

Appendix B TNM classification

This provides information on staging using UICC TNM 9.¹

Primary tumour (T)

Supraglottis

- T1 Tumour limited to one subsite of supraglottis with normal vocal cord mobility
- T2 Tumour invades mucosa of more than one adjacent subsite of supraglottis or glottis or region outside the supraglottis (e.g., mucosa of base of tongue, vallecula, medial wall of pyriform sinus) without fixation of the larynx
- T3 Tumour limited to larynx with vocal cord fixation and/or invades any of the following: postcricoid area, preepiglottic space, paraglottic space, and/or inner cortex of thyroid cartilage
- T4 T4a Tumour invades through the thyroid cartilage and/or invades tissues beyond the larynx, e.g., trachea, soft tissues of neck including deep/extrinsic muscles of tongue (genioglossus, hypoglossus, palatoglossus, and styloglossus), strap muscles, thyroid, or oesophagus
T4b Tumour invades prevertebral space, encases carotid artery, or mediastinal structures.

Glottis

- T1 Tumour limited to the vocal cord(s) (may involve anterior or posterior commissure) with normal mobility
 - T1a Tumour limited to one vocal cord
 - T1b Tumour involves both vocal cords
- T2 Tumour extends to supraglottis and/or subglottis, and/or with impaired vocal cord mobility
- T3 Tumour limited to the larynx with vocal cord fixation and/or invasion of paraglottic space and /or inner cortex of the thyroid cartilage

- T4 T4a Tumour invades through the outer cortex of the thyroid cartilage, and/or invades tissue beyond the larynx, e.g., trachea, soft tissues of neck including deep/extrinsic muscles of tongue (genioglossus, hypoglossus, palatoglossus, and styloglossus), strap muscles, thyroid, or oesophagus
- T4b Tumour invades prevertebral space, encases carotid artery, or mediastinal structures.

Subglottis

- T1 Tumour limited to the subglottis
- T2 Tumour extends to vocal cord(s) with normal or impaired mobility
- T3 Tumour limited to larynx with vocal cord fixation
- T4 T4a Tumour invades cricoid or thyroid cartilage and/or invades tissues beyond the larynx e.g., trachea, soft tissues of neck including deep/extrinsic muscles of tongue (genioglossus, hypoglossus, palatoglossus, and styloglossus), strap muscles, thyroid, or oesophagus)
- T4b Very advanced local disease, tumour invades prevertebral space, encases carotid artery, or invades mediastinal structures.

Hypopharynx

- T1 Tumour limited to one subsite of hypopharynx and/or 2 cm or smaller in greatest dimension
- T2 Tumour invades more than one subsite of hypopharynx or an adjacent site, or measures larger than 2 cm but not larger than 4 cm in greatest dimension without fixation of hemilarynx
- T3 Tumour more than 4 cm in greatest dimension, or with fixation of hemilarynx or extension to oesophagus
- T4 T4a Tumour invades any of the following: thyroid/cricoid cartilage, hyoid bone, thyroid gland, oesophagus, central compartment soft tissue*
- T4b Tumour invades prevertebral fascia, encases carotid artery, or involves mediastinal structures.

*Central compartment soft tissue includes prelaryngeal strap muscles and subcutaneous fat.

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.