

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 (no change from UICC TNM 8).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*

T2 Tumour 2 cm or less in greatest dimension and more than 5 mm but no more than 10 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 or 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 of the mandible or involves the maxillary sinus, or invades the skin of the face

T4b Tumour invades masticator space, pterygoid plates, or skull base, or encases internal carotid artery

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

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.