <sup>i</sup> | Annually <sup>i</sup>                | —          |

If Recurrence, see [TEST-13](#).

<sup>a</sup> Testicular ultrasound for any equivocal exam.

<sup>b</sup> With contrast.

<sup>c</sup> In select circumstances, an MRI can be considered to replace an abdominal/pelvic CT. The MRI protocol should include all the nodes that need to be assessed. The same imaging modality (CT or MRI) should be used throughout surveillance. [See Principles of Imaging \(TEST-1\)](#).

<sup>d</sup> Chest x-ray may be used for routine follow-up, but chest CT with contrast is preferred in the presence of thoracic symptoms.

<sup>f</sup> Patients who have an incomplete response to chemotherapy require more frequent imaging than is listed on this table.

<sup>e</sup> Optional for patients treated with primary RPLND.

<sup>g</sup> Patients with clinical stage II disease treated with chemotherapy who undergo post-chemotherapy RPLND and are found to have pN0 disease or pN1 pure teratoma need only 1 CT scan at postoperative month 3–4 and then as clinically indicated. [See Discussion](#).

<sup>h</sup> Chest CT with contrast if supradiaphragmatic disease at baseline.

<sup>i</sup> Chest x-ray is optional at months 36 and 48.

<sup>j</sup> For patients with unresectable residual masses or resected residual masses containing viable cancer.

**Note:** For more information regarding the categories and definitions used for the NCCN Evidence Blocks™, see page [EB-1](#).

All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.

Clinical Trials: NCCN believes that the best management of any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.



**FOLLOW-UP FOR NONSEMINOMA**

**Table 9 Pathologic Stage IIA/B NSGCT: Post-Primary RPLND and Treated with Adjuvant Chemotherapy**

|  | Year (at month intervals) |                         |          |          |          |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
|  | 1                         | 2                       | 3        | 4        | 5        |
| H&P and markers <sup>a</sup>             | Every 6 mo                | Every 6 mo              | Annually | Annually | Annually |
| Abdominal/<br>Pelvic CT <sup>b,c,k</sup> | 4 mo after RPLND          | As clinically indicated |          |          |          |
| Chest x-ray <sup>d</sup>                 | Every 6 mo                | Annually                | Annually | Annually | Annually |

If Recurrence, see [TEST-13](#).

**Table 10 Pathologic Stage IIA/B NSGCT: Post-Primary RPLND and NOT Treated with Adjuvant Chemotherapy<sup>l</sup>**

|  | Year (at month intervals) |              |                         |            |          |
|--|---------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|------------|----------|
|  | 1                         | 2            | 3                       | 4          | 5        |
| H&P and markers <sup>a</sup>           | Every 2 mo                | Every 3 mo   | Every 4 mo              | Every 6 mo | Annually |
| Abdominal/<br>Pelvic CT <sup>b,c</sup> | At 3–4 mo <sup>m</sup>    | Annually     | As clinically indicated |            |          |
| Chest x-ray <sup>d</sup>               | Every 2–4 mo              | Every 3–6 mo | Annually                | Annually   | Annually |

If Recurrence, see [TEST-13](#).

<sup>a</sup> Testicular ultrasound for any equivocal exam.

<sup>b</sup> With contrast.

<sup>c</sup> In select circumstances, an MRI can be considered to replace an abdominal/pelvic CT. The MRI protocol should include all the nodes that need to be assessed. The same imaging modality (CT or MRI) should be used throughout surveillance. [See Principles of Imaging \(TEST-1\)](#).

<sup>d</sup> Chest x-ray may be used for routine follow-up, but chest CT with contrast is preferred in the presence of thoracic symptoms.

<sup>k</sup> Patients who undergo RPLND and are found to have pN0 disease or pN1 pure teratoma need only 1 CT scan at postoperative month 3–4 and then as clinically indicated. [See Discussion](#).

<sup>l</sup> Patients with clinical stage IIA/IIB nonseminoma who undergo primary RPLND and are found to have pN0 disease (no tumor or teratoma, pathologic stage I) should revert to the surveillance schedule for low-risk NSGCT with the exception that only 1 CT scan is needed postoperatively around month 4 (Table 5).

<sup>m</sup> This schedule assumes a complete resection has taken place.

**Note: For more information regarding the categories and definitions used for the NCCN Evidence Blocks™, see page [EB-1](#).**

**All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.**

**Clinical Trials: NCCN believes that the best management of any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.**

**PRINCIPLES OF RADIOTHERAPY FOR PURE TESTICULAR SEMINOMA****General Principles**

- Modern radiotherapy involves smaller fields and lower doses than were used in the past. References are provided to support current recommended management.
- The mean dose (Dmean) and dose delivered to 50% of the volume (D50%) of the kidneys, liver, and bowel are lower with CT-based anteroposterior-posteroanterior (AP-PA) three-dimensional conformal radiation therapy (3D-CRT) than intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT).<sup>1</sup> As a result, the risk of second cancers arising in the kidneys, liver, or bowel may be lower with 3D-CRT than IMRT, and IMRT is not recommended.<sup>2</sup>
- Timing of Radiotherapy:
  - ▶ Radiotherapy should start once the orchiectomy wound has fully healed.
  - ▶ Patients should be treated 5 days per week.
  - ▶ Patients who miss a fraction should be treated with the same total dose and with the same fraction size, extending the overall treatment time slightly.
- Antiemetic medication significantly improves nausea. [See the NCCN Guidelines for Antiemesis](#). Antiemetic prophylaxis is encouraged at least 2 hours prior to each treatment, and some cases may require more frequent dosing.

**Preparation for Radiotherapy**

- A discussion of semen analysis and sperm banking prior to orchiectomy is recommended in patients who wish to preserve fertility.<sup>3,4</sup>
- If sperm banking is desired, it should be performed prior to imaging and the delivery of adjuvant therapy.

**General Treatment Information****• Treatment Planning Principles**

- ▶ A non-contrast CT simulation should be performed with the patient supine, arms at his sides, in the treatment position.
  - ◊ Immobilization with a cast may be used to improve the reproducibility of patient setup.
  - ◊ All patients, with the exception of those who have undergone bilateral orchiectomy, should be treated with a scrotal shield.

[Stage I \(TEST-C 2 of 5\)](#)  
[Stage IIA, IIB \(TEST-C 3 of 5\)](#)  
[References](#)

**Note:** For more information regarding the categories and definitions used for the NCCN Evidence Blocks™, see page [EB-1](#).

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**PRINCIPLES OF RADIOTHERAPY FOR PURE TESTICULAR SEMINOMA****Stage I**

- **Dose:** For stages IA, IB: Recommended radiation dose regimens are listed in the table below for the minority of patients who prefer adjuvant treatment, realizing that there is a high likelihood of salvage should a relapse occur during surveillance.<sup>5</sup>

Table 1

| Total Dose (Gy) | Dose per Fraction (Gy) | Number of Fractions |
|-----------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 20 (preferred)  | 2.0                    | 10                  |
| 25.5            | 1.5                    | 17                  |
| 19.8            | 1.8                    | 11                  |
| 21.6            | 1.8                    | 12                  |

- **Para-aortic (PA)-Strip Fields<sup>6</sup> - Field Arrangement:**

▶ In patients with no history of pelvic or scrotal surgery, para-aortic strip irradiation may be delivered with opposed AP-PA fields. The weights of the fields may be equal.

- ◊ Recent nodal mapping studies suggest that fields should target the retroperitoneal lymph nodes but not necessarily the ipsilateral renal hilar nodes (see Lateral borders).<sup>7,8</sup>
- ◊ Superior and inferior borders: Borders may be determined by bony anatomy.
- ◊ The superior border should be placed at the bottom of vertebral body T10/T11.<sup>9</sup>
- ◊ The inferior border should be placed at the inferior border of vertebral body L5.<sup>6,10</sup>
- ◊ Lateral borders:
- ◊ Conventionally, PA-strip fields are approximately 10 cm wide, encompassing the tips of the transverse processes of the PA vertebrae.
- ◊ The location of the kidneys within the PA-strip fields varies from patient to patient.
  - For patients whose kidneys are relatively medial, small renal blocks may be added at the level of T12. The right and left kidney D50% should be ≤8 Gy (ie, no more than 50% of each kidney can receive 8 Gy or higher).<sup>1</sup> If only one kidney is present, the kidney D15% should be ≤20 Gy (ie, no more than 15% of the volume of the kidney can receive 20 Gy or higher).<sup>1</sup>
  - An alternative 3D-CRT planning technique is to base the lateral borders on vascular structures on a treatment planning CT scan without contrast. The aorta and inferior vena cava (IVC) may be contoured on the CT scan; one should allow a 1.2- to 1.9-cm margin on the aorta and IVC to include the para-aortic, paracaval, interaortocaval, and preaortic nodes in the clinical target volume.<sup>7,11</sup> The planning target volume is then established by uniformly expanding the clinical target volume by 0.5 cm in all directions to account for treatment setup errors.<sup>12</sup> A uniform 0.7-cm margin should be provided on the planning target volume to the block edge to take beam penumbra into account (Figure 1, see [TEST-C 4 of 5](#)).<sup>1</sup>

**Special Considerations**

- Ipsilateral pelvic surgery (eg, inguinal herniorrhaphy or orchiopexy) may alter the lymphatic drainage of the testis. As a result, irradiation of the ipsilateral iliac and inguinal lymph nodes, including the surgical scar from prior surgery, has been advocated even in stage I patients.<sup>8,13</sup>

[Stage IIA-IIB \(TEST-C 3 of 5\)](#)

**Note:** For more information regarding the categories and definitions used for the NCCN Evidence Blocks™, see page [EB-1](#).

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[References](#)**TEST-C**  
**2 OF 5**

**Stage II****PRINCIPLES OF RADIOTHERAPY FOR PURE TESTICULAR SEMINOMA**

- Patients should not receive primary RT if they have a horseshoe (pelvic) kidney, inflammatory bowel disease, or a history of RT.
- For clinical stage IIA–B patients, treatment is delivered in two consecutive AP-PA phases (modified dog-leg fields and cone down). There is no break between the 2 phases.
- Modified Dog-Leg Fields:

## ▶ Dose:

- ◊ The initial phase consists of treatment of modified dog-leg fields to 20–25.5 Gy (see [Table 1 on TEST-C 2 of 5](#) for dose fractionation options).
- ◊ Boost gross disease to achieve a total dose of approximately:

Table 2: Boost to Gross Disease

| Stage | Total Dose (Gy) | Dose per Fraction (Gy)  |
|-------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| IIA   | 30              | 1.8–2.0 Gy per fraction |
| IIB   | 36              | 1.8–2.0 Gy per fraction |

- ▶ Target: The fields should include the retroperitoneal and proximal ipsilateral iliac lymph nodes.

- ◊ Modified dog-leg fields as described by Classen et al are preferred.<sup>14</sup>
- ◊ Care should be taken to ensure coverage of the ipsilateral common, external, and proximal internal iliac lymph nodes down to the top of the acetabulum.
- ◊ The fields can be set up using bony landmarks or by contouring the vascular structures, as for stage I.
  - The superior border should be placed at the bottom of vertebral body T10/T11.<sup>15</sup>
  - The inferior border should be placed at the top of the acetabulum.<sup>14</sup>
  - The medial border for the lower aspect of the modified dog-leg fields extends from the tip of the contralateral transverse process of the fifth lumbar vertebra toward the medial border of the ipsilateral obturator foramen.
  - The lateral border for the lower aspect of the modified dog-leg fields is defined by a line from the tip of the ipsilateral transverse process of the fifth lumbar vertebra to the superolateral border of the ipsilateral acetabulum.
  - Preferably, one should contour the aorta and IVC from the bottom of the T10/T11 vertebra inferiorly and ipsilateral iliac arteries and veins down to the top of the acetabulum. One should provide a 1.2- to 1.9-cm margin on these vascular structures for the clinical target volume.<sup>7,11</sup> The planning target volume is then established by uniformly expanding the clinical target volume by 0.5 cm in all directions to account for treatment setup errors.<sup>12</sup> A uniform 0.7-cm margin should be provided on the planning target volume to the block edge to take beam penumbra into account (Figure 2, see [TEST-C 4 of 5](#)).<sup>1</sup>
  - It is not necessary to include the ipsilateral inguinal nodes or the inguinal scar in the AP-PA fields unless the patient has a history of ipsilateral pelvic surgery (eg, inguinal herniorrhaphy or orchiopexy).

## • Cone Down:

- ▶ Dose: The second phase (cone down) of the radiotherapy consists of daily 1.8–2 Gy fractions to a cumulative total dose of approximately 30 Gy for stage IIA and 36 Gy for stage IIB.<sup>14</sup>
- ▶ Target: The nodal mass (gross tumor volume) must be contoured. A uniform, 2-cm margin from the gross tumor volume to block edge should be provided for the AP-PA cone down fields. (Figure 3, see [TEST-C 4 of 5](#)).

Note: For more information regarding the categories and definitions used for the NCCN Evidence Blocks™, see page [EB-1](#).

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[Stage I \(TEST-C 2 of 5\)](#)  
[References](#)

TEST-C  
3 OF 5

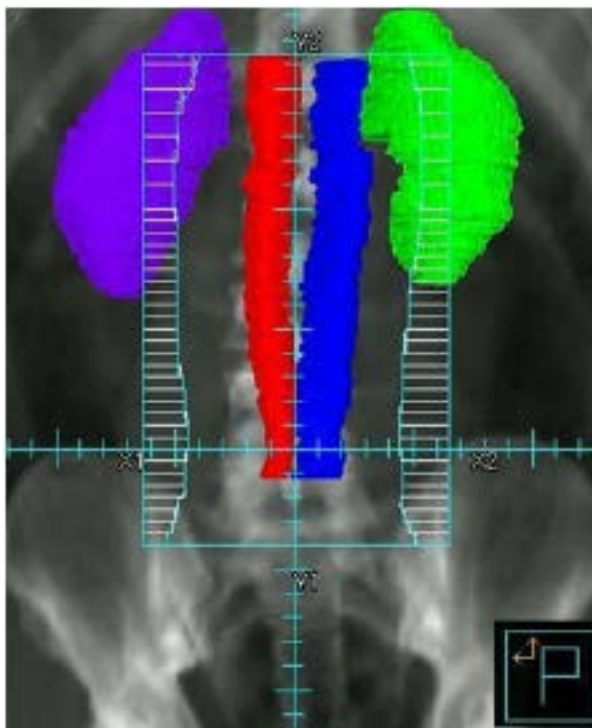
### PRINCIPLES OF RADIOTHERAPY FOR PURE TESTICULAR SEMINOMA

#### Treatment Modalities

- Linear accelerators with >6 MV photons should be used when possible.

#### Target Volumes by Stage (or location)

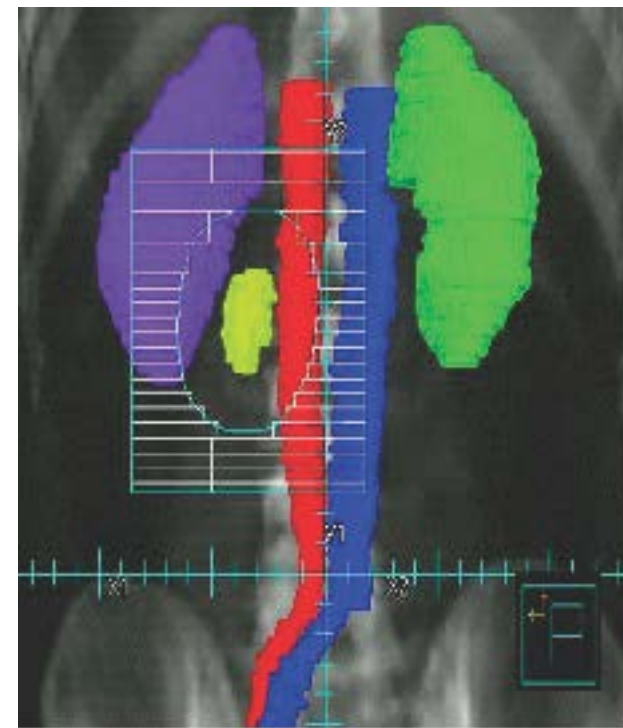
**Figure 1:**  
Stage I RT Field



**Figure 2:**  
Stage II RT Large Field



**Figure 3:**  
Stage II Cone-down Field



[Stage I \(TEST-C 2 of 5\)](#)  
[Stage IIA, IIB \(TEST-C 3 of 5\)](#)  
[References](#)

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**PRINCIPLES OF RADIOTHERAPY FOR PURE TESTICULAR SEMINOMA**  
**REFERENCES**

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- <sup>2</sup> Hall EJ, Wu CS. Radiation-induced second cancers: the impact of 3D-CRT and IMRT. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 2003;56:83-88.
- <sup>3</sup> Ragni G, Somigliana E, Restelli L, et al. Sperm banking and rate of assisted reproduction treatment: insights from a 15-year cryopreservation program for male cancer patients. *Cancer* 2003;97:1624-1629.
- <sup>4</sup> Saito K, Suzuki K, Iwasaki A, et al. Sperm cryopreservation before cancer chemotherapy helps in the emotional battle against cancer. *Cancer* 2005;104:521-524.
- <sup>5</sup> Garmez B, Pagliaro LC. Choosing treatment for stage I seminoma: who should get what? *Oncology (Williston Park)* 2009;23:753-759.
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- <sup>7</sup> Dinniwell R, Chan P, Czarnota G, et al. Pelvic lymph node topography for radiotherapy treatment planning from ferumoxtran-10 contrast-enhanced magnetic resonance imaging. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 2009;74:844-851.
- <sup>8</sup> McMahon CJ, Rofsky NM, Pedrosa I. Lymphatic metastases from pelvic tumors: anatomic classification, characterization, and staging. *Radiology* 2010;254:31-46.
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- <sup>10</sup> Classen J, Schmidberger H, Meisner C, et al. Para-aortic irradiation for stage I testicular seminoma: results of a prospective study in 675 patients. A trial of the German testicular cancer study group (GTCSG). *Br J Cancer* 2004;90:2305-2311.
- <sup>11</sup> Shih HA, Harisinghani M, Zietman AL, et al. Mapping of nodal disease in locally advanced prostate cancer: rethinking the clinical target volume for pelvic nodal irradiation based on vascular rather than bony anatomy. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 2005;63:1262-1269.
- <sup>12</sup> Boujelbene N, Cosinschi A, Khanfir K, et al. Pure seminoma: a review and update. *Radiat Oncol* 2011;6:90.
- <sup>13</sup> Jones WG, Fossa SD, Mead GM, et al. Randomized trial of 30 versus 20 Gy in the adjuvant treatment of stage I Testicular Seminoma: a report on Medical Research Council Trial TE18, European Organisation for the Research and Treatment of Cancer Trial 30942 (ISRCTN18525328). *J Clin Oncol* 2005;23:1200-1208.
- <sup>14</sup> Classen J, Schmidberger H, Meisner C, et al. Radiotherapy for stages IIA/B testicular seminoma: final report of a prospective multicenter clinical trial. *J Clin Oncol* 2003;21:1101-1106.
- <sup>15</sup> Paly JJ, Efsthathiou JA, Hedgire SS, et al. Mapping patterns of nodal metastases in seminoma: rethinking radiotherapy fields. *Radiother Oncol* 2013;106:64-68.

**Note:** For more information regarding the categories and definitions used for the NCCN Evidence Blocks™, see page [EB-1](#).

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**RISK CLASSIFICATION FOR ADVANCED DISEASE**  
(post-orchietomy)<sup>a</sup>

| <b>Risk Status</b>       | <b>Nonseminoma</b>  | <b>Seminoma</b>   |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Good Risk</b>         | Testicular or retroperitoneal primary tumor <sup>b</sup><br>and<br>No nonpulmonary visceral metastases<br>and<br><u>Post-orchietomy markers- all of:</u><br>AFP < 1,000 ng/mL<br>hCG < 5,000 iu/L<br>LDH < 1.5 x upper limit of normal            | Any primary site<br>and<br>No nonpulmonary visceral metastases<br>and<br>Normal AFP<br>Any hCG<br>Any LDH |
| <b>Intermediate Risk</b> | Testicular or retroperitoneal primary tumor <sup>b</sup><br>and<br>No nonpulmonary visceral metastases<br>and<br><u>Post-orchietomy markers- any of:</u><br>AFP 1,000–10,000 ng/mL<br>hCG 5,000–50,000 iu/L<br>LDH 1.5–10 x upper limit of normal | Any primary site<br>and<br>Nonpulmonary visceral metastases<br>and<br>Normal AFP<br>Any hCG<br>Any LDH    |
| <b>Poor Risk</b>         | Mediastinal primary tumor <sup>b</sup><br>or<br>Nonpulmonary visceral metastases<br>or<br><u>Post-orchietomy markers- any of:</u><br>AFP > 10,000 ng/mL<br>hCG > 50,000 iu/L<br>LDH > 10 x upper limit of normal                                  | No patients classified as poor prognosis  |

Source: Figure 4 from the International Germ Cell Cancer Collaborative Group: International Germ Cell Consensus Classification: A Prognostic Factor-Based Staging System for Metastatic Germ Cell Cancers. *J Clin Oncol* 1997;15(2):594-603. Reprinted with permission of the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

<sup>a</sup> Markers used for risk classification are post-orchietomy.

<sup>b</sup> Referral to a high-volume center is recommended for patients with extragonadal germ cell tumors. [See Discussion](#).

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**PRIMARY CHEMOTHERAPY REGIMENS FOR GERM CELL TUMORS****Preferred Regimens****• BEP****Etoposide 100 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV on Days 1–5****Cisplatin 20 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV on Days 1–5****Bleomycin 30 units IV weekly on Days 1, 8, and 15 or Days 2, 9, and 16****Repeat every 21 days<sup>1</sup>****• EP****(Option only for good-risk patients [\[see TEST-D\]](#), patients with pathologic stage II disease, and patients with viable germ cell tumor at surgery following first-line chemotherapy)****Etoposide 100 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV on Days 1–5****Cisplatin 20 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV on Days 1–5****Repeat every 21 days<sup>2</sup>****Other Recommended Regimens****• VIP<sup>3</sup>****(Option only for intermediate or poor-risk patients or patients with viable germ cell tumor at surgery following first-line chemotherapy****[\[See TEST-5 and TEST-11\]](#))****Etoposide 75 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV on Days 1–5****Ifosfamide 1200 mg/m<sup>2</sup> on Days 1–5 with mesna protection****Cisplatin 20 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV on Days 1–5****Repeat every 21 days<sup>4</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Saxman SB, Finch D, Gonin R, Einhorn LH. Long-term follow-up of a phase III study of three versus four cycles of bleomycin, etoposide, and cisplatin in favorable-prognosis germ-cell tumors: The Indiana University Experience. J Clin Oncol 1998;16:702-706.

<sup>2</sup> Xiao H, Mazumdar M, Bajorin DF, et al. Long-term follow-up of patients with good-risk germ cell tumors treated with etoposide and cisplatin. J Clin Oncol 1997;15:2553-2558.

<sup>3</sup> VIP: This regimen is high risk for febrile neutropenia and granulocyte colony-stimulating factors (G-CSFs) should be used ([\[See NCCN Guidelines for Hematopoietic Growth Factors\]](#)).

<sup>4</sup> Nichols CR, Catalano PJ, Crawford ED, et al. Randomized comparison of cisplatin and etoposide and either bleomycin or ifosfamide in treatment of advanced disseminated germ cell tumors: An Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group, Southwest Oncology Group, and Cancer and Leukemia Group B Study. J Clin Oncol 1998;16:1287-1293.

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**SECOND-LINE CHEMOTHERAPY REGIMENS FOR METASTATIC GERM CELL TUMORS****Conventional-Dose Chemotherapy Regimens****Preferred Regimens**

- **TIP<sup>1</sup>**  
**Paclitaxel 250 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV on Day 1**  
**Ifosfamide 1500 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV on Days 2–5 with mesna protection**  
**Cisplatin 25 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV on Days 2–5**  
**Repeat every 21 days<sup>2</sup>**
- **VeIP<sup>1</sup>**  
**Vinblastine 0.11 mg/kg IV Push on Days 1–2**  
**Ifosfamide 1200 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV on Days 1–5 with mesna protection**  
**Cisplatin 20 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV on Days 1–5**  
**Repeat every 21 days<sup>3</sup>**

**High-Dose Chemotherapy Regimens****Preferred Regimens**

- **Carboplatin/etoposide**  
**Carboplatin 700 mg/m<sup>2</sup> (body surface area) IV**  
**Etoposide 750 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV**  
**Administer 5, 4, and 3 days before peripheral blood stem cell infusion for 2 cycles<sup>4</sup>**
- **Paclitaxel/ifosfamide/carboplatin/etoposide**  
**Paclitaxel 200 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV over 24 hours on Day 1**  
**Ifosfamide 2000 mg/m<sup>2</sup> over 4 hours with mesna protection on Days 2–4**  
**Repeat every 14 days for 2 cycles followed by**  
**Carboplatin AUC 7–8 IV over 60 minutes on Days 1–3**  
**Etoposide 400 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV on Days 1–3**  
**Administer with peripheral blood stem cell support at 14- to 21-day intervals for 3 cycles<sup>5</sup>**

[See Evidence Blocks on TEST-F \(EB-1\)](#)

<sup>1</sup> TIP, VeIP: These regimens are high risk for febrile neutropenia and G-CSFs should be used ([See NCCN Guidelines for Hematopoietic Growth Factors](#)).

<sup>2</sup> Kondagunta GV, Bacik J, Donadio A, et al. Combination of paclitaxel, ifosfamide, and cisplatin is an effective second-line therapy for patients with relapsed testicular germ cell tumors. *J Clin Oncol* 2005;23:6549-6555.

<sup>3</sup> Loehrer PJ Sr, Lauer R, Roth BJ, et al. Salvage therapy in recurrent germ cell cancer: ifosfamide and cisplatin plus either vinblastine or etoposide. *Ann Intern Med* 1988;109:540-546

<sup>4</sup> Einhorn LH, Williams SD, Chamness A, et al. High-dose chemotherapy and stem-cell rescue for metastatic germ-cell tumors. *N Engl J Med* 2007;357:340-348.

<sup>5</sup> Feldman DR, Sheinfeld J, Bajorin DF et al. TI-CE high-dose chemotherapy for patients with previously treated germ cell tumors: results and prognostic factor analysis. *J Clin Oncol* 2010;28:1706-1713.

**Note: For more information regarding the categories and definitions used for the NCCN Evidence Blocks™, see page [EB-1](#).**

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|   |   |   |   |   |                                    |
|---|---|---|---|---|------------------------------------|
| 5 |   |   |   |   | E = Efficacy of Regimen/Agent      |
| 4 |   |   |   |   | S = Safety of Regimen/Agent        |
| 3 |   |   |   |   | Q = Quality of Evidence            |
| 2 |   |   |   |   | C = Consistency of Evidence        |
| 1 |   |   |   |   | A = Affordability of Regimen/Agent |
|   | E | S | Q | C | A                                  |

**SECOND-LINE CHEMOTHERAPY MANAGEMENT**

| <b>Conventional- and High-Dose Chemotherapy</b>   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| <b>Preferred regimens</b>   |                                    |
|   | <b>Metastatic Germ Cell Tumors</b> |
| <b>Conventional dose: Paclitaxel/Ifosfamide/Mesna/Cisplatin</b>   |                                    |
| <b>Conventional dose: Vinblastine/Mesna/Ifosfamide/Cisplatin</b>  |                                    |
| <b>High-dose regimen: Carboplatin/Etoposide (2 cycles) with stem cell support</b>   |                                    |
| <b>High-dose regimen: TI-CE regimen [Paclitaxel/Ifosfamide with Mesna] (2 cycles) followed by Carboplatin/Etoposide (3 cycles) with stem cell support</b> |                                    |

**Note:** For more information regarding the categories and definitions used for the NCCN Evidence Blocks™, see page [EB-1](#).

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**THIRD-LINE CHEMOTHERAPY REGIMENS FOR METASTATIC GERM CELL TUMORS<sup>a</sup>**  
**High-Dose Chemotherapy NOT Previously Received****Preferred Regimens (High-Dose Chemotherapy)**

- **Carboplatin/etoposide**  
Carboplatin 700 mg/m<sup>2</sup> (body surface area) IV  
Etoposide 750 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV  
Administered 5, 4, and 3 days before peripheral blood stem cell infusion for 2 cycles<sup>1</sup>
- **Paclitaxel/ifosfamide/carboplatin/etoposide**  
Paclitaxel 200 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV over 24 hours on Day 1  
Ifosfamide 2000 mg/m<sup>2</sup> over 4 hours with mesna protection on Days 2–4  
Repeat every 14 days for 2 cycles followed by  
Carboplatin AUC 7–8 IV over 60 minutes on Days 1–3  
Etoposide 400 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV on Days 1–3  
Administered with peripheral blood stem cell support at 14- to 21-day intervals for 3 cycles<sup>2</sup>

**Other Recommended Regimens**

- **Gemcitabine/paclitaxel/oxaliplatin<sup>3</sup>**  
Gemcitabine 800 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV over 30 minutes on Days 1 and 8  
Paclitaxel 80 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV over 60 minutes on Days 1 and 8  
Oxaliplatin 130 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV over 2 hours on Day 1  
Administered on a 21-day cycle for 8 cycles
- **Gemcitabine/oxaliplatin<sup>4-6</sup>**  
Gemcitabine 1000–1250 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV over 30 minutes on Days 1 and 8  
followed by  
Oxaliplatin 130 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV over 2 hours on Day 1  
Administered on a 21-day cycle until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity
- **Gemcitabine/paclitaxel<sup>7,8</sup>**  
Gemcitabine 1000 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV over 30 minutes on Days 1, 8, and 15  
Paclitaxel 100 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV over 60 minutes on Days 1, 8, and 15  
Administered on a 28-day cycle for 6 cycles
- **Etoposide (oral)<sup>9</sup>**  
Etoposide 50–100 mg PO daily on Days 1–21  
Administered on a 28-day cycle until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity

**Useful in Certain Circumstances**

- **Pembrolizumab (for MSI-H/dMMR tumors)<sup>10,11</sup>**  
Pembrolizumab 200 mg IV over 30 minutes on Day 1  
Administered on a 21-day cycle until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity

[See Evidence Blocks on TEST-G \(EB-1\)](#)<sup>a</sup> If VeIP or TIP received as second-line therapy, high-dose chemotherapy is the preferred third-line option.**Note: For more information regarding the categories and definitions used for the NCCN Evidence Blocks™, see page [EB-1](#).**

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|   |   |   |   |   |                                    |
|---|---|---|---|---|------------------------------------|
| 5 |   |   |   |   | E = Efficacy of Regimen/Agent      |
| 4 |   |   |   |   | S = Safety of Regimen/Agent        |
| 3 |   |   |   |   | Q = Quality of Evidence            |
| 2 |   |   |   |   | C = Consistency of Evidence        |
| 1 |   |   |   |   | A = Affordability of Regimen/Agent |
|   | E | S | Q | C | A                                  |

**THIRD-LINE CHEMOTHERAPY REGIMENS FOR METASTATIC GERM CELL TUMORS**

| High-Dose Chemotherapy NOT Previously Received   |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Preferred regimens   |                             |
|  | Metastatic Germ Cell Tumors |
| High-dose regimen: Carboplatin/Etoposide (2 cycles) with stem cell support   |                             |
| High-dose regimen: TI-CE regimen [Paclitaxel/Ifosfamide with Mesna] (2 cycles) followed by Carboplatin/Etoposide (3 cycles) with stem cell support |                             |
| Other recommended regimens   |                             |
| Gemcitabine/Paclitaxel/Oxaliplatin   |                             |
| Gemcitabine/Oxaliplatin  |                             |
| Gemcitabine/Paclitaxel   |                             |
| Etoposide (Oral)   |                             |
| Useful in certain circumstances  |                             |
| Pembrolizumab (for MSI-H/dMMR tumors)  |                             |

| High-Dose Chemotherapy Previously Received |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Preferred regimens                         |                             |
|  | Metastatic Germ Cell Tumors |
| Gemcitabine/Paclitaxel/Oxaliplatin         |                             |
| Gemcitabine/Oxaliplatin                    |                             |
| Gemcitabine/Paclitaxel                     |                             |
| Etoposide (Oral)                           |                             |
| Useful in certain circumstances            |                             |
| Pembrolizumab (for MSI-H/dMMR tumors)      |                             |

Note: For more information regarding the categories and definitions used for the NCCN Evidence Blocks™, see page [EB-1](#).

All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.

Clinical Trials: NCCN believes that the best management of any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.



**THIRD-LINE CHEMOTHERAPY REGIMENS FOR METASTATIC GERM CELL TUMORS<sup>a</sup>**  
**High-Dose Chemotherapy Previously Received**

**Preferred Regimens**

- **Gemcitabine/paclitaxel/oxaliplatin<sup>3</sup>**  
Gemcitabine 800 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV over 30 minutes on Days 1 and 8  
Paclitaxel 80 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV over 60 minutes on Days 1 and 8  
Oxaliplatin 130 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV over 2 hours on Day 1  
Administered on a 21-day cycle for 8 cycles
- **Gemcitabine/oxaliplatin<sup>4-6</sup>**  
Gemcitabine 1000–1250 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV over 30 minutes on Days 1 and 8  
followed by  
Oxaliplatin 130 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV over 2 hours on Day 1  
Administered on a 21-day cycle until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity
- **Gemcitabine/paclitaxel<sup>7,8</sup>**  
Gemcitabine 1000 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV over 30 minutes on Days 1, 8, and 15  
Paclitaxel 100 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV over 60 minutes on Days 1, 8, and 15  
Administered on a 28-day cycle for 6 cycles
- **Etoposide (oral)<sup>9</sup>**  
Etoposide 50–100 mg PO daily on Days 1–21  
Administered on a 28-day cycle until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity

**Useful in Certain Circumstances**

- **Pembrolizumab (for MSI-H/dMMR tumors)<sup>10,11</sup>**  
Pembrolizumab 200 mg IV over 30 minutes on Day 1  
Administered on a 21-day cycle until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity

<sup>a</sup> If VeIP or TIP received as second-line therapy, high-dose chemotherapy is the preferred third-line option.

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**THIRD-LINE CHEMOTHERAPY REGIMENS FOR METASTATIC GERM CELL TUMORS**  
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**Note:** For more information regarding the categories and definitions used for the NCCN Evidence Blocks™, see page [EB-1](#).

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## PRINCIPLES OF SURGERY FOR GERM CELL TUMORS

- **RPLND is the standard approach to the surgical management of NSGCTs in both the primary and post-chemotherapy setting. Referral to high-volume centers with experience in performing RPLNDs should be considered.**
- **A template dissection or a nerve-sparing approach to minimize the risk of ejaculatory disorders should be considered in patients undergoing primary RPLND for stage I nonseminoma.**
- **The “split and roll” technique in which lumbar vessels are identified and sequentially ligated allows resection of all lymphatic tissue around and behind the great vessels (ie, aorta, IVC) and minimizes the risk of an in-field recurrence.**

### Post-Chemotherapy Setting

- **Referral to high-volume centers should be considered for surgical resection of masses post-chemotherapy.**
- **Completeness of resection is a consistent independent predictor of clinical outcome. In post-chemotherapy RPLND, surgical margins should not be compromised in an attempt to preserve ejaculation. Additional procedures and resection of adjacent structures may be required.**
- **Post-chemotherapy RPLND is indicated in patients with metastatic NSGCT with a residual retroperitoneal mass following systemic chemotherapy and normalized post-chemotherapy serum tumor markers.**
- **A full bilateral template RPLND should be performed in all patients undergoing RPLND in the post-chemotherapy setting, with the boundaries of dissection being the renal hilar vessels (superiorly), ureters (laterally), and the common iliac arteries (inferiorly).**
- **Limited data suggest increased frequency of aberrant recurrences with the use of minimally invasive laparoscopic or robotic approaches to RPLND. Therefore, minimally invasive RPLND is not recommended as standard management at this time.<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Calaway AC, Einhorn LH, Masterson TA, et al. Adverse surgical outcomes associated with robotic retroperitoneal lymph node dissection among patients with testicular cancer. Eur Urol 2019 June 4 [Epub ahead of print].

**Note: For more information regarding the categories and definitions used for the NCCN Evidence Blocks™, see page [EB-1](#).**

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**PRINCIPLES OF IMAGING****Staging****Pure Seminoma and Nonseminoma**

- Abdominal/pelvic CT scan with contrast and chest x-ray or CT scan is recommended within 4 weeks prior to the initiation of chemotherapy to confirm staging, even if scan was performed previously. ([TEST-3](#), [TEST-7](#))
  - ▶ Chest CT should be performed if abdominal/pelvic CT or chest x-ray is abnormal.

**Treatment Response Assessment****Pure Seminoma**

- Consider PET/CT scan (skull base to mid-thigh) for a residual mass >3 cm post primary chemotherapy. ([TEST-5](#))
- PET/CT scan should be performed at least 6 weeks following completion of chemotherapy.
  - ▶ A negative PET/CT following chemotherapy is very reassuring. If PET/CT scan is positive, resection or interventional radiology-guided biopsy should be considered. An alternative is to wait an additional 8–12 weeks and repeat PET/CT scan to assess for changes. If the mass is persistently FDG-avid on PET, then resection or biopsy is recommended.

**Surveillance****Pure Seminoma and Nonseminoma ([TEST-A](#) and [TEST-B](#))**

- MRI with contrast can be considered in select circumstances in place of an abdominal/pelvic CT.
  - ▶ MRI protocol should include visualization of retroperitoneal and pelvic nodes.
- Use the same imaging modality (CT or MRI) throughout surveillance.
- In stage I seminoma and nonseminoma, chest x-rays should be obtained when abdominal/pelvic CT scans are performed. Additional chest imaging is not indicated under normal circumstances. In a retrospective review of nearly 560 patients, 76 patients relapsed with only four patients having disease in the chest, one of whom had an abnormal chest x-ray (but also in the setting of an elevated AFP).<sup>1</sup> Similar data from Daugaard et al showed no role for chest x-ray in detecting relapse.<sup>2</sup> Other series have also called into question the value of chest x-rays in this and other surveillance settings for germ cell tumors.<sup>3,4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> De La Pena H, Sharma A, Glicksman C, et al. No longer any role for routine follow-up chest x-rays in men with stage I germ cell cancer. *Eur J Cancer* 2017;84:354-359.

<sup>2</sup> Daugaard G, Gundgaard MG, Mortensen MS, et al. Surveillance for stage I nonseminoma testicular cancer: outcomes and long-term follow-up in a population-based cohort. *J Clin Oncol* 2014;32:3817-3823.

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<sup>4</sup> Gietema JA, Meinardi MT, Sleijfer DT, et al. Routine chest X-rays have no additional value in the detection of relapse during routine follow-up of patients treated with chemotherapy for disseminated non-seminomatous testicular cancer. *Ann Oncol* 2002;13:1616-1620.

**Note:** For more information regarding the categories and definitions used for the NCCN Evidence Blocks™, see page [EB-1](#).

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**American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC)**  
**TNM Staging Classification for Testis Cancer 8th ed., 2017****Table 1. Definitions for T, N, M****Clinical T Primary Tumor**

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| <b>cTX</b>  | Primary tumor cannot be assessed                                  |
| <b>cT0</b>  | No evidence of primary tumor                                      |
| <b>cTis</b> | Germ cell neoplasia <i>in situ</i>                                |
| <b>cT4</b>  | Tumor invades scrotum with or without vascular/lymphatic invasion |

**Note: Except for Tis confirmed by biopsy and T4, the extent of the primary tumor is classified by radical orchiectomy. TX may be used for other categories for clinical staging.**

**Pathological T Primary Tumor**

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| <b>pTX</b>  | Primary tumor cannot be assessed  |
| <b>pT0</b>  | No evidence of primary tumor  |
| <b>pTis</b> | Germ cell neoplasia <i>in situ</i>  |
| <b>pT1</b>  | Tumor limited to testis (including rete testis invasion) without lymphovascular invasion  |
| pT1a*       | Tumor smaller than 3 cm in size   |
| pT1b*       | Tumor 3 cm or larger in size  |
| <b>pT2</b>  | Tumor limited to testis (including rete testis invasion) with lymphovascular invasion<br>OR<br>Tumor invading hilar soft tissue or epididymis or penetrating visceral mesothelial layer covering the external surface of tunica albuginea with or without lymphovascular invasion |
| <b>pT3</b>  | Tumor directly invades spermatic cord soft tissue with or without lymphovascular invasion   |
| <b>pT4</b>  | Tumor invades scrotum with or without lymphovascular invasion   |

\*Subclassification of pT1 applies to only pure seminoma.

[Continued](#)

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**American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC)**  
**TNM Staging Classification for Testis Cancer 8th ed., 2017****Table 1 (continued)**

| <b>Clinical N</b>     | <b>Regional Lymph Nodes</b>   | <b>M</b>  | <b>Distant Metastasis</b>   |
|-----------------------|---|-----------|---|
| <b>cNX</b>            | Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed   | <b>M0</b> | No distant metastases   |
| <b>cN0</b>            | No regional lymph node metastasis   | <b>M1</b> | Distant metastases  |
| <b>cN1</b>            | Metastasis with a lymph node mass 2 cm or smaller in greatest dimension<br>OR<br>Multiple lymph nodes, none larger than 2 cm in greatest dimension  | M1a       | Non-retroperitoneal nodal or pulmonary metastases                           |
|                       |   | M1b       | Non-pulmonary visceral metastases   |
| <b>cN2</b>            | Metastasis with a lymph node mass larger than 2 cm but not larger than 5 cm in greatest dimension<br>OR<br>Multiple lymph nodes, any one mass larger than 2 cm but not larger than 5 cm in greatest dimension | <b>S</b>  | <b>Serum Markers</b>  |
| <b>cN3</b>            | Metastasis with a lymph node mass larger than 5 cm in greatest dimension  | <b>SX</b> | Marker studies not available or not performed                               |
|                       |   | <b>S0</b> | Marker study levels within normal limits                                    |
|                       |   | <b>S1</b> | LDH <1.5 x N* and hCG (mIU/mL) <5,000<br>and AFP (ng/mL) <1,000             |
|                       |   | <b>S2</b> | LDH 1.5–10 x N* or hCG (mIU/mL) 5,000–50,000<br>or AFP (ng/mL) 1,000–10,000 |
|                       |   | <b>S3</b> | LDH >10 x N* or hCG (mIU/mL) >50,000<br>or AFP (ng/mL) >10,000              |
| <b>Pathological N</b> | <b>Regional Lymph Nodes</b>   |           |   |
| <b>pNX</b>            | Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed   |           |   |
| <b>pN0</b>            | No regional lymph node metastasis   |           |   |
| <b>pN1</b>            | Metastasis with a lymph node mass 2 cm or smaller in greatest dimension and less than or equal to five nodes positive, none larger than 2 cm in greatest dimension  |           |   |
| <b>pN2</b>            | Metastasis with a lymph node mass larger than 2 cm but not larger than 5 cm in greatest dimension; or more than five nodes positive, none larger than 5 cm; or evidence of extranodal extension of tumor      |           |   |
| <b>pN3</b>            | Metastasis with a lymph node mass larger than 5 cm in greatest dimension  |           |   |

[Continued](#)

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\* N indicates the upper limit of normal for the LDH assay.

**American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC)**  
**TNM Staging Classification for Testis Cancer 8th ed., 2017****Table 2. AJCC Prognostic Stage Groups**

|                   | <b>T</b>  | <b>N</b> | <b>M</b> | <b>S</b> |
|-------------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>Stage 0</b>    | pTis      | N0       | M0       | S0       |
| <b>Stage I</b>    | pT1-T4    | N0       | M0       | SX       |
| <b>Stage IA</b>   | pT1       | N0       | M0       | S0       |
| <b>Stage IB</b>   | pT2       | N0       | M0       | S0       |
|                   | pT3       | N0       | M0       | S0       |
|                   | pT4       | N0       | M0       | S0       |
| <b>Stage IS</b>   | Any pT/TX | N0       | M0       | S1-3     |
| <b>Stage II</b>   | Any pT/TX | N1-3     | M0       | SX       |
| <b>Stage IIA</b>  | Any pT/TX | N1       | M0       | S0       |
|                   | Any pT/TX | N1       | M0       | S1       |
| <b>Stage IIB</b>  | Any pT/TX | N2       | M0       | S0       |
|                   | Any pT/TX | N2       | M0       | S1       |
| <b>Stage IIC</b>  | Any pT/TX | N3       | M0       | S0       |
|                   | Any pT/TX | N3       | M0       | S1       |
| <b>Stage III</b>  | Any pT/TX | Any N    | M1       | SX       |
| <b>Stage IIIA</b> | Any pT/TX | Any N    | M1a      | S0       |
|                   | Any pT/TX | Any N    | M1a      | S1       |
| <b>Stage IIIB</b> | Any pT/TX | N1-3     | M0       | S2       |
|                   | Any pT/TX | Any N    | M1a      | S2       |
| <b>Stage IIIC</b> | Any pT/TX | N1-3     | M0       | S3       |
|                   | Any pT/TX | Any N    | M1a      | S3       |
|                   | Any pT/TX | Any N    | M1b      | Any S    |

**Histologic Grade (G)**

- Germ cell tumors are not graded

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| NCCN Categories of Evidence and Consensus |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Category 1</b>                         | Based upon high-level evidence, there is uniform NCCN consensus that the intervention is appropriate.    |
| <b>Category 2A</b>                        | Based upon lower-level evidence, there is uniform NCCN consensus that the intervention is appropriate.   |
| <b>Category 2B</b>                        | Based upon lower-level evidence, there is NCCN consensus that the intervention is appropriate.           |
| <b>Category 3</b>                         | Based upon any level of evidence, there is major NCCN disagreement that the intervention is appropriate. |

All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.

| NCCN Categories of Preference          |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Preferred intervention</b>          | Interventions that are based on superior efficacy, safety, and evidence; and, when appropriate, affordability.  |
| <b>Other recommended intervention</b>  | Other interventions that may be somewhat less efficacious, more toxic, or based on less mature data; or significantly less affordable for similar outcomes. |
| <b>Useful in certain circumstances</b> | Other interventions that may be used for selected patient populations (defined with recommendation).  |

All recommendations are considered appropriate.

**Note:** For more information regarding the categories and definitions used for the NCCN Evidence Blocks™, see page [EB-1](#).

All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.

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# NCCN Guidelines Version 2.2020 Testicular Cancer

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## Discussion

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### Overview

Testicular cancer is relatively uncommon and accounts for <1% of all male tumors.<sup>1</sup> However, it is the most common solid tumor in men between the ages of 20 and 34 years, and the global incidence has been steadily rising over the past several decades.<sup>1-7</sup> An estimated 9560 new cases of testicular cancer will be diagnosed in the United States in 2019 resulting in about 410 deaths, which reflects the excellent 5-year survival rate for this disease (~95%).<sup>1,8</sup> Several risk factors for testicular cancer have been identified, including personal or family history of testicular cancer and cryptorchidism.<sup>2,9,10</sup>

Testicular germ cell tumors (GCTs) comprise 95% of malignant tumors arising in the testes and are categorized into two main histologic subtypes: seminoma and nonseminoma.<sup>2,11,12</sup> Nonseminomas are less common, but are more aggressive and often include multiple cell types. When both seminoma and elements of nonseminoma are present, management follows that of a nonseminoma. The four types of nonseminomas are embryonal carcinoma, choriocarcinoma, yolk sac tumor, and teratoma.<sup>11</sup> Most nonseminomas are mixed tumors of these four subtypes. Teratomas are sometimes classified as either mature or immature, but this distinction is of no known significance in adult men and does not affect management in these patients. Rarely, a teratoma may contain elements of a somatic cancer, such as a sarcoma or adenocarcinoma, and is then referred to as a teratoma with somatic type malignancy. Teratomas with somatic transformation are managed somewhat differently from other GCTs.

Rarely, GCTs may originate in extragonadal sites (usually the retroperitoneum or mediastinum). Patients with an extragonadal primary site are managed similarly to patients with testicular GCTs regarding systemic therapies and management of residual masses.<sup>13</sup> However, due to their rarity, the NCCN Panel recommends that patients with

extragonadal GCTs be referred to high-volume centers with experience in managing these tumors.

The serum tumor markers alpha-fetoprotein (AFP) and beta-human chorionic gonadotropin (beta-hCG) are critical in determining prognosis, and assessing treatment outcomes in patients with testicular GCTs. Levels of these serum tumor markers should be determined before and after treatment and throughout the follow-up period. Marker levels are very useful for monitoring all stages of nonseminomas and are also useful in monitoring stage II and III seminomas, because elevated marker levels may be an early sign of relapse. In addition, lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) is important for determining prognosis and is used to help risk-stratify patients starting first-line chemotherapy for disseminated nonseminomatous tumors.<sup>14</sup> LDH should not be used to risk stratify patients with pure seminoma. Although serum LDH concentrations are elevated in about half of men with advanced testicular cancer, LDH is a less specific marker for testicular cancer compared to AFP and beta-hCG. Therefore, decisions regarding treatment should not be made based on mildly elevated (<3 x upper limit of normal [ULN]) LDH alone.

Beta-hCG is the most commonly elevated serum tumor marker in testicular cancer. Elevated serum concentrations of beta-hCG may be present with both seminomatous and nonseminomatous tumors. However, in seminoma patients with beta-hCG levels >1000 IU/L, consider the possibility of nonseminoma and re-review the surgical specimen with pathology. Discussion with a high-volume center experienced in the management of these patients should also be considered. Additionally, patients with post-orchietomy beta-hCG levels >5000 IU/L should receive a brain MRI since they are at an increased risk of having brain metastases. Further workup should be considered before initiating treatment for mildly elevated beta-hCG (generally <20 IU/L), since other factors such as hypogonadism, hyperthyroidism, and marijuana use can cause elevations of beta-hCG.<sup>15-17</sup> Intramuscular injection of 300 mg of



testosterone cypionate may be administered in cases of mild beta-hCG elevations of unclear etiology in order to exclude hypogonadism as a cause. Elevated beta-hCG has also been reported in other tumors, such as lymphoma, bladder cancer, and adenocarcinomas, and is thus not specific for GCTs. Additionally, heterophile antibodies have been reported to result in substantially elevated false-positive beta-hCG results (>400 IU/L); therefore, clinicians should consider repeating the test using a different assay if a false positive is suspected due to the absence of radiographic evidence of disease.<sup>18,19</sup>

Elevated serum AFP is not associated with pure seminoma. Among nonseminoma GCTs, it is particularly associated with yolk sac tumors but can also be produced by embryonal carcinomas and teratoma. When patients with a histologically “pure” seminoma have an elevated level of AFP, it is generally interpreted as meaning the tumor is a mixed GCT and that undetected nonseminomatous GCT elements are present in addition to the seminoma.<sup>14,20-22</sup> Therefore, the diagnosis of a seminoma is restricted to pure seminoma histology and normal serum AFP levels. However, a small number of people have a chronically elevated serum AFP level and clinicians should be cautious about initiating treatment for a mildly elevated but stable AFP. In addition, other tumors such as hepatocellular carcinomas and gastric carcinomas can cause AFP elevation. If an elevation of serum AFP is due to a metastatic nonseminomatous GCT, then the AFP typically will be steadily rising. Generally, decisions to treat should not be based solely on AFP values <20 ng/mL.

These guidelines pertain to all stages of testicular GCTs and should be closely followed to maximize the potential for cure and to avoid unnecessary side effects, complications, and late toxicities. It is important to note that pediatric GCTs are managed differently from adult GCTs and are not covered in these guidelines. Additionally, testicular tumors arising

from the stroma are also not covered in these guidelines, since they account for <5% of cases.

## Literature Search Criteria and Guidelines Update

### Methodology

Prior to the update of this version of the NCCN Guidelines for Testicular Cancer, an electronic search of the PubMed database was performed using the following search terms: ‘testicular cancer’ and ‘germ cell tumor.’ The PubMed database was chosen as it remains the most widely used resource for medical literature and indexes peer-reviewed biomedical literature.<sup>23</sup>

The search results were narrowed by selecting studies in humans published in English. Results were confined to the following article types: Clinical Trial, Phase II; Clinical Trial, Phase III; Clinical Trial, Phase IV; Guideline; Randomized Controlled Trial; Meta-Analysis; Systematic Reviews; and Validation Studies.

The data from key PubMed articles as well as articles from additional sources deemed as relevant to these Guidelines and/or discussed by the panel have been included in this version of the Discussion section (eg, e-publications ahead of print, meeting abstracts). Any recommendations for which high-level evidence is lacking are based on the panel’s review of lower-level evidence and expert opinion.

The complete details of the development and update of the NCCN Guidelines are available at [www.NCCN.org](http://www.NCCN.org).

## Clinical Presentation, Workup and Primary Treatment

### Clinical Presentation

Testicular cancer most often presents as a painless or painful testicular nodule, mass, enlargement, or induration (hardening). Often, patients will



present with testicular discomfort or swelling suggestive of epididymitis or orchitis. A trial of antibiotics is never warranted in a man with a mass suspicious for GCT, but can be considered in men with pain without a mass on further work-up. Other patients may present with enlarged lymph nodes of the lower neck or upper chest (supraclavicular), a retroperitoneal mass, gynecomastia, venous thrombosis, or pulmonary embolism.

### Workup

If testicular cancer is being considered as a possibility, then a transscrotal ultrasound with Doppler should be performed. Testicular ultrasound serves to confirm the presence of a testicular mass, determine whether a mass is intra- or extratesticular, and explore the contralateral testis.<sup>24</sup> Testicular GCTs are typically heterogeneous, hypoechoic and vascular on ultrasound. If the ultrasound findings show a mass concerning for malignancy, then an inguinal orchiectomy is generally performed to make a diagnosis. Transscrotal biopsies of the testes should not be performed because violating the scrotum increases the risk of local or atypical regional recurrence and can complicate management. In addition, a thorough history and physical examination should be performed. Serum tumor markers (LDH, AFP, and beta-hCG) need to be assessed as they are used for prognosis and staging.<sup>12</sup> Marker levels should be assessed both before and after orchiectomy. Elevated levels of beta-hCG, LDH, or AFP should be followed up with repeated tests to allow for precise staging. Given the higher rates of hypogonadism in the testicular cancer population, measuring baseline levels of gonadal function can also be considered.

### Primary Treatment

Radical inguinal orchiectomy is the primary treatment for most patients who present with a testicular mass that is concerning for malignancy on ultrasound.<sup>25</sup> Concurrent insertion of testicular prosthesis may be

considered during radical inguinal orchiectomy if desired by the patient.<sup>26-28</sup> In cases where the ultrasound shows an ambiguous abnormality that might be malignant, an open inguinal biopsy (testis-sparing surgery or partial orchiectomy) with intraoperative frozen section analysis can be performed, but such cases are extremely rare. Reflex orchiectomy is recommended in most circumstances should malignancy be detected. Similarly, an open inguinal biopsy of the contralateral testis can be considered if an ambiguous suspicious mass is identified on ultrasound or if the testis is cryptorchid or shows marked atrophy.<sup>29</sup> However, biopsies are not recommended for microcalcifications.

Sperm banking should be discussed with patients of reproductive age, if clinically indicated, before undergoing any therapeutic intervention that may compromise fertility, including surgery, radiation therapy (RT), or chemotherapy.<sup>30-33</sup> If sperm banking is desired, it may be performed before orchiectomy in patients with risk factors for infertility (atrophic contralateral testicle, history of infertility), but certainly should be considered prior to subsequent therapy in patients who desire future fertility..

Further management is dictated by histology, stage, and whether the cancer is a pure seminoma or a nonseminoma (includes mixed GCTs that are partially comprised of seminoma and tumors that are histopathologically described as pure seminomas in patients with elevated serum AFP). Though rare, when a patient presents with: 1) markedly elevated beta-hCG or AFP levels; 2) a testicular mass and/or disease distribution typical for a testicular, retroperitoneal, or mediastinal GCT; and 3) a clinical scenario where, due to the bulk, signs, or symptoms of disease, the risk of delaying systemic therapy outweighs the benefit of a tissue diagnosis, chemotherapy may be initiated immediately without waiting for a biopsy diagnosis or performing orchiectomy. Consolidative orchiectomy may be performed after completion of systemic therapy.



## Staging

Staging of testicular GCTs is based upon determination of the extent of disease and assessment of post-orchietomy levels of serum tumor markers.<sup>12</sup> The tumor (T), node (N), and metastasis (M) staging system used by the AJCC is the internationally accepted standard for cancer staging and is a major factor influencing prognosis and treatment decisions. The AJCC TNM staging system incorporates serum tumor marker elevation as a distinct category (S), which is unique to this organ site. The extent of the primary tumor is classified after orchietomy; therefore, pathologic (p) staging is assigned to the primary tumor (T).

The 8th edition of the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual introduced invasion of the epididymis and hilar soft tissue as new pathologic criteria used for T classification of stage I testicular GCTs.<sup>12,34</sup> Due to the excellent clinical outcomes seen in testicular cancer, large-scale follow-up studies have historically used tumor relapse rather than tumor-specific survival to validate the relevance of pathologic parameters used for staging.<sup>12</sup> However, the association of hilar soft tissue and epididymal invasion with relapse of stage I disease has not been validated. Current data only support their association with having advanced-stage disease at the time of diagnosis.<sup>35,36</sup> Therefore, it is the opinion of the panel that these factors should not be used for clinical decision-making in the management of these patients. Instead, the NCCN Guidelines recommend managing patients with stage I nonseminoma based on the presence or absence of lymphovascular invasion (LVI), invasion of the spermatic cord, or invasion of the scrotum, which are risk factors known to be associated with an increased risk of relapse.<sup>37-45</sup> Predominance of embryonal carcinoma has also been proposed as a prognostic indicator of relapse in stage I nonseminoma, with several studies showing that a high proportion of embryonal carcinoma in the primary tumor (>50%) is associated with an increased risk of relapse.<sup>39,46-53</sup> However, very few patients have a high

volume of embryonal carcinoma without also having LVI, and the value of embryonal carcinoma predominance in predicting relapse in the absence of LVI is unclear.<sup>39,46,49,53</sup> Therefore, predominance of embryonal carcinoma is not used by the NCCN Guidelines to risk stratify stage I nonseminoma patients. Stage I nonseminoma patients with a high volume of embryonal carcinoma and no evidence of LVI are neither high risk nor low risk and could be considered for adjuvant therapy. The NCCN Guidelines do not recommend risk-adapted treatment for stage I pure seminoma.

The 8th edition of the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual also introduced changes to pathologic staging based on the type of spermatic cord involvement. Currently, continuous involvement of the spermatic cord soft tissue by the primary tumor is staged as pT3, whereas discontinuous spermatic cord involvement by invasion of lymphovascular spaces is now considered as a metastatic deposit (pM1).<sup>12</sup> This significant change results in patients with discontinuous spermatic cord involvement being upstaged from high risk stage I to stage III disease independent of radiologic or serologic assessment, which the panel is concerned may lead to overtreatment. The evidence used to support this change is unclear; presently, there are no persuasive data showing differences in clinical outcomes between men with discontinuous spermatic cord involvement compared to men with continuous involvement. A recent retrospective analysis assessing the impact of different patterns of spermatic cord involvement on clinical stage and patient outcomes found no significant differences in either clinical stage at presentation or risk of recurrence based on the type of spermatic cord involvement (continuous versus discontinuous).<sup>54</sup> Therefore, for management decisions, the panel recommends staging GCTs with discontinuous invasion of the spermatic cord as pT3 (high-risk stage I) and not as pM1 (stage III) as is recommended by the AJCC. If surveillance is elected as primary



management, the pelvis should be included in the imaging due to a higher risk of pelvic relapses in these patients.

To assess for metastatic disease, imaging studies of the chest, abdomen, and pelvis should be performed. Such studies typically include CT scans of the abdomen and pelvis and CT scan or x-ray of the chest. PET scans should not be used to stage testicular GCTs. In select patients, brain MRI should also be performed; these patients include those with neurologic symptoms, post-orchietomy serum beta-hCG >5000 IU/L, or extensive lung metastases. In patients who had elevated serum tumor markers prior to orchietomy, it is important to obtain the half-life kinetics of the tumor markers after orchietomy if the markers are declining because a slower-than-expected decline often indicates the presence of metastatic disease.

### **Risk Classification for Advanced Disease**

In 1997, the International Germ Cell Cancer Consensus Group (IGCCCG) defined a classification system based on identification of clinically independent prognostic features such as extent of disease and post-orchietomy levels of serum tumor markers. This classification system categorizes patients with testicular GCTs into good-, intermediate-, or poor-risk groups.<sup>55</sup> When determining a patient's risk classification, the relevant serum tumor marker value is the value on day 1 of cycle 1 of first-line chemotherapy. Definitions of stage and risk classification in these guidelines are done according to the IGCCCG classifications.

### **Pure Seminoma**

If a pure seminoma is detected, an abdominal/pelvic CT scan with contrast should be performed to assess the retroperitoneal lymph nodes. A chest x-ray is also recommended. A chest CT with contrast is indicated if the abdominal/pelvic CT or the chest x-ray shows evidence of metastatic disease. Measurement of beta-hCG, LDH, and AFP levels should be repeated since TNM staging is based on marker levels at the time the

patient starts post-orchietomy therapy. Elevated levels should be followed with repeated measurement to allow for precise staging. Declining markers should be followed until normalization or plateau. Beta-hCG and LDH may be elevated in patients with seminoma; however, elevated LDH and beta-hCG alone should not be used to stage or risk stratify patients with pure seminoma. An elevated AFP indicates nonseminoma unless another cause of the elevated AFP (such as liver disease) is identified. Patients with seminoma arising from an extragonadal site, such as the mediastinum, are usually diagnosed via biopsy and treated with standard chemotherapy regimens according to risk classification. The NCCN Panel recommends performing a brain MRI if beta-hCG levels exceed 5000 IU/L or there is extensive metastatic disease in the lungs (as noted above, a beta-hCG >1000 IU/L is rare in seminoma and a value >5000 IU/L is generally indicative of a nonseminomatous GCT). Sperm banking should be recommended, if clinically indicated, to patients who will be undergoing adjuvant therapy.

### **Pure Seminoma Stages IA and IB**

#### *Primary Treatment for Pure Seminoma Stages IA and IB*

Since most patients with stage I pure seminoma are cured by orchietomy alone, the NCCN Panel strongly prefers surveillance as the standard post-orchietomy management option for these patients. However, since 15% to 20% of patients on surveillance will experience relapse, the panel recommends chemotherapy with one or two cycles of single-agent carboplatin, or RT (20 Gy or 25.5 Gy) to decrease the risk of relapse in certain patients. Disease-specific survival for stage I disease approaches 100% irrespective of the management strategy used.<sup>56</sup>

*Surveillance:* Several studies evaluating surveillance for the management of stage I seminoma have been conducted.<sup>57-62</sup> The relapse rates seen in these studies have ranged from 15% to 20%, with most disease relapse



detected in the infradiaphragmatic lymph nodes. The best established risk factor for relapse of pure seminoma is increased size of the primary tumor.<sup>63</sup> As the tumor size increases the risk of relapse also increases, but any cutoff point is arbitrary.<sup>57,59,64,65-67</sup> Although the 8th edition of the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual uses a cutoff point of 3 cm to subclassify stage I pure seminoma, this small cutoff size was chosen in an effort to be conservative due to the large variability in size cutoffs reported in the literature.<sup>12</sup> Additionally, some studies have reported that rete testis invasion is an independent risk factor for relapse in stage I pure seminoma while others have reported that it is not.<sup>57,59,63-65,68</sup> A recent systematic review determined that rete testis invasion is significantly associated with risk of relapse in stage I seminoma patients managed by surveillance.<sup>68</sup> In contrast, another recent systematic review found rete testis invasion to be significantly associated with relapse in only 4 out of the 13 studies analyzed.<sup>63</sup> Due to these concerns, the NCCN Panel discourages risk-adapted management in stage I pure seminoma and instead strongly recommends surveillance for all patients who are able to adhere to the surveillance schedule. If surveillance is not applicable, alternative options are either adjuvant chemotherapy with single-agent carboplatin or adjuvant RT as described below. Each approach has distinct advantages and disadvantages that should be discussed with patients and their families in order to pick the best treatment approach on an individual basis.

**Adjuvant Chemotherapy:** Oliver et al reported the initial results of a trial that randomized 1477 patients with stage I seminoma to receive either RT (n = 885) or 1 cycle of intravenous carboplatin (n = 560) at the dose AUC x 7 (ie, based on the formula 7 x [glomerular filtration rate (GFR, mL/min) + 25 mg]).<sup>69</sup> At a follow-up of 3 years, the relapse-free survival rates for both groups were similar (95.9% for the RT group and 94.8% for the carboplatin group), which established the noninferiority of carboplatin compared to RT.<sup>69</sup> The mature results of this trial confirmed the noninferiority of single-

dose carboplatin versus RT in terms of relapse-free survival.<sup>70</sup> In an intent-to-treat analysis, the relapse-free survival rates at 5 years were 96% in the RT arm and 94.7% in the carboplatin arm (hazard ratio [HR], 1.25; *P* = .37). One seminoma-related death occurred after RT and none occurred after carboplatin. Additionally, patients given carboplatin were less lethargic and less likely to take time off work than patients receiving RT. Therefore, the authors concluded that a single dose of carboplatin is less toxic and as effective in preventing disease relapse as adjuvant RT in men with stage I pure seminoma after orchiectomy.<sup>70</sup> However, it should be noted that there are limited long-term follow-up data regarding the toxicity and efficacy of carboplatin.<sup>57,71</sup> A recent non-randomized population-based study of 897 patients with stage I seminoma suggested that patients with tumor size >4 cm, rete testis invasion, or both derive a smaller reduction in relapse rate with one cycle of carboplatin than previously reported.<sup>57,59,71</sup> After a median follow-up of 5.6 years, the relapse rate in patients with one or both risk factors was 15.5% for patients managed by surveillance versus 9.3% for patients who received one cycle of carboplatin.<sup>57</sup> An absolute reduction in the risk of relapse by only 6.2% may not be sufficient to justify the use of single-cycle adjuvant carboplatin.<sup>71</sup> Platinum-based chemotherapy has been associated with cardiac toxicity and an increased risk for secondary cancers.<sup>72-74</sup> However, whether such long-term risks ensue from single-agent carboplatin as dosed for seminoma remains unknown. Therefore, more data are needed to assess the value of one cycle of carboplatin in treating patients with stage I seminoma.

Use of two cycles of adjuvant carboplatin in this setting has also been studied. The second and third Spanish Germ Cell Cancer Cooperative Group studies reported that two cycles of adjuvant carboplatin is effective in reducing the risk of relapse in high-risk stage I seminoma patients, with a 5-year relapse-free survival rate of 96.2% and a 5-year overall survival (OS) rate of 100%.<sup>75,76</sup> The efficacy of two cycles of adjuvant carboplatin was confirmed in a study by the Hellenic Cooperative Oncology Group,



which reported a 5-year relapse-free survival rate of 96.8% among 138 stage I seminoma patients treated with this regimen.<sup>77</sup> A recent prospective study reported the treatment outcomes of 725 stage I seminoma patients managed by surveillance, one cycle of carboplatin, or two cycles of carboplatin.<sup>78</sup> Although disease-specific survival was 100% for all three strategies, crude relapse rates were significantly higher with the one-cycle regimen (5%) compared to the two-cycle regimen (1.5%) after a median follow-up of 30 months. The crude relapse rate for surveillance was 8.2%. Furthermore, one cycle of carboplatin demonstrated low efficacy to control large tumors. Regardless of the regimen used, performing abdominal/pelvic CT scan with contrast and chest x-ray or CT scan is recommended within 4 weeks prior to the initiation of chemotherapy to confirm staging, even if scans were previously performed.

**Adjuvant Radiation Therapy:** Numerous studies have found an increased risk for late toxicities, including development of secondary malignancies, in seminoma patients treated with RT; however, many of these patients were treated at a time when treatment fields were larger and radiation doses were higher than those currently used.<sup>79,80</sup> One population-based study reported that RT for stage I seminoma was associated with an 80% increase in the risk of death from secondary cancers.<sup>81</sup> Another study found that moderate-dose infradiaphragmatic RT for stage I seminoma was associated with an increased risk for secondary cancers in organs within the radiation field.<sup>82</sup> A recent multicenter cohort study reached similar conclusions, reporting that the risk of developing an infradiaphragmatic solid malignant neoplasm increased by 8% per Gy of radiation dose administered (95% CI, 6%–9%;  $P < .001$ ).<sup>74</sup> Additionally, one study reported that RT might increase the risk of a subsequent cardiac event,<sup>72</sup> but other analyses have not confirmed this risk.<sup>81</sup>

Nodal mapping studies suggest that treatment fields should target the retroperitoneal lymph nodes but not necessarily the ipsilateral renal hilar

nodes.<sup>83,84</sup> Special circumstances, such as ipsilateral pelvic surgery, may alter the lymphatic drainage of the testis. Therefore, irradiation of the ipsilateral iliac and inguinal lymph nodes has been advocated in such patients.<sup>83,85,86</sup> It should be noted that patients treated with para-aortic RT have a slightly higher rate of pelvic relapse compared with those treated with “dog-leg” RT.<sup>86-89</sup> Prophylaxis to the mediastinum is not provided, because relapse rarely occurs at this site and mediastinal radiotherapy introduces additional toxicities and late effects.

The NCCN Panel prefers active surveillance to the routine use of adjuvant therapy for stage I seminoma patients, because the risk of relapse is low when considered in relation to the potential harms of adjuvant therapy. However, if adjuvant chemotherapy is given, the NCCN Panel recommends carboplatin (AUC x 7) for either 1 or 2 cycles for patients with stage IA or IB pure seminoma. If RT is delivered, the panel recommends a total dose of 20 Gy administered in 10 fractions of 2.0 Gy each.<sup>90</sup> Alternatively, a total dose of 25.5 Gy can be given in 17 fractions of 1.5 Gy each.<sup>91</sup> Other RT dose schedules are listed in the *Principles of Radiotherapy for Pure Testicular Seminoma* in the algorithm (see Table 1 on TEST-C 2 of 5). Patients at higher risk for morbidity from RT, such as those with a history of inflammatory bowel disease or prior RT, are generally not given primary RT.

#### *Follow-up for Pure Seminoma Stages IA and IB After Primary Treatment*

Although no single follow-up plan is applicable to all patients, the NCCN Panel has provided guidance for the follow-up of patients with testicular GCTs for the first 5 years after the completion of therapy. These recommendations may be individualized and extended beyond 5 years at the discretion of the physician. Follow-up strategies for patients with stage I seminoma vary according to the treatment modality received by the patient (surveillance vs. adjuvant therapy). An analysis of >5000 stage I seminoma patients from various trials reported that the 5-year relapse rate



was higher with surveillance (18.6%) compared to RT (4.8% with extended-field RT and 3.6% with para-aortic RT) or chemotherapy (6.1% with 1 cycle of carboplatin and 2.3% with 2 cycles of carboplatin).<sup>88</sup> An analysis of data from the Danish Testicular Cancer database reached similar conclusions, reporting that the 10-year cumulative incidence of disease recurrence was 32% for high-risk (tumor size  $\geq 6$  cm) stage I seminoma patients given surveillance versus 2.8% for those given adjuvant RT.<sup>92</sup> An analysis of data from the National Cancer Database examined the survival outcomes of 33,094 stage I seminoma patients who received surveillance, chemotherapy, or RT as primary treatment after orchiectomy.<sup>93</sup> Although OS was high for all strategies, results showed a small absolute survival advantage for adjuvant therapy (RT or chemotherapy) over active surveillance at 10 years (95% vs. 93.4%; HR, 0.58;  $P < .0005$ ). However, in this study, surveillance was defined as not having undergone radiation or chemotherapy, meaning that no distinction was made between patients who underwent surveillance and patients who never followed up. Thus, patients for whom active treatment was recommended but who never came in for treatment would have been considered to have undergone surveillance even if they never had any surveillance visits or tests. Independent of the treatment modality received by the patient, the risk of relapse is highest in the first 2 years following treatment.<sup>88</sup> In the event of relapse, clinicians should keep in mind the potential for development of a second primary tumor in the contralateral testis.

**Follow-up During Active Surveillance:** Follow-up for patients with stage I seminoma managed with active surveillance after orchiectomy is outlined in Table 1 on TEST-A 1 of 2 in the algorithm and includes a history and physical examination, with optional measurement of serum tumor markers, performed every 3 to 6 months for the first year, every 6 months for year 2, every 6 to 12 months for year 3, and annually for years 4 and 5.<sup>76,94,95</sup> The measurement of serum tumor markers is optional due to the rarity of

marker-only relapse, since most patients with elevated markers will also have evidence of relapse on imaging. Additionally, in one of the largest prospectively maintained databases of stage I seminoma patients managed with surveillance, it was reported that routine measurement of serum tumor markers did not aid in the early diagnosis of relapse.<sup>96</sup> Therefore, routine measurement of serum tumor markers can be safely omitted from stage I seminoma surveillance schedules.

There is controversy regarding how many imaging studies should be performed in patients on active surveillance. The NCCN Panel recommends an abdominal/pelvic CT scan with or without contrast at 3, 6, and 12 months during the first year, every 6 months for year 2, every 6–12 months for year 3, and then every 12 to 24 months for years 4 and 5. CT is not recommended beyond 5 years, unless clinically indicated. A clinical trial in the United Kingdom entitled TRISST (MRC TE24/TRial of Imaging and Schedule in Seminoma Testis) is currently investigating whether MRI or a reduced CT schedule could be used as a safe and effective alternative to standard CT-based surveillance in the management of stage I seminoma (Clinical Trial ID: [NCT00589537](#)).<sup>97</sup> The panel regards MRI as an appropriate option that can be considered to replace abdominal/pelvic CT in select circumstances. The MRI protocol should include visualization of all the nodes that need to be assessed, including the retroperitoneal and pelvic nodes, and should be performed in centers with experience in interpreting MRI results for testicular cancer. The same imaging modality (CT or MRI) should be used throughout surveillance.

Several studies have suggested that relapses in the lung are rarely detected by chest x-ray alone in patients with stage I seminoma managed by active surveillance.<sup>98-100</sup> In a recent retrospective analysis of 886 stage I seminoma patients, 83 patients experienced relapse.<sup>99</sup> All relapses were detected by either rising tumor markers and/or follow-up CT scan; not a single relapse was detected by routine chest x-ray alone. Other studies have reported similar results, calling into question the value of chest x-rays



in surveillance settings for stage I seminomatous GCTs.<sup>98,100</sup> Therefore, routine chest imaging, including chest x-ray and chest CT with contrast, should be reserved for patients with thoracic symptoms.

*Follow-up After Adjuvant Treatment:* Follow-up of patients treated with adjuvant therapy (chemotherapy or RT) is outlined in Table 2 on TEST-A 1 of 2 in the algorithm and includes a history and physical examination, with optional measurement of post-orchietomy serum tumor markers performed every 6 to 12 months for the first 2 years and annually for years 3, 4, and 5. A meta-analysis of 2466 patients reported that relapse rarely occurred >3 years after treatment with RT or carboplatin (0.2% of patients).<sup>56</sup> Since the rate of relapse beyond 3 years is very low for patients treated with chemotherapy or RT, the NCCN Panel recommends performing an abdominal/pelvic CT scan with or without contrast annually for the first 3 years only. In select circumstances, an MRI can be considered to replace an abdominal/pelvic CT. The MRI protocol should include visualization of the retroperitoneal and pelvic nodes and should be performed in centers with experience in interpreting MRI results for testicular cancer. The same imaging modality (CT or MRI) should be used throughout surveillance. Chest x-rays should be obtained only when clinically indicated and chest CT scans with contrast should be considered for symptomatic patients. CT is not recommended beyond 5 years, unless clinically indicated. Relapses are treated according to the stage at relapse.<sup>56</sup> However, patients should not be treated based upon an elevated LDH level alone.

### **Pure Seminoma Stage IS**

#### *Primary Treatment for Pure Seminoma Stage IS*

Stage IS pure seminoma is very uncommon and requires persistent elevation of serum tumor markers following orchietomy. Elevated tumor markers increase the risk of disease outside the retroperitoneum;

therefore, systemic therapy should be encouraged. However, physicians are cautioned against treating a patient based on mildly elevated LDH or beta-hCG alone, as other causes may be responsible for elevation of these markers. Persistent elevation of serum markers is usually evidence of metastatic disease, which will show up radiographically if doubt exists in the diagnosis.

#### *Follow-up for Pure Seminoma Stage IS*

The NCCN Panel recommends repeating measurements of serum tumor markers and performing imaging studies (chest/abdominal/pelvic CT with contrast) to scan for evaluable disease.

### **Pure Seminoma Stages IIA and IIB**

#### *Primary Treatment for Pure Seminoma Stages IIA and IIB*

Stage IIA pure seminoma is defined as metastatic disease to lymph nodes, with a lymph node mass measuring  $\leq 2$  cm in greatest diameter.<sup>12</sup> A lymph node mass measuring 2 to 5 cm in greatest diameter is classified as stage IIB disease.<sup>12</sup> To confirm staging before initiating treatment in select cases of stage IIA disease with borderline retroperitoneal lymph nodes, waiting 4 to 6 weeks after initial imaging assessment and repeating chest/abdominal/pelvic CT scans with contrast may be considered.

Options for the primary treatment of stage IIA and IIB seminomas include RT or chemotherapy with 3 cycles of bleomycin, etoposide, and cisplatin (BEP) or 4 cycles of etoposide and cisplatin (EP).<sup>101-103</sup> If chemotherapy is given, both EP and BEP are preferred regimens in this setting. However, a bleomycin-free regimen should be considered in patients with reduced or borderline GFR, in patients older than 50 years of age, and in patients with COPD or other lung disease resulting in reduced pulmonary function. Different studies have reported different outcomes with regard to whether chemotherapy or RT is more effective in this setting. Two recent studies utilized data from the National Cancer Database to assess survival



outcomes according to treatment strategy in stage IIA/B seminoma patients. A retrospective study by Glaser et al compared RT with multi-agent chemotherapy in 1772 stage IIA–C seminoma patients treated with orchiectomy.<sup>104</sup> After a median follow-up of 65 months, 5-year OS was significantly higher with RT compared to chemotherapy in stage IIA patients (99% vs. 93%; HR, 0.28; 95% CI, 0.09–0.86;  $P = .027$ ). However, no significant difference in 5-year OS was seen in stage IIB patients treated with post-orchiectomy RT or chemotherapy (95.2% vs. 92.4%). A similar study by Paly et al evaluated data from the same database during the same time period and reached similar conclusions. This retrospective, non-randomized study evaluated 1885 stage IIA/B seminoma patients selected to receive either adjuvant chemotherapy or adjuvant RT.<sup>105</sup> Receipt of adjuvant chemotherapy was associated with decreased 5-year OS in stage IIA patients (HR, 13.33;  $P < .01$ ), but not in stage IIB patients (HR, 1.39;  $P = .45$ ). These studies were not randomized trials and treatment decisions were based on the treating physician's clinical judgment, which presumably was influenced by the specific characteristics of each patient. Therefore, it is possible that patients with more extensive disease were selected for chemotherapy. Nevertheless, these studies provide some support for the use of RT over chemotherapy to treat stage IIA seminoma. In contrast, a study by Mortensen et al evaluating 363 patients with stage II–III seminoma reported that the relapse rate was 6% among patients treated with chemotherapy compared to 12.6% among those treated with RT. It should be noted that chemotherapy was used for more advanced stage disease than RT in this study.<sup>67</sup> This has led some physicians to prefer chemotherapy for stage II patients; however, these results must be interpreted with caution since this study was not a randomized trial and did not specifically compare the two treatment modalities for stage IIA disease. Therefore, the NCCN Guidelines recommend either RT or chemotherapy as primary treatment for both stage IIA and IIB seminoma. However, chemotherapy is preferred for

stage IIB seminoma,<sup>103,106</sup> with RT being reserved for select patients with non-bulky ( $\leq 3$  cm) disease.<sup>101</sup>

The target fields for RT for stage IIA/B disease should include the para-aortic and proximal ipsilateral iliac lymph nodes. Treatment is delivered in two consecutive anteroposterior-posteroanterior (AP/PA) phases with no break in between. The initial phase consists of treatment of modified dog-leg fields at a dose of 20 Gy delivered in 10 fractions of 2.0 Gy each or 25.5 Gy delivered in 17 fractions of 1.5 Gy each. The panel prefers modified dog-leg fields as described by Classen et al.<sup>101</sup> The second phase (cone down) consists of daily 1.8- to 2-Gy fractions to a cumulative total dose of 30 Gy for stage IIA patients and 36 Gy for stage IIB patients.<sup>101</sup> Prophylactic mediastinal RT is not indicated for the management of stage II disease.<sup>107</sup> For details on field arrangement, see *Principles of Radiotherapy for Pure Testicular Seminoma* in the algorithm.

#### *Follow-up for Pure Seminoma Stages IIA and Non-bulky IIB After Primary Treatment*

The recommended follow-up schedule for patients with stage IIA and non-bulky stage IIB seminoma after RT or chemotherapy is outlined in Table 3 on TEST-A 2 of 2 in the algorithm and includes a history and physical examination with optional measurement of post-orchiectomy serum tumor markers, performed every 3 months for year 1 and then every 6 months for years 2 through 5.

An abdominal/pelvic CT scan with contrast is recommended at 3 months and 6 to 12 months for year 1; annually for years 2 and 3; and then as clinically indicated for years 4 and 5. In select circumstances, an MRI can be considered to replace an abdominal/pelvic CT. The MRI protocol should include visualization of the retroperitoneal and pelvic nodes and should be performed in centers with experience in interpreting MRI results for testicular cancer. The same imaging modality (CT or MRI) should be used throughout surveillance. CT is not recommended beyond 5 years,



unless clinically indicated. Chest x-ray is recommended every 6 months for the first 2 years only. Chest x-ray may be used for routine follow-up, but chest CT with contrast is preferred in the presence of thoracic symptoms.

### **Pure Seminoma Stages IIC and III**

#### *Primary Treatment for Pure Seminoma Stages IIC and III*

Patients with stage IIC or stage III seminomas are classified as either good or intermediate risk. Intermediate risk in seminoma is based on metastases to organs other than the lungs. All stage IIC and stage III seminomas are considered good risk except for stage IIIC disease, which involves non-pulmonary visceral metastases (eg, bone, liver, brain) and is considered intermediate risk. Standard primary chemotherapy is used for both groups of patients. However, 3 cycles of BEP or 4 cycles of EP are recommended for patients with good-risk disease (both preferred),<sup>108-110</sup> while more intensive chemotherapy with 4 cycles of BEP (preferred) or 4 cycles of etoposide, mesna, ifosfamide, and cisplatin (VIP) is recommended for patients with intermediate-risk disease.<sup>111-116</sup> VIP should be reserved for patients with a contraindication to bleomycin (ie, a reduced or borderline GFR, older than 50 years of age, COPD or other lung disease resulting in reduced pulmonary function). All of these chemotherapy options are category 1 recommendations except for VIP, which is a category 2A recommendation.

#### *Management of Pure Seminoma Stages IIA, IIB, IIC, and III After Chemotherapy*

After primary treatment with chemotherapy, patients with stage IIA, IIB, IIC, or III seminoma should be evaluated by CT scan with contrast of the chest, abdomen, and pelvis as well as measurement of serum tumor markers. Patients with normal serum AFP and beta-hCG levels and either no residual mass or a residual mass  $\leq 3$  cm should undergo surveillance

as described in Table 3 on TEST-A 2 of 2 in the algorithm and discussed in the section above on *Follow-up for Pure Seminoma Stages IIA and Non-bulky IIB After Primary Treatment*.

Surveillance is also recommended for patients with a residual mass  $>3$  cm and normal serum AFP and beta-hCG levels. Additionally, a PET/CT scan from skull base to mid-thigh can be considered to better delineate the presence of viable residual tumor since CT alone cannot discriminate between residual neoplastic lesions and necrotic or fibrotic tissue.<sup>117-121</sup> PET can provide useful metabolic information on these lesions, which may aid in the early detection of recurrent disease in patients with normal CT findings, since functional abnormalities usually precede morphologic ones.<sup>121</sup> However, testicular GCTs are typically slow-growing and have low uptake of 18-fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG) on PET scans, often resulting in unclear images of testicular lesions.<sup>122</sup> Additionally, the abdomen and retroperitoneal space are sites of non-specific FDG uptake, which can lead to false-positive results.<sup>122</sup> Possible sources of false-negative results include small malignant lesions ( $<3$  cm) and lesions with low proliferative indices.<sup>121</sup> Therefore, accurate interpretation of PET scans is paramount and possible positive findings should be corroborated with the corresponding CT results. PET/CT is not indicated for residual masses  $\leq 3$  cm due to its low diagnostic accuracy in small tumors.<sup>121</sup>

To reduce the incidence of false-positive results due to inflammation, the PET/CT scan should be performed at least 6 weeks after the completion of the last cycle of chemotherapy in patients with a residual mass  $>3$  cm and normal serum tumor marker levels.<sup>121,123</sup> A negative PET/CT following chemotherapy is very reassuring. If the PET/CT is negative, surveillance is recommended as described in the next section on *Follow-up for Pure Seminoma Bulky Stage II and Stage III After Chemotherapy*. If the PET/CT is positive, resection or interventional radiology (IR)-guided biopsy of the residual mass should be considered. If the residual disease is completely resected and histopathology shows viable seminoma, 2 cycles of adjuvant



chemotherapy with the following regimens: EP, TIP (paclitaxel, ifosfamide, cisplatin),<sup>124</sup> VIP, or VeIP (vinblastine, mesna, ifosfamide, cisplatin) is recommended.<sup>125,126</sup> If the resection is incomplete and the pathology shows viable seminoma, or if there is progressive disease (growing mass or rising markers), a full course of second-line chemotherapy (4 cycles of TIP or 4 cycles of VeIP; both preferred) is recommended.<sup>124-127</sup> In rare cases, nonseminomatous elements may be identified in the biopsy specimen. If these elements are nonteratomatous, then management should proceed in the same fashion as for viable seminoma. Borderline PET/CT results require careful interpretation by experienced clinicians. If the PET/CT is borderline, consider surveillance and repeat PET/CT or CT in 8 to 12 weeks to assess for changes. If the mass is persistently FDG-avid on PET/CT, then resection or biopsy is recommended. Following adjuvant or second-line chemotherapy, patients should undergo follow-up as discussed in the next section. Patients should also adhere to this follow-up schedule if their biopsy results are negative for viable seminoma.

#### *Follow-up for Pure Seminoma Bulky Stage II and Stage III After Chemotherapy*

The recommended follow-up schedule for patients with bulky stage II or stage III seminoma after treatment with chemotherapy is outlined in Table 4 on TEST-A 2 of 2 in the algorithm and includes a history and physical examination as well as measurement of serum tumor marker levels every 2 months for year 1, every 3 months for year 2, every 6 months for years 3 and 4, and once during year 5. Abdominal/pelvic CT scans with contrast are recommended every 4 months for year 1, every 6 months for year 2, annually for years 3 and 4, and then as clinically indicated for year 5.<sup>128</sup> In select circumstances, an MRI can be considered to replace an abdominal/pelvic CT. The MRI protocol should include visualization of the retroperitoneal and pelvic nodes and should be performed in centers with experience in interpreting MRI results for testicular cancer. The same imaging modality (CT or MRI) should be used throughout surveillance.

Chest x-ray is recommended every 2 months for year 1, every 3 months for year 2, and annually for years 3 through 5. While chest x-ray may be used for routine follow-up, chest CT with contrast is preferred for patients with thoracic symptoms or residual masses or nodules in the chest. Patients with residual masses may require more frequent imaging based on clinical judgment. However, CT is not recommended beyond 5 years unless clinically indicated. Since viable tumor cells have been found in tumors >3 cm with a negative post-chemotherapy PET scan,<sup>129</sup> the NCCN Panel recommends that patients with a residual mass measuring >3 cm and negative PET results after chemotherapy should undergo an abdominal/pelvic CT scan with contrast every 6 months for the first year and then annually for 5 years.

### **Nonseminoma**

Nonseminomatous GCTs include nonseminoma tumors, mixed seminoma/nonseminoma tumors, and seminoma tumors in patients with elevated serum AFP levels. To assess for metastatic disease, CT scans of the chest, abdomen, and pelvis should be performed. Use of PET/CT scan is not clinically indicated for nonseminoma.<sup>130,131</sup> In select patients, brain MRI should also be performed; these patients include those with neurologic symptoms, post-orchietomy serum beta-hCG >5000 IU/L or AFP >10000 ng/mL, non-pulmonary visceral metastasis, or extensive lung metastases. Elevated levels of serum beta-hCG, LDH, or AFP should be followed up with repeated tests. Repeated measurement of serum tumor markers is important because TNM staging is based on post-orchietomy values. In patients who had elevated serum tumor markers prior to orchietomy, it is important to obtain the half-life kinetics of the tumor markers after orchietomy if the markers are declining, because a slower-than-expected decline often indicates the presence of metastatic disease. The NCCN Panel emphasizes that mildly elevated, non-rising AFP levels may not indicate the presence of a GCT. Therefore, decisions to treat



should not be based on AFP levels <20 ng/mL. Similarly, further workup should be considered before initiating treatment for mildly elevated beta-hCG (generally <20 IU/L). Sperm banking should be recommended to patients of reproductive age, if clinically indicated, before undergoing any therapeutic intervention that may compromise fertility.<sup>30-33</sup>

Treatment options for clinical stage I disease after inguinal orchiectomy include surveillance, systemic therapy, and retroperitoneal lymph node dissection (RPLND). Patients with clinical stage I pure teratoma and normal markers should receive either surveillance or RPLND. Stage II disease may be treated with systemic therapy or RPLND. Systemic therapy is preferred if serum tumor markers are elevated and/or if the enlarged lymph nodes are >3 cm in greatest dimension. RPLND is preferred as primary treatment for stage I or II tumors with transformed teratoma, and should be considered for stage II tumors with teratoma predominance if serum tumor markers are normal. The major morbidity associated with bilateral RPLND is retrograde ejaculation, resulting in infertility. Nerve-sparing dissection techniques preserve antegrade ejaculation in 90% of cases.<sup>132</sup> Therefore, nerve-sparing RPLND is recommended. Limited data suggest increased frequency of aberrant recurrences with the use of minimally invasive laparoscopic or robotic approaches to RPLND. A recent study of recurrence patterns in patients following robotic RPLND found that recurrences were highly variable, were in unusual locations, and were associated with a high treatment burden.<sup>133</sup> Therefore, minimally invasive RPLND is not recommended as standard management at this time. Stage II and stage III disease treated with systemic chemotherapy should be followed by surgical resection of any residual masses.

## **Nonseminoma Stage I Without Risk Factors**

### *Primary Treatment for Nonseminoma Stage I Without Risk Factors*

The NCCN Panel recommends treating stage I nonseminoma patients based on the presence or absence of risk factors known to be associated with an increased risk of relapse (LVI, invasion of the spermatic cord, or invasion of the scrotum).<sup>37-45</sup> However, regardless of risk factors, stage I nonseminoma patients with normal post-orchiectomy serum AFP and beta-hCG levels have three management options after orchiectomy: surveillance,<sup>42,49,134,135</sup> nerve-sparing RPLND,<sup>136</sup> or chemotherapy (1 cycle of BEP)<sup>137,138</sup> as primary treatment. The major difference in the management of low-risk and high-risk patients is that surveillance is preferred for patients with stage I nonseminoma without risk factors, whereas all three management options should be carefully considered when risk factors are present. The survival rates for stage I nonseminoma managed with surveillance, nerve-sparing RPLND, or one cycle of BEP chemotherapy exceed 98%. However, the high survival rate associated with surveillance depends on adherence to periodic follow-up examinations and subsequent chemotherapy for the 20% to 30% of patients who relapse. Therefore, patients who choose surveillance should adhere to the follow-up schedule. When nerve-sparing RPLND is performed, it should be done within 4 weeks of a CT scan and within 7 to 10 days of repeat serum marker testing to ensure accurate presurgical staging.<sup>139</sup> Similarly, for patients electing one cycle of BEP, an abdominal/pelvic CT scan and chest x-ray or CT scan is recommended within 4 weeks prior to the initiation of chemotherapy to confirm staging, even if scans were done previously.

### *Management of Nonseminoma Stage I Without Risk Factors After RPLND*

If the resected lymph nodes are negative for malignancy (pN0) after nerve-sparing RPLND, the patient should undergo surveillance. For positive



lymph nodes (pN1 to pN3), the decision whether to use adjuvant chemotherapy is based on the degree of nodal involvement. Surveillance is the preferred option for patients with pN1 disease, while chemotherapy is the preferred option for patients with pN2 disease. However, chemotherapy is the only option for patients with pN3 disease. Recommended chemotherapy regimens include two cycles of either EP (preferred) or BEP for patients with pN1 or pN2 disease<sup>140,141</sup> and 3 cycles of BEP or 4 cycles of EP (both preferred) for patients with pN3 disease.

#### *Follow-up for Nonseminoma Stage I Without Risk Factors*

The long-term follow-up for stage I nonseminoma patients without risk factors includes a history and physical examination, serum tumor marker assessment, abdominal/pelvic CT scan, and chest x-ray. In select circumstances, an MRI can be considered to replace an abdominal/pelvic CT scan. The MRI protocol should include visualization of the retroperitoneal and pelvic nodes and should be performed in centers with experience in interpreting MRI results for testicular cancer. The same imaging modality (CT or MRI) should be used throughout surveillance. All imaging in this setting is performed with contrast. The frequency of these tests varies with the primary treatment modality received by the patient (see Tables 5 and 7 on TEST-B in the algorithm). It should be noted that routine chest x-ray may have limited value for detecting relapse in stage I nonseminoma patients. In a recent retrospective study, a total of 76 relapses were detected among 561 stage I nonseminoma patients managed by active surveillance following orchiectomy.<sup>99</sup> All relapses were detected by either rising serum tumor markers and/or abnormal routine follow-up CT scans; not a single relapse was detected by chest x-ray alone. Similar results have been reported in other studies, calling into question the value of chest x-rays in surveillance settings for stage I nonseminomatous GCTs.<sup>49,100,142</sup> The current schedule for routine chest x-ray in the follow-up of stage I nonseminoma patients without risk factors is two chest x-rays in year 1 and one chest x-ray in years 2 through 5 in

patients managed by surveillance. Chest x-ray is not indicated in years 3, 4, and 5 for stage I nonseminoma patients without risk factors treated with adjuvant BEP or primary RPLND.

#### **Nonseminoma Stage I With Risk Factors**

##### *Primary Treatment for Nonseminoma Stage I With Risk Factors*

Surveillance, adjuvant chemotherapy (1 cycle of BEP), or nerve-sparing RPLND are the recommended primary treatment options for stage I nonseminoma patients with LVI, invasion of the spermatic cord, or invasion of the scrotum. In a prospective trial by SWENOTECA, stage I nonseminoma patients with or without LVI received 1 course of adjuvant BEP.<sup>138</sup> The relapse rate at 5 years was 3.2% for patients with LVI and 1.6% for patients without LVI. Five-year OS was 100% in both groups.<sup>37</sup> The results after a median follow-up of 7.9 years confirmed the low relapse rate with 1 course of adjuvant BEP, especially in patients with LVI.<sup>37</sup> Several other studies using two cycles of BEP as primary treatment for stage I nonseminoma patients have similarly reported relapse-free survival rates >95%.<sup>135,141,143-146</sup> However, late consequences of cisplatin-based chemotherapy, such as hearing damage and loss, cardiovascular conditions, hypertension, and neuropathy, have been reported during long-term follow-up.<sup>147-155</sup> Therefore, one cycle of BEP is recommended due to its lower toxicity. Surveillance is also a recommended primary treatment option for stage I nonseminoma patients with risk factors. However, it should be noted that LVI is a significant predictor of relapse when orchiectomy is followed by surveillance alone.<sup>25</sup>

##### *Management of Nonseminoma Stage I With Risk Factors After RPLND*

The management of stage I nonseminoma patients with risk factors after primary RPLND is similar to that of stage I nonseminoma patients without risk factors, as described above.



### *Follow-up for Nonseminoma Stage I With Risk Factors*

The long-term follow-up for stage I nonseminoma patients with risk factors includes history and physical examination, serum tumor marker assessment, chest x-ray, and abdominal/pelvic CT scan. In select circumstances, an MRI can be considered to replace an abdominal/pelvic CT scan. The MRI protocol should include visualization of the retroperitoneal and pelvic nodes and should be performed in centers with experience in interpreting MRI results for testicular cancer. The same imaging modality (CT or MRI) should be used throughout surveillance. All imaging in this setting is performed with contrast. The frequency of these tests varies with the primary treatment modality received by the patient (see Tables 6 and 7 on TEST-B in the algorithm). Chest x-ray may be used for routine follow-up, but chest CT with contrast is preferred in patients with thoracic symptoms.

### **Nonseminoma Stage IS**

Patients with stage IS nonseminoma exhibit persistent elevation of serum tumor markers post-orchietomy, but no radiographic evidence of disease. However, mildly elevated levels of AFP or beta-hCG after orchietomy must be interpreted with caution. Mildly elevated, non-rising AFP levels (<20 ng/mL) may not indicate the presence of a GCT and should not be used to guide treatment decisions. In addition, hyperthyroidism, marijuana use, hypogonadism, and heterophile antibodies can result in significant elevations of beta-hCG.<sup>15-19</sup> Elevated beta-hCG due to metastatic disease typically rises steadily on serial measurements. In patients with mildly elevated but stable beta-hCG and no other evidence of metastatic disease, repeating the test using a different assay should be considered. Furthermore, many different conditions can result in an elevation of LDH, including many benign conditions. Therefore, patients should not be treated with chemotherapy for systemic disease if the only evidence of systemic disease is an elevation of LDH.

### *Primary Treatment for Nonseminoma Stage IS*

The NCCN Panel recommends that stage IS nonseminoma patients be treated with primary chemotherapy if the elevated marker is AFP or beta-hCG. For the purposes of this guideline, the NCCN Panel assumes that patients with stage IS disease have markers in the S1 range. It would be extraordinarily rare for a patient to have an AFP >1000 ng/mL or a beta-hCG >5000 IU/L and yet have no evidence of metastatic disease on imaging studies. These guidelines cannot address every possible situation, and the management of those rare patients with T any, N0, M0, S2-3 disease should be individualized; consultation with a high volume center is recommended. The vast majority of stage IS patients have serum tumor markers in the S1 range, and they should receive primary chemotherapy for good-risk disease: either 3 cycles of BEP or 4 cycles of EP (both preferred). Both regimens are category 1 recommendations, and either is preferable to initial RPLND as these patients nearly always have disseminated disease.<sup>156,157</sup>

### *Management of Nonseminoma Stage IS After Primary Treatment*

The management of patients with stage IS nonseminoma after primary treatment with chemotherapy is described below in *Advanced Metastatic Nonseminoma (see Management of Good-, Intermediate-, and Poor-Risk Nonseminoma After Chemotherapy)*.

### **Nonseminoma Stage IIA**

#### *Primary Treatment for Nonseminoma Stage IIA*

Primary treatment for patients with stage IIA nonseminoma depends on post-orchietomy serum tumor marker levels. For patients with normal post-orchietomy levels of AFP and beta-hCG, the NCCN Panel recommends either nerve-sparing RPLND or chemotherapy with 3 cycles of BEP or 4 cycles of EP as primary treatment options (both BEP and EP are preferred regimens).<sup>158,159</sup> Chemotherapy is considered particularly

appropriate if the patient has multifocal disease. For stage IIA patients with persistently elevated AFP and/or beta-hCG levels, the NCCN Panel recommends primary chemotherapy with 3 cycles of BEP or 4 cycles of EP (both category 1; both preferred).<sup>136,160</sup> A bleomycin-free regimen should be considered in patients with reduced or borderline GFR, in patients over the age of 50, and in patients with COPD or other lung disease resulting in reduced pulmonary function.

### Management of Nonseminoma Stage IIA After Primary Treatment

Treatment options following primary nerve-sparing RPLND include either surveillance or chemotherapy, depending on the number of positive lymph nodes identified. Since RPLND is likely a curative procedure in patients with pN0 disease, surveillance is recommended for this group.

Surveillance is also the preferred option for patients with pN1 disease, although chemotherapy with 2 cycles of either EP or BEP can also be considered.<sup>136,161</sup> If chemotherapy is given, EP is the preferred regimen in this setting. The risk of relapse in clinical stage IIA nonseminoma patients with pN2 or pN3 disease after RPLND is >50%.<sup>136,162</sup> This risk is reduced to <1% with 2 cycles of adjuvant cisplatin-based chemotherapy.<sup>136,163,164</sup>

Therefore, the NCCN Panel prefers 2 cycles of adjuvant chemotherapy with EP (preferred regimen) or BEP to surveillance for pN2 disease and recommends full-course chemotherapy (and not surveillance) for pN3 disease (either 3 cycles of BEP or 4 cycles of EP; both preferred).

Subsequent management after primary chemotherapy depends on the size of the residual mass on CT scan. Patients should thus undergo abdominal/pelvic CT scan with contrast within a month of completing chemotherapy; chest CT with contrast or chest x-ray may also be considered. If the residual mass is ≥1 cm after chemotherapy, nerve-sparing bilateral RPLND is recommended. A bilateral RPLND involves removal of lymphatic tissue between both ureters, spanning from the diaphragmatic crus to the bifurcation of the common iliac arteries. The

rationale for this extended region of dissection is the greater likelihood of bilateral disease with greater tumor burden.<sup>165</sup> Referral to high-volume centers should be considered for surgical resection of masses post-chemotherapy. For patients with no residual mass or a residual mass <1 cm, surveillance is recommended. Nerve-sparing bilateral RPLND is a category 2B recommendation in this setting and may be performed in selected cases.

### *Follow-up for Nonseminoma Stage IIA*

The long-term follow-up for stage IIA nonseminoma patients includes a history and physical examination, serum tumor marker assessment, chest x-ray, and abdominal/pelvic CT scan. In select circumstances, an MRI can be considered to replace an abdominal/pelvic CT. The MRI protocol should include visualization of the retroperitoneal and pelvic nodes and should be performed in centers with experience in interpreting MRI results for testicular cancer. The same imaging modality (CT or MRI) should be used throughout surveillance. All imaging in this setting is performed with contrast. The frequency of these tests varies with the primary treatment modality and post-surgical management received by the patient (see Tables 8, 9, and 10 on TEST-B in the algorithm). Chest x-ray may be used for routine follow-up, but chest CT with contrast is preferred in patients with thoracic symptoms.

### **Nonseminoma Stage IIB**

#### *Primary Treatment for Nonseminoma Stage IIB*

Primary treatment for patients with stage IIB nonseminoma depends on post-orchietomy tumor marker levels and radiographic findings. When tumor marker levels are normal, the CT findings determine the proper course of treatment. If abnormal radiographic findings are limited to lymph node metastases within lymphatic drainage sites in the retroperitoneum (ie, the landing zone), patients may receive primary chemotherapy with



either 3 cycles of BEP or 4 cycles of EP (both preferred) or primary nerve-sparing RPLND (reserved for highly selected cases). Both options of primary chemotherapy or primary nerve-sparing RPLND are comparable in terms of outcome, but side effects and toxicity are different.<sup>159</sup> The reported relapse-free survival with either approach is close to 98%.<sup>162-164,166,167</sup> If metastatic disease (based on radiographic findings) is not confined to within the lymphatic drainage sites (ie, multifocal or symptomatic lymph node metastases with aberrant lymphatic drainage sites), primary chemotherapy (3 cycles of BEP or 4 cycles of EP; both preferred) is recommended. For stage IIB nonseminoma patients with persistent marker elevation, the recommended treatment option is also primary chemotherapy with either 3 cycles of BEP or 4 cycles of EP (both category 1; both preferred). A bleomycin-free regimen should be considered in patients with reduced or borderline GFR, in patients older than 50 years of age, and in patients with COPD or other lung disease resulting in reduced pulmonary function.

#### *Management of Nonseminoma Stage IIB After Primary Treatment*

The management of patients with stage IIB nonseminoma after primary treatment with either nerve-sparing RPLND or chemotherapy is similar to the post-primary management scheme outlined above for patients with stage IIA nonseminoma (see *Management of Nonseminoma Stage IIA After Primary Treatment*).

#### *Follow-up for Nonseminoma Stage IIB*

The long-term follow-up schedule for stage IIB nonseminoma patients is similar to the follow-up schedule outlined above for patients with stage IIA nonseminoma and is dependent upon the primary treatment modality and post-surgical management received by the patient (see *Follow-up for Nonseminoma Stage IIA* and Tables 8, 9, and 10 on TEST-B in the algorithm).

### **Advanced Metastatic Nonseminoma**

The primary chemotherapy options for patients with advanced metastatic nonseminoma are based on the IGCCCG risk classification, which categorizes patients as good, intermediate, or poor risk based on identification of clinically independent prognostic features such as extent of disease and post-orchietomy levels of serum tumor markers.<sup>55</sup> When determining a patient's risk classification, the relevant serum tumor marker value is the value on day 1 of cycle 1 of first-line chemotherapy.

#### *Primary Treatment for Good-Risk Nonseminoma*

The IGCCCG good-risk group includes patients with stages IS, IIA (S1), IIB (S1), IIC, and IIIA disease. Treatment for good-risk disease is designed to limit toxicity while maintaining maximal efficacy. Presently, two regimens are recommended by the NCCN Panel: 3 cycles of BEP<sup>108,110,168</sup> or 4 cycles of EP<sup>109,110,168</sup> (both category 1; both preferred). While both regimens are well tolerated and cure approximately 90% of patients with good-risk disease,<sup>168,169</sup> four cycles of EP should be considered in patients with reduced or borderline GFR, in patients older than 50 years of age, and in patients with COPD or other lung disease resulting in reduced pulmonary function.

#### *Primary Treatment for Intermediate-Risk (Stage IIIB) Nonseminoma*

For patients with intermediate-risk disease, the cure rate is approximately 70% with the standard chemotherapy regimen of 4 cycles of BEP.<sup>170,171</sup> Therefore, the NCCN Panel recommends 4 cycles of BEP (preferred), or 4 cycles of VIP<sup>170,172</sup> for patients who may not tolerate bleomycin, for the treatment of intermediate-risk (stage IIIB) nonseminoma. Both regimens are category 1 recommendations. However, if intermediate-risk status is based solely on LDH levels 1.5 to 3 x ULN, then 3 cycles of BEP can be considered.



### *Primary Treatment for Poor-Risk (Stage IIIC) Nonseminoma*

The standard chemotherapy regimen for poor-risk disease is 4 cycles of BEP (preferred). Alternatively, 4 cycles of VIP can be used to treat patients who may not tolerate bleomycin.<sup>172</sup> Both regimens are category 1 recommendations. However, fewer than 50% of patients with poor-risk nonseminoma experience a durable complete response to 4 cycles of BEP, and at least 30% die of their disease.<sup>55,173</sup> Therefore, consultation with a high-volume center should be considered for the management of these patients.<sup>169</sup>

### *Management of Good-, Intermediate-, and Poor-Risk Nonseminoma After Chemotherapy*

At the conclusion of primary chemotherapy, chest/abdominal/pelvic CT scan with contrast and measurement of serum tumor marker levels are indicated to assess treatment response. If a complete response to chemotherapy is found by radiographic imaging and the tumor marker levels are normal, the NCCN Panel recommends surveillance. Nerve-sparing bilateral RPLND can be considered in select cases for patients who had retroperitoneal lymphadenopathy prior to chemotherapy (category 2B).<sup>174</sup> RPLND is recommended within 4 weeks of the CT scan and 7 to 10 days of marker measurement. Referral to high-volume centers should be considered for surgical resection of residual masses following chemotherapy.

If there is a partial radiographic response to chemotherapy (as indicated by the presence of residual masses) and tumor marker levels are normal, then surgical resection of all residual masses is recommended.<sup>175-178</sup> As previously stated, referral to high-volume centers should be considered for surgical resection of masses post-chemotherapy. If only necrotic debris or teratoma is present in the resected tissue, the patient should be put under surveillance. If embryonal, yolk sac, choriocarcinoma, or seminoma elements are found in the residual mass, then 2 cycles of chemotherapy

with either EP, TIP, VIP, or VeIP should be administered. All regimens are preferred in this setting, though EP should be reserved for patients with low-volume residual disease.

Further management for patients who experience a partial radiographic response to chemotherapy (residual masses) with abnormal tumor marker levels is guided by the kinetics of the tumor markers. If tumor marker levels are elevated and persistently rising, the NCCN Panel recommends a full course of second-line chemotherapy (see *Second-Line Therapy* below). Patients with elevated but stable marker levels should be closely surveilled. Patients with mildly elevated and normalizing markers should be considered for surgical resection of residual masses with subsequent post-surgical management as discussed above. The NCCN Panel recommends referral to a high-volume center for the management of patients with a partial response to primary chemotherapy and abnormal marker levels.

### *Follow-up for Good-, Intermediate-, and Poor-Risk Nonseminoma*

The long-term follow-up for patients with good-, intermediate-, and poor-risk nonseminoma after chemotherapy (with or without post-chemotherapy RPLND) includes history and physical examination, serum tumor marker assessment, chest x-ray, and abdominal/pelvic CT scan. The frequency of these tests is outlined in Table 8 on TEST-B. Patients who have an incomplete response to chemotherapy require more frequent imaging than is outlined in the table. Patients who undergo RPLND and are found to have pN0 disease or pN1 pure teratoma need only 1 CT scan at postoperative month 3 to 4 and then as clinically indicated. In select circumstances, an MRI can be considered to replace an abdominal/pelvic CT. All imaging in this setting is performed with contrast. Chest x-ray may be used for routine follow-up, but chest CT with contrast is preferred in patients with thoracic symptoms.

## Second-Line and Subsequent Therapy for Metastatic Germ Cell Tumors

### Second-Line Therapy

Patients with disease relapse following first-line therapy, or those who do not experience a durable complete response to first-line therapy, should receive second-line therapy. Patients with recurrent disease who have not been treated with prior chemotherapy should be managed per their risk status, as described in the preceding sections. It is preferred by the panel that patients with recurrent nonseminoma be treated at centers with expertise in the management of this disease. Second-line therapy options for patients with early relapses (within 2 years of the completion of primary therapy) include enrollment in a clinical trial (preferred), conventional-dose chemotherapy, or high-dose chemotherapy. If chemotherapy is given, both conventional-dose and high-dose regimens are preferred in this setting. The conventional-dose regimens are TIP or VeIP.<sup>124,179-181</sup> The high-dose regimens include high-dose carboplatin plus etoposide followed by autologous stem cell transplant,<sup>182</sup> or paclitaxel plus ifosfamide followed by high-dose carboplatin plus etoposide with stem cell support.<sup>183</sup>

Alternatively, surgical salvage may be considered if the recurrent mass is in a solitary resectable site.<sup>184</sup> Late relapses (>2 years after completion of primary therapy) occur in 2% to 3% of testicular cancer survivors.<sup>185,186</sup>

The NCCN Panel prefers surgical salvage for these patients, if the recurrent mass is resectable.<sup>184</sup> If it is unresectable, chemotherapy (conventional-dose or high-dose) is the preferred option. Clinical trial enrollment is also an option for patients with unresectable late relapses.

Since it is not currently known whether high-dose chemotherapy is better than conventional-dose chemotherapy in the second-line setting for patients with relapsed disease, the NCCN Panel recommends clinical trial enrollment for these patients. An ongoing, randomized, international phase III trial (TIGER) will compare second-line conventional-dose chemotherapy

with high-dose chemotherapy in patients with relapsed GCTs.<sup>187</sup> The foundation of the TIGER trial was formed based on the results of a large retrospective analysis by Lorch et al, which demonstrated the superiority of carboplatin-based high-dose chemotherapy compared to cisplatin-based conventional-dose chemotherapy with respect to 2-year progression-free survival (50% vs. 28%;  $P < .001$ ) and 5-year OS (53% vs. 41%,  $P < .001$ ).<sup>188,189</sup> The TIGER trial will randomize patients with unequivocal disease progression following cisplatin-based primary chemotherapy to receive conventional-dose TIP or high-dose paclitaxel plus ifosfamide followed by high-dose carboplatin plus etoposide with stem cell support. OS is the primary endpoint. Secondary endpoints include progression-free survival, response rate, toxicity, quality of life, and biological correlates.<sup>187,188</sup> This trial is currently recruiting patients and participation is highly encouraged (Clinical Trial ID: [NCT02375204](#)).

### *Management of Metastatic Germ Cell Tumors After Second-Line Therapy*

To assess response after second-line therapy, a CT scan with contrast of the chest, abdomen, pelvis, and any other sites of disease is recommended. Levels of serum tumor markers should also be measured. Patients with a complete response to second-line therapy with normal marker levels should be put under surveillance. Alternatively, select patients may receive nerve-sparing bilateral RPLND (category 2B), followed by surveillance. For patients with a partial response to second-line therapy (as indicated by residual masses on CT scan) and normal marker levels, surgical resection of all residual masses is recommended followed by surveillance. Patients with a partial response to second-line therapy (residual masses) and abnormal marker levels should be managed according to the kinetics of the tumor markers. If tumor marker levels are elevated and persistently rising, the NCCN Panel recommends third-line therapy (see *Third-Line Therapy* below). Patients with elevated but stable tumor marker levels should be closely surveilled. Patients with

mildly elevated and normalizing markers should be considered for surgical resection of residual masses followed by surveillance.

### Third-Line Therapy

Participation in a clinical trial is the preferred treatment option for patients who experience relapse following first- and second-line therapy. Alternatively, patients previously treated with conventional-dose chemotherapy can receive high-dose regimens or be considered for surgical salvage if the recurrent mass is in a solitary resectable site. Alternative options for patients previously treated with high-dose regimens include conventional-dose salvage chemotherapy, surgical salvage (if solitary resectable site), and microsatellite instability/mismatch repair (MSI/MMR) testing (if disease progresses after high-dose chemotherapy or third-line therapy). The preferred treatment option for patients who experience a late relapse (>2 years after completion of second-line therapy) is surgical salvage, if the recurrent mass is resectable. Conventional-dose or high-dose chemotherapy (if not previously received), are also options for patients with late relapse.

In order to maintain optimal efficacy and limit treatment-related toxicities, the chemotherapy regimens previously received by the patient should be taken into account when deciding on third-line therapy options. High-dose chemotherapy is the preferred third-line option if it has not been previously received. If high-dose chemotherapy was previously received by the patient, then palliative chemotherapy is the preferred third-line treatment option. Additionally, the panel considers pembrolizumab immunotherapy to be useful in certain circumstances (ie, in patients with MSI-high/deficient MMR [MSI-H/dMMR] tumors).

The recommended third-line palliative chemotherapy options for patients with intensively pretreated, cisplatin-resistant, or refractory GCTs are combinations of gemcitabine with paclitaxel and/or oxaliplatin,<sup>190-196</sup> or oral etoposide.<sup>197</sup> The recommendation for gemcitabine and oxaliplatin

(GEMOX) is based on data from phase II studies investigating the efficacy and toxicity of GEMOX in patients with relapsed or cisplatin-resistant GCTs.<sup>191,193,195</sup> These studies showed that GEMOX is safe for patients with cisplatin-resistant testicular GCTs and may offer a chance of long-term survival.<sup>191,193,195</sup> Gemcitabine and paclitaxel is another option that has shown promising results in a phase II study.<sup>192</sup> Follow-up results showed long-term disease-free survival in patients who progressed after high-dose chemotherapy and had not received prior paclitaxel or gemcitabine.<sup>194</sup> A phase II study of patients with treatment-resistant GCTs also found the combination of gemcitabine, oxaliplatin, and paclitaxel to be effective with acceptable toxicity.<sup>190</sup> The overall response rate was 51% with 5% of patients achieving a complete response. A second study reported similar results.<sup>196</sup> Additionally, high-dose single-agent oral etoposide was shown to be effective in a phase II study involving patients who had previous treatment with cisplatin/etoposide combination regimens.<sup>197</sup>

Pembrolizumab, an anti-PD-1 antibody, was approved by the FDA for the treatment of patients with unresectable or metastatic MSI-H/dMMR solid tumors that have progressed following prior treatment and who have no satisfactory alternative treatment options.<sup>198</sup> This first-ever tissue- and site-agnostic indication was based on data from phase II clinical trials that demonstrated the efficacy of pembrolizumab in MSI-H/dMMR solid tumors.<sup>199,200</sup> In the only trial (phase II) investigating the efficacy of immunotherapy in testicular cancer, 12 patients with nonseminoma GCTs who progressed after first-line cisplatin-based therapy and ≥1 salvage regimen (high-dose or conventional-dose chemotherapy) were treated with pembrolizumab.<sup>201</sup> Two patients achieved stable disease for 28 and 19 weeks, respectively, but no partial or complete responses were observed. There were six grade 3 adverse events, but no immune-related adverse events were reported. Therefore, pembrolizumab was well tolerated but appears to have limited single-agent activity in refractory GCTs. However,



larger phase II and phase III trials of pembrolizumab in patients with metastatic or refractory testicular cancers are needed to fully assess the value of this therapy, especially in treating MSI-H/dMMR testicular GCTs.

## Treatment of Brain Metastases

Brain metastases from testicular GCTs are relatively rare and occur almost exclusively in patients with nonseminoma histology.<sup>202</sup> The development of brain metastases may be more common in patients with a higher burden of systemic disease; lung, liver, and/or bone metastases; high levels of serum beta-hCG (>5000 IU/L); and in those who experience relapse after cisplatin-based chemotherapy. The prognosis of patients with brain metastases from testicular GCTs is poor, with >50% of patients dying within one year of diagnosis.<sup>202,203</sup> Patients with additional adverse prognostic factors, especially those with metachronous brain metastases, have even worse outcomes.<sup>202,204,205</sup>

In a recent retrospective analysis, Loriot et al reported on the pattern of relapse among patients with poor-risk nonseminomatous GCTs previously treated with chemotherapy.<sup>206</sup> After a median follow-up of 4.1 years, 32% were found to have radiographic evidence of brain metastases. The brain was the only site of progression in 54% of these patients and 19% experienced progression in the brain as the first progression event. Furthermore, involvement of the brain was more common among patients who were previously treated with high-dose chemotherapy (29%) compared to BEP (12%). These data suggest that brain metastases from testicular GCTs may occur more frequently than previously thought, often as the only site of progression, and may be more likely to occur in poor-risk patients previously treated with high-dose chemotherapy. However, it is unknown whether this effect was due to the lower cerebral drug penetrance of the high-dose regimen.

The optimal management of brain metastases from testicular GCTs is controversial, with a lack of evidence from prospective trials to guide

treatment decisions.<sup>202,204</sup> Therefore, management decisions are usually based on institutional preferences, which may in part explain the large variation in treatment modalities received by these patients. The NCCN Guidelines recommend primary cisplatin-based chemotherapy for patients with brain metastases. The addition of RT to chemotherapy regimens can also be considered.<sup>207</sup> Surgical resection of metastatic brain lesions should be performed if clinically indicated and feasible.

## Summary

The NCCN Guidelines for Testicular Cancer provide an evidence- and consensus-based treatment approach for the management of adult patients with seminomatous and nonseminomatous testicular GCTs. Testicular GCTs are sensitive to platinum-based chemotherapy and patients have high cure rates even with metastatic disease. Although the majority of metastatic testicular GCTs are cured with chemotherapy, 20% to 30% of patients will relapse after first-line chemotherapy and require additional treatment strategies. The ongoing international phase III TIGER trial aims to determine whether high-dose or conventional-dose chemotherapy is more effective in the second-line setting for patients with relapsed disease. Patients with platinum-refractory or relapsing tumors after second-line therapy have very poor outcomes despite salvage treatments with no effective alternative therapies. Targeted therapies appear to have limited activity in this setting, although more robust clinical trials are needed to assess their value in treating testicular GCTs. Prognosis for patients with brain metastases remains poor, with a lack of evidence from prospective trials to guide treatment decisions. Therefore, the NCCN panel encourages patients with metastatic, recurrent, or platinum-refractory testicular GCTs to participate in well-designed clinical trials investigating novel therapeutic strategies to enable further advances for the management of this disease.



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