

Appendix B TNM staging for gastrointestinal stromal tumours (UICC TNM9)¹

Primary tumour (T)

TX	Primary tumour cannot be assessed
T0	No evidence for primary tumour
T1	Tumour 2 cm or less
T2	Tumour more than 2 cm but not more than 5 cm
T3	Tumour more than 5 cm but not more than 10 cm
T4	Tumour more than 10 cm in greatest dimension

Regional lymph nodes (N)

NX	Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed*
N0	No regional lymph node metastasis
N1	Regional lymph node metastasis

*NX: Regional lymph node involvement is rare for GISTs, so cases in which the nodal status is not assessed clinically or pathologically could be considered cN0 instead of cNX or pNX.

Distant metastasis (M)

M1	Distant metastasis
----	--------------------

Histopathological grading (G)

Grading for GISTs is dependent on mitotic rate:* Low mitotic rate: 5 or fewer per 5 mm²

High mitotic rate: Over 5 per 5 mm²

*With older microscopes, 50 high power field (HPF) may be equivalent to 5 mm². However, 40x lenses in more modern microscopes have a much wider field of view and require far fewer HPFs to be surveyed (20–25) to assess the same area. The exact figure should be established by the individual user for their microscope.

Stage

Gastric GIST (including primary omental)

Stage	T	N	M	Mitotic rate
Stage IA	T1, T2	N0	M0	Low
Stage IB	T3	N0	M0	Low
Stage II	T1, T2	N0	M0	High
	T4	N0	M0	Low
Stage IIIA	T3	N0	M0	High
Stage IIIB	T4	N0	M0	High
Stage IV	Any T	N1	M0	Any rate
	Any T	Any N	M1	Any rate

Non-Gastric (small intestine and other sites) GIST*

Stage	T	N	M	Mitotic rate
Stage I	T1, T2	N0	M0	Low
Stage II	T3	N0	M0	Low
Stage IIIA	T1	N0	M0	High
	T4	N0	M0	Low
Stage IIIB	T2, T3, T4	N0	M0	High
Stage IV	Any T	N1	M0	Any rate
Any T		Any N	M1	Any rate

References

1. Brierley JD, Giuliani M, O'Sullivan B, Rous B, Van Eycken L (eds.). *TNM Classification of Malignant Tumours* (9th edition). Oxford, UK: Wiley-Blackwell; 2025.