CareerCenter Career Guide

Physician jobs from the New England Journal of Medicine • October 2025



INSIDE

Career: Preparing Physician CVs and Resumes for Consumption in the Digital Age. Pg. 1

Career: How to Prepare for Your Physician Job Interview. Pq. 7

Clinical: Cancer of Unknown Primary Site, as published in the New England Journal of Medicine. Pq. 11

The latest physician jobs brought to you by the NEJM CareerCenter

Residents and Fellows Edition

Featured Employer Profile





October 9, 2025

Dear Physician:

As you near the completion of your training, I'm sure that finding the right employment opportunity for you is a top priority. The *New England Journal of Medicine* (NEJM) is the leading source of information about job openings, especially practice opportunities, in the country. To assist you in this important search, we've enclosed a complimentary copy of the 2025 *Career Guide: Residents and Fellows* booklet containing current physician job openings across the country and a couple of recent selections from our Career Resources section of NEJMCareerCenter.org.

The NEJM CareerCenter website offers confidentiality safeguards that keep your personal information and job searches private. You may look for both permanent and locum tenens positions in your chosen specialty and desired geographic location.

At NEJM CareerCenter, you will find the following:

- Hundreds of quality, current openings not jobs that were filled months ago
- Email alerts that automatically notify you about new opportunities
- An iPhone app that allows you to easily search and apply for jobs directly from your phone
- Sophisticated search capabilities to help you pinpoint jobs that match your search criteria
- A comprehensive resource center with career-focused articles and job-seeking tips

If you are not currently an NEJM subscriber, I invite you to visit NEJM.org to become one. As you move forward in your career, NEJM offers you the information you will use daily as you see patients — presented in a clinically useful format. Alongside original research articles, you'll find Research Summaries — clinical study results, conclusions, and limitations in a one-page, illustrated PDF — and Quick Takes — short video overviews of the research findings. Clinical Practice articles are evidence-based reviews of common clinical topics, seen through the lens of a seasoned expert. Read "Cancer of Unknown Primary Site" from the May 29, 2025, issue, which is included as a reprint in this special booklet

On behalf of the entire New England Journal of Medicine staff, please accept my wishes for a rewarding career.

Sincerely,

Eric J. Kubin, MD, PhD





Preparing Physician CVs and Resumes for Consumption in the Digital Age

Customization and confidentiality are key considerations in the current recruiting marketplace

By Bonnie Darves

A physician's curriculum vitae (CV) has long functioned as a passport of sorts into the realm of potential practice opportunities, which is why physicians must make sure that the all-important document does well what it's intended to do: provide a comprehensive but succinct and completely accurate overview of your medical training, work, and accomplishments, in a format that's easy to read and digest. Today, however, when everything moves at, well, cyberspeed, physicians should be prepared to respond in near real time when a desirable opportunity comes up — by not only submitting a polished document but by also ensuring that the CV is tailored to the position, according to Peter Angood, MD, chief executive officer of the American Association for Physician Leadership.

"It's important for physicians to customize their CV each time they submit it, to ensure they're including the appropriate keywords," Dr. Angood said, to match qualifications the organization is seeking in a candidate. "Remember that you're trying to get through the initial screening, so the CV keywords should ideally match those in the job position."

Career Resources articles posted on NEJM CareerCenter are produced by freelance health care writers as an advertising service of NEJM Group, a division of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and should not be construed as coming from the New England Journal of Medicine, nor do they represent the views of the New England Journal of Medicine or the Massachusetts Medical Society.



That screening, these days, often includes computer technology that ingests, "scrapes," and dissects the document via machine learning, artificial intelligence, and other mechanisms to identify specific experience or specialization. Because this process typically occurs before the document is routed for human review, the CV should include keywords included in the job description, Dr. Angood said. The idea is to make sure that the physician's qualifications "pop out" readily during both electronic and human screening. "Even in that human screening, keep in mind that the HR professional or a recruiter might only spend 30 seconds to a minute initially reviewing the CV — that's why it should be customized," he added.

Getting the CV through the first electronic screening hurdle is, to some extent, a numbers game, according to John Lastinger, manager of candidate experience for the national recruiting firm Merritt Hawkins. Because computer programs that match candidates with practice opportunities are primarily keyword-based, Mr. Lastinger said, the facility seeking a physician prioritizes the skill set and experience it desires and then the system scans inbound CVs for matches to those keywords. "The more matches within the text of the CV, the higher the match rate and score, and the higher the probability the physician will be interviewed," he said.

That's where the specificity comes in. "Physicians should highlight all key skills and experience that fit the opportunity. For example, radiologists who are certified to read mammography should include that on their CV, as should a cardiologist who performs peripheral interventions," Mr. Lastinger said. At the same time, he added, physicians should choose keywords judiciously and place them strategically, to avoid disseminating a document that's obviously (and intentionally) overfilled with keywords. "We advise physicians to keep focused and be purposeful about their keyword usage," he said. Physicians who are very particular about where they want to practice — whether that's a specific metro area or state, or a particular region — should also ensure they communicate that information in their CV or in an accompanying cover note.

Brenda Reed, a senior recruitment and retention consultant at Atrius Health in Boston, said that even though computer CV screening is ubiquitous these days, physicians shouldn't be unduly concerned that their CV will be overlooked if it doesn't pass the computer screen. "Do organizations get so many CVs that they sort them only by bot and not by people? I'd be truly surprised if there's an institution that only uses bots," Ms. Reed said. "There's a recognition in the industry, I think, that CV parsing isn't that advanced yet, and I'm not aware of any applicant tracking systems that

do it very well." Applicant tracking systems are software programs that organizations use to help them facilitate recruitment and hiring, by helping HR personnel and recruiters organize and navigate potentially large numbers of applicants.

Assemble a CV "package," including a resume, in advance

Creating a polished, effective CV is the most important task for physicians seeking a practice opportunity, but that's only the first step. All sources interviewed for this article agreed that physicians should have a complete, customizable package prepared before they start actively identifying and applying for open positions. That package, ideally, includes a CV, resume, and draft cover letter or note that can be readily adjusted to fit the opportunity, according to Dr. Angood. "I think it's critically important to create a set of documents and then tailor them," he said. "There's an ongoing need, in my experience, for physicians to appreciate the intent and purpose of these materials," he said.

The physician resume is a short version of the CV that quickly highlights skills and qualifications for a particular position, and, more importantly, provides an opportunity to briefly explain why the candidate is a good fit for the prospective position. For example, if a physician is seeking an opportunity that includes a mix of clinical and administration or leadership roles, a resume might focus on the physician's direct experience in the latter two areas. A well-structured resume that includes any business experience or credentials is a must for physicians who want to transition from clinical practice to nonclinical roles, Dr. Angood noted, and the document should also include both specific achievements — even specifics such as increasing patient volumes over time through efficiency — and a forward-looking focus or statement.

"Organizations today are looking for physicians who can demonstrate not just their experience but also how their work made an impact and how their accomplishments have prepared them to contribute to the organization they join," Dr. Angood said, given the changing priorities of and increasing demands on hospitals and health systems today. For example, physicians who have either experience or interest in such areas as patient-centered care models, shared decision-making, or value-based care should include those details in a resume. "Hiring organizations are very interested

in knowing the opportunities and results physicians accomplished in their position," said Dr. Angood.

Young or early-career physicians likely won't need a resume, Ms. Reed said, unless they have obtained specific skills or experience in business, technology, or organization-wide initiatives. "Sometimes a physician applying for a patient-care opportunity might be a good candidate for an innovation position that includes some nonclinical work, so that extra experience is worth noting," she said, in either the CV or a resume.

Be selective — and careful — when using job boards to upload your CV

While physicians can likely expect a personal review of their CV when they send it directly to a hiring organization, that's not necessarily the case when it comes to job boards. Scott Edwards, chief executive officer of Metropolis, a marketplace for health care jobs, advises physicians to be very selective when using job boards and to exercise due diligence before creating an account and uploading their information and documents into a database.

"It's important to check out the job board's reputation and to ensure that you have some control over how your documents are handled. In some cases, you might upload your documents thinking that you're applying for a particular position, when in fact you've simply placed your CV and personal information into a repository that all can see and that's searchable," said Mr. Edwards. When that happens, physicians may quickly be overwhelmed with inquiries regarding positions they're not interested in or opportunities in unsuitable geographic areas — or possibly run the risk that their current colleagues might come across their information.

"Physicians should understand that many job boards aren't private," said Mr. Edwards, whose company uses a private and confidential "match" model that only connects applicants with prospective employers that have subscribed to the service and agreed to be connected if a match is found. He recommends that physicians avoid job boards that don't allow for confidentiality or aren't nimble enough to enable narrowing the search parameters — in terms of practice type, subspecialty, and geographic location — to only those desired.

"Physicians really should understand, before submitting their CV to a job board or repository, exactly how their materials are ingested, dissected, and disseminated once they upload it to a database," said Ms. Reed. In short, in the persisting highly competitive, high-demand market for physician services, CVs are such hot commodities that there are technologies and software programs waiting in the wings to "snatch" the document from the internet and route it to unknown recipients.

Tips for making your CV stand out — in the right way

Be careful about how you label your CV document. Keep the recipient in mind when you create a filename, so that recruiters or others who might be reviewing candidates' CVs can readily identify you, advises Brenda Reed, a senior recruitment and retention consultant at Massachusetts-based Atrius Health. The ideal filename would be ordered like this: Last name, first name, discipline, and specialty. "That way, reviewers can quickly figure out whose CV it is. I've received CVs with document names like 'JoesCV.' That makes it hard for recipients to figure out whose document it is," Ms. Reed said. The same filename structure should also be used for the cover letter, she added.

Don't "over-stuff" the CV. Sometimes, physicians think that because they're trying to cover a lot of ground in a few pages, it makes sense to fill every available inch. That's not helpful to the readers who have to make their way through a densely packed document, according to John Lastinger, manager of candidate experience for Merritt Hawkins. "White space is your friend. Make sure to leave plenty of white space," he said, which makes it easier on readers' eyes when they're navigating the document. He also stresses the importance of including a name header and page number on every page of the CV, so that the document is readily identifiable. "Formatting is very important when it comes to having a document scanned, which it likely will be," he said.

Create and submit your CV in a .pdf format rather than a .doc or other word-processing program format — and protect your personal information. The benefit of using a .pdf format is that the document can't be readily altered by someone in the receiving chain, noted Scott Edwards, chief executive officer of Metropolis. "That might be unlikely, but it can happen if someone who is unscrupulous gains access to your CV, so it's better to be safe," he said. On another note, physicians who plan to submit their CVs and other materials to numerous entities and are engaging in a broad search should consider purchasing a dedicated email address specifically for their search activities. "It's also a good idea to consider getting a dedi-



cated cellphone number for the job search, to avoid being contacted on their personal cellphones while they're at work," Mr. Edwards said.

When physicians "launch" their CV, they should be prepared to respond to the flurry of inquiries that will ensue. Putting the CV out into the universe of potential job opportunities is a serious undertaking, and physicians should be ready to adjust their schedules accordingly to accommodate the responsiveness and professionalism required to manage a search, according to Peter Angood, MD, chief executive officer of the American Association for Physician Leadership. "I often tell physicians that it's close to a two-and-a-half-time job when they're trying to get a new full-time job, because so many of the activities happen after hours," he said.

Did you find this article helpful? Sign up for our Career Resources Update e-newsletter to get more physician career articles delivered right to your inbox! www.nejmcareercenter.org/register.



How to Prepare for Your Physician Job Interview

Customization and confidentiality are key considerations in the current recruiting marketplace

By Nisha Mehta, MD, a physician leader whose work focuses on physician empowerment, community building, and career longevity in medicine

Finally! You've done countless interviews at this point, but for many of you, this is the first one where you are interviewing for a "real job." Some of the same rules apply, but others are very different.

To start, the dynamic in this interview is much different than others. You are likely interviewing with people who will be your colleagues, and your impression of them counts just as much as their impression of you. Depending on the job market in your field, there's a distinct possibility that they may even need you more than you need them.

Additionally, in an ideal scenario, you are picking a job that will last longer than a set time period of training. You are designing what potentially decades of life could look like for you and your family. Since this isn't just a stepping-stone to the next thing, your approach will need to be more all-inclusive. Also, unlike residencies and fellowships, where a similar core set of responsibilities and expectations are already outlined, there is a lot of variability between jobs, even within the same city and specialty. It's

important you are able to leave the interview with a 360-degree view of the position and the life you will build around it.

Keeping all of that in mind, here are some of my core tips for preparing for an interview:

- 1. Do your research about a job ahead of time. Not doing this is one of the biggest mistakes I see applicants making. Showing up to a job and asking basic questions whose answers can easily be found online will cause interviewers to question why you're at the interview and how serious you are about the job. You want to come in knowing how the group is structured from a management perspective, what its patient population looks like, who the referral base may be, and what areas within your field the group specializes in, as well as some areas or topics where you may be able to add value. Look at the group's website and the members and see if there are any connections that you might have where you might be able to find common ground. Call the people you know who may be familiar with the group and ask them for insights. Find out if people have left the group recently, as it may raise some red flags. This will all lead to more sophisticated questions that you can ask and more valuable information to consider when you are making your decision. It will also tell group members you are serious about the opportunity, which will help your chances as they decide whether to extend a job offer. Time and resources are precious in this process, and many won't want to waste their time if they feel they are 1 of 100 possibilities.
- 2. Try and allot time to get to know the city you are interviewing in. For those of you who are trying to return to a known place, this may be less of an issue, but nonetheless, training somewhere or growing up somewhere is different from living there as an adult and potentially raising a family in that location. Make sure the place offers outlets to foster your interests outside of work, as it will play into your happiness and burnout. Tour neighborhoods you may want to live in, and if you have educational preferences for your children, take some time to explore your options. If applicable, bring your significant other with you so that you're on the same page about pros and cons of living there.
- 3. When interviewing with potential future colleagues, don't be afraid to be yourself. It's important that the fit feels natural and that there is a mutual desire to work together. As the saying goes, you can't choose your family, but you can choose your friends. Similarly, you can choose colleagues that you are confident will contribute to your happiness at the

- job, whether it be via friendships, accommodating emergencies when they arise, splitting work in a way that feels equitable, and being respected. You should see yourself fitting into the culture of the group's members and in line with the standards, ethics, and practice patterns that they embrace.
- 4. In a similar vein, take note of how colleagues are interacting with each other. As the landscape of healthcare delivery gets more challenging and complicated, it's important that you feel that the group is cohesive and supports each other. If there are obvious tensions within the group, it may be a sign that there is more beneath the surface that's resulting in conflict, whether it's RVU (relative value unit) structures, partnership issues, different beliefs about the direction the company is taking, etc.
- 5. Talk about money and opportunities for growth. After all, this is a job. Put some effort into figuring out how revenue is generated, when you get to share in those profits, and what the plans of the group are in terms of expansion. If the compensation structure is complicated, ask for details. You don't have to take up your entire interview time talking about it, but get a basic sense and then ask the interviewer to send you a summary with details later. Understand the benefits. If the group's members do something a lot different from other groups you've interviewed with or your colleagues are interviewing with, ask them why they chose to structure things in that way.
- 6. If possible, spend some time shadowing someone whose job is similar to the one you're interviewing for. Make sure you can see yourself happy in his or her shoes, and if there are obvious pain points or dealbreakers, take note of them. You may not be able to do this on the day of the interview, but if you have doubts about whether you'd enjoy the particular setting ahead of time, see if an interviewer can incorporate this on a later date. Again, it's in everybody's best interest to ensure a job is a good fit for you.

I could go on, but your goal on your interview day is to confirm the job is one you can see yourself enjoying for years to come. You're really picking more than a job — you're picking a lifestyle and a vision for your future, and you want to make sure you are keeping a keen eye out for pros, cons, and red flags.

Did you find this article helpful? Sign up for our Career Resources Update e-newsletter to get more physician career articles delivered right to your inbox! www.nejmcareercenter.org/register.

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

CLINICAL PRACTICE

Cancer of Unknown Primary Site

Kanwal Raghav, M.D.1

This Journal feature begins with a case vignette highlighting a common clinical problem.

Evidence supporting various strategies is then presented, followed by a review of formal guidelines,

when they exist. The article ends with the author's clinical recommendations.

A previously healthy 47-year-old woman presented with abdominal bloating and discomfort that had worsened over the previous 3 months. Her examination was notable for abdominal distention with bulging flanks and shifting dullness consistent with ascites. Further workup revealed a normocytic anemia (hemoglobin level, 10.4 g per deciliter; reference range, 12.0 to 14.0), elevated serum cancer antigen 125 level (168 U per milliliter; reference value, <38), and elevated carcinoembryonic antigen level (14.7 ng per milliliter; reference value, <3.8). A computed tomographic (CT) scan of her chest, abdomen, and pelvis with the use of contrast material showed liver, lymph node, and peritoneal tumors with ascites. She was referred to an oncologist because of suspicion of cancer, and an omental biopsy revealed poorly differentiated carcinoma with immunohistochemical assays positive for CK20, CDX2, and SATB2 (lower gastrointestinal tract immunostains) and negative for multiple other immunostains. A subsequent fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG) positron-emission tomographic (PET) scan showed FDG-avid liver, lymph node, and peritoneal metastases. Further testing with mammography, colonoscopy, and upper endoscopy failed to identify any primary site. Molecular profiling to find the tissue of origin and identify targetable genomic alterations was deemed indeterminate. How would you further evaluate and treat this patient?

THE CLINICAL PROBLEM

ANCER OF UNKNOWN PRIMARY SITE IS AN EVER-EVOLVING DISEASE ENtity and one of the most challenging diagnoses to manage in oncology.¹⁻³ The term "cancer of unknown primary site" encompasses a diverse group of histologically confirmed cancers that have metastasized by the time of presentation, with the primary site of origin eluding detection despite a standard diagnostic workup.⁴⁻⁶ Patients with cancer of unknown primary site use more health care resources, including more investigations, emergency visits, and hospitalizations, than patients with known primary sites.^{7,8}

Cancer of unknown primary site is an uncommon diagnosis that accounts for 2 to 4% of all cancers. The American Cancer Society estimates that approximately 37,370 new cases of cancer of unknown primary site will be diagnosed in the United States in 2025. Worldwide, incidence rates have been declining and range between 2 and 15 cases per 100,000 person-years. Factors that have possibly contributed to this decreasing trend include enhanced diagnostic methods together with the expanded use of molecular profiling that can more accurately identify the primary site, improved quality of reporting, and better identification of key differential diagnostic elements, such as recurrence of antecedent cancers and cholangiocarcinoma. As with all cancers, smoking, alcohol consumption, diabetes, and family

Author affiliations are listed at the end of the article. Dr. Raghav can be contacted at kpraghav@mdanderson.org or at Gastrointestinal Medical Oncology (Unit 426), University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, 1515 Holcombe Blvd., Houston, TX 77030.

N Engl J Med 2025;392:2035-47.
DOI: 10.1056/NEJMcp2402691
Copyright © 2025 Massachusetts Medical Society

CME



N ENGLJ MED 392;20 NEJM.ORG MAY 29, 2025

KEY POINTS

CANCER OF UNKNOWN PRIMARY SITE

- Cancer of unknown primary site is a heterogeneous group of histologically confirmed metastatic cancers, with the primary anatomical site of origin remaining unidentified after a standard diagnostic
- Baseline evaluation involves a detailed history; physical, laboratory, and imaging assessments (ideally, a contrast-enhanced computed tomographic scan of the chest, abdomen, and pelvis); and a thorough pathological workup of adequate tumor tissue.
- Although immunophenotyping is the mainstay of diagnosis, recent advances have led to the integration of molecular profiling in predicting the tissue of origin and identifying targetable alterations in the management of cancer of unknown primary site.
- Both site-specific therapy (treatment of a putative primary site) and empirical chemotherapy (with a platinum-based cytotoxic regimen) are acceptable options for treatment.
- The overall prognosis for patients with cancer of unknown primary site remains poor. Participation in clinical trials should be encouraged.

history have been implicated as risk factors for NRAS mutation and CDKN2A deletion) have been cancer of unknown primary site.¹⁵ Typically, paimplicated as adverse prognostic factors.²³⁻²⁵ tients present with incidental findings or clinical Imaging and pathological examination reveal diverse histologic findings (adenocarcinoma in 59% lymph nodes in 7%, among others). 16,17

been classified into "favorable" and "unfavorable" era of molecular diagnostics and tailored therarefers to distinct clinicopathological manifestaof cases of cancer of unknown primary site and this hypothesis. 30-33 is associated with a better prognosis than unfavorable disease. 18 The larger unfavorable subset of cancer of unknown primary site is associated with poor survival, although modest improvement has **CLINICAL EVALUATION** been noted in the past several years.¹⁷⁻²² Survival The diagnosis of cancer of unknown primary site outcomes in patients with cancer of unknown relies on a comprehensive workup aimed at primary site appear to be worse than those in evaluating for the presence of any primary lesion patients with metastatic cancers of known primary (Figs. 2 and 3).⁴⁻⁶ However, the extent of diagsite, which suggests a more aggressive behavior nostic testing may be restricted by resource conof the former.²² Male sex, poor performance status, straints, coexisting medical conditions, and the histologic findings indicating adenocarcinoma, therapeutic window (the urgency of treatment a high number of metastases, the presence of liver dictated by the extent and pace of disease and or peritoneal metastases, a high neutrophil-lym- the symptom burden). The clinical evaluation be-

Although the pathophysiologic mechanisms signs and symptoms of multiorgan metastases. underlying cancer of unknown primary site remain unclear, a broad postulate has emerged, fostered by our understanding of the biologic underpinof cases, poorly differentiated or undifferentiated nings of metastases from known primary sites carcinoma or neoplasm in 31%, and squamous (Fig. 1).^{26,27} One hypothesis is that cancer of uncarcinoma in 9%) with varied metastatic patterns known primary site is a metastatic syndrome with (multiple sites in 33% of cases, liver in 25%, and early and rapid dissemination from a primary tumor that either is very small or has regressed Although cancer of unknown primary site has and is below the threshold of detection by contemporary diagnostic methods. This remarkably subsets, these labels are evolving in the current divergent behavior suggests a core programming distinct from cancers of known primary site that pies. Favorable cancer of unknown primary site is driven by a prometastatic phenotype and ecosystem.^{28,29} Evidence of heterogeneity and of biotions in which the pattern of metastatic disease logic subtypes that are associated with distinct is typical of certain known cancers, such as breast metastatic patterns, immunophenotypic and mocancer occurring with axillary lymphadenopathy lecular profiles, and survival among persons with (Table 1).⁴⁻⁶ The favorable subset comprises 20% diverse cancers of known primary site furthers

STRATEGIES AND EVIDENCE

phocyte ratio, and molecular alterations (KRAS or gins with obtaining a careful history, including

Manifestation	Analogous Known Primary Site	Therapeutic Strategy
Clinicopathological		
Blastic bone metastases with elevated prostate- specific antigen level (in men)	Prostate cancer	Combination androgen-deprivation therapy
Carcinoma (serous) with peritoneal carcinomatosis (in women)	Ovarian cancer	Chemotherapy (paclitaxel and carboplatin with or without bevacizumab)
Carcinoma with isolated axillary lymphadenopathy (in women)	Breast cancer	Chemotherapy, surgery, and radiation therapy (according to breast cancer guidelines)
Solitary or oligometastatic disease	Any tissue of origin	Chemotherapy with or without radiation therapy or chemoradiation with or without surgery
Squamous-cell carcinoma with cervical lymph- adenopathy	Head and neck squa- mous-cell cancer	Surgery with or without radiation therapy or chemo- radiation with or without chemotherapy (according to head and neck squamous-cell cancer guidelines)
Immunohistochemical		
CK20+ and CDX2+	Lower gastrointestinal or colorectal cancer	FOLFOX, XELOX, FOLFIRI, or FOLFOXIRI
Molecular		
BRAF V600E mutation	Any tissue of origin	Dabrafenib with trametinib
Fusions		
NTRK	Any tissue of origin	Entrectinib, larotrectinib, or repotrectinib
RET	Any tissue of origin	Selpercatinib
HER2 amplification or overexpression†	Any tissue of origin	Trastuzumab deruxtecan
Immunotherapy eligible		
Mismatch repair-deficient and microsatellite instability-high	Any tissue of origin	PD-1 and PD-L1 monoclonal antibodies

^{*} FOLFIRI denotes folinic acid, fluorouracil, and irinotecan; FOLFOX fluorouracil, leucovorin, and oxaliplatin; FOLFOXIRI fluorouracil, leucovorin, oxaliplatin, and irinotecan; HER2 human epidermal growth factor receptor 2; PD-1 programmed cell death protein 1; PD-L1 programmed death ligand 1; and XELOX capecitabine and oxaliplatin.

Any tissue of origin

a review of family and personal history of previagement plan on the basis of the overall manifestaous cancers. A physical examination and base- tion of the disease and the expertise of the multiline laboratory evaluation can help direct further disciplinary team is warranted (Figs. 2 and 3). workup. All patients should undergo imaging (ideally a CT scan with the use of contrast mate- Immunophenotyping

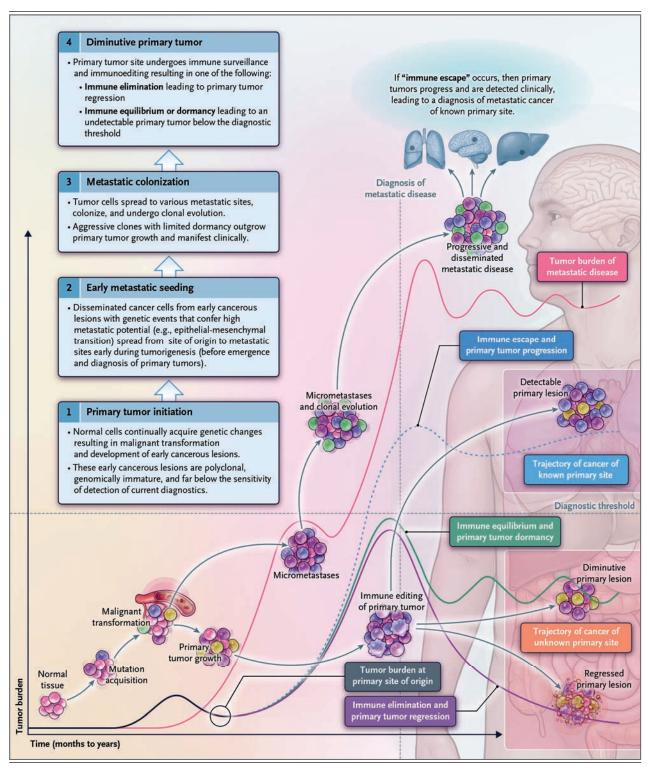
High tumor mutational burden:

Pembrolizumab

rial) of the chest, abdomen, and pelvis. The use Light microscopic examination of tumor tissue of adjunct diagnostic methods, such as PET scan, with immunophenotyping remains the mainstay magnetic resonance imaging, mammography, tes- in the diagnosis of cancer of unknown primary ticular ultrasonography (in young men with mid-site. The accuracy of immunohistochemical testing line lymphadenopathy), or invasive procedures for diagnosing tissue type is high, especially if (upper endoscopy, colonoscopy, bronchoscopy, adequate tumor tissue is assessed. 34,35 When poslaryngoscopy, or cystoscopy), should be guided sible, a core-needle biopsy is preferred to preserve by symptoms, imaging, or pathological findings features of tissue architecture that assist with indicative of a primary origin. The diagnostic diagnosis. During this process, close communiusefulness of any one test is limited, especially cation with a pathologist as a part of a multidisin the face of atypical biologic characteristics and ciplinary team can enable directed and judicious patterns; therefore, the development of a man-use of tissue for the immunohistochemical assay

[†] HER2 amplification or overexpression was defined as an immunohistochemical score of 3+.

[±] A high tumor mutational burden was defined as at least 10 mutations per megabase.



metastatic tumors, and nearly two thirds of pa- Despite this heavy reliance on immunohistochem-

since sufficient tumor tissue is also required for tients with cancer of unknown primary site will molecular profiling. Pathologists use an average have insufficient tissue left for molecular profilof 8.8 immunostains (range, 0 to 20) in evaluating ing during the course of their clinical care. 35,36

Figure 1 (facing page). Development of Cancer of Unknown Primary Site.

The hallmark of cancer of unknown primary site is the presence of detectable metastatic disease without an identifiable primary lesion. The biologic features of cancer of unknown primary site, as opposed to cancer of known primary site, favor an aggressive phenotype with a propensity for early metastases and metastatic tumor outgrowth. While the metastatic disease grows, the primary tumor undergoes extensive immunoediting that is orchestrated by diverse anti- and protumorigenic immune cells and cytokines. Unlike cancer of known primary site, in which the primary tumor will progress by evading the immune system, cancer of unknown primary site involves a process that results in either immune elimination with regression of the primary tumor or an immune equilibrium (a state of dormancy) that leads to a subclinical primary lesion below the limits of diagnostic sensitivity. The graph shows tumor-burden growth over time in both metastatic and primary disease. Biologic features of the disease leading to differences between the primary tumor and the metastatic disease with respect to growth trajectory and diagnostic sensitivity result in the entities known as cancer of known primary site and cancer of unknown primary site.

unknown primary site.38

Molecular Profiling for the Prediction of Tissue of Origin

alike. Therefore, a biomarker set can be generated strategy is lacking. on the basis of commonalities in genomic, tran-

methylation coupled with machine learning have been developed, with accuracy in predicting the tissue of origin ranging from 65 to 99%.³⁹ Among these strategies, only gene-expression profiling has been evaluated in randomized trials, with mixed results (see below). 21,39-42

PRINCIPLES OF TREATMENT

The goal of treatment in most patients with cancer of unknown primary site is largely palliative owing to the disseminated nature of the disease, except for a small subpopulation of patients who present with single-site or limited metastatic disease. In these patients, a multidisciplinary approach incorporating radiation therapy or surgery can be potentially curative (Fig. 4).

Site-Specific Therapy and the Potential Role of Molecular Profiling for Tissue of Origin

Patients with cancer of unknown primary site who present with a characteristic, recognizable, clinicopathological pattern that is analogous to specific known primary cancers can be treated according to guidelines pertaining to those speical testing, its accuracy in identifying a primary cific tumors, a treatment approach that simply organ is limited, especially in cases of poorly emulates a site-specific approach to therapy for differentiated tumors.³⁵ Because no one immuno- cancer of unknown primary site (Table 1). Howstain is pathognomonic of the tissue of origin, a ever, most patients with cancer of unknown pripanel of tests performed in a stepwise fashion mary site do not have a typical presentation. In may be warranted.³⁷ The use of deep-learning these cases, clinicopathological clues can be used methods for determining the tissue of origin may to discern a putative primary site, despite the be the next frontier in the pathology of cancer of clear absence of a primary lesion. Tissue-of-origin profiling for discerning primary sites may also be helpful. For cancer of unknown primary site with a discernible primary site, preference should be given to first-line site-specific therapy, which Molecular profiling in cancer of unknown primirrors the standard care for the corresponding mary site has been used to predict a putative metastatic cancer of known primary site. For inprimary site (tissue-of-origin profiling) and to stance, a patient with adenocarcinoma and mediidentify targetable genomic alterations (genomic astinal lymphadenopathy positive for thyroid profiling) amenable to targeted therapies.^{1,2} Sev-transcription factor 1 and with liver metastases eral tissue-of-origin assays have been developed without a lung lesion who is a long-term smoker on the premise that cancer of unknown primary may be treated for putative primary lung cancer, site and metastases from known primary sites are although high-quality evidence to support this

Several retrospective studies and prospective scriptomic, and epigenetic profiles with the use trials have investigated the benefit of site-specific of a discovery cohort of known primary sites to therapy over empirical chemotherapy with conpredict the probability of a match between the flicting results (Table 2). Two multicenter trials, signature of cancer of unknown primary site and the Next Generation Sequencing for Patients with that of cancer of known primary site.^{1,2} Various Cancer of Unknown Primary Site (CUP-NGS) trial strategies that use RNA, microRNA, DNA, and (involving 130 patients) and the Groupe d'Etude

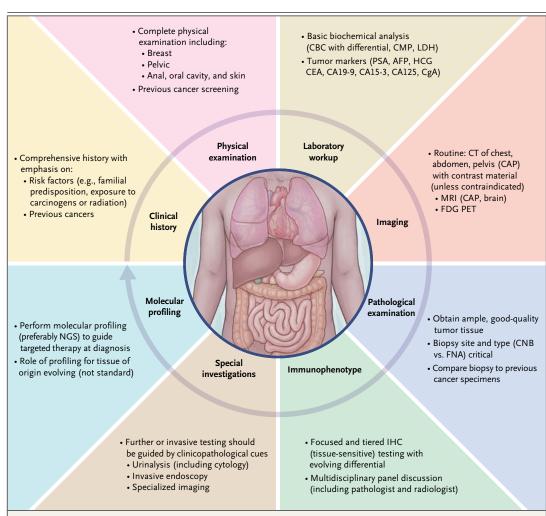


Figure 2. Diagnostic Workup for Patients with Cancer of Unknown Primary Site.

Cancer of unknown primary site is a diagnosis of exclusion, with workup designed to rule out any known primary site. Investigations should follow a tiered format with emphasis on tailoring the workup with each subsequent test. The critical decision is centered on striking the appropriate balance between the intensity of and time required for testing and the indication for and ability to start treatment guided by the patient's clinical status, disease trajectory, and goals of care. Immunophenotyping takes center stage in the diagnosis, but no one stain is sensitive or specific enough; therefore, a modular approach is necessary. With respect to imaging, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), positron emission tomography (PET), or both can be performed in patients with contraindication to CT with the use of intravenous contrast material. The multidisciplinary team includes a medical oncologist, pathologist (with or without a molecular pathologist), radiologist, and in certain cases a surgical oncologist, radiation oncologist, and interventional radiologist. Special investigations include urinalysis, invasive endoscopy (involving colonoscopy and esophagogastroduodenoscopy [if clinical history or symptoms or immunohistochemical findings suggest a gastrointestinal primary cancer], cystoscopy, or panendoscopy with biopsies and tonsillectomy [for cases in which head and neck carcinoma is suspected]), and specialized imaging (such as breast imaging [mammography or breast MRI] and 18F-fluorodeoxyglucose [FDG] PET), among others. Molecular profiling to determine the tissue of origin is useful as an adjunct to standard workup and preferably in a research context. The value of molecular profiling over the diagnostic methods currently used is yet to be established. AFP denotes α -fetoprotein, CA cancer antigen, CA19-9 carbohydrate antigen 19-9, CBC complete blood count, CEA carcinoembryonic antigen, CgA chromogranin A, CMP complete metabolic profile, CNB core needle biopsy, FNA fine-needle aspiration, HCG β-human chorionic gonadotropin, LDH lactate dehydrogenase, IHC immunohistochemical, NGS next-generation sequencing, and PSA prostate-specific antigen.

Français des Carcinomes de site Primitif Inconnu-04 (GEFCAPI-04) trial (involving 243 patients), randomly assigned patients with newly diagnosed cancer of unknown primary site to site-specific therapy (on the basis of gene-expression profiling to predict the primary site) or to empirical chemotherapy (carboplatin plus paclitaxel in the CUP-NGS trial and gemcitabine plus cisplatin in the GEFCAPI-04 trial).^{21,41} Neither trial showed superiority of site-specific therapy over empirical chemotherapy.^{21,41} Overall survival at 1 year was 44.0% in the site-specific therapy group and 54.9% in the empirical therapy group (P=0.26) in the CUP-NGS trial and was 41.3% and 40.7%, respectively (P=0.71), in the GEFCAPI-04 trial.^{21,41} The corresponding median progressionfree survival was 5.1 months and 4.8 months (P=0.55) in the CUP-NGS trial and 4.6 months and 5.3 months (P=0.71) in the GEFCAPI-04 trial.^{21,41}

Contrary to these trials, the single-center, randomized Fudan CUP-001 trial (involving 182 patients) showed superiority of site-specific therapy guided by gene-expression profiling over platinumbased empirical chemotherapy (plus a taxane or gemcitabine).40 The median progression-free survival was 9.6 months with site-specific therapy and 6.6 months with empirical chemotherapy (P=0.017).⁴⁰ Heterogeneity of the population and improved systemic therapies, specifically the incorporation of targeted therapies and immunotherapy (in nearly 45% of patients) in the experimental group, may have affected this advantage with respect to progression-free survival.

Empirical Chemotherapy

A meta-analysis of five studies (three observational studies and two randomized trials; the Fudan CUP-001 trial was excluded from the analysis) in- docetaxel and a fluorouracil-based therapy are also vestigating the role of site-specific therapy and used. A meta-analysis of 32 studies (including 7 empirical chemotherapy in cancer of unknown randomized trials) evaluating 42 regimens did primary site showed that site-specific therapy was not show clear superiority of any one regimen.⁵⁰ not significantly associated with an improvement in either progression-free survival or overall sur- Molecularly Guided Targeted Therapy vival, indicating that empirical chemotherapy re- Biomarker-driven therapies, specifically those with mains the standard against which newer strate- proven efficacy regardless of the specific tissue or gies should be compared.⁴² The most common organ where the cancer originated (sometimes empirical chemotherapy used in practice is a termed tissue-agnostic therapy), are endorsed by combination of a platinum agent (carboplatin or guidelines for cancer of unknown primary site cisplatin) with either paclitaxel or gemcitabine. (Table 1).4,6 Genomic aberrations are common in Other regimens comprising gemcitabine plus cancer of unknown primary site, and response



Figure 3. Immunophenotyping in Cancer of Unknown Primary Site.

Shown are key positive immunostains that are indicative of specific tumor types during phenotyping. Detailed descriptions of the immunostains are provided in Table S3

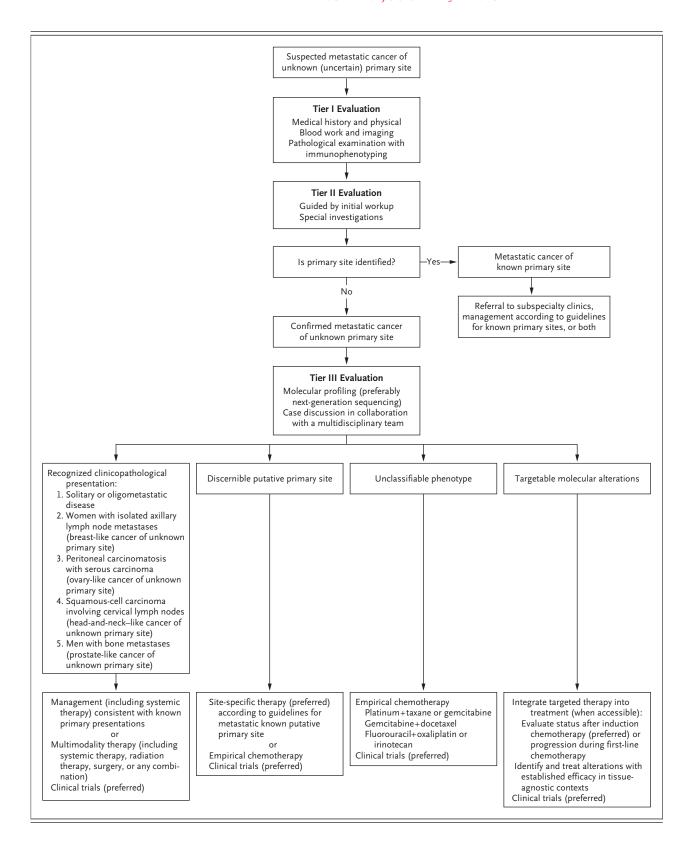


Figure 4 (facing page). Treatment Algorithm for Management of Cancer of Unknown Primary Site.

Confirmation and classification of cancer of unknown primary site for therapeutic purposes involve a tiered workup, which leads to the categorization of the disease into one of four discrete subgroups. These subgroups differ in their treatments and prognosis. Systemic cytotoxic chemotherapy with palliative intent is the mainstay of therapy for most patients with cancer of unknown primary site. In select cases, incorporation of targeted or biomarker-guided therapy, immunotherapy, or multimodality therapy (or a combination of these) with curative intent is appropriate. Despite these options, the prognosis is poor, and early referral and participation in clinical trials should be encouraged whenever possible. Multimodality therapy involving systemic therapy, radiation therapy, surgery, or a combination of these therapies is often used in patients presenting with solitary or oligometastatic disease. Empirical chemotherapy regimens include but are not restricted to platinum-based doublet therapies (cisplatin or carboplatin) combined with either a taxane (paclitaxel or docetaxel) or gemcitabine. Gemcitabine plus docetaxel and fluorouracil-based regimens are other options used empirically in the treatment of cancer of unknown primary site. Some overlap can occur within these subgroups of cancer of unknown primary site; therefore, molecular targets can manifest within any subgroup, and all attempts should be made to incorporate targeted therapies into the treatment plan. Biomarker-guided therapy is established for advanced solid tumors that harbor a BRAF V600E mutation, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 overexpression (immunohistochemical score of 3+), NTRK fusion, RET fusion, high tumor mutational burden (≥10 mutations per megabase), and those that are mismatch repair-deficient and microsatellite instability-high.

case series and nonrandomized studies.^{36,51-53} The markers, a broad approach is not recommended CUPISCO trial (involving 436 patients) evaluated in clinical guidelines, and immunotherapy is the clinical benefit of incorporating molecular appropriate only for tumors that have high micprofiling to identify targetable genomic altera- rosatellite instability or DNA mismatch repair tions; the trial used tumor tissue, blood-based as- deficiency (dMMR) or that have a high mutasay, or both to inform systemic therapy in cancer tional burden or as part of site-specific therapy. of unknown primary site.⁵⁴ In this trial, patients More research on the efficacy and safety of imwith cancer of unknown primary site who had munotherapy in cancer of unknown primary site disease control after three cycles of standard first- is needed. 4-6,56 line platinum-based chemotherapy and were randomly assigned to receive therapy guided by molecular profiling had progression-free survival that was 6 weeks longer than those who were assigned The National Comprehensive Cancer Network to continued chemotherapy (median, 6.1 vs. 4.4 (NCCN), the National Institute for Health and months; P=0.008), even though less than one Care Excellence (NICE), and the European Society third of the patients assigned to molecular profil- for Medical Oncology (ESMO) publish and reguing-guided therapy had an actionable target.54

AREAS OF UNCERTAINTY

The rarity of cancer of unknown primary site and the paucity of research amplify the uncertainty in the treatment of patients with this morbid orphan disease. Although the debate on effective therapy for cancer of unknown primary site is shifting toward site-specific and molecularly guided therapies, high-level evidence regarding improvement in outcomes with these therapies over treatment guided by standard clinicopathological assessment is lacking.³⁹

We know very little about the biologic differences between cancer of unknown primary site with a putative primary site and corresponding metastatic cancers of known primary site. For instance, should BRAF V600E-mutated cancer of unknown primary site be treated with BRAF-MEK inhibition (as for melanoma) or with BRAFepidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) inhibition (as for colorectal cancer), and how do we incorporate the tissue-of-origin context in this case?55 Also crucial is understanding the molecular subsets that cancer of unknown primary site represents within the framework of known primary cancers and the response to standard therapies. For example, do cancers of unknown primary site with a colon profile behave as cancers on the right or left side of the colon or as consensus molecular subtype 4 tumors when treated with anti-EGFR-based chemotherapy?31 Immunotherapy has also been investigated in cancer of unknown primary site, with responses in approximately 20% of patients (Table S2). to targeted therapies has been documented in However, in the absence of any validated bio-

GUIDELINES

larly update guidelines focused on the evaluation

	Study Type and Primary End	Tissue-of- Origin Profiling	Sample Size (Site-Specific vs.	Empirical Therapy Regimen	Sites of Common	Outromas
Fudan CUP-001 ⁴⁰	RCT, PFS	Canhelp-Origin, a 90- gene expression assay (archived FFPE)	182 (91 vs. 91)	×e	Stomack	Median PFS, 9.6 vs. 6.6 mo (HR, 0.68; 95% CI, 0.49–0.93; P=0.017) Median OS, 28.2 vs. 19.0 mo (HR, 0.74; 95% CI, 0.52–1.06; P=0.09) Objective response, 49% vs. 46% (P=0.76) ■ 1.00
New South Wales⁴³	Retrospective	Clinicopathological (tissue-based)	57 (26 vs. 31)	Platinum and gem- citabine or carbopl- atin and paclitaxel	Head and neck, colon or rectum, pancreas, lung, stomach or esophagus	Median PFS, 9.8 vs. 7.3 mo (HR, 0.70; 95% CI, 0.40–1.30; P=0.29) Median OS, 25.9 vs. 13.2 mo (P=0.30)
Japan-8 CUP⁴⁴	Retrospective	Clinicopathological (tissue-based)	144 (60 vs. 84)	Various	Lung, stomach or esophagus, pancreas, colon or rectum, ovary	Median OS, 10.0 vs. 10.1 mo (HR, 1.01; 95% Cl, 0.70–1.45; P=0.95)
CUP-NGS ²¹	RCT, OS	Microarray-based gene expression analysis (fresh frozen)	101 (50 vs. 51)¶	Carboplatin and paclitaxel	Pancreas, stomach or esophagus, lymphatic system, bladder, cervix	Median PFS, 5.1 vs. 4.8 mo (HR, 0.88; 95% Cl, 0.59–1.33; P=0.55) Median OS, 9.8 vs. 12.5 mo (HR, 1.03; 95% Cl, 0.68–1.56; P=0.89) Overall response, 34.7% vs. 41.2% (P=0.50) €
GEFCAPI-04 ⁴¹	RCT, PFS	92-Gene RT-PCR (tissue-based)	243 (123 vs. 120)	Gemcitabine and cis- platin	Pancreas, gallbladder, or bile duct, squamous-cell carci- noma; kidney, lung, intestines	Median PFS, 4.6 vs. 5.3 mo (HR, 0.95; 95% Cl, 0.72–1.25; P=0.71) Median OS, 10.7 vs. 9.9 mo (HR, 0.92; 95% Cl, 0.69–1.23; P=0.72)
Aichi CUP⁴⁵	Retrospective	Clinicopathological (tissue-based)	122 (90 vs. 32)	Platinum-based therapy	Colon or rectum, gynecologic system, lung, pancreas, neu- roendocrine system	Median PFS, 5.1 vs. 4.2 mo (P=0.02) Median OS, 15.7 vs. 10.7 mo (P=0.07)
EPICUP⁴6	Retrospective	Microarray DNA methylation signatures (tissue-based)	92 (31 vs. 61)	Various	Lung, head and neck, breast, colon or rectum, liver	Median OS, 13.6 vs. 6.0 mo (P=0.008)
Sarah Cannon ⁴⁷	Prospective, OS	92-Gene RT-PCR (tissue-based)	223 (194 vs. 29)	Various	Biliary tract, bladder, colon or rectum, lung, pancreas	Median OS, 12.5 vs. 9.1 mo (historical control)
Lower GI CUP ⁴⁸	Retrospective	Immunohistochemical test (tissue-based)	68 (53 vs. 15)	Gemcitabine- or tax- ane-based therapy	Lower gastrointestinal tract	OS (HR, 0.52; 95% CI, 0.22–1.22; P=0.13)
CancerTYPE ID-GI ⁴⁹	Retrospective	92-Gene RT-PCR (tissue-based)	42 (24 vs. 18)	Various	Colon or rectum	Median PFS, 8.5 vs. 6 mo (P=0.11)

CI denotes confidence interval; FFPE formalin-fixed, paraffin embedded; NS not specified; RCT randomized, risk of death, primary end points were specified for the retrospective studies listed. CI denotes confidence interval; FFPE formalin-fixed, paraffin trial; and RT-PCR reverse-transcriptase polymerase chain reaction. It is an efferences are provided in Table S1 in the Supplementary Appendix (available with the full text of this article at NEJM. ues are site-specific therapy as compared with empirical therapy. Hazard ratios (HRs) for analyses of overall survival (OS) indicate of progression-free survival (PFS) indicate the risk of disease progression or death. sponse was according to Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors, version 1.1.

for

ratios

molecular profile (colon-like cancer of unknown 2 amplification). primary site) is now classified by ESMO in the in clinical trials.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding the patient in the vignette with cancer of unknown primary site, I would manage her full text of this article at NEJM.org. care according to the most likely putative cancer of known primary site given the phenotype and genotype. She had an immunophenotype sugges
1 Department of Gastrointestinal Medical Oncology, University tive of a gastrointestinal primary cancer (colon- of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston.

and treatment of patients with cancer of un- like cancer of unknown primary site) on the basis known primary site. 4-6 The recommendations in of assays positive for CK20, CDX2, and SATB2, the present article are largely concordant with which are immunostains used for samples from these key professional guidelines. Barring se- the lower gastrointestinal tract. I would start by lected favorable subsets of cancer of unknown obtaining a repeat biopsy and sending tissue for primary site, the guidelines mentioned here do genomic profiling to identify targetable alteranot explicitly support the use of site-specific therations. Alternatively, genomic profiling with bloodpy over empirical chemotherapy. Adenocarcino- based assays can also be used to detect potential ma with a colorectal immunophenotype (CK7- actionable genetic alterations (e.g., dMMR, BRAF negative, CK20-positive, and CDX2-positive) or V600E, human epidermal growth factor receptor

I would then recommend palliative systemic favorable subset of cancer of unknown primary chemotherapy that corresponded to the best treatsite, and treatment analogous to that for meta-ments known for the presumed primary cancer. static colorectal cancer is generally recommended. In this case, I would use fluorouracil (plus leucovo-Similarly, NCCN recommends fluorouracil-based rin), oxaliplatin, and irinotecan (FOLFOXIRI), regimens as one of the preferred treatment op- drawing from evidence supporting the role of tions for occult primary adenocarcinoma, primar-triplet cytotoxic chemotherapy in metastatic ily for disease with a presumed gastrointestinal colorectal cancer. The use of doublet fluorouraprimary site. Because of limited data supporting cil-based therapy with oxaliplatin (FOLFOX) or improved outcomes with the use of molecular irinotecan (FOLFIRI) is also defensible, but a profiling to guide site-specific therapy over con- 47-year-old patient should be able to receive the ventional diagnostic approaches, clinical practice more aggressive and more effective FOLFOXIRI guidelines recommend against the routine use therapy.⁵⁷ The results of molecular profiling can of molecular profiling to identify the tissue of enable the integration of molecularly guided therorigin in cancer of unknown primary site. 4,6 Given apy in a treatment continuum that is based on this limited availability of high-level clinical evidence, all guidelines encourage the participation supports targeting the alteration, and the availof patients with cancer of unknown primary site ability of molecularly guided therapies, preferably within the context of clinical trials. I would also seek early referral to a center with a multidisciplinary program focused on cancer of unknown primary site and enroll the patient in a clinical trial, if she were willing.

Disclosure forms provided by the author are available with the

AUTHOR INFORMATION

REFERENCES

- 1. Varadhachary GR, Raber MN. Cancer cording to ESMO guidelines: the CUPISCO of unknown primary site. N Engl J Med trial experience. Oncologist 2021;26(5): 2014:371:757-65.
- 2. Rassy E, Pavlidis N. Progress in refin-Nat Rev Clin Oncol 2020;17:541-54.
- 3. Pauli C, Bochtler T, Mileshkin L, et al. A challenging task: identifying patients with cancer of unknown primary (CUP) ac-
- e769-e779.
- 4. National Comprehensive Cancer Neting the clinical management of cancer of work. NCCN clinical practice guidelines unknown primary in the molecular era. in oncology: occult primary. April 29, 2024 (https://www.nccn.org/guidelines/ guidelines-detail?category=1&id=1451).
 - 5. National Institute for Health and Care
- of unknown primary origin in adults: diagnosis and management. April 26, 2023 (https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg104).
- 6. Krämer A. Bochtler T. Pauli C. et al. Cancer of unknown primary: ESMO clinical practice guideline for diagnosis, treatment and follow-up. Ann Oncol 2023:34:
 - 7. Gordon LG, Wood C, Tothill RW, et al. Healthcare costs before and after diag-

- nosis of cancer of unknown primary ver- site-specific treatment based on gene exsus ovarian cancer in Australia. Pharma- pression profiling with carboplatin and coecon Open 2023:7:111-20
- 8. Schaffer AL, Pearson S-A, Dobbins TA, Er CC, Ward RL, Vajdic CM. Patterns 570-9. of care and survival after a cancer of un- 22. Kim CS, Hannouf MB, Sarma S, et al. known primary (CUP) diagnosis: a population-based nested cohort study in Austra- treatments used and knowledge of the lian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs clients. Cancer Epidemiol 2015;39: 578-84.
- 9. Rassy E, Pavlidis N. The currently defor cancers of unknown primary. January Clin Cancer Res 2021;27:3414-21. 16, 2025 (https://www.cancer.org/cancer/ 24. Bochtler T, Reiling A, Endris V, et al. types/cancer-unknown-primary/about/ key-statistics.html).
- 11. Hemminki K, Liu H, Heminki A, Sundquist J. Power and limits of modern cancer tic factors in cancer of unknown primary. diagnostics: cancer of unknown primary. Int J Cancer 2020;146:3053-64. Ann Oncol 2012;23:760-4.
- 12. Vajdic CM, Er CC, Schaffer A, et al. An audit of cancer of unknown primary notifications: a cautionary tale for population China: an analysis of 1420 cases. Cancer health research using cancer registry data. Med 2023;12:1177-88. Cancer Epidemiol 2014;38:460-4.
- 13. Javle M, Lee S, Azad NS, et al. Temporal changes in cholangiocarcinoma inci- systemic spread in paired primary tumors dence and mortality in the United States and metastases. Nat Genet 2020;52:701-8. from 2001 to 2017. Oncologist 2022;27: 27. Klein CA. Parallel progression of pri-874-83.
- 14. Greco FA, Lennington WJ, Spigel DR, racy and ability to complement standard 44. pathology. J Natl Cancer Inst 2013;105: 29. Vikeså J, Møller AK, Kaczkowski B, et
- 15. Hermans KEPE, Kazemzadeh F, Loef (CUP) are characterized by chromosomal C, et al. Risk factors for cancer of unknown primary: a literature review. BMC Cancer 2023;23:314.
- **16.** Zolotykh MA, Mingazova LA, Filina et al. Metastatic behavior of breast cancer YV, et al. Cancer of unknown primary and subtypes. J Clin Oncol 2010;28:3271-7. the «seed and soil» hypothesis. Crit Rev Oncol Hematol 2024;196:104297.
- 17. Brewster DH, Lang J, Bhatti LA, Thomson CS, Oien KA. Descriptive epidemiology of cancer of unknown primary site in Scotland, 1961-2010. Cancer Epidemiol 2014;38:227-34.
- 18. Wong B, Vickers MM, Wheatley-Price fication of distinct basal and luminal sub-P. The diminishing importance of primary types of muscle-invasive bladder cancer site identification in cancer of unknown with different sensitivities to frontline cheprimary: a Canadian single-center experience. Front Oncol 2021;11:634563.
- 19. Riihimäki M, Hemminki A, Sundquist K, Hemminki K. Time trends in cers of the gastrointestinal tract. Nat Rev survival from cancer of unknown primary: Gastroenterol Hepatol 2017;14:333-42. small steps forward. Eur J Cancer 2013;49: 2403-10
- kos D, et al. Carboplatin plus paclitaxel in 2014;138:1583-610. unknown primary carcinoma: a phase II 35. Handorf CR, Kulkarni A, Grenert JP, Study. J Clin Oncol 2000;18:3101-7.

- paclitaxel for patients with cancer of unknown primary site. J Clin Oncol 2019;37:
- Survival outcome differences based on primary tumour site for patients with cancer of unknown and known primary in Ontario. Curr Oncol 2018;25:307-16.
- 23. Raghav K, Hwang H, Jácome AA, et clining incidence of cancer of unknown al. Development and validation of a novel primary. Cancer Epidemiol 2019;61:139-41. nomogram for individualized prediction **10.** American Cancer Society. Key statistics of survival in cancer of unknown primary.
 - Integrated clinicomolecular characterization identifies RAS activation and CDKN2A deletion as independent adverse prognos-
 - 25. Qi P, Sun Y, Liu X, et al. Clinicopathological, molecular and prognostic characteristics of cancer of unknown primary in
 - 26. Hu Z, Li Z, Ma Z, Curtis C. Multi-cancer analysis of clonality and the timing of mary tumours and metastases. Nat Rev Cancer 2009;9:302-12.
- Hainsworth JD. Molecular profiling diag- 28. Ganesh K, Massagué J. Targeting nosis in unknown primary cancer: accu- metastatic cancer. Nat Med 2021;27:34
 - al. Cancers of unknown primary origin instability (CIN) compared to metastasis of know origin. BMC Cancer 2015;15:151. 30. Kennecke H, Yerushalmi R, Woods R,
 - 31. Lenz HJ, Ou F-S, Venook AP, et al. Impact of consensus molecular subtype on survival in patients with metastatic colorectal cancer: results from CALGB/SWOG 80405 (Alliance). J Clin Oncol 2019;37:1876-
 - 32. Choi W, Porten S, Kim S, et al. Identimotherapy. Cancer Cell 2014;25:152-65.
 - 33. Bijlsma MF, Sadanandam A, Tan P, Vermeulen L. Molecular subtypes in can-
- **34.** Lin F, Liu H. Immunohistochemistry 73. in undifferentiated neoplasm/tumor of 46. Moran S, Martínez-Cardús A, Sayols 20. Briasoulis E, Kalofonos H, Bafalou- uncertain origin. Arch Pathol Lab Med
- Hellenic Cooperative Oncology Group et al. A multicenter study directly comparing the diagnostic accuracy of gene expres-**21.** Hayashi H, Kurata T, Takiguchi Y, et sion profiling and immunohistochemistry al. Randomized phase II trial comparing for primary site identification in meta- to predict the tissue of origin and direct

- static tumors. Am J Surg Pathol 2013;37:
- 36. Huey RW, Shah AT, Reddi HV, et al. Feasibility and value of genomic profiling in cancer of unknown primary: real-world evidence from prospective profiling study. J Natl Cancer Inst 2023;115:994-7.
- 37. Kawaguchi KR, Lu F-I, Kaplan R, et al. In search of the ideal immunopanel to distinguish metastatic mammary carcinoma from primary lung carcinoma: a tissue microarray study of 207 cases. Appl Immunohistochem Mol Morphol 2014;22:
- 38. Lu MY, Chen TY, Williamson DFK, et al. AI-based pathology predicts origins for cancers of unknown primary. Nature 2021;594:106-10.
- 39. Ma W, Wu H, Chen Y, et al. New techniques to identify the tissue of origin for cancer of unknown primary in the era of precision medicine: progress and challenges. Brief Bioinform 2024;25(2):bbae028.
- 40. Liu X, Zhang X, Jiang S, et al. Sitespecific therapy guided by a 90-gene expression assay versus empirical chemotherapy in patients with cancer of unknown primary (Fudan CUP-001): a randomised controlled trial. Lancet Oncol 2024;25:1092-
- 41. Fizazi K, Maillard A, Penel N, et al. A phase III trial of empiric chemotherapy with cisplatin and gemcitabine or systemic treatment tailored by molecular gene expression analysis in patients with carcinomas of an unknown primary (CUP) site (GEFCAPI 04). Ann Oncol 2019;30:Suppl 5: v851 (https://www.annalsofoncology.org/ article/S0923-7534(19)60360-1/fulltext).
- 42. Ding Y, Jiang J, Xu J, et al. Site-specific therapy in cancers of unknown primary site: a systematic review and meta-analysis. ESMO Open 2022;7:100407.
- 43. Boys EL, Gao B, Grimison P, et al. Retrospective analysis of clinical characteristics and outcomes of patients with carcinoma of unknown primary from three tertiary centers in Australia. Cancer Med 2024;13(6):e7052.
- 44. Nishikawa K, Hironaka S, Inagaki T, et al. A multicentre retrospective study comparing site-specific treatment with empiric treatment for unfavourable subset of cancer of unknown primary site. Jpn J Clin Oncol 2022;52:1416-22.
- 45. Hasegawa H, Ando M, Yatabe Y, et al. Site-specific chemotherapy based on predicted primary site by pathological profile for carcinoma of unknown primary site. Clin Oncol (R Coll Radiol) 2018;30:667-
- S, et al. Epigenetic profiling to classify cancer of unknown primary: a multicentre, retrospective analysis. Lancet Oncol 2016;17:1386-95.
- 47. Hainsworth JD, Rubin MS, Spigel DR, et al. Molecular gene expression profiling

- cinoma of unknown primary site: a prospective trial of the Sarah Cannon Research Institute. J Clin Oncol 2013;31: 51. Ross JS, Wang K, Gay L, et al. Com-217-23.
- 48. Varadhachary GR, Karanth S, Qiao W, et al. Carcinoma of unknown primary to targeted therapies. JAMA Oncol 2015;1: with gastrointestinal profile: immunohistochemistry and survival data for this fa- 52. Kato S, Krishnamurthy N, Banks KC, vorable subset. Int J Clin Oncol 2014;19: 479-84
- 49. Hainsworth JD, Schnabel CA, Erlander MG, Haines DW III, Greco FA. A retrospective study of treatment outcomes in patients with carcinoma of unknown primary site and a colorectal cancer molecular profile. Clin Colorectal Cancer 2012; 11:112-8.
- 50. Lee J, Hahn S, Kim D-W, et al. Evaluation of survival benefits by platinums and taxanes for an unfavourable subset of car-

- site-specific therapy in patients with carcinoma of unknown primary: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Br J Cancer vourable cancer of unknown primary 2013:108:39-48.
 - prehensive genomic profiling of carcinoma of unknown primary site: new routes
 - et al. Utility of genomic analysis in circulating tumor DNA from patients with carcinoma of unknown primary. Cancer Res 2017:77:4238-46
 - 53. Hayashi H, Takiguchi Y, Minami H, et al. Site-specific and targeted therapy based on molecular profiling by next-generation sequencing for cancer of unknown primary site: a nonrandomized phase 2 clinical trial. JAMA Oncol 2020;6:1931-8.
 - 54. Krämer A, Bochtler T, Pauli C, et al. Molecularly guided therapy versus che-

- motherapy after disease control in unfa-(CUPISCO): an open-label, randomised, phase 2 study. Lancet 2024;404:527-39.
- 55. Gouda MA, Subbiah V. Expanding the benefit: dabrafenib/trametinib as tissue-agnostic therapy for BRAF V600Epositive adult and pediatric solid tumors. Am Soc Clin Oncol Educ Book 2023;43:
- 56. Raghav KP, Stephen B, Karp DD, et al. Efficacy of pembrolizumab in patients with advanced cancer of unknown primary (CUP): a phase 2 non-randomized clinical trial. J Immunother Cancer 2022; 10(5):e004822.
- 57. Loupakis F, Cremolini C, Masi G, et al. Initial therapy with FOLFOXIRI and bevacizumab for metastatic colorectal cancer. N Engl J Med 2014;371:1609-18.

Copyright © 2025 Massachusetts Medical Society.

A DETAILED LOOK AT LOCUM TENENS

RECLAIM CONTROL OF YOUR CAREER

Locum tenens empowers physicians to build their career on their own terms. As demand for healthcare increases amidst a worsening physician shortage, working locums can circumvent many challenges of traditional healthcare models.

Why more physicians are choosing locums

Challenges like burnout, administrative burdens, and a growing patient-to-physician gap are causing many physicians to become disillusioned with traditional employment arrangements. Working locums can lead to a more satisfying personal and professional life and remind you why you went into medicine in the first place.

Increased income

Supplement your current income, or increase your overall earning potential.

More time for patients

Fewer administrative tasks means more time to focus on your patients.

Flexibility

Part time or full time—work where, when, and however much you choose.

Variety

Experience new practice settings and patient populations, or enjoy a change of pace.

Travel opportunities

Experience new places and different cultures on every assignment.

Professional development

Develop new skills, learn from other professionals, and build your network.

Work/life balance

Choose assignments that suit your goals, lifestyle, and preferences.



1 in 3

physicians currently work or previously worked locums

Source: CHG LTAP Study,



YOU DESERVE A BALANCED MEDICAL CAREER.

At Weatherby, we're experts at providing locums opportunities that fit your personal goals and your idea of living. And for a limited time, residents and fellows receive a \$2,000 bonus when you confirm a locums assignment with Weatherby Healthcare.

Visit weatherbyhealthcare.com/sweet.

Money talks. So should we.



Classified Advertising Section

Sequence of Classifications

Addiction Medicine Allergy & Clinical Immunology Ambulatory Medicine Anesthesiology Cardiology Critical Care Dermatology Emergency Medicine Endocrinology Family Medicine Gastroenterology General Practice Hematology-Oncology Hospitalist Infectious Disease Internal Medicine Internal Medicine/Pediatrics **Medical Genetics**

Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Nephrology Neurology Nuclear Medicine Obstetrics & Gynecology Occupational Medicine Ophthalmology Osteopathic Medicine Otolaryngology Pathology Pediatrics, General Pediatric Gastroenterology Pediatric Intensivist/ Critical Care Pediatric Neurology Pediatric Otolaryngology Pediatric Pulmonology Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

Preventive Medicine Primary Care Psychiatry Públic Héalth Pulmonary Disease Radiation Oncology Radiology Rheumatology Surgery, General Surgery, Cardiovascular/ Thoracic Surgery, Neurological Surgery, Orthopedic Surgery, Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery, Pediatric Surgery, Plastic Surgery, Transplant Surgery, Vascular Urgent Care

Urology Chiefs/Directors/ Department Heads Faculty/Research Graduate Training/Fellowships/ Residency Programs

> Seminars For Sale/For Rent/Wanted Locum Tenens Miscellaneous Multiple Specialties/ Group Practice Part-Time Positions/Other Physician Assistant Physician Services Positions Sought Practices for Sale

Courses, Symposia,

Classified Advertising Rates

CareerCenter.org

EJM

We charge \$11.20 per word per insertion. A 2- to 4-time frequency discount rate of \$8.35 per word per insertion is available. A 5-time frequency discount rate of \$7.95 per word per insertion is also available. In order to earn the 2- to 4-time or 5-time discounted word rate, the request for an ad to run in multiple issues must be made upon initial placement. The issues do not need to be consecutive. Web fee: Classified line advertisers may choose to have their ads placed on NEIM CareerCenter for a fee of \$140.00 per issue per advertisement. The web fee must be purchased for all dates of the print schedule. The choice to place your ad online must be made at the same time the print ad is scheduled. Note: The minimum charge for all types of line advertising is equivalent to 30 words per ad. Purchase orders will be accepted subject to credit approval. For orders requiring prepayment, we accept payment via Visa, MasterCard, and American Express for your convenience, or a check. All classified line ads are subject to the consistency guidelines of NEIM.

How to Advertise

All orders, cancellations, and changes must be received in writing. E-mail your advertisement to us at ads@nejmcareercenter.org, or fax it to 1-781-895-1045 or 1-781-893-5003. We will contact you to confirm your order. Our closing date is typically the Friday 20 days prior to publication date; however, please consult the rate card online at nejmcareercenter.org or contact the Classified Advertising Department at 1-800-635-6991. Be sure to tell us the classification heading you would like your ad to appear under (see listings above). If no classification is offered, we will determine the most appropriate classification. Cancellations must be made 20 days prior to publication date. Send all advertisements to the address listed below.

Contact Information

Classified Advertising

The New England Journal of Medicine 860 Winter Street, Waltham, MA 02451-1412

E-mail: ads@nejmcareercenter.org

Fax: 1-781-895-1045 Fax: 1-781-893-5003 Phone: 1-800-635-6991 Phone: 1-781-893-3800 Website: nejmcareercenter.org

How to Calculate the Cost of Your Ad

We define a word as one or more letters bound by spaces. Following are some typical

Bradley S. Smith III, MD = 5 words
Send CV = 2 words
December 10, 2007 = 3 words
617-555-1234 = 1 word
Obstetrician/Gynecologist = 1 word
A = 1 word
Dalton, MD 01622 = 3 words
Obstetrician/Gynecologist = 1 word A = 1 word

As a further example, here is a typical ad and how the pricing for each insertion is calculated:

MEDICAL DIRECTOR - A dynamic, growthoriented home health care company is looking for a full-time Medical Director in greater New York. Ideal candidate should be board certified in internal medicine with subspecialties in oncology or gastroenterology. Willing to visit patients at home, Good verbal and written skills required. Attractive salary and benefits. Send CV to: E-mail address.

This advertisement is 56 words. At \$11.20 per word, it equals \$627.20. This ad would be placed under the Chiefs/Directors/ Department Heads classification.

Classified Ads Online

Advertisers may choose to have their classified line and display advertisements placed on NEIM CareerCenter for a fee. The web fee for line ads is \$140.00 per issue per advertisement and \$240.00 per issue per advertisement for display ads. The ads will run online two weeks prior to their appearance in print and one week after. For online-only recruitment advertising, please visit nejmcareercenter.org for more information, or call 1-800-635-6991.

Policy on Recruitment Ads

All advertisements for employment must be non-discriminatory and comply with all applicable laws and regulations. Ads that discriminate against applicants based on sex, age, race, religion, marital status or physical handicap will not be accepted. Although the New England Journal of Medicine believes the classified advertisements published within these pages to be from reputable sources, NEIM does not investigate the offers made and assumes no responsibility concerning them. NEJM strives for complete accuracy when entering classified advertisements; however, NEIM cannot accept responsibility for typographical errors should

Classified Ad Deadlines

Vol. 393 No. 14 · October 9, 2025

Closing Date November 13 October 24 November 20 October 31 November 27 November 7 December 4 November 14

Help employers find you!

Create a physician profile today on NEJMCareerCenter.org.

(NEIM CareerCenter

Hematology-Oncology

WE CURRENTLY HAVE AN EXCEPTIONAL OPPORTUNITY - For a Medical Oncologist/ Hematologist to join an 8-person Oncology Hematology private practice located at a rapidly growing cancer center in Fairfield County, CT. Active in clinical research, and have faculty appointment with a major medical school. Strong affiliation with a world-renowned tertiary cancer center. Excellent compensation and benefits package including health and liability insurance, vacation. and pension plan. Excellent support staff with nurse practitioners, research nurses, data managers, RNs, and pharmacists. EMR transitioning to EPIC. Rotating call schedule to be 1 in 9. 4-Clinic days per week. First year employment leading to partnership opportunity. Need to be board certified or eligible in both hematology and oncology. Expectation to subspecialize. Anticipated start 2026. Please send CV to: Lina Adams Hematology Oncology, P.C. E: ladams@stamhealth.org

PHYSICIAN RECRUITER

The physician you're seeking is one of our readers. Advertise in the next issue of the New England Journal of Medicine and reach physicians in all specialties nationwide. For more information, contact us at ads@nejmcareercenter.org

Hiring is a numbers game place your ad in 3 issues and get the 4th FREE.

NEIM CareerCenter

ads@neimcareercenter.org

Jobs for you, right to your inbox.

Sign up for FREE physician job alerts today!

It's quick and easy to set up and can give you a valuable edge in finding your next job. Simply set your specialty and location and we'll automatically send you new jobs that match your criteria.

Get started now at: nejmcareercenter.org/newalert



