

Appendix B TNM classification

This provides information on staging using UICC TNM 9, which should be used for all tumours diagnosed after 1 January 2026.¹

Oral cavity and Mucosal Lip

Primary tumour (T)

TX	Primary tumour cannot be assessed
T0	No evidence of primary tumour
Tis	Carcinoma in situ
T1	Tumour 2 cm or less in greatest dimension and 5 mm or less depth of invasion ^{1,2}
T2	Tumour 2 cm or less in greatest dimension and more than 5 mm depth of invasion or Tumour more than 2 cm but not more than 4 cm in greatest dimension and depth of invasion no more than 10 mm
T3	Tumour more than 2 cm but not more than 4 cm in greatest dimension and depth of invasion more than 10 mm or Tumour more than 4 cm in greatest dimension and not more than 10 mm depth of invasion
T4a	Tumour more than 4 cm in greatest dimension and more than 10 mm depth of invasion or Tumour invades through the cortical bone (with involvement of spongiosa/spongy bone) of the mandible or maxilla or involves the maxillary sinus, or invades the skin of the face ²
T4b	Tumour invades masticator space, pterygoid plates, or skull base, or encases internal carotid artery

¹Superficial erosion of bone/tooth socket by gingival primary is not sufficient to classify a tumour as T4a.

²Superficial invasion of adjacent skin (i.e., dry vermillion and vermillion border of the lip) from mucosal lip is not sufficient to be classified as a T4a tumour.

For regional lymph nodes, refer to the *Dataset for Histopathological Reporting of Nodal Excisions and Neck Dissection Specimens Associated with Head and Neck Carcinomas*.

Residual tumour (R)

An R classification can be used to record the presence/absence of tumour remaining after curative therapy.

RX Presence of residual tumour cannot be assessed

R0 No residual tumour

R1 Microscopic residual tumour

R2 Macroscopic residual tumour

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.