Appendix A TNM classification of malignant tumours

pN Regional lymph nodes (for all primary sites, except nasopharynx and oropharynx-HPV associated)

pNX	Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed
pN0	No regional lymph node metastasis
pN1	Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node 30 mm or less in greatest dimension, without extranodal extension
pN2a	Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node, less than 30 mm in greatest dimension with extranodal extension or, more than 30 mm but not more than 60 mm in greatest dimension without extranodal extension
pN2b	Metastasis in multiple ipsilateral lymph nodes, not more than 60 mm in greatest dimension, without extranodal extension
pN2c	Metastasis in bilateral or contralateral lymph nodes, not more than 60 mm in greatest dimension, without extranodal extension
pN3a	Metastasis in a lymph node, more than 60 mm in greatest dimension, without extranodal extension
pN3b	Metastasis in a lymph node more than 30 mm in greatest dimension with extranodal extension or multiple ipsilateral, or any contralateral or bilateral node(s) with extranodal extension

Notes

- i. For nasopharyngeal primary carcinomas:
- pN1 Unilateral metastasis in cervical lymph node(s), and/or unilateral or bilateral metastasis in retropharyngeal lymph nodes, and 60 mm or less in greatest dimension, and above the caudal border of cricoid cartilage, and without extranodal extension
- pN2 Bilateral metastasis in cervical lymph nodes, and 6 cm or less in greatest dimension, and above the caudal border of cricoid cartilage, and without extranodal extension

- pN3 Metastasis in cervical lymph node(s) greater than 6 cm in greatest dimension or extension below the caudal border of cricoid cartilage or extranodal extension
- ii. For HPV-asociated primary oropharyngeal carcinomas:
- pN1 Metastasis in 1–4 lymph nodes without definitive pathologic extranodal extension pN1a Metastasis in 1 lymph node without definitive pathological extranodal extension pN1b Metastasis in 2–4 lymph nodes without definitive pathological extranodal extension

pN2

1–4 lymph nodes with definitive pathologic extranodal extension

or

Metastasis in >4 lymph nodes without definitive pathological extranodal extension pN3 Metastasis in >4 lymph nodes with definitive pathological extranodal extension

- iii. Direct extension of a primary tumour into a node is classified as nodal metastasis.
- iv. Metastasis in any lymph node other than a regional node is classified as distant metastasis.
- v. A macroscopic or microscopic tumour nodule in the connective tissue without residual node may represent discontinuous spread, venous invasion or a totally replaced lymph node. If the nodule has a generally smooth contour or is more than 10 mm from the primary carcinoma, it is classified as a nodal metastasis for the purpose of staging.
- vi. When size is a criterion for pN classification, measure the size of the metastasis and not that of the entire node.
- vii. Cases with micrometastasis only, i.e. no metastasis larger than 0.2 mm, can be designated with the suffix (mi).
- viii. Isolated tumour cells are single tumour cells or small clusters of cells not more than 0.2 mm in greatest dimension or a cluster of less than 200 cells in a single histological cross-section.
- ix. Midline nodes are considered ipsilateral.

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