

Appendix B Staging system of The Union for International Cancer Control (9th edition)¹

Primary tumour (T)

TX Primary tumour cannot be assessed

T0 No evidence of primary tumour

Extremity and superficial trunk

T1 Tumour 50 mm or less in greatest dimension

T2 Tumour more than 50 mm but no more than 100 mm in greatest dimension

T3 Tumour more than 100 mm but no more than 150 mm in greatest dimension

T4 Tumour more than 150 mm in greatest dimension

Retroperitoneum

T1 Tumour 50 mm or less in greatest dimension

T2 Tumour more than 50 mm but no more than 100 mm in greatest dimension

T3 Tumour more than 100 mm but no more than 150 mm in greatest dimension

T4 Tumour more than 150 mm in greatest dimension

Head and neck

T1 Tumour 20 mm or less in greatest dimension

T2 Tumour more than 20 mm but no more than 40 mm in greatest dimension

T3 Tumour more than 40 mm in greatest dimension

T4a Tumour invades the orbit, skull base or dura, central compartment viscera, facial skeleton and or pterygoid muscles

T4b Tumour invades the brain parenchyma, encases the carotid artery, invades prevertebral muscle or involves the central nervous system by perineural spread

Thoracic and abdominal viscera

T1 Tumour confined to a single organ

T2a Tumour invades serosa or visceral peritoneum

- T2b Tumour with microscopic extension beyond the serosa
- T3 Tumour invades another organ or macroscopic extension beyond the serosa
- T4a Multifocal tumour involving no more than two sites in one organ
- T4b Multifocal tumour involving more than two sites but not more than five sites
- T4c Multifocal tumour involving more than five sites

Regional lymph nodes (N)

- NX Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed N0 No regional lymph node metastasis
- N1 Regional lymph node metastasis

Distant metastasis (M)

- M0 No distant metastasis
- M1 Distant metastasis

Stage grouping

This applies only to soft tissue tumours of extremities, superficial trunk and retroperitoneum.

Note: In the TNM two-grade system, Grade 1 in the French Federation of Cancer Centers' system is equivalent to low grade, and Grades 2 and 3 are equivalent to high grade.

Stage	Primary tumour	Regional lymph nodes	Distant metastasis	Grade
IA	T1	N0	M0	G1, GX Low Grade
IB	T2, 3, 4	N0	M0	G1, GX Low Grade
II	T1	N0	M0	G2, G3 High Grade
IIIA	T2	N0	M0	G2 G3 High Grade
IIIB	T3, T4	N0	M0	G2, G3 High Grade
IIIB	Any T	N1	M1	Any G

IV	Any T	Any N	M1	Any G
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Notes

1. The staging system applies to all soft tissue sarcomas except Kaposi sarcoma, dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans, desmoid fibromatosis and angiosarcoma. In addition, sarcomas arising from the dura mater, including the brain, and sarcomas arising in parenchymatous organs (except breast sarcomas) and from hollow viscera are not included.

2. Depth is assessed as follows:

Superficial: lesion does not involve deep fascia

Deep: (a) lesion involves or is deep to deep fascia

(b) all intraperitoneal, retroperitoneal, visceral, paratesticular and intrathoracic sarcomas, and non-cutaneous major head and neck sarcomas, are considered to be deep.

Note: deep fascia is considered to be the fascia between subcutaneous fat and muscle.

3. Completeness of resection can be a prognostic factor.²⁸ Use of the residual tumour (R) classification of the UICC for tumours after treatment is optional:

RX Presence of residual tumour cannot be assessed

R0 No residual tumour

R1 Microscopic residual tumour

R2 Macroscopic residual tumour.

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.