

Appendix A UICC TNM 9 pathological staging of cutaneous Merkel cell carcinoma, regional lymph nodes and metastasis¹

Includes:

- vulva
- penis
- scrotum
- hair-bearing lip
- hair-bearing perianal skin.

Definitions of TNM

Primary tumour (pT)

pTX	Primary tumour cannot be assessed (e.g. curetted and no clinical dimension recorded)
pT0	No evidence of primary tumour (e.g. nodal/metastatic presentation without associated primary)
pTis	In situ primary tumour
pT1	≤20 mm maximum clinical dimension of tumour
pT2	>20 mm to ≤50 mm maximum clinical dimension of tumour
pT3	>50 mm maximum clinical dimension of tumour
pT4	Primary tumour invades fascia, muscle, bone or cartilage (i.e. beyond subcutaneous fat).

NB: Pathological maximum dimension acceptable if clinical dimension not available.

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

Regional lymph nodes (pN)

pNX	Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed, e.g. previously removed for another reason
pN0	Regional lymph nodes negative by pathological examination
pN1	Regional lymph node(s) positive (i.e. metastasis) by pathological examination
pN1a (sn)	Clinically occult but regional lymph node(s) positive by SLNB (microscopic metastasis)
pN1a	Clinically occult but regional lymph node(s) positive by lymphadenectomy (microscopic metastasis)
pN1b	Clinically detected regional lymph node(s) positive (macroscopic metastasis)
pN2	In-transit metastasis without lymph node metastasis
pN3	In-transit metastasis with lymph node metastasis

NB: Clinical detection of nodal disease is via inspection, palpation and/or imaging. pN1 subdivisions require clinical information that may not be available at the time of reporting. In this eventuality, the parent category pN1 should be used.

In-transit metastasis: a tumour distinct from the primary lesion and located either between the primary lesion and the draining regional lymph nodes, or distal to the primary lesion.

Isolated tumour cells are defined as pN1. The TNM designation for SLNB is (sn).

Distant metastasis (M)

M0	No distant metastases
pM1	Metastasis beyond regional lymph nodes
pM1a	Metastasis to distant skin, subcutaneous tissues or distant lymph nodes confirmed microscopically
pM1b	Metastases to lung confirmed microscopically
pM1c	Metastasis to other visceral sites confirmed microscopically

NB: MX and pM0 do not exist.

pTNM stage group

Stage	T	N	M
Stage 0	Tis	N0	M0
Stage I	T1	N0	M0
Stage IIA	T2, T3	N0	M0
Stage IIB	T4	N0	M0
Stage IIIA	T0	N1b	M0
	T1, T2, T3, T4	N1a(sn), N1a	M0
Stage IIIB	T1, T2, T3, T4	N1b, N2, N3	M0
Stage IV	T0, T1, T2, T3, T4	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.