

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^{1,2} scan protocol
- Obtain family history³
- Lifestyle risk assessment⁴

Mass in pancreas on imaging?

Yes

No

DIAGNOSTIC WORK-UP AND TISSUE ACQUISITION

Metastases?

Yes

No

- CT scan or ultrasound-guided biopsy of metastatic disease if accessible

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

- 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

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

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

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

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

Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma

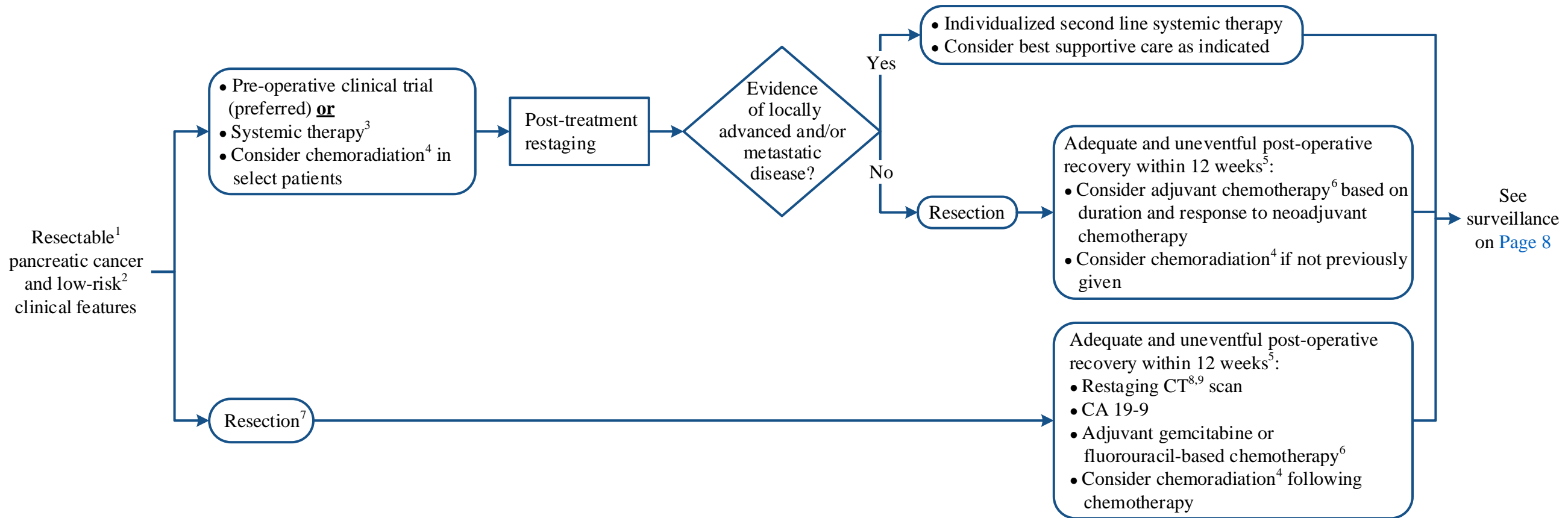
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PRESENTATION

TREATMENT

POST-OPERATIVE



¹ 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

² Low-risk features:

- No suspicion of metastatic disease
- CA 19-9 less than or equal to 500 units/mL with normal bilirubin
- Manageable and optimized comorbidities

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

⁴ See [Appendix B – Chemoradiation and Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy Regimens](#)

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

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

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

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

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

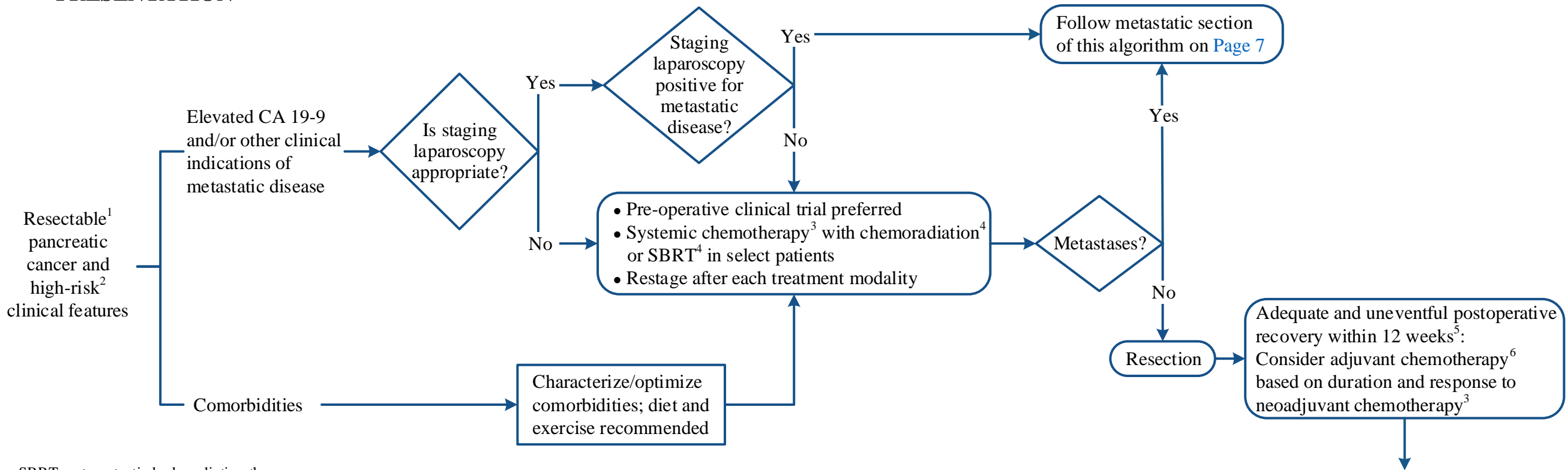
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PRESENTATION

TREATMENT



SBRT = stereotactic body radiation therapy

¹ 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

² High-risk features:

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

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

⁴ See [Appendix B – Chemoradiation and Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy Regimens](#)

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

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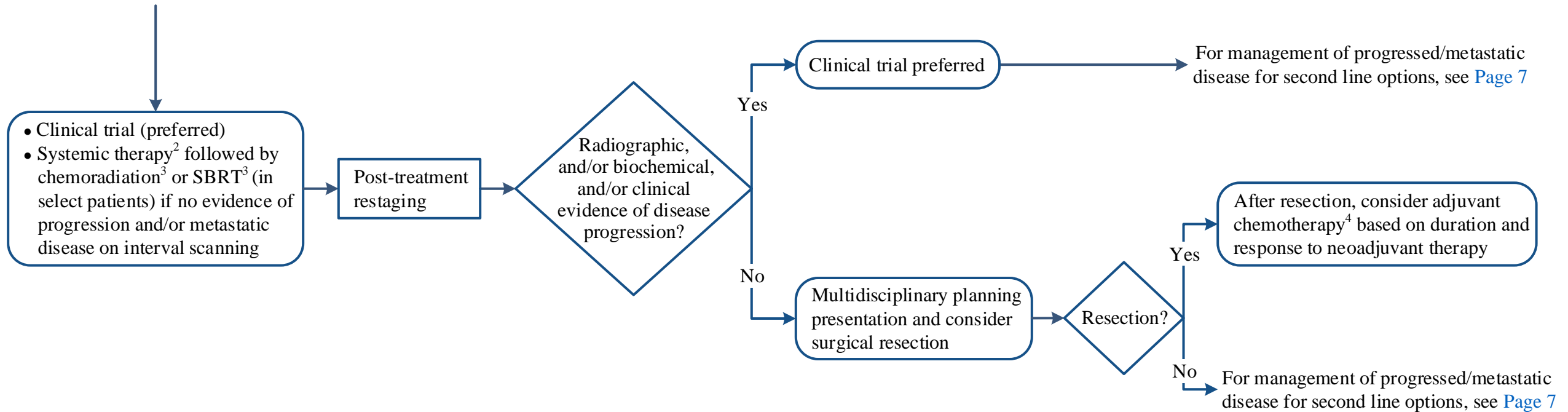
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PRESENTATION

TREATMENT

Borderline resectable pancreatic cancer¹



¹ 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

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

³ See [Appendix B – Chemoradiation and Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy Regimens](#)

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

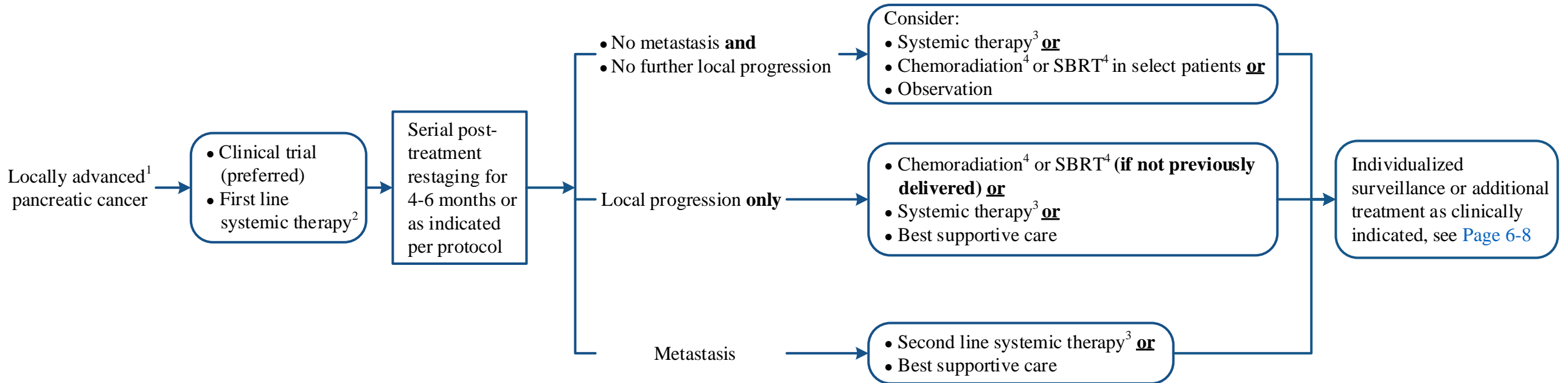
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PRESENTATION

TREATMENT



¹ Locally advanced defined as:

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

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

³ See [Appendix A](#) – Chemotherapy Regimens

⁴ See [Appendix B](#) – Chemoradiation and Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy Regimens

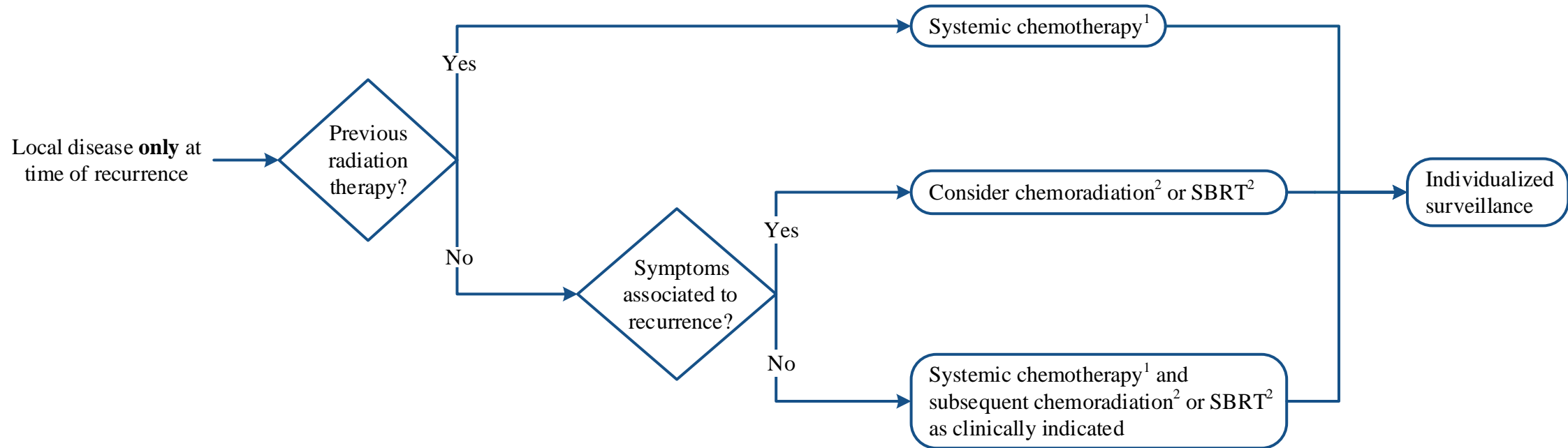
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RECURRENCE

TREATMENT



¹ See [Appendix A](#) – Chemotherapy Regimens

² See [Appendix B](#) – Chemoradiation and Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy Regimens

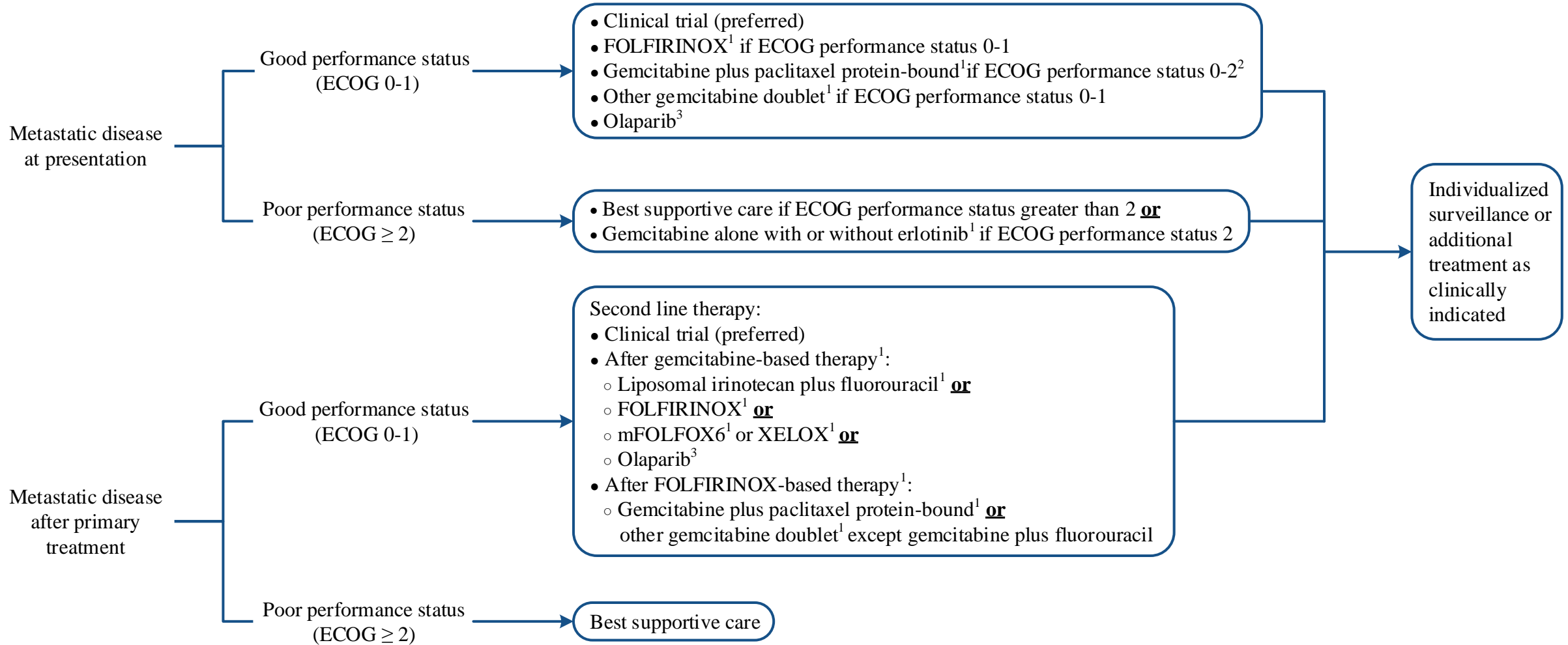
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PRESENTATION

TREATMENT



ECOG = Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group

¹ See [Appendix A](#) – Chemotherapy Regimens

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

³ Olaparib may be used as maintenance treatment in the setting of platinum sensitive tumors with BRCA family mutations and no disease progression during > 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"> • Surveillance (portal venous phase) CT^{1,2} abdomen • Chest x-ray • CA 19-9
Years 4-5: Perform every 6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveillance (portal venous phase) CT^{1,2} abdomen • CT chest • CA 19-9
Years 6-10: Perform annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveillance (portal venous phase) CT^{1,2} abdomen • CA 19-9

¹ 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.

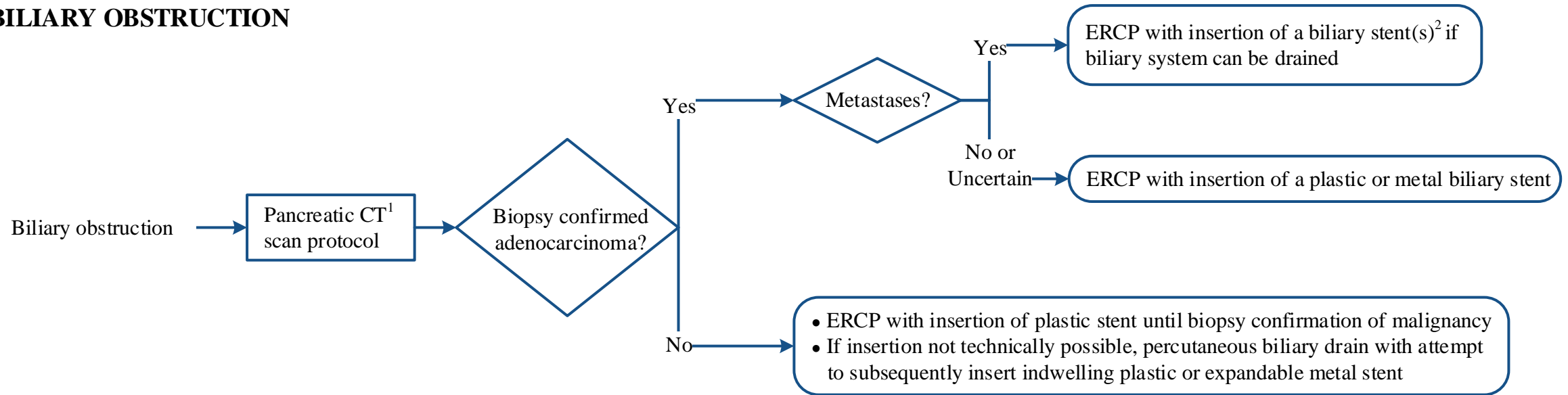
² For patients who cannot undergo contrast enhanced CT (allergy, renal issues, etc.) consider MRI as an alternative

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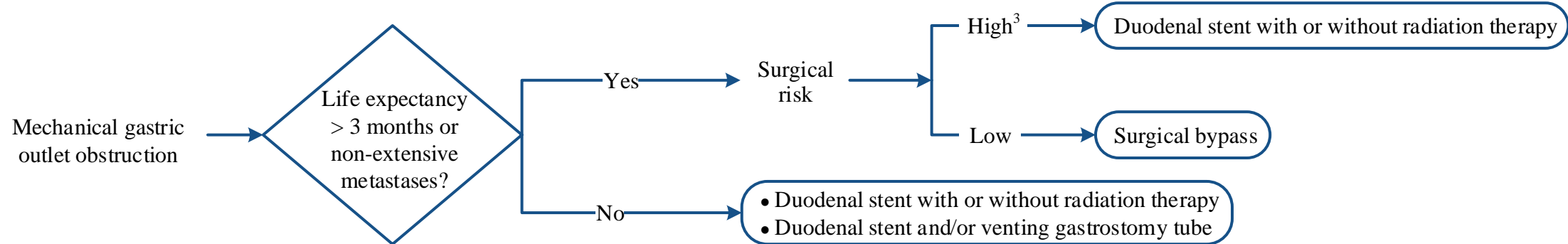
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BILIARY OBSTRUCTION



MECHANICAL GASTRIC OUTLET OBSTRUCTION



ERCP = endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography

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

² Biliary stent(s) may be metal or plastic

³ Presence of comorbidities and malnutrition

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APPENDIX A: Chemotherapy Regimens

Gemcitabine-based regimens^{1,2,3}:

Gemcitabine⁴

- Gemcitabine 600-750 mg/m² IV on Days 1, 8, 15 (fixed dose infusion rate of 10 mg/m²/minute preferred)
- **With or without** erlotinib 100 mg PO daily
- Repeat every 28 days

GemCis - gemcitabine and cisplatin

- Gemcitabine 600-750 mg/m² IV on Day 1 (fixed dose infusion rate of 10 mg/m²/min preferred)
- Cisplatin 30 mg/m² IV over 60 minutes on Day 1
- Repeat every 14 days

GemCape - gemcitabine and capecitabine⁴

- Gemcitabine 600-750 mg/m² IV on Days 1 and 8 (fixed dose infusion rate of 10 mg/m²/minute preferred)
- Capecitabine 1,500-1,800 mg/m²/day PO divided twice daily on Days 1-14
- Repeat every 21 days

GemCape - gemcitabine and capecitabine⁴

- (dosing from ESPAC 4 in the adjuvant setting)
- Gemcitabine 1,000 mg/m² IV over 30 minutes weekly on Days 1, 8, and 15⁵ (fixed dose infusion rate of 10 mg/m²/minute preferred)
 - Capecitabine 1,660 mg/m²/day PO in divided doses on Days 1-21
 - Repeat every 28 days

Gemcitabine plus paclitaxel protein bound (Abraxane[®])⁶

Good performance status:

- Paclitaxel protein-bound 100-125 mg/m² IV on Days 1, 8, 15
- Gemcitabine 600-750 mg/m² IV on Days 1, 8, 15 (fixed dose infusion rate of 10 mg/m²/min preferred)
- Repeat every 28 days

Average performance status:

- Paclitaxel protein-bound 125-175 mg/m² IV on Day 1
- Gemcitabine 600-750 mg/m² IV on Day 1 (fixed dose infusion rate of 10 mg/m²/min preferred)
- Repeat every 14 days

GTx

- Gemcitabine 300-400 mg/m² IV on Days 4 and 11 (fixed dose infusion rate of 10 mg/m²/minute preferred)
- Docetaxel 30-40 mg/m² IV on Days 4 and 11
- Capecitabine 1,000 mg/m²/day PO divided twice daily on Days 1-14
- Repeat every 21 days

GemOx - gemcitabine and oxaliplatin

- Gemcitabine 600-750 mg/m² IV on Day 1 (fixed dose infusion rate of 10 mg/m²/minute preferred)
- Oxaliplatin 85 mg/m² IV over 2 hours on Day 1
- Repeat every 14 days

Fluoropyrimidine-based regimens^{1,2}:

mFOLFOX 6

- Oxaliplatin 85 mg/m² IV over 2 hours on Day 1
- Leucovorin 400 mg/m² IV over 2 hours on Day 1⁷
- Fluorouracil 400 mg/m² IV bolus on Day 1⁷, then fluorouracil 2,400 mg/m² IV continuous infusion over 46 hours
- Repeat every 14 days

XELOX or CapeOx

- Capecitabine 1,500-1,800 mg/m² PO divided twice daily on Days 1-14, then
- Oxaliplatin 85-100 mg/m² IV over 2 hours on Day 1
- Repeat every 21 days

FOLFIRINOX^{4,6}

- Oxaliplatin 75-85 mg/m² IV over 2 hours on Day 1
- Irinotecan 125-180 mg/m² IV over 90 minutes on Day 1
- Leucovorin 400 mg/m² IV over 2 hours on Day 1⁷
- Fluorouracil 400 mg/m² IV bolus on Day 1⁷, then fluorouracil 2,400 mg/m² IV continuous infusion over 46 hours
- Repeat every 14 days

Liposomal irinotecan (Onivyde[®]) plus 5-fluorouracil⁸

- Liposomal irinotecan 70 mg/m² IV over 90 minutes on Day 1
- Leucovorin 400 mg/m² IV over 2 hours on Day 1⁷
- Fluorouracil 400 mg/m² IV bolus on Day 1⁷, then
- Fluorouracil 2,400 mg/m² IV continuous infusion over 46 hours
- Repeat every 14 days

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

² Dosing should be started at the lower level and modified as patient tolerates

³ If fixed dose infusion rate not utilized, administer gemcitabine 1,000 mg/m² over 30 minutes

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

⁵ Many MD Anderson GI Oncologists omit Day 15

⁶ Typical pre-operative neoadjuvant regimens: gemcitabine plus paclitaxel or FOLFIRINOX

⁷ Many MD Anderson GI Oncologists omit the bolus of fluorouracil/leucovorin

⁸ FDA approved for the treatment of metastatic adenocarcinoma of the pancreas in combination with fluorouracil and leucovorin

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APPENDIX B: Chemoradiation and Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy (SBRT)

Chemoradiation Regimens
<p><u>Long course chemoradiation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total dose 50 Gy in 25 fractions or 50.4 Gy in 28 fractions • Concurrent capecitabine¹ 1,650 mg/m² PO in two divided doses on each day of radiation or • Concurrent gemcitabine 300-400 mg/m² IV given at fixed dose infusion once weekly²
<p><u>Short course chemoradiation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total dose 30 Gy in 10 fractions • Concurrent capecitabine¹ 1,650 mg/m² PO in two divided doses on each day of radiation or • Concurrent gemcitabine 300-400 mg/m² IV given at fixed rate dose infusion once weekly²
<p><u>Hypofractionated chemoradiation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total dose 60-67.5 Gy in 15 fractions • Concurrent capecitabine¹ 1,650 mg/m² PO in two divided doses on each day of radiation • Requires image guidance
SBRT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total dose 33 – 40 Gy in five fractions • Usually requires fiducials • Requires daily image guidance

¹ Infusional fluorouracil may be used instead

² If fixed dose infusion rate of 10 mg/m²/minute not utilized, administer gemcitabine over 30 minutes

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DEVELOPMENT CREDITS

This practice algorithm is based on majority expert opinion of the Gastrointestinal Center Faculty at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. It was developed using a multidisciplinary approach that included input from the following:

Prajnan Das, MD (Radiation Oncology Department)[‡]
David Fogelman, MD (GI Medical Oncology)
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