

# HNC TNM Cancer Staging Manual

**Adapted from AJCC (8th ed., 2017)**





# NPC

## Primary Tumor (T)

- TX** Primary tumor cannot be assessed
- T0** No tumor identified, but EBV-positive cervical node(s) involvement
- Tis** Carcinoma *in situ*
- T1** Tumor confined to nasopharynx, or extension to oropharynx and/or nasal cavity without parapharyngeal involvement
- T2** Tumor with extension to parapharyngeal space, and/or adjacent soft tissue involvement (medial pterygoid, lateral pterygoid, prevertebral muscles)
- T3** Tumor with infiltration of bony structures at skull base, cervical vertebra, pterygoid structures, and/or paranasal sinuses
- T4** Tumor with intracranial extension, involvement of cranial nerves, hypopharynx, orbit, parotid gland, and/ or extensive soft tissue infiltration beyond the lateral surface of the lateral pterygoid muscle

## Regional Lymph Nodes (N)

- NX** Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed
- N0** No regional lymph node metastasis
- N1** Unilateral metastasis in cervical lymph node(s) and/or unilateral or bilateral metastasis in retropharyngeal lymph node(s), 6 cm or smaller in greatest dimension, above the caudal border of cricoid cartilage
- N2** Bilateral metastasis in cervical lymph node(s), 6 cm or smaller in greatest dimension, above the caudal border of cricoid cartilage
- N3** Unilateral or bilateral metastasis in cervical lymph node(s), larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension, and/or extension below the caudal border of cricoid cartilage

## Anatomic Stage/Prognostic Groups

|                  |          |          |    |
|------------------|----------|----------|----|
| <b>Stage 0</b>   | Tis      | N0       | M0 |
| <b>Stage I</b>   | T1       | N0       | M0 |
| <b>Stage II</b>  | T0,T1    | N1       | M0 |
|                  | T2       | N0,N1    | M0 |
| <b>Stage III</b> | T0,T1,T2 | N2       | M0 |
|                  | T3       | N0,N1,N2 | M0 |
| <b>Stage IVA</b> | T4       | N0,N1,N2 | M0 |
|                  | Any T    | N3       | M0 |
| <b>Stage IVB</b> | Any T    | Any N    | M1 |



## Oral Cancer

### Primary Tumor (T)

- TX** Primary tumor cannot be assessed
- Tis** Carcinoma *in situ*
- T1** Tumor  $\leq 2$  cm with depth of invasion (DOI)\*  $\leq 5$  mm
- T2** Tumor  $\leq 2$  cm, with DOI\*  $> 5$  mm  
or tumor  $> 2$  cm and  $\leq 4$  cm, with DOI\*  $\leq 10$  mm  
or tumor  $> 2$  cm and  $\leq 4$  cm, with DOI\*  $> 10$  mm  
or
- T3** tumor  $> 4$  cm, with DOI\*  $\leq 10$  mm  
Moderately advanced or very advanced local disease
- T4** T4a Moderately advanced local disease  
Tumor  $> 4$  cm, with DOI\*  $> 10$  mm or tumor invades adjacent structures only (eg, through cortical bone of the mandible or maxilla, or involves the maxillary sinus or skin of the face)  
Note: Superficial erosion of bone/tooth socket (alone) by a gingival primary is not sufficient to classify a tumor as T4.
- T4b** Very advanced local disease  
Tumor invades masticator space, pterygoid plates, or skull base and/or encases the internal carotid artery

\*DOI is depth of invasion and *not* tumor thickness.

### Regional Lymph Nodes (N) Clinical N (cN)

- NX** Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed No regional lymph node metastasis
- N0** No regional lymph node metastasis
- N1** Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node, 3 cm or smaller in greatest dimension ENE(-)
- N2** Metastasis in a single ipsilateral node larger than 3 cm but not larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-); or metastases in multiple ipsilateral lymph nodes, none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-); or in bilateral or contralateral lymph nodes, none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension, and ENE(-)
  - N2a Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node larger than 3 cm but not larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension, and ENE(-)
  - N2b Metastases in multiple ipsilateral lymph nodes, none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension, and ENE(-)
  - N2c Metastases in bilateral or contralateral lymph nodes, none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension, and ENE(-)
- N3** Metastasis in a lymph node larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-); or metastasis in any node(s) and clinically overt ENE(+)
  - N3a Metastasis in a lymph node larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
  - N3b Metastasis in any node(s) and clinically overt ENE(+)

Note: A designation of “U” or “L” may be used for any N category to indicate metastasis above the lower border of the cricoid (U) or below the lower border of the cricoid (L). Similarly, clinical and pathological ENE should be recorded as ENE(-) or ENE(+).



## Oral Cavity

### Regional Lymph Nodes (N)

#### Pathological N (pN)

- NX** Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed
- N0** No regional lymph node metastasis
- N1** Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node, 3 cm or smaller in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
- N2** Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node, 3 cm or smaller in greatest dimension and ENE(+); or larger than 3 cm but not larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-); or metastases in multiple ipsilateral lymph nodes, none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-); or in bilateral or contralateral lymph node(s), none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension, ENE(-)
  - N2a Metastasis in single ipsilateral node 3 cm or smaller in greatest dimension, and ENE(+); or a single ipsilateral node larger than 3 cm but not larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
  - N2b Metastases in multiple ipsilateral node(s), none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
  - N2c Metastases in bilateral or contralateral lymph node(s), none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension, and ENE(-)
- N3** Metastasis in a lymph node larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-); or metastasis in a single ipsilateral node larger than 3 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(+); or multiple ipsilateral, contralateral or bilateral nodes any with ENE(+); or a single contralateral node of any size and ENE (+)
  - N3a Metastasis in a lymph node larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
  - N3b Metastasis in a single ipsilateral node larger than 3 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(+); or multiple ipsilateral, contralateral or bilateral nodes any with ENE(+); or a single contralateral node of any size and ENE (+)

*Note:* A designation of "U" or "L" may be used for any N category to indicate metastasis above the lower border of the cricoid (U) or below the lower border of the cricoid (L). Similarly, clinical and pathological ENE should be recorded as ENE(-) or ENE(+).

### Distant Metastasis (M)

- M0** No distant metastasis
- M1** Distant metastasis

### Histologic Grade (G)

- G X** Cannot be assessed Well
- G 1** differentiated Moderately
- G 2** differentiated Poorly
- G3** differentiated

### Prognostic Stage Groups

|                  |       |          |    |
|------------------|-------|----------|----|
| <b>Stage 0</b>   | Tis   | N0       | M0 |
| <b>Stage I</b>   | T1    | N0       | M0 |
| <b>Stage II</b>  | T2    | N0       | M0 |
| <b>Stage III</b> | T1,T2 | N1       | M0 |
|                  | T3    | N0,N1    | M0 |
| <b>Stage IVA</b> | T1    | N2       | M0 |
|                  | T2    | N2       | M0 |
|                  | T3    | N2       | M0 |
|                  | T4a   | N0,N1,N2 | M0 |
| <b>Stage IVB</b> | Any T | N3       | M0 |
|                  | T4b   | Any N    | M0 |
| <b>Stage IVC</b> | Any T | Any N    | M1 |



**Oropharynx (p16-) and Hypopharynx**

(Not included: P16-positive (p16+) oropharyngeal cancers and nasopharyngeal cancer)

**Oropharynx (p16-)      Hypopharynx**

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| <b>TX</b>  | Primary tumor cannot be assessed Carcinoma <i>in situ</i>   |
| <b>Tis</b> | Tumor 2 cm or smaller in greatest dimension   |
| <b>T 1</b> | Tumor larger than 2 cm but not larger than 4 cm in greatest dimension   |
| <b>T2</b>  |   |
| <b>T3</b>  | Tumor larger than 4 cm in greatest dimension or extension to lingual surface of epiglottis  |
| <b>T4</b>  | Moderately advanced or very advanced local disease  |
| T4a        | Moderately advanced local disease<br>Tumor invades the larynx, extrinsic muscle of tongue, medial pterygoid, hard palate, or mandible*                |
| T4b        | Very advanced local disease<br>Tumor invades lateral pterygoid muscle, pterygoid plates, lateral nasopharynx, or skull base or encases carotid artery |

\*Note: Mucosal extension to lingual surface of epiglottis from primary tumors of the base of the tongue and vallecula does not constitute invasion of the larynx.

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| <b>TX</b>  | Primary tumor cannot be assessed Carcinoma <i>in situ</i>  |
| <b>Tis</b> | Tumor limited to one subsite of hypopharynx and/or 2 cm or smaller in greatest dimension   |
| <b>T1</b>  | Tumor 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 |
| <b>T2</b>  | Tumor larger than 4 cm in greatest dimension or with fixation of hemilarynx or extension to esophageal mucosa  |
| <b>T3</b>  | Moderately advanced or very advanced local disease T4a   |
| <b>T4</b>  | Moderately advanced local disease<br>Tumor invades thyroid/cricoid cartilage, hyoid bone, thyroid gland, esophageal muscle or central compartment soft tissue*                     |
| T4b        | Very advanced local disease<br>Tumor invades prevertebral fascia, encases carotid artery, or involves mediastinal structures   |

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



## Oropharynx (p16-) and Hypopharynx

(Not included: P16-positive (p16+) oropharyngeal cancers and nasopharyngeal cancer)

### Regional Lymph Nodes (N)

#### Clinical N (cN) - Oropharynx (p16-) and Hypopharynx

- NX** Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed
- N0** No regional lymph node metastasis
- N1** Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node, 3 cm or smaller in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
- N2** Metastasis in a single ipsilateral node larger than 3 cm but not larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-); *or* metastases in multiple ipsilateral lymph nodes, none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-); *or* in bilateral or contralateral lymph nodes, none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
  - N2a** Metastasis in a single ipsilateral node larger than 3 cm but not larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
  - N2b** Metastases in multiple ipsilateral nodes, none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
  - N2c** Metastases in bilateral or contralateral lymph nodes, none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
- N3** Metastasis in a lymph node larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-); *or* metastasis in any node(s) and clinically overt ENE(+)
  - N3a** Metastasis in a lymph node larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
  - N3b** Metastasis in any node(s) and clinically overt ENE(+)

*Note:* A designation of “U” or “L” may be used for any N category to indicate metastasis above the lower border of the cricoid (U) or below the lower border of the cricoid (L).

Similarly, clinical and pathological ENE should be recorded as ENE(-) or ENE(+).



**Oropharynx (p16-) and Hypopharynx**

(Not included: P16-positive (p16+) oropharyngeal cancers and nasopharyngeal cancer)

**Regional Lymph Nodes (N):**

**Pathological N (pN) - Oropharynx (p16-) and Hypopharynx**

- N X** Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed No regional lymph node metastasis
- N 0** Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node, 3 cm or smaller in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
- N1** Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node, 3 cm or smaller in greatest dimension and ENE(+); or larger than 3 cm but not larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-); or metastases in multiple ipsilateral lymph nodes, none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-); or in bilateral or contralateral lymph node(s), none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
- N2**
  - N2a Metastasis in single ipsilateral node 3 cm or smaller in greatest dimension and ENE(+); or a single ipsilateral node larger than 3 cm but not larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
  - N2b Metastases in multiple ipsilateral nodes, none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
  - N2c Metastases in bilateral or contralateral lymph node(s), none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
- N3** Metastasis in a lymph node larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-); or in a single ipsilateral node larger than 3 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(+); or multiple ipsilateral, contralateral or bilateral nodes, any with ENE(+); or a single contralateral node of any size and ENE(+)
- N3a** Metastasis in a lymph node larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
- N3b** Metastasis in a single ipsilateral node larger than 3 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(+); or multiple ipsilateral, contralateral or bilateral nodes, any with ENE(+); or a single contralateral node of any size and ENE(+)

*Note:* A designation of "U" or "L" may be used for any N category to indicate metastasis above the lower border of the cricoid (U) or below the lower border of the cricoid (L). Similarly, clinical and pathological ENE should be recorded as ENE(-) or ENE(+).

**Distant Metastasis (M) M0**

- No distant metastasis M1
- Distant metastasis

**Histologic Grade (G)**

- GX** Grade cannot be assessed
- G1** Well differentiated
- G2** Moderately differentiated
- G3** Poorly differentiated
- G4** Undifferentiated

**Prognostic Stage Groups**

|                  |       |          |    |
|------------------|-------|----------|----|
| <b>Stage 0</b>   | Tis   | N0       | M0 |
| <b>Stage I</b>   | T1    | N0       | M0 |
| <b>Stage II</b>  | T2    | N0       | M0 |
| <b>Stage III</b> | T3    | N0       | M0 |
|                  | T1    | N1       | M0 |
|                  | T2    | N1       | M0 |
| <b>Stage IVA</b> | T3    | N1       | M0 |
|                  | T1    | N2       | M0 |
|                  | T2    | N2       | M0 |
| <b>Stage IVB</b> | T3    | N2       | M0 |
|                  | T4a   | N0,N1,N2 | M0 |
|                  | T4b   | Any N    | M0 |
| <b>Stage IVC</b> | Any T | N3       | M0 |
|                  | Any T | Any N    | M1 |



**HPV-Mediated (p16+) Oropharyngeal**

(Not including: P16-negative (p16-) cancers of the oropharynx)

**Primary Tumor (T)**

**T0** No primary identified

**T1** Tumor 2 cm or smaller in greatest dimension

**T2** Tumor larger than 2 cm but not larger than 4 cm in greatest dimension

**T3** Tumor larger than 4 cm in greatest dimension or extension to lingual surface of epiglottis

**T4** Moderately advanced local disease

Tumor invades the larynx, extrinsic muscle of tongue, medial pterygoid, hard palate, or mandible or beyond\*

Mucosal extension to lingual surface of epiglottis from primary tumors of the base of the tongue and vallecula does not constitute invasion of the larynx.

**Regional Lymph Nodes (N) Clinical N (cN)**

**NX** Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed

**N0** No regional lymph node metastasis

**N1** One or more ipsilateral lymph nodes, none larger than 6 cm **N2**

Contralateral or bilateral lymph nodes, none larger than 6 cm **N3** Lymph node(s) larger than 6 cm

**Pathological N (pN)**

**NX** Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed

**pN0** No regional lymph node metastasis **pN1** Metastasis in 4 or fewer lymph nodes **pN2** Metastasis in more than 4 lymph nodes

**Distant Metastasis (M) M0** No distant metastasis **M1** Distant metastasis

**Histologic Grade (G)**

No grading system exists for HPV-mediated oropharyngeal tumors

**Prognostic Stage Groups**

**Clinical**

|                  |                   |                   |            |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|
| <b>Stage I</b>   | T0,T1,T2          | N0,N1             | M0         |
| <b>Stage II</b>  | T0,T1,T2<br>T3    | N2<br>N0,N1,N2 N3 | M0<br>M 0  |
| <b>Stage III</b> | T0,T1,T2,T3<br>T4 | N0,N1,N2,N3       | M 0<br>M 0 |
| <b>Stage IV</b>  | Any T             | Any N             | M 0<br>M1  |

**Pathological**

|                  |                   |             |          |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------|----------|
| <b>Stage I</b>   | T0,T1,T2          | N0,N1       | M0       |
| <b>Stage II</b>  | T0,T1,T2<br>T3,T4 | N2<br>N0,N1 | M0<br>M0 |
| <b>Stage III</b> | T3,T4             | N2          | M0       |
| <b>Stage IV</b>  | Any T             | Any N       | M1       |





**TNM Staging System for the Larynx (8th ed., 2017)**

**Primary Tumor (T)**

**TX** Primary tumor cannot be assessed

**Tis** Carcinoma *in situ*

**Supraglottis**

**T1** Tumor limited to one subsite of supraglottis with normal vocal cord mobility

**T2** Tumor invades mucosa of more than one adjacent subsite of supraglottis or glottis or region outside the supraglottis (eg, mucosa of base of tongue, vallecula, medial wall of pyriform sinus) without fixation of the larynx

**T3** Tumor 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** Moderately advanced or very advanced  
**T4a** Moderately advanced local disease  
 Tumor invades through the outer cortex of the thyroid cartilage and/or invades tissues beyond the larynx (eg, trachea, soft tissues of neck including deep extrinsic muscle of the tongue, strap muscles, thyroid, or esophagus)

**T4b** Very advanced local disease  
 Tumor invades prevertebral space, encases carotid artery, or invades mediastinal structures

**Glottis**

**T1** Tumor limited to the vocal cord(s) (may involve anterior or posterior commissure) with normal mobility

**T1a** Tumor limited to one vocal cord

**T1b** Tumor involves both vocal cords

**T2** Tumor extends to supraglottis and/or subglottis, and/or with impaired vocal cord mobility

**T3** Tumor limited to the larynx with vocal cord fixation and/or invasion of paraglottic space and/or inner cortex of the thyroid cartilage Moderately advanced or very advanced

**T4** Moderately advanced local disease  
 Tumor invades through the outer cortex of the thyroid cartilage and/or invades tissues beyond the larynx (eg, trachea, cricoid cartilage, soft tissues of neck including deep extrinsic muscle of the tongue, strap muscles, thyroid, or esophagus)

**T4b** Very advanced local disease  
 Tumor invades prevertebral space, encases carotid artery, or invades mediastinal structures

**Subglottis**

**T1** Tumor limited to the subglottis

**T2** Tumor extends to vocal cord(s) with normal or impaired mobility

**T3** Tumor limited to larynx with vocal cord fixation and/or inner cortex of the thyroid cartilage

**T4** Moderately advanced or very advanced

**T4a** Moderately advanced local disease  
 Tumor invades cricoid or thyroid cartilage and/or invades tissues beyond the larynx (eg, trachea, soft tissues of neck including deep extrinsic muscles of the tongue, strap muscles, thyroid, or esophagus)

**T4b** Very advanced local disease  
 Tumor invades prevertebral space, encases carotid artery, or invades mediastinal structures



## TNM Staging System for the Larynx

### Regional Lymph Nodes (N) Clinical N (cN)

- NX** Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed
- N0** No regional lymph node metastasis
- N1** Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node, 3 cm or smaller in greatest dimension ENE(-)
- N2** Metastasis in a single ipsilateral node, larger than 3 cm but not larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-);  
or metastases in multiple ipsilateral lymph nodes, none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-);  
or metastasis in bilateral or contralateral lymph nodes, none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
- N2a Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node, larger than 3 cm but not larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
- N2b Metastases in multiple ipsilateral lymph nodes, none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
- N2c Metastases in bilateral or contralateral lymph nodes, none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
- N3** Metastasis in a lymph node, larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-);  
or metastasis in any lymph node(s) with clinically overt ENE(+)
- N3a Metastasis in a lymph node, larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
- N3b Metastasis in any lymph node(s) with clinically overt ENE(+)

*Note:* A designation of "U" or "L" may be used for any N category to indicate metastasis above the lower border of the cricoid (U) or below the lower border of the cricoid (L)

Similarly, clinical and pathological ENE should be recorded as ENE(-) or ENE(+)



## TNM Staging System for the **Larynx**

### Pathological N (pN)

**N X** Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed No regional lymph node metastasis  
**N 0** Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node, 3 cm or smaller in greatest dimension ENE(-)  
**N 1** Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node, 3 cm or smaller in greatest dimension and ENE(+);  
**N 2** or larger than 3 cm but not larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-);  
 or metastases in multiple ipsilateral lymph nodes, none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-); or in bilateral or contralateral lymph node(s), none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)

N2a Metastasis in a single ipsilateral node, 3 cm or smaller in greatest dimension and ENE(+); or metastasis in a single ipsilateral node, larger than 3 cm but not larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)

N2b Metastases in multiple ipsilateral nodes, none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)

N2c Metastases in bilateral or contralateral lymph node(s), none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)

**N3** Metastasis in a lymph node, larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-);  
 or metastasis in a single ipsilateral node, larger than 3 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(+); or multiple ipsilateral, contralateral, or bilateral lymph nodes and any with ENE(+); or a single contralateral node of any size and ENE(+)

N3a Metastasis in a lymph node, larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)

N3b Metastasis in a single ipsilateral node, larger than 3 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(+); or multiple ipsilateral, contralateral, or bilateral lymph nodes any with ENE(+); or a single contralateral node of any size and ENE(+)

\*Note: A designation of "U" or "L" may be used for any N category to indicate metastasis above the lower border of the cricoid (U) or below the lower border of the cricoid (L)

Similarly, clinical and pathological ENE should be recorded as ENE(-) or ENE(+)

### Distant Metastasis (M) M0

No distant metastasis

**M1** Distant metastasis

### Histologic Grade (G)

**GX** Grade cannot be assessed

**G1** Well differentiated

**G2** Moderately differentiated

**G3** Poorly differentiated

### Prognostic Stage Groups

|                  |       |          |    |
|------------------|-------|----------|----|
| <b>Stage 0</b>   | Tis   | N0       | M0 |
| <b>Stage I</b>   | T1    | N0       | M0 |
| <b>Stage II</b>  | T2    | N0       | M0 |
| <b>Stage III</b> | T3    | N0       | M0 |
|                  | T1    | N1       | M0 |
|                  | T2    | N1       | M0 |
|                  | T3    | N1       | M0 |
| <b>Stage IVA</b> | T1    | N2       | M0 |
|                  | T2    | N2       | M0 |
|                  | T3    | N2       | M0 |
|                  | T4a   | N0,N1,N2 | M0 |
| <b>Stage IVB</b> | Any T | N3       | M0 |
|                  | T4b   | Any N    | M0 |
| <b>Stage IVC</b> | Any T | Any N    | M1 |



## TNM Staging System for the **Nasal Cavity and Paranasal Sinuses**

### Primary Tumor (T)

- TX** Primary tumor cannot be assessed  
**Tis** Carcinoma *in situ*

### Maxillary Sinus

- T1** Tumor limited to maxillary sinus mucosa with no erosion or destruction of bone
- T2** Tumor causing bone erosion or destruction including extension into the hard palate and/or middle nasal meatus, except extension to posterior wall of maxillary sinus and pterygoid plates
- T3** Tumor invades any of the following: bone of the posterior wall of maxillary sinus, subcutaneous tissues, floor or medial wall of orbit, pterygoid fossa, ethmoid sinuses
- T4** Moderately advanced or very advanced local disease  
**T4a** Moderately advanced local disease  
 Tumor invades anterior orbital contents, skin of cheek, pterygoid plates, infratemporal fossa, cribriform plate, sphenoid or frontal sinuses  
**T4b** Very advanced local disease  
 Tumor invades any of the following: orbital apex, dura, brain, middle cranial fossa, cranial nerves other than maxillary division of trigeminal nerve (V2), nasopharynx, or clivus

### Nasal Cavity and Ethmoid Sinus

- T1** Tumor restricted to any one subsite, with or without bony invasion
- T2** Tumor invading two subsites in a single region or extending to involve an adjacent region within the nasoethmoidal complex, with or without bony invasion
- T3** Tumor extends to invade the medial wall or floor of the orbit, maxillary sinus, palate, or cribriform plate
- T4** Moderately advanced or very advanced local disease  
**T4a** Moderately advanced local disease  
 Tumor invades any of the following: anterior orbital contents, skin of nose or cheek, minimal extension to anterior cranial fossa, pterygoid plates, sphenoid or frontal sinuses  
**T4b** Very advanced local disease  
 Tumor invades any of the following: orbital apex, dura, brain, middle cranial fossa, cranial nerves other than (V2), nasopharynx, or clivus



## TNM Staging System for the **Nasal Cavity and Paranasal Sinuses**

### Regional Lymph Nodes (N) Clinical N (cN)

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| <b>NX</b> | Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed   |
| <b>N0</b> | No regional lymph node metastasis   |
| <b>N1</b> | Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node, 3 cm or smaller in greatest dimension and ENE(-)   |
| <b>N2</b> | Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node larger than 3 cm but not larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-);<br>or metastases in multiple ipsilateral lymph nodes, none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-);<br>or in bilateral or contralateral lymph nodes, none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-) |
| N2a       | Metastasis in a single ipsilateral node larger than 3 cm but not larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)  |
| N2b       | Metastases in multiple ipsilateral nodes, none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)  |
| N2c       | Metastases in bilateral or contralateral lymph nodes, none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)  |
| <b>N3</b> | Metastasis in a lymph node larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-);<br>or metastasis in any node(s) with clinically overt ENE(+)  |
| N3a       | Metastasis in a lymph node larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)  |
| N3b       | Metastasis in any node(s) with clinically overt ENE (ENE <sub>c</sub> )   |

*Note:* A designation of “U” or “L” may be used for any N category to indicate metastasis above the lower border of the cricoid (U) or below the lower border of the cricoid (L).  
Similarly, clinical and pathological ENE should be recorded as ENE(-) or ENE(+).



## TNM Staging System for the **Nasal Cavity and Paranasal Sinuses**

### Regional Lymph Nodes (N) Pathological N (pN)

- NX** Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed
- N0** No regional lymph node metastasis
- N1** Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node, 3 cm or smaller in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
- N2** Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node, 3 cm or smaller in greatest dimension and ENE(+);  
or larger than 3 cm but not larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-);  
or metastases in multiple ipsilateral lymph nodes, none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-);  
or in bilateral or contralateral lymph node(s), none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-);
- N2a Metastasis in single ipsilateral node 3 cm or less in greatest dimension and ENE(+);  
or a single ipsilateral node larger than 3 cm but not larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
- N2b Metastases in multiple ipsilateral nodes, none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
- N2c Metastases in bilateral or contralateral lymph node(s), none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
- N3** Metastasis in a lymph node larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-); or in a single ipsilateral node larger than 3 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(+); or multiple ipsilateral, contralateral or bilateral nodes, any with ENE(+);  
or a single contralateral node of any size and ENE(+)
- N3a Metastasis in a lymph node larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
- N3b Metastasis in a single ipsilateral node larger than 3 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(+);  
or multiple ipsilateral, contralateral or bilateral nodes, any with ENE(+);  
or a single contralateral node of any size and ENE(+)

*Note:* A designation of "U" or "L" may be used for any N category to indicate metastasis above the lower border of the cricoid (U) or below the lower border of the cricoid (L).

Similarly, clinical and pathological ENE should be recorded as ENE(-) or ENE(+).



TNM Staging System for the **Nasal Cavity and Paranasal**

**Prognostic Stage Groups**

|                  |       |          |    |
|------------------|-------|----------|----|
| <b>Stage 0</b>   | Tis   | N0       | M0 |
| <b>Stage I</b>   | T1    | N0       | M0 |
| <b>Stage II</b>  | T2    | N0       | M0 |
| <b>Stage III</b> | T1    | N1       | M0 |
|                  | T2    | N1       | M0 |
|                  | T3    | N0, N1   | M0 |
| <b>Stage IVA</b> | T1    | N2       | M0 |
|                  | T2    | N2       | M0 |
|                  | T3    | N2       | M0 |
|                  | T4a   | N0,N1,N2 | M0 |
| <b>Stage IVB</b> | Any T | N3       | M0 |
|                  | T4b   | Any N    | M0 |
| <b>Stage IVC</b> | Any T | Any N    | M1 |

**Distant Metastasis (M)**

- M0** No distant metastasis (no pathologic M0; use clinical M to complete stage group)
- M1** Distant metastasis

**Histologic Grade (G)**

- GX** Grade cannot be assessed
- G1** Well differentiated
- G2** Moderately differentiated
- G3** Poorly differentiated



## Unknown Primary Tumors of the Head and Neck (8th ed., 2017)

### Regional Lymph Nodes (N)

**Clinical N (cN):** For patients who are treated with primary nonsurgical treatment without a cervical lymph node dissection.

- NX** Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed
- N0** No regional lymph node metastasis
- N1** Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node, 3 cm or smaller in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
- N2** Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node larger than 3 cm but not larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-); or metastases in multiple ipsilateral lymph nodes, none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-); or in bilateral or contralateral lymph nodes, none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension, ENE(-)
- N2a Metastasis in a single ipsilateral node larger than 3 cm but not larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
- N2b Metastases in multiple ipsilateral nodes, none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
- N2c Metastases in bilateral or contralateral lymph nodes, none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
- N3** Metastasis in a lymph node larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-); or metastasis in any node(s) with clinically overt ENE(+) (ENE<sub>c</sub>)<sup>2</sup>
- N3a Metastasis in a lymph node larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
- N3b Metastasis in any node(s) with clinically overt ENE(+) (ENE<sub>c</sub>)<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Midline nodes are considered ipsilateral nodes.

<sup>2</sup>ENE<sub>c</sub> is defined as invasion of skin, infiltration of musculature, dense tethering or fixation to adjacent structures, or cranial nerve, brachial plexus, sympathetic trunk, or phrenic nerve invasion with dysfunction.

*Note:* A designation of "U" or "L" may be used for any N category to indicate metastasis above the lower border of the cricoid (U) or below the lower border of the cricoid (L). Similarly, clinical and pathological ENE should be recorded as ENE(-) or ENE(+).





## Unknown Primary Tumors of the Head and Neck (8th ed., 2017)

### Regional Lymph Nodes (N)

**Pathological N (pN):** For patients who are treated surgically with a cervical lymph node dissection.

- NX** Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed
- N0** No regional lymph node metastasis
- N1** Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node, 3 cm or smaller in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
- N2** Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node, 3 cm or smaller in greatest dimension and ENE(+); or larger than 3 cm but not larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-); or metastases in multiple ipsilateral lymph node(s), none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-); or in bilateral or contralateral lymph nodes, none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
- N2a** Metastasis in a single ipsilateral node 3 cm or less in greatest dimension and ENE(+); or a single ipsilateral node larger than 3 cm but not larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
- N2b** Metastases in multiple ipsilateral nodes, none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
- N2c** Metastases in bilateral or contralateral lymph nodes, none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
- N3** Metastasis in a lymph node larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-); or metastasis in a single ipsilateral node larger than 3 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(+); or multiple ipsilateral, contralateral, or bilateral nodes any size and ENE(+) in any node; or a single contralateral node of any size and ENE(+)
- N3a** Metastasis in a lymph node larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
- N3b** Metastasis in a single ipsilateral node larger than 3 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(+); or multiple ipsilateral, contralateral, or bilateral nodes any size and ENE(+) in any node; or a single contralateral node of any size and ENE(+)

<sup>1</sup>Midline nodes are considered ipsilateral nodes.

<sup>2</sup>ENE detected on histopathologic examination is designated as ENE<sub>mi</sub> (microscopic ENE ≤ 2 mm) or ENE<sub>ma</sub> (major ENE > 2 mm). Both ENE<sub>mi</sub> and ENE<sub>ma</sub> qualify as ENE(+) for definition of pN.

*Note:* A designation of "U" or "L" may be used for any N category to indicate metastasis above the lower border of the cricoid (U) or below the lower border of the cricoid (L). Similarly, clinical and pathological ENE should be recorded as ENE(-) or ENE(+).

### Anatomic Stage/Prognostic Groups

|                  |    |       |    |
|------------------|----|-------|----|
| <b>Stage III</b> | T0 | N1    | M0 |
| <b>Stage IVA</b> | T0 | N2    | M0 |
| <b>Stage IVB</b> | T0 | N3    | M0 |
| <b>Stage IVC</b> | T0 | Any N | M1 |



**Major Salivary Glands (8th ed., 2017)**  
(Parotid, submandibular, and sublingual)

**Primary Tumor (T)**

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| <b>TX</b>  | Primary tumor cannot be assessed No evidence of     |
| <b>T0</b>  | primary tumor Carcinoma <i>in situ</i>              |
| <b>Tis</b> | Tumor 2 cm or smaller in greatest dimension without |
| <b>T1</b>  | extraparenchymal extension*                         |
| <b>T2</b>  | Tumor larger than 2 cm but not larger than 4 cm in  |
|            | greatest dimension without extraparenchymal         |
|            | extension*  |
| <b>T3</b>  | Tumor larger than 4 cm and/or tumor having          |
|            | extraparenchymal extension*                         |
| <b>T4</b>  | Moderately advanced or very advanced disease T4a    |
|            | Moderately advanced disease                         |
|            | Tumor invades skin, mandible, ear canal, and/or     |
|            | facial nerve  |
|            | T4b Very advanced disease                           |
|            | Tumor invades skull base and/or pterygoid plates    |
|            | and/or encases carotid artery                       |

*Note:* Extraparenchymal extension is clinical or macroscopic evidence of invasion of soft tissues. Microscopic evidence alone does not constitute extraparenchymal extension for classification purposes.

**Regional Lymph Nodes (N)**

**Clinical N (cN)**

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| <b>N X</b> | Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed No regional lymph node   |
| <b>N 0</b> | metastasis   |
| <b>N1</b>  | Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node, 3 cm or smaller in greatest dimension and ENE(-)  |
| <b>N2</b>  | Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node, larger than 3 cm but not larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-); or metastases in multiple ipsilateral lymph node(s), none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-); or in bilateral or contralateral lymph nodes, none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-) |
|            | N2a Metastasis in a single ipsilateral node larger than 3 cm but not larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)   |
|            | N2b Metastases in multiple ipsilateral nodes, none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)   |
|            | N2c Metastases in bilateral or contralateral lymph nodes, none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)   |
| <b>N3</b>  | Metastasis in a lymph node larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-); or metastasis in any node(s) with clinically overt ENE(+)  |
|            | N3a Metastasis in a lymph node larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)   |
|            | N3b Metastases in any node(s) with clinically overt ENE(+)   |

*Note:* A designation of "U" or "L" may be used for any N category to indicate metastasis above the lower border of the cricoid (U) or below the lower border of the cricoid (L). Similarly, clinical and pathological ENE should be recorded as ENE(-) or ENE(+)



**Major Salivary Glands (8th ed., 2017)**  
(Parotid, submandibular, and sublingual)

**Regional Lymph Nodes (N)**

**Pathological N (pN)**

- N X** Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed No regional lymph node metastasis
- N 0** Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node, 3 cm or less smaller in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
- N1** Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node, 3 cm or smaller in greatest dimension and ENE(+); or larger than 3 cm but not larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-); or metastases in multiple ipsilateral lymph node(s), none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-); or in bilateral or contralateral lymph nodes, none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
- N2**
  - N2a Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node 3 cm or smaller in greatest dimension and ENE(+) or a single ipsilateral node larger than 3 cm but not larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
  - N2b Metastases in multiple ipsilateral lymph nodes, none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
  - N2c Metastases in bilateral or contralateral lymph node(s), none more than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
- N3** Metastasis in a lymph node larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-); or in a single ipsilateral node larger than 3 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(+); or multiple ipsilateral, contralateral, or bilateral nodes any with ENE(+); or a single contralateral node of any size and ENE(+)
- N3a** Metastasis in a lymph node larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
- N3b** Metastasis in a single ipsilateral node larger than 3 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(+); or multiple ipsilateral, contralateral, or bilateral nodes any with ENE(+); or a single contralateral node of any size and ENE(+)

*Note:* A designation of “U” or “L” may be used for any N category to indicate metastasis above the lower border of the cricoid (U) or below the lower border of the cricoid (L). Similarly, clinical and pathological ENE should be recorded as ENE(-) or ENE(+)

**Distant Metastasis (M)**

- M0** No distant metastasis
- M1** Distant metastasis

**Anatomic Stage/Prognostic Groups**

|                  |             |          |    |
|------------------|-------------|----------|----|
| <b>Stage 0</b>   | Tis         | N0       | M0 |
| <b>Stage I</b>   | T1          | N0       | M0 |
| <b>Stage II</b>  | T2          | N0       | M0 |
| <b>Stage III</b> | T3          | N0       | M0 |
|                  | T0,T1,T2,T3 | N1       | M0 |
| <b>Stage IVA</b> | T0          | N2       | M0 |
|                  | T1          | N2       | M0 |
|                  | T2          | N2       | M0 |
|                  | T3          | N2       | M0 |
|                  | T4a         | N0,N1,N2 | M0 |
| <b>Stage IVB</b> | Any T       | N3       | M0 |
|                  | T4b         | Any N    | M0 |
| <b>Stage IVC</b> | Any T       | Any N    | M1 |