**Appendix A TNM classification of primary cutaneous carcinomas (UICC TNM 8)**

This update to Appendix A provides updated information on staging using UICC TNM 8, which should be used for all tumours diagnosed after 1 January 2018.

This combines the UICC TNM 8 chapter guidance for skin carcinoma of the head and neck and carcinoma of the skin (essentially limbs and trunk but excluding eyelid, vulva, penis, non-hair bearing lip and non-hair bearing perianal skin within 5 cm of the perianal margin).

This includes basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma and adnexal carcinomas, but excludes Merkel cell carcinoma.

**Primary tumour (pT)**

UICC TNM 8 states pT is identical to T.

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)

pT1 or pT2 can be upstaged to pT3 by one or more high-risk clinical/pathological features including deep invasion\*, specifically defined perineural invasion\*\*or minor bone erosion

pT4a Tumour with gross cortical/marrow invasion

pT4b Tumour with axial skeleton/skull base/foraminal invasion

High-risk features in relation to pT1 and pT2 upstaging to pT3:

\*Deep invasion: this is defined as depth of invasion (DOI) to a level beyond the subcutaneous fat and/or tumour depth/thickness >6 mm. Depth is measured in millimetres from the granular layer of the nearest adjacent normal epidermis to the deepest point of the tumour.

\*\*Specifically defined perineural invasion using clinical or pathological criteria: this relates to a named nerve or a nerve ≥0.1 mm diameter or a nerve deeper than the dermis or tumour cells within the nerve.

**Regional lymph nodes (pN)**

The division between non-head and neck and head and neck (trunk and limbs) regions anteriorly represents the level of the acromio-clavicular joint and posterior 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 more than 60 mm in greatest dimension, or in multiple ipsilateral lymph nodes, but not more than 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 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 vermillion lip)**

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, without extranodal extension

pN2a Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node, more than 30 mm but not more than 60 mm in greatest dimension, without extranodal extension

pN2b Metastasis in multiple ipsilateral lymph nodes, none more than 60 mm in greatest dimension, without extranodal extension

pN2c Metastasis in bilateral or contralateral lymph nodes, none 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 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)**

MX and pM0 do not exist.

M0 No distant metastasis

M1/pM1 Distant metastatic disease

**Staging group**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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 IVA | T1, T2, T3 | N2, N3 | M0 |
| T4 | Any N | M0 |
| Stage IVB | Any T | Any N | M1 |

**Reference**

1 Carcinoma of Skin. *In*: Brierley JD, Gospodarowicz MK, Wittekind C (eds). *TNM Classification of Malignant Tumours (8th edition).* Oxford, UK: Wiley-Blackwell, 2017.