

# Tumor Margins

- **Regardless of the classification scheme used, this is one of the most important factors in predicting tumor recurrence**
- **Good margins (free of neoplastic cells) should be 2+cm**
- **Fixation will retract the tissue → what appears to be a wide margin at the surgical procedure, gets thinner after fixation**
- **A good deep margin is usually more difficult to obtain than lateral margins**
- **Understand that only a small fraction of the tumor margins is typically evaluated**
- **Painted margins is the best way to evaluate margins**
- **Use dyes that are bright and solid → Black, blue, red**
- **Blot the surface to be painted before applying the dye and let it dry for about 10 minutes before immersing the sample in fixative**
- **Fatty tissues: Spray with mordant (e.g., acetic acid) the margin surface before applying the dye**