

Appendix B TNM classification

UICC TNM 9 now applies to both major and minor salivary glands.¹

Salivary glands

Primary Tumour (T)

pTx Primary tumour cannot be assessed

pT0 No evidence of primary tumour

pT1 Tumour 2 cm or less in greatest dimension without extraparenchymal extension*

pT2 Tumour more than 2 cm but not more than 4 cm in greatest dimension without extraparenchymal extension*

pT3 Tumour more than 4 cm or in major salivary glands gross extraparenchymal extension*

pT4a Tumour invades immediately adjacent structures, including skin, bone**, cartilage, solid organ parenchyma, oesophagus, trachea and/or named nerve

pT4b Tumour invades beyond adjacent structures, e.g. encasement of carotid artery, and/or base of skull invasion (except nasopharynx), and/or spinal column invasion, and/or intracranial invasion, and/or orbital apex, and/or prevertebral space, and/or mediastinal structures, and/or masticator space, etc.

Notes

* Extraparenchymal extension is clinical or macroscopic evidence of invasion of soft tissues or nerve, except those listed under T4a and T4b. Microscopic evidence alone does not constitute extraparenchymal extension for classification purposes.

** Destruction of intrinsic sinus bones is not considered bone invasion for skull base tumors. Erosion of cortical bone is not considered bone invasion; a minor salivary gland tumor arising within the bone is not considered bone invasion.

Regional Lymph Nodes (N)

pNX Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed

pN0 No regional lymph node metastasis

pN1	Metastasis in 1–3 lymph node(s) without definitive pathological extranodal extension
pN2	Metastasis in >3 lymph nodes
or	
Metastasis in any lymph node with definitive pathological extranodal extension*	

Notes

* Pathological extranodal extension (pENE) should only be diagnosed when tumour that is present within the confines of a lymph node definitively transgresses through the entire thickness of the lymph node capsule into the surrounding connective tissue, with or without stromal reaction.

A soft tissue deposit should be considered as at least one lymph node with extranodal extension if it occurs at a site where a regional lymph node would be expected.

Distant metastasis (M)

pM1	Distant metastasis confirmed microscopically
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Note that pM0 and pMX are no longer valid categories.

References

1. Brierley JD, Giuliani M, O'Sullivan B, Rous B, Van Eyken L (eds.). *TNM Classification of Malignant Tumours* (9th edition). Oxford, UK: Wiley-Blackwell; 2025.