Metastasis-Free Survival (MFS)

Metastasis-Free **Survival** **(MFS)** is a clinical trial endpoint that measures the length of time from the start of treatment (or randomization) until the development of **distant metastatic disease** or **death from any cause**, whichever occurs first.

Definition

- MFS = Time from treatment initiation to:
    - First occurrence of **distant metastasis** (confirmed radiologically or pathologically), or
    - **Death from any cause**

Context of Use

- Commonly used in:
    - **Prostate cancer** (especially non-metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer, nmCRPC)
    - Other solid tumors where **distant spread** is the key determinant of prognosis
- Serves as a **surrogate endpoint** for overall survival in certain trials.

Advantages

- Focuses on clinically meaningful progression (distant metastasis).
- Can provide **earlier readouts** than overall survival (OS).
- Useful in settings with long survival times but high risk of distant spread.

Limitations

- May not capture **local progression**.
- Imaging frequency and sensitivity may affect detection.
- Not always validated as a **true surrogate** for OS in all cancers.

Related Terms

- Progression-Free Survival (PFS)
- Overall Survival (OS)
- Disease-Free Survival (DFS)
- Distant Metastasis

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Last update: **2025/07/03 06:40**