

Appendix A Union for International Cancer Control

TNM 9 classification of colorectal tumours¹

pT Primary tumour

pTX	Primary tumour cannot be assessed
pT0	No evidence of primary tumour
pT1	Tumour invades submucosa
pT2	Tumour invades muscularis propria
pT3	Tumour invades into subserosa or into non-peritonealised pericolic or perirectal tissues
pT4	Tumour perforates visceral peritoneum (4a) and/or directly invades other organs or structures (4b)

pN Regional lymph nodes

pNX	Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed
pN0	No regional lymph node metastasis
pN1	Metastasis in 1–3 regional lymph nodes
pN1a	Metastasis in 1 regional lymph node
pN1b	Metastasis in 2–3 regional lymph nodes
pN1c	Tumour deposit(s), i.e. satellites,* in the subserosa, or in non-peritonealised pericolic or perirectal soft tissue without regional lymph node metastasis
pN2	Metastasis in 4 or more regional lymph nodes
pN2a	Metastasis in 4–6 regional lymph nodes
pN2b	Metastasis in 7 or more regional lymph nodes

pM Distant metastasis

- pM1 Distant metastatic disease
- pM1a Metastasis confined to one organ (liver, lung, ovary, non-regional lymph node(s))
 without peritoneal metastases
- pM1b Metastasis in more than one organ
- pM1c Metastasis to the peritoneum with or without other organ involvement

*Tumour deposits (TDs) represent discrete tumour nodules of any shape, contour or size in peri-rectal and peri-colonic fat, away from the leading edge of the tumour, within the lymph drainage area of the primary carcinoma. TDs can originate from different histological structures, including lymph nodes, vessels and nerves. Therefore, TDs may contain foci of extramural vascular invasion (EMVI) and perineural invasion (PNI). The feature distinguishing a TD from EMVI and PNI is the presence of unequivocal tumour extension from the vessel or nerve into the surrounding fat or fibroconnective tissue. Where tumour outgrowth from EMVI and/or PNI is present, the diagnosis of TDs and EMVI/PNI should be denoted separately in the report. If tumour involves an identifiable lymph node, it is considered as lymph node metastasis and not as TDs even if the tumour extends into the perinodal fat.

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.