

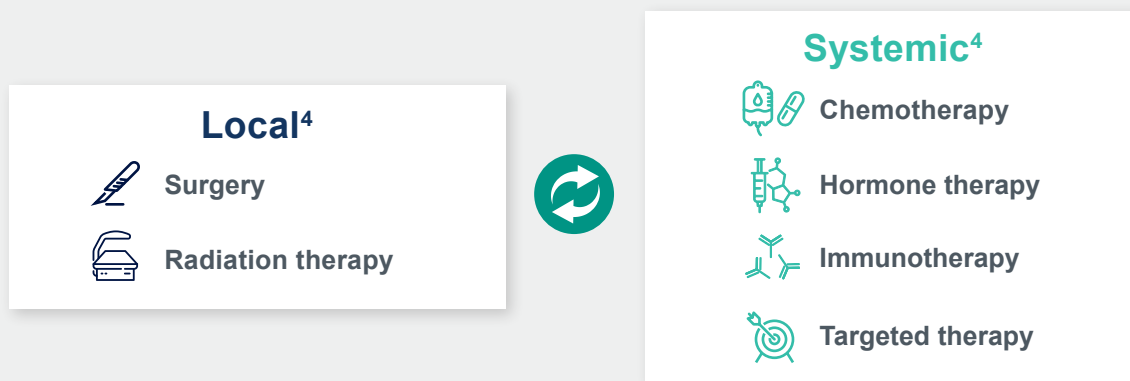
# CONSIDERATIONS FOR NEOADJUVANT AND ADJUVANT THERAPY



In addition to surgery, with the evolution of new treatment options, surgeons play a role in referral of patients to medical oncologists or the multidisciplinary team.<sup>1-3</sup> Coordination with the medical oncologist and the entire care team can help facilitate the development of a treatment plan for patients.<sup>1</sup> This resource will review some factors that may be relevant when considering neoadjuvant and adjuvant therapies.

## Types and Approaches to Cancer Treatment

Treating cancer often involves the use of various treatment modalities. There are local treatments, which are used to treat a specific tumor, and systemic treatments that affect the whole body.<sup>4,5</sup>



These modalities may be used in different combinations and settings to help achieve the overall goals of cancer treatment, such as<sup>5-8</sup>:

Shrinking or removing known tumors

Limiting the spread of the cancer

Reducing the chance of recurrence

## Overview of Neoadjuvant and Adjuvant Therapy



**Neoadjuvant therapy refers to therapeutic modalities that are administered before the primary intervention, which is often surgery.<sup>9</sup>**

Some goals of neoadjuvant therapy are:

Reducing tumor size<sup>9</sup>

Reducing lymph node involvement<sup>1,10</sup>

Helping to reduce the chance of metastatic spread<sup>11,12</sup>



**Adjuvant therapy is administered after primary cancer treatment, such as surgery.<sup>13,14</sup>**

The primary goal of adjuvant therapy is:

Lowering the risk of recurrence<sup>14</sup>

# Factors to Consider When Referring to Your Multidisciplinary Team to Determine a Patient's Eligibility for Neoadjuvant and Adjuvant Treatment



## Stage of Cancer

The extent to which a cancer has progressed or spread.<sup>14</sup>



## Lymph Node Involvement

The number and location of lymph nodes affected.<sup>14,15</sup>



## Tumor-Specific Characteristics

Tumor characteristics, such as size, biomarker status, and resectability.<sup>1,10,14,16</sup>



## Patient-Specific Considerations

Health status before or after primary treatment, tolerability of therapy, length of therapy, and long-term treatment considerations (including fertility).<sup>14,17</sup>



Continue to **identify patients who may be candidates for neoadjuvant and adjuvant therapy** and refer them to a medical oncologist.

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