

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, vulval, penile or perianal skin).

This includes basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma and adnexal carcinoma, but excludes Merkel cell carcinoma and carcinomas of the eyelid, vulva, penis, non-hair-bearing lip or 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 ≤ 20 mm or less in maximum dimension (this is the clinical dimension but the pathological dimension, usually macroscopic, can be used if the clinical is not available)
pT2	Tumour > 20 mm to ≤ 40 mm in maximum dimension (this is the clinical dimension but the pathological dimension, usually macroscopic, can be used if the clinical is not available)
pT3	Tumour > 40 mm in maximum dimension (this is the clinical dimension but the pathological dimension, usually macroscopic, can be used if the clinical is not available) or minor bone erosion or perineural invasion or deep invasion ¹
pT4a	Tumour with gross cortical/marrow invasion
pT4b	Tumour with axial skeleton invasion ² including foraminal involvement and/or vertebral foramen involvement to the epidural space

Definitions

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 division between head and neck and non-head and neck (trunk and limbs) 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, vulva, penis or perianal area)

pNX Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed

pN0 No regional lymph node metastasis

pN1 Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node ≤ 30 mm in greatest dimension

pN2 Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node > 30 mm but not > 60 mm in greatest dimension or in multiple ipsilateral lymph nodes, but not > 60 mm in greatest dimension

pN3 Metastasis in a lymph node > 60 mm 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 a lymphadenectomy specimen.

Skin carcinoma of head and neck (excluding vermilion lip)

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

Extranodal extension can be defined by clinical or pathological criteria.

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.