

Appendix A UICC TNM 9th edition classification of oesophageal and gastric carcinoma¹

pT Primary tumour

pTX	Primary tumour cannot be assessed
pT0	No evidence of primary tumour
pTis	Carcinoma in situ
pT1	Tumour invades lamina propria or submucosa
pT1a	Tumour invades lamina propria or muscularis mucosae
pT1b	Tumour invades the submucosa
pT2	Tumour invades muscularis propria
pT3	Tumour invades adventitia/subserosa
pT4	Gastric cancer: Tumour invades serosa or adjacent structures
pT4a	Tumour invades the serosa
pT4b	Tumour invades adjacent structures (spleen, transverse colon, liver, pancreas, diaphragm, adrenal glands, kidney)
pT4	Oesophageal cancer: Tumour invades adjacent structures
pT4a	Tumour invades pleura, pericardium, peritoneum or diaphragm
pT4b	Tumour invades aorta, vertebra or trachea
pN	Regional lymph nodes
pNX	Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed
pN0	No regional lymph node metastasis
pN1	1–2 regional lymph node metastasis
pN2	3–6 regional lymph node metastasis
pN3	7 or more regional lymph node metastasis
pN3a (gastric cancer only):	7–15 regional lymph node metastasis

pN3b (gastric cancer only): more than 15 regional lymph node metastasis

M Distant metastasis

M1 Distant metastasis microscopically confirmed

Note that pM0 and pMx are not valid categories.

Regional lymph nodes for the oesophagus are those in the oesophageal drainage area, including coeliac axis, paraoesophageal nodes in the neck, but not the supraclavicular nodes.

Regional lymph nodes for the stomach are the perigastric nodes along the lesser and greater curvatures, the nodes along the left gastric, common hepatic, splenic and coeliac arteries, and the hepatoduodenal nodes.

TNM staging after neoadjuvant therapy

If there is a history of neoadjuvant chemotherapy, radiotherapy or combined chemoradiotherapy, the prefix y should be added to the TMN stage (e.g. ypT2 N1), otherwise the same staging system is used. The presence of fibrosis, haemorrhage, necrosis or acellular mucin is not considered in the tumour staging, neither in the T nor the N category. Only viable tumour/tumour cells are assessed for staging. A specimen in which no tumour is identified following neoadjuvant treatment is staged as ypT0 N0.

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.