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

Lip and oral cavity

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*
- 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
- Tumour more than 4 cm in greatest dimension or more than 10 mm depth of invasion
- T4a (Lip) Tumour invades through cortical bone, inferior alveolar nerve, floor of mouth, or skin (of the chin or the nose)
- T4a (Oral cavity) 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 maxillary sinus, or invades the skin of the face
- T4b (Lip and oral cavity) Tumour invades masticator space, pterygoid plates, or skull base, or encases internal carotid artery

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

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

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

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.