

# Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma

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**Note:** Consider Clinical Trials as treatment options for eligible patients

## CLINICAL PRESENTATION

Clinical suspicion of pancreatic cancer (e.g., jaundice) or evidence of dilated pancreatic duct and/or bile duct stricture

- Pancreatic CT scan protocol<sup>1,2</sup>
- Obtain family history<sup>3</sup>
- Lifestyle risk assessment<sup>4</sup>

Mass in pancreas on imaging?

Yes

## DIAGNOSTIC WORK-UP AND TISSUE ACQUISITION

Metastases?

Yes

CT scan or ultrasound-guided biopsy of metastatic disease if accessible. Core needle biopsy is preferred to facilitate next generation sequencing (NGS).

No

- Multidisciplinary planning presentation
- EUS with FNA
- Liver function tests, CA 19-9
- CT chest (preferred) or chest x-ray

No

- Multidisciplinary planning presentation
- Liver function tests, CA 19-9
- CT chest (preferred) or chest x-ray
- EUS with FNA if mass visualized in pancreas
- ERCP with brushings as clinically indicated

Biopsy or brushings positive?

Yes

No

Surgical consult

For treatment based on tissue confirmation and clinical staging, see [Pages 2-5](#)

EUS = endoscopic ultrasound  
 FNA = fine needle aspiration

ERCP = endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography

<sup>1</sup> Pancreatic CT scan protocol: multiphasic cross sectional imaging and thin slices; consider MRI, PET and/or EUS if CT results are equivocal

<sup>2</sup> For patients who cannot undergo contrast enhanced CT (allergy, renal issues, etc.) consider MRI as an alternative

<sup>3</sup> Consider referral for genetic counseling for patients with a family history of cancer. Universal germline testing recommended for eligible patients.

<sup>4</sup> See [Physical Activity](#), [Nutrition](#), and [Tobacco Cessation](#) algorithms; ongoing reassessment of lifestyle risks should be a part of routine clinical practice

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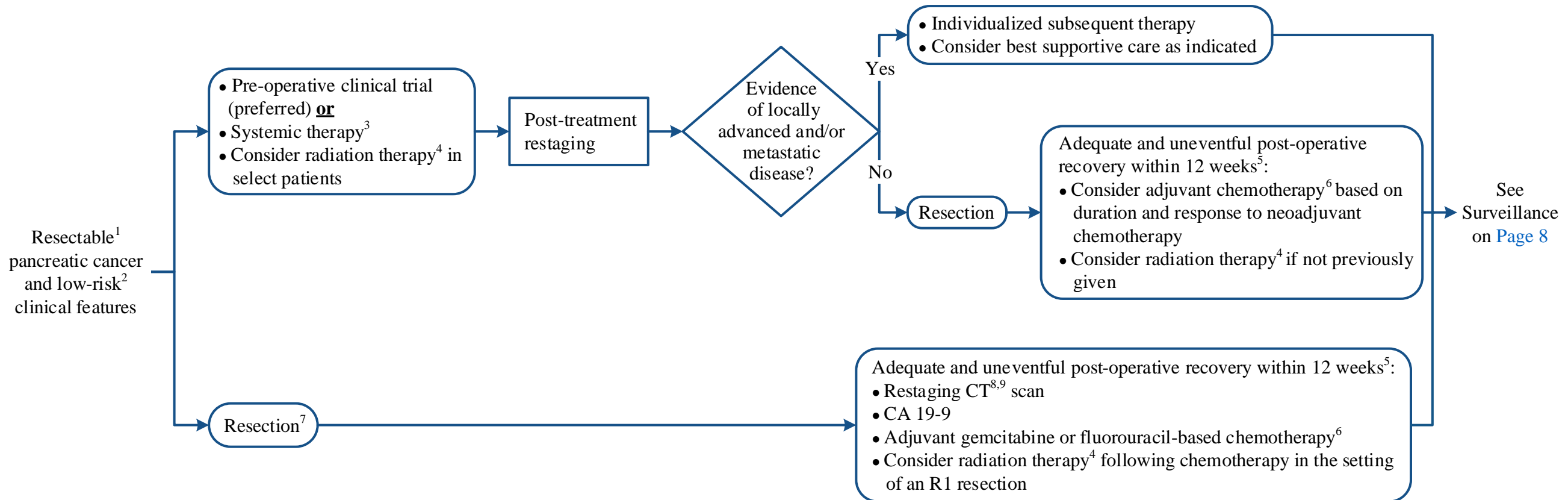
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## PRESENTATION

## TREATMENT

## POST-OPERATIVE



<sup>1</sup> Resectable is defined as:

- Patent superior mesenteric vein-portal vein (SMV-PV) confluence
- No interface between tumor and superior mesenteric artery (SMA) or celiac
- No metastases

<sup>2</sup> Low-risk features:

- No suspicion of metastatic disease
- CA 19-9 ≤ 500 units/mL with normal bilirubin
- Manageable and optimized comorbidities

<sup>3</sup> Typically gemcitabine plus paclitaxel or FOLFIRINOX (see [Appendix A – Chemotherapy Regimens](#))

<sup>4</sup> See [Appendix B – Radiation Therapy](#)

<sup>5</sup> If post-operative recovery is greater than 12 weeks, adjuvant therapy will be at the discretion of the treating provider

<sup>6</sup> Typically FOLFIRINOX or GemCape or single agent gemcitabine (see [Appendix A – Chemotherapy Regimens](#))

<sup>7</sup> If patient exhibits all low-risk features and all other factors are favorable, primary resection can be considered

<sup>8</sup> For patients who cannot undergo contrast enhanced CT (allergy, renal issues, etc.) consider MRI as an alternative

<sup>9</sup> Pancreatic CT scan protocol: multiphasic cross sectional imaging and thin slices; consider MRI, PET and/or EUS if CT results are equivocal

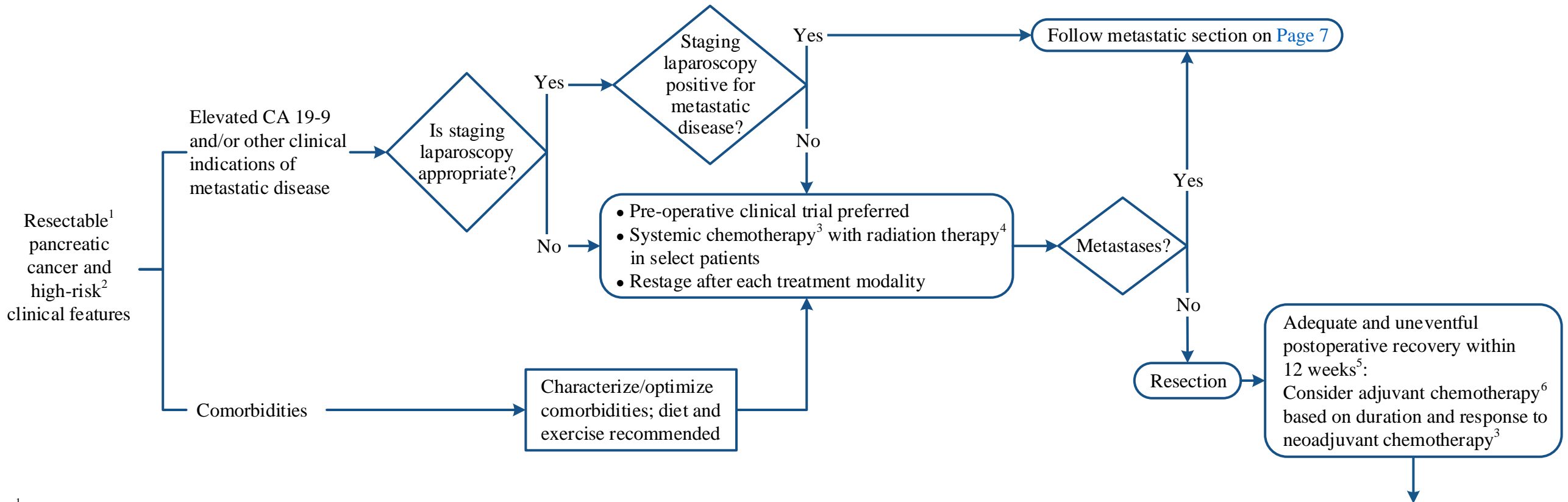
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## PRESENTATION

## TREATMENT



<sup>1</sup> Resectable is defined as:

- Patent superior mesenteric vein-portal vein (SMV-PV) confluence
- No interface between tumor and superior mesenteric artery (SMA) or celiac
- No metastases

<sup>2</sup> High-risk features:

- Suspicion of metastatic disease
- CA 19-9 > 500 units/mL with a normal bilirubin
- Reversible and optimizable comorbidities

<sup>3</sup> Typically gemcitabine plus paclitaxel or FOLFIRINOX (see [Appendix A – Chemotherapy Regimens](#))

<sup>4</sup> See [Appendix B – Radiation Therapy](#)

<sup>5</sup> If post-operative recovery is greater than 12 weeks, adjuvant therapy will be at the discretion of the treating provider

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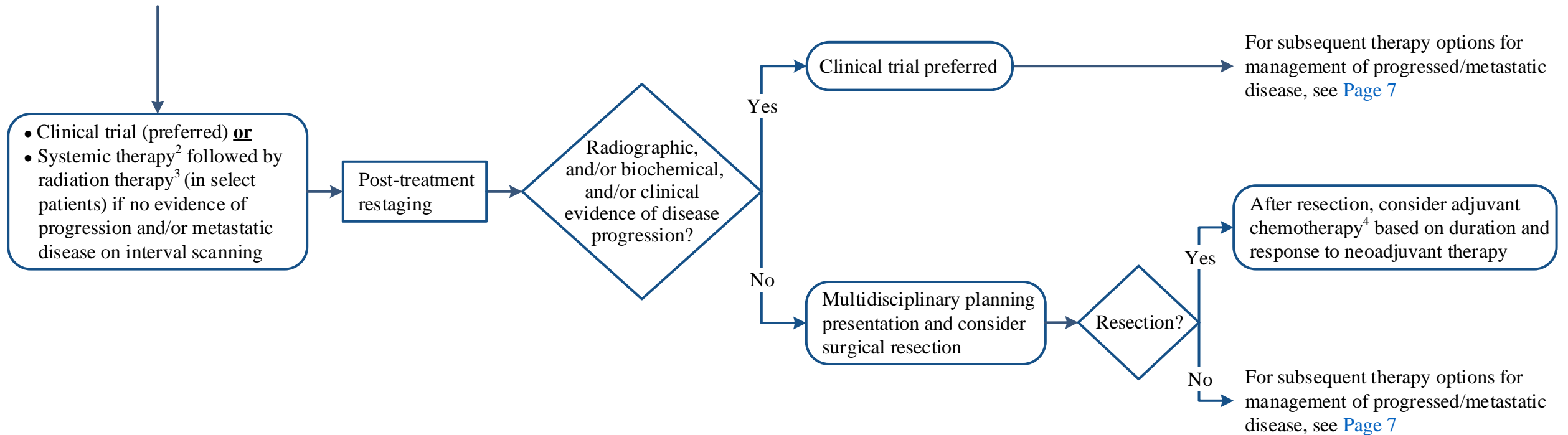
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## PRESENTATION

## TREATMENT

Borderline resectable pancreatic cancer<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> MD Anderson Cancer Center's definition for **borderline resectable pancreatic cancer with or without high risk features**:

Based on anatomic considerations; a tumor abutment of less than or equal to 180° of circumference of superior mesenteric artery (SMA); short-segment encasement abutment of the common hepatic artery **or** gastroduodenal artery; short-segment occlusion of superior mesenteric vein (SMV) **or** superior mesenteric vein-portal vein (SMV-PV) and patent vessel above and below.

High-risk features:

- Suspicion of metastatic disease
- CA 19-9 greater than 500 units/mL with a normal bilirubin
- Reversible and optimizable comorbidities

<sup>2</sup> Typically gemcitabine plus paclitaxel or FOLFIRINOX (see [Appendix A – Chemotherapy Regimens](#))

<sup>3</sup> See [Appendix B – Radiation Therapy](#)

<sup>4</sup> Typically FOLFIRINOX or GemCape or single agent gemcitabine (see [Appendix A – Chemotherapy Regimens](#))

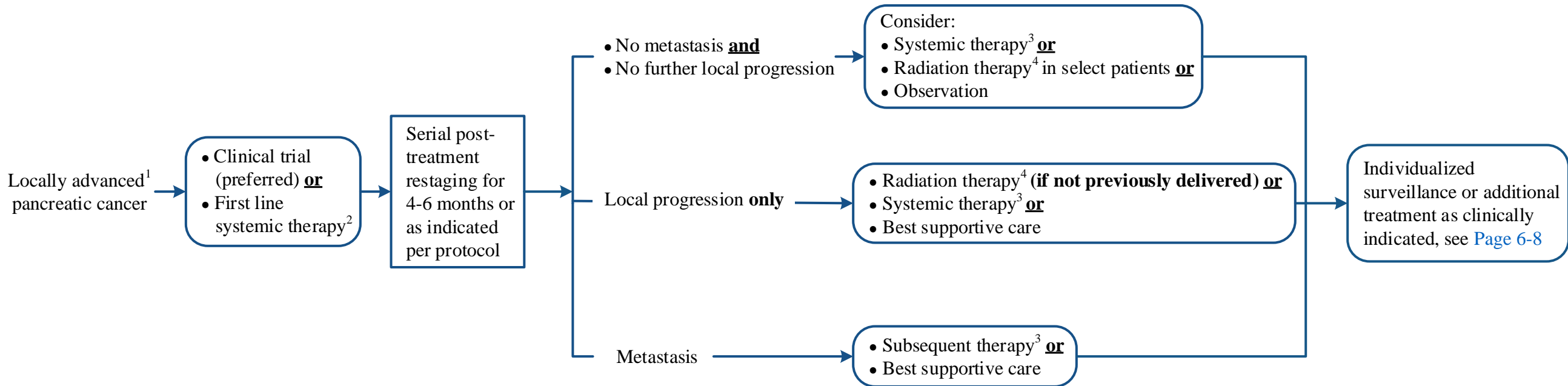
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## PRESENTATION

## TREATMENT



<sup>1</sup> Locally advanced defined as:

- Interface between tumor and SMA or celiac greater than 180°
- Interface with aorta
- Unresectable venous occlusion

<sup>2</sup> Typically gemcitabine plus paclitaxel or FOLFIRINOX (see [Appendix A](#) – Chemotherapy Regimens)

<sup>3</sup> See [Appendix A](#) – Chemotherapy Regimens

<sup>4</sup> See [Appendix B](#) – Radiation Therapy

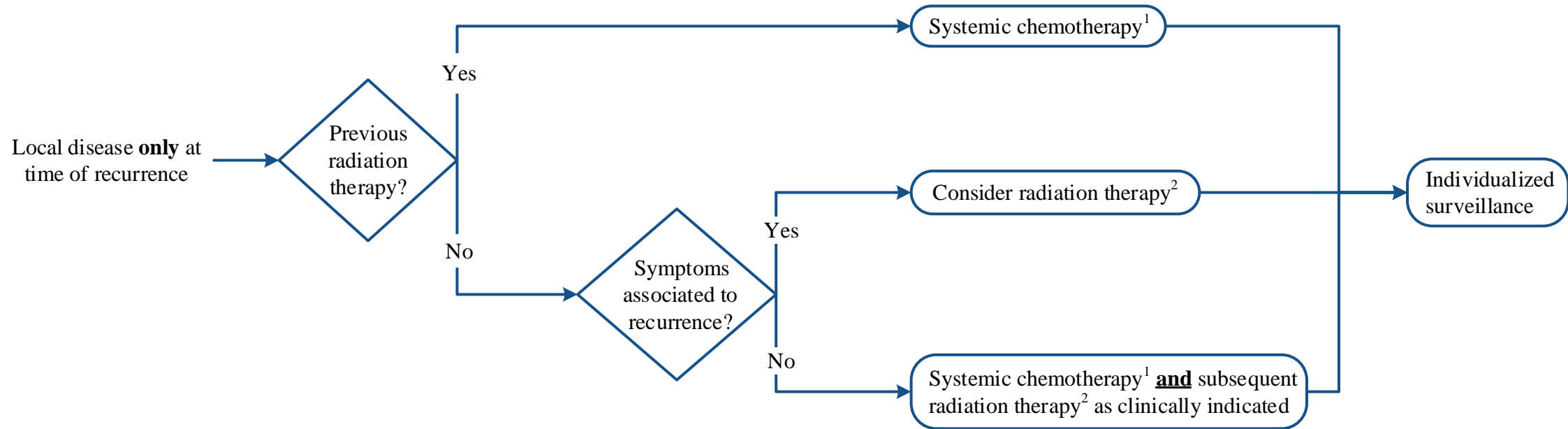
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## RECURRENCE

## TREATMENT



<sup>1</sup> See [Appendix A](#) – Chemotherapy Regimens

<sup>2</sup> See [Appendix B](#) – Radiation Therapy

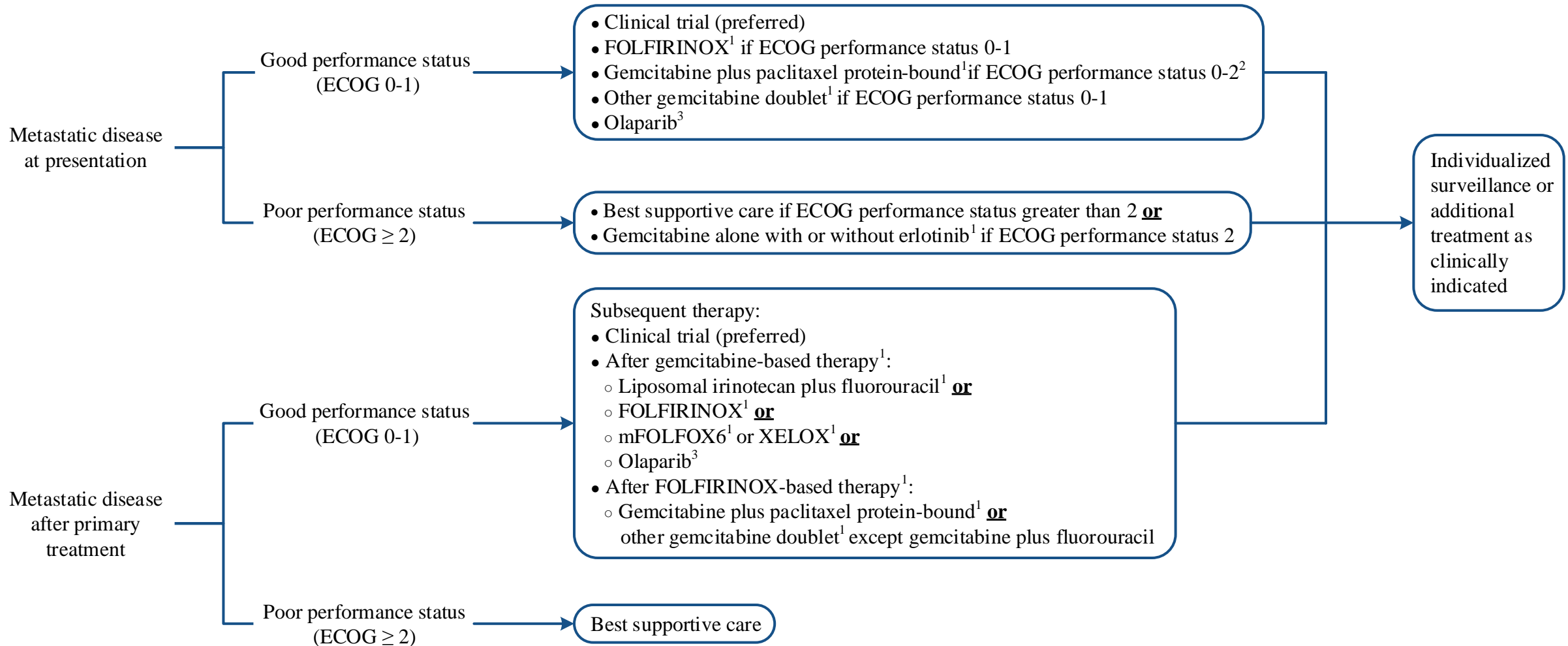
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## PRESENTATION

## TREATMENT



ECOG = Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group

<sup>1</sup> See [Appendix A – Chemotherapy Regimens](#)

<sup>2</sup> For patient with ECOG performance status 2, modify dose as appropriate (refer to dosing for average performance status in [Appendix A](#))

<sup>3</sup> Olaparib may be used as maintenance treatment in the setting of platinum sensitive tumors with BRCA family mutations and no disease progression during at least 16 weeks of first-line, platinum-based chemotherapy

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## SURVEILLANCE

(For patients who had surgery as primary treatment)

Physical Examination	Every 6 months for a total of 5 years, then annually for a total of 5 years
First 3 years: Perform every 6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surveillance (portal venous phase) CT<sup>1,2</sup> abdomen</li> <li>• Chest x-ray</li> <li>• CA 19-9</li> </ul>
Years 4-5: Perform every 6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surveillance (portal venous phase) CT<sup>1,2</sup> abdomen</li> <li>• CT chest</li> <li>• CA 19-9</li> </ul>
Years 6-10: Perform annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surveillance (portal venous phase) CT<sup>1,2</sup> abdomen</li> <li>• CA 19-9</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Consider dedicated pancreatic CT protocol, MRI, PET and/or EUS if surveillance CT results are equivocal, e.g., suspicion of recurrence within pancreatic remnant, extrapancreatic local recurrence, question of liver metastases, etc.

<sup>2</sup> For patients who cannot undergo contrast enhanced CT (allergy, renal issues, etc.) consider MRI as an alternative

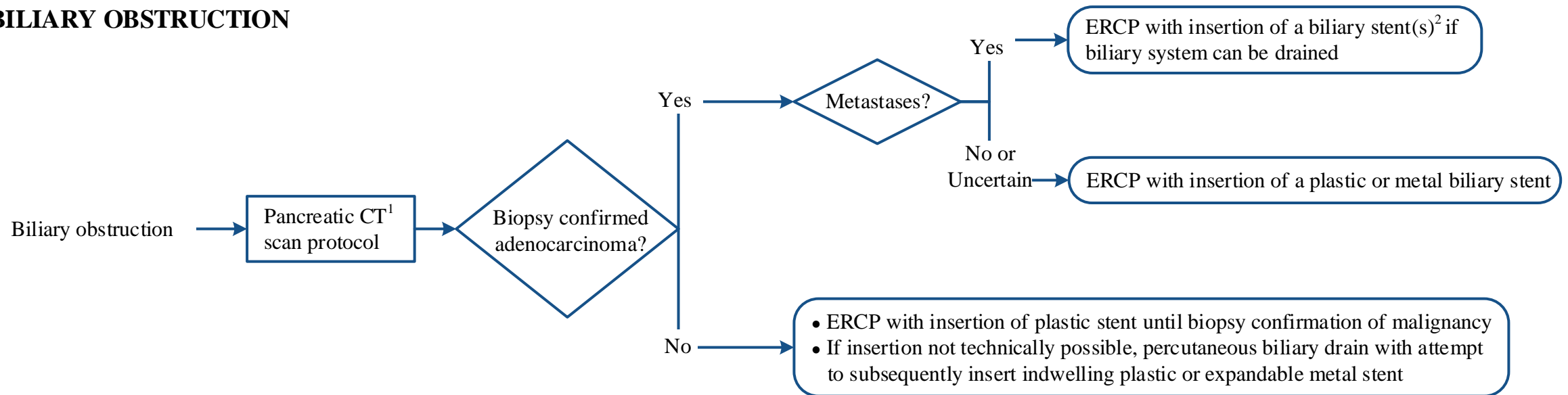


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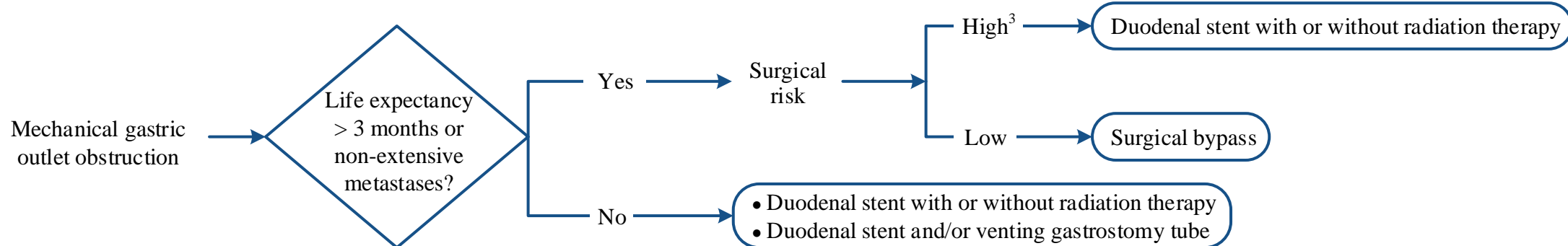
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## BILIARY OBSTRUCTION



## MECHANICAL GASTRIC OUTLET OBSTRUCTION



ERCP = endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography

<sup>1</sup> For patients who cannot undergo contrast enhanced CT (allergy, renal issues, etc.) consider MRI as an alternative

<sup>2</sup> Biliary stent(s) may be metal or plastic

<sup>3</sup> Presence of comorbidities and malnutrition

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## APPENDIX A: Chemotherapy Regimens

### Gemcitabine-based regimens<sup>1,2,3</sup>:

#### Gemcitabine<sup>4</sup>

- Gemcitabine 600-750 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV on Days 1, 8, 15 (fixed dose infusion rate of 10 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/minute preferred)
- **With or without** erlotinib 100 mg PO daily
- Repeat every 28 days

#### GemCis - gemcitabine and cisplatin<sup>5</sup>

- Gemcitabine 600-750 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV on Day 1 (fixed dose infusion rate of 10 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/min preferred)
- Cisplatin 30 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV over 60 minutes on Day 1
- Repeat every 14 days

#### GemCape - gemcitabine and capecitabine<sup>4</sup>

- Gemcitabine 600-750 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV on Days 1 and 8 (fixed dose infusion rate of 10 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/minute preferred)
- Capecitabine 1,500-1,800 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day PO divided twice daily on Days 1-14
- Repeat every 21 days

#### GemCape - gemcitabine and capecitabine<sup>4</sup>

- (dosing from ESPAC 4 in the adjuvant setting)
- Gemcitabine 1,000 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV over 30 minutes weekly on Days 1, 8, and 15<sup>6</sup>
  - Capecitabine 1,660 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day PO in divided doses on Days 1-21
  - Repeat every 28 days

#### Gemcitabine plus paclitaxel protein bound (Abraxane®)<sup>7</sup>

Good performance status:

- Paclitaxel protein-bound 100-125 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV on Days 1, 8, 15
- Gemcitabine 600-750 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV on Days 1, 8, 15 (fixed dose infusion rate of 10 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/min preferred)
- Repeat every 28 days

Average performance status:

- Paclitaxel protein-bound 125-175 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV on Day 1
- Gemcitabine 600-750 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV on Day 1 (fixed dose infusion rate of 10 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/min preferred)
- Repeat every 14 days

#### GTx

- Gemcitabine 300-400 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV on Days 4 and 11 (fixed dose infusion rate of 10 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/minute preferred)
- Docetaxel 30-40 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV on Days 4 and 11
- Capecitabine 1,000 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day PO divided twice daily on Days 1-14
- Repeat every 21 days

#### GemOx - gemcitabine and oxaliplatin

- Gemcitabine 600-750 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV on Day 1 (fixed dose infusion rate of 10 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/minute preferred)
- Oxaliplatin 85 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV over 2 hours on Day 1
- Repeat every 14 days

### Fluoropyrimidine-based regimens<sup>1,2</sup>:

#### mFOLFOX 6

- Oxaliplatin 85 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV over 2 hours on Day 1
- Leucovorin 400 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV over 2 hours on Day 1<sup>8</sup>
- Fluorouracil 400 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV bolus on Day 1<sup>8</sup>, then fluorouracil 2,400 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV continuous infusion over 46 hours
- Repeat every 14 days

#### XELOX or CapeOx

- Capecitabine 1,500-1,800 mg/m<sup>2</sup> PO divided twice daily on Days 1-14, then
- Oxaliplatin 85-100 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV over 2 hours on Day 1
- Repeat every 21 days

#### FOLFIRINOX<sup>4,7</sup>

- Oxaliplatin 75-85 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV over 2 hours on Day 1
- Irinotecan 125-180 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV over 90 minutes on Day 1
- Leucovorin 400 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV over 2 hours on Day 1<sup>7</sup>
- Fluorouracil 400 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV bolus on Day 1<sup>7</sup>, then fluorouracil 2,400 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV continuous infusion over 46 hours
- Repeat every 14 days

#### Liposomal irinotecan (Onivyde®) plus 5-fluorouracil<sup>9</sup>

- Liposomal irinotecan 70 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV over 90 minutes on Day 1<sup>10</sup>
- Leucovorin 400 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV over 2 hours on Day 1<sup>7</sup>
- Fluorouracil 400 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV bolus on Day 1<sup>7</sup>, then
- Fluorouracil 2,400 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV continuous infusion over 46 hours
- Repeat every 14 days

<sup>1</sup>For gemcitabine-based and fluorouracil-based regimen, combination chemotherapy is preferred over monotherapy in the preoperative setting

<sup>2</sup>Dosing should be started at the lower level and modified as patient tolerates

<sup>3</sup>If fixed dose infusion rate not utilized, administer gemcitabine 1,000 mg/m<sup>2</sup> over 30 minutes

<sup>4</sup>Typical post-operative adjuvant regimens: FOLFIRINOX or GemCape or single-agent gemcitabine (depending on response and recovery)

<sup>5</sup>The preferred doublet for tumors with germline BRCA mutations

<sup>6</sup>Many MD Anderson GI Oncologists omit Day 15

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<sup>7</sup>Typical pre-operative neoadjuvant regimens: gemcitabine plus paclitaxel or FOLFIRINOX

<sup>8</sup>Many MD Anderson GI Oncologists omit the bolus of fluorouracil/leucovorin

<sup>9</sup>FDA approved for the treatment of metastatic adenocarcinoma of the pancreas in combination with fluorouracil and leucovorin

<sup>10</sup>For patients with known homozygous *UGT1A1* \*28 allele reduce the initial starting dose to 50 mg/m<sup>2</sup>

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## APPENDIX B: Radiation Therapy

<b>Chemoradiation Regimens</b>
<p><b><u>Long course chemoradiation</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total dose 50 Gy in 25 fractions <b>or</b> 50.4 Gy in 28 fractions</li> <li>• Concurrent capecitabine<sup>1</sup> 1,650 mg/m<sup>2</sup> PO in two divided doses on each day of radiation <b>or</b></li> <li>• Concurrent gemcitabine 300-400 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV given at fixed dose infusion once weekly<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Short course chemoradiation</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total dose 30 Gy in 10 fractions</li> <li>• Concurrent capecitabine<sup>1</sup> 1,650 mg/m<sup>2</sup> PO in two divided doses on each day of radiation <b>or</b></li> <li>• Concurrent gemcitabine 300-400 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV given at fixed rate dose infusion once weekly<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Hypofractionated chemoradiation</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total dose 60-67.5 Gy in 15 fractions</li> <li>• Concurrent capecitabine<sup>1</sup> 1,650 mg/m<sup>2</sup> PO in two divided doses on each day of radiation</li> <li>• Requires image guidance</li> </ul>
<b>Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total dose 33-40 Gy in 5 fractions</li> <li>• Usually requires fiducials</li> <li>• Requires daily image guidance</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Infusional fluorouracil may be used instead

<sup>2</sup> If fixed dose infusion rate of 10 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/minute not utilized, administer gemcitabine over 30 minutes

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# Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma

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