



# 8th Edition of the TNM Classification for Lung Cancer

## T – Primary Tumour

TX		Primary tumour cannot be assessed, or tumour proven by the presence of malignant cells in sputum or bronchial washings but not visualized by imaging or bronchoscopy
T0		No evidence of primary tumour
Tis		Carcinoma in situ
T1		Tumour 3 cm or less in greatest dimension, surrounded by lung or visceral pleura, without bronchoscopic evidence of invasion more proximal than the lobar bronchus (i.e., not in the main bronchus) <sup>1</sup>
	T1mi	Minimally invasive adenocarcinoma <sup>2</sup>
	T1a	Tumour 1 cm or less in greatest dimension <sup>1</sup>
	T1b	Tumour more than 1 cm but not more than 2 cm in greatest dimension <sup>1</sup>
	T1c	Tumour more than 2 cm but not more than 3 cm in greatest dimension <sup>1</sup>
T2		Tumour more than 3 cm but not more than 5 cm; or tumour with any of the following features <sup>3</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Involves main bronchus regardless of distance to the carina, but without involving the carina</li> <li>• Invades visceral pleura</li> <li>• Associated with atelectasis or obstructive pneumonitis that extends to the hilar region, either involving part of the lung or the entire lung</li> </ul>
	T2a	Tumour more than 3 cm but not more than 4 cm in greatest dimension
	T2b	Tumour more than 4 cm but not more than 5 cm in greatest dimension
T3		Tumour more than 5 cm but not more than 7 cm in greatest dimension or one that directly invades any of the following: chest wall (including superior sulcus tumours), phrenic nerve, parietal pericardium; or associated separate tumour nodule(s) in the same lobe as the primary
T4		Tumours more than 7 cm or one that invades any of the following: diaphragm, mediastinum, heart, great vessels, trachea, recurrent laryngeal nerve, oesophagus, vertebral body, carina; separate tumour nodule(s) in a different ipsilateral lobe to that of the primary

## N – Regional Lymph Nodes

NX		Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed
N0		No regional lymph node metastasis
N1		Metastasis in ipsilateral peribronchial and/or ipsilateral hilar lymph nodes and intrapulmonary nodes, including involvement by direct extension
N2		Metastasis in ipsilateral mediastinal and/or subcarinal lymph node(s)
N3		Metastasis in contralateral mediastinal, contralateral hilar, ipsilateral or contralateral scalene or supraclavicular lymph node(s)

## M- Distant Metastasis

M0		No distant metastasis
M1		Distant metastasis
	M1a	Separate tumour nodule(s) in a contralateral lobe; tumour with pleural or pericardial nodules or malignant pleural or pericardial effusion <sup>4</sup>
	M1b	Single extrathoracic metastasis in a single organ <sup>5</sup>
	M1c	Multiple extrathoracic metastases in one or several organs

<sup>1</sup>The uncommon superficial spreading tumour of any size with its invasive component limited to the bronchial wall, which may extend proximal to the main bronchus, is also classified as T1a.

<sup>2</sup>Solitary adenocarcinoma ( $\leq 3$  cm), with a predominantly lepidic pattern and  $\leq 5$  mm invasion in greatest dimension in any one focus.

<sup>3</sup>T2 tumours with these features are classified T2a if 4 cm or less, or if size cannot be determined and T2b if greater than 4 cm but not larger than 5 cm.

<sup>4</sup>Most pleural (pericardial) effusions with lung cancer are due to tumour. In a few patients, however, multiple microscopic examinations of pleural (pericardial) fluid are negative for tumour, and the fluid is non-bloody and is not an exudate. Where these elements and clinical judgement dictate that the effusion is not related to the tumour, the effusion should be excluded as a staging descriptor.

<sup>5</sup>This includes involvement of a single distant (non-regional) node.



# Stage Grouping for the 8th Edition of the TNM Classification for Lung Cancer

STAGE	T	N	M
Occult carcinoma	TX	N0	M0
0	Tis	N0	M0
IA1	T1mi	N0	M0
	T1a	N0	M0
IA2	T1b	N0	M0
IA3	T1c	N0	M0
IB	T2a	N0	M0
IIA	T2b	N0	M0
IIB	T1a	N1	M0
	T1b	N1	M0
	T1c	N1	M0
	T2a	N1	M0
	T2b	N1	M0
IIIA	T3	N0	M0
	T1a	N2	M0
	T1b	N2	M0
	T1c	N2	M0
	T2a	N2	M0
	T2b	N2	M0
	T3	N1	M0
	T4	N0	M0
IIIB	T4	N1	M0
	T1a	N3	M0
	T1b	N3	M0
	T1c	N3	M0
	T2a	N3	M0
	T2b	N3	M0
	T3	N2	M0
IIIC	T4	N2	M0
	T3	N3	M0
IVA	T4	N3	M0
	Any T	Any N	M1a
IVB	Any T	Any N	M1b
	Any T	Any N	M1c

## References

1. Rami-Porta R, Bolejack V, Giroux DJ et al. The IASLC Lung Cancer Staging Project: the new database to inform the 8th edition of the TNM classification of lung cancer. *J Thorac Oncol* 2014; 9: 1618-1624.
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