

Appendix A UICC TNM 9 pathological staging of primary cutaneous carcinoma¹

This combines the UICC TNM 9 chapter guidance for skin carcinoma of the head and neck and carcinoma of the skin (essentially limbs and trunk but excluding the eyelid and genital skin).

This includes squamous cell carcinoma, basal cell carcinoma and adnexal carcinoma but excludes Merkel cell carcinoma and carcinomas of the eyelid, vulva, penis, non-hair-bearing lip and non-hair-bearing perianal skin (within 5 cm of the perianal margin).

Definitions of pTNM

Primary tumour (pT)

pTX	Primary tumour cannot be assessed
pT0	No evidence of primary tumour
pTis	Carcinoma in situ
pT1	Tumour 2 cm or less in greatest dimension
pT2	Tumour >2 cm to ≤4 cm in greatest dimension
pT3	Tumour >4 cm in greatest dimension or minor bone erosion or perineural invasion or deep invasion ¹
pT4a	Tumour with gross cortical bone/marrow invasion
pT4b	Tumour with axial skeleton invasion ² including foraminal involvement and/or vertebral foramen involvement to the epidural space

Notes

¹ Deep invasion is defined as invasion beyond the subcutaneous fat or >6 mm (as measured from the granular layer of adjacent normal epidermis to the base of the tumour). Perineural invasion is defined as tumour cells within the nerve sheath of a nerve lying deeper than the dermis or measuring 0.1 mm or larger in calibre or involvement of five or more nerves per section, without foramen or skull base invasion or transgression.

² Axial skeleton includes the skull, vertebrae and sacrum.

Comment: UICC TNM 9 states pT is identical to T.

Regional lymph nodes (pN)

The locational division between head and neck and non-head and neck regions anteriorly represents the level of the acromio-clavicular joint and posteriorly the level of the upper margin of the shoulder blade.

Carcinoma of the skin (essentially limbs and trunk but excluding the eyelid and genital skin)

pNX	Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed
pN0	No regional lymph node metastasis
pN1	Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node less than 3 cm in greatest dimension
pN2	Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node more than 3 cm but not more than 6 cm in greatest dimension or in multiple ipsilateral lymph nodes, but not 6 cm in greatest dimension
pN3	Metastasis in a lymph node, more than 6 cm in greatest dimension

A contralateral nodal metastasis (unlike with skin carcinoma of head and neck; see below) represents a distant metastasis.

There is an expectation that at least six lymph nodes will be identified in lymphadenectomy.

Skin carcinoma of head and neck

NB:	Includes regional and/or intraparotid node(s)
pNX	Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed
pN0	No regional lymph node metastasis
pN1	Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node 3 cm or less in greatest dimension, without extranodal extension*
pN2a	Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node, less than 3 cm in greatest dimension with extranodal extension or, more than 3 cm but not more than 6 cm in greatest dimension without extranodal extension

- pN2b Metastasis in multiple ipsilateral lymph nodes, not more than 6 cm in greatest dimension, without extranodal extension
- pN2c Metastasis in bilateral or contralateral lymph nodes, not more than 6 cm in greatest dimension, without extranodal extension
- pN3a Metastasis in a lymph node, more than 6 cm in greatest dimension, without extranodal extension
- pN3b Metastasis in a lymph node more than 3 cm in greatest dimension with extranodal extension or multiple ipsilateral, or any contralateral or bilateral node(s) with extranodal extension

* Pathological extranodal extension (pENE) should only be diagnosed when tumour that is present within the confines of a lymph node definitively transgresses through the entire thickness of the lymph node capsule into the surrounding connective tissue, with or without stromal reaction.

There is an expectation that at least ten lymph nodes will be identified by selective lymphadenectomy and at least 15 in radicle or modified radicle lymphadenectomy.

Distant metastasis (M)

M0 No distant metastasis

M1/pM1 Distant metastatic disease

Comment: MX and pM0 do not exist

pTNM stage group

Stage	T	N	M
Stage 0	Tis	N0	M0
Stage I	T1	N0	M0
Stage II	T2	N0	M0
Stage III	T3	N0	M0
	T1, T2, T3	N1	M0
Stage IV	T1, T2, T3	N2, N3	M0
	T4	N any	M0
	T any	N any	M1

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.