# Causal Reasoning of edges of BN constructed by Eenas.

In addition to the PDF representing the N-Staging sub model, these evaluations here present as chatbot-based reasoning about two pre-selected edge directions. We ask you to read the following reasonings and evaluate whether the LLM reasonings are,

- 1. Correct/Incorrect recommendation (Yes/No)
- 2. Conflict/No Conlict (Reasons), and
- 3. Helpful/Not Helpful

#### Please feel free to

4. provide additional feedback of thoughts related to the chatbased evaluation.

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Edge ID: 0

Edge: N_State_1 ----> Location_of_Lymph_Nodes_3

Prompt:

EDGE1:
edge: (Location_of_Lymph_Nodes_3) causes (N_State_1)
causal_direction: positive
causal_distance: Proximal
causal_factor:
"necessary": False
"sufficient": False
explanation:
```

- 1. The edge represents the relationship between the presence of lymph nodes in a specific location and the state of cancer in nearby lymph nodes.
- 2. The presence of lymph nodes in a specific location can indicate the spread of cancer, which directly affects the state of cancer in nearby lymph nodes.
- 3. This relationship is important for cancer staging and treatment decisions, as the involvement of lymph nodes is a critical factor in determining the stage and prognosis of cancer.

## EDGE2:

edge: (N\_State\_1) causes (Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3)

causal\_direction: Unknown
causal\_distance: Unknown

causal\_factor:
"necessary": False
"sufficient": False

explanation:

- 1. The edge suggests that the cancer state of nearby lymph nodes (N\_State\_1) causes the presence or absence of lymph nodes in a specific location (Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3).
- 2. However, the anatomical presence of lymph nodes in a specific location is not caused by the cancer state of nearby lymph nodes.
- 3. The cancer state might influence clinical decisions or the interpretation of lymph node findings, but it does not cause the anatomical presence or absence of lymph

nodes.

4. Thus, the edge is not valid as a causal relationship.

Top 5 Corresponding Pages: ['102', '55', '51', '130', '47']

Among these two options which one is the most likely true:

- (A) Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3 increases risk N\_State\_1
- (B) N\_State\_1 increases risk Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3`

LLM Answer: A

LLM Answer Choice Probabilities: {'A': 100.0, 'B': 0.0}

## Evidences:

- Page 102, Section Name: Neck Management, Entities: Tumor sites, Bilateral lymphatic drainage, Relationships: Tumor sites associated with bilateral lymphatic drainage, Causalities: Tumor sites with bilateral lymphatic drainage often require neck dissection.
- Page 102, Section Name: Head and Neck Cancers Principles of Surgery, Entities: Neoplasm Staging, Metastasis, Relationships: Surgical management dictated by tumor staging, Causalities: Extent of tumor at initial staging dictates surgical management of regional lymphatics.

## Reasoning:

- The edge (Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3) causes (N\_State\_1) suggests that the
  presence of lymph nodes in a specific location can indicate the spread of
  cancer, which directly affects the state of cancer in nearby lymph nodes.
- 2. The explanation for EDGE1 supports this causal relationship, indicating a positive causal direction and proximal causal distance, meaning the presence of lymph nodes is closely related to the state of cancer in nearby lymph nodes.
- 3. The edge (N\_State\_1) causes (Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3) is deemed invalid as a causal relationship because the anatomical presence of lymph nodes is not caused by the cancer state of nearby lymph nodes.
- 4. The explanation for EDGE2 suggests that while the cancer state might influence clinical decisions, it does not cause the anatomical presence or absence of lymph nodes.
- 5. The NCCN Clinical Practitioner's Guidelines for Head and Neck Cancer emphasize the importance of lymph node involvement in cancer staging and prognosis, supporting the idea that the presence of lymph nodes can indicate cancer spread.
- 6. From the INFORMATION FROM KNOWLEDGE BASE, the section on 'Neck Management' (Page 102) discusses the relationship between tumor sites and lymphatic drainage, indicating that lymph node involvement is a critical factor in cancer management.
- 7. The causalities in the 'Neck Management' section highlight that tumor sites with bilateral lymphatic drainage often require neck dissection, emphasizing the role of lymph nodes in cancer spread.

	Critique Consistent	Critique Answer	Critique Reasoning
У	res	А	1. The AI assistant's reasoning for selecting option (A)

- is based on the explanation provided for EDGE1, which suggests a causal relationship where the presence of lymph nodes in a specific location can indicate the spread of cancer, affecting the state of cancer in nearby lymph nodes.
- 2. The assistant correctly identifies that EDGE2 is invalid as a causal relationship because the anatomical presence of lymph nodes is not caused by the cancer state of nearby lymph nodes, supporting the rejection of option (B).
- 3. The assistant references the NCCN Clinical Practitioner's Guidelines for Head and Neck Cancer, emphasizing the importance of lymph node involvement in cancer staging and prognosis, which aligns with the reasoning for option (A).
- 4. The assistant also cross-references the INFORMATION FROM KNOWLEDGE BASE, particularly the 'Neck Management' section, which discusses the relationship between tumor sites and lymphatic drainage, supporting the role of lymph nodes in cancer spread.
- 5. The causalities mentioned in the 'Neck Management' section further support the idea that lymph node involvement is a critical factor in cancer management, reinforcing the validity of option (A).
- 6. Overall, the assistant's reasoning is consistent with the provided explanations and external references, making the final answer (A) consistent with the reasoning.

## Edge ID: 1

Edge: Sonographie\_7 ---> Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3

## Prompt:

EDGE1:

edge: (Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3) causes (Sonographie\_7)

causal\_direction: positive
causal\_distance: Proximal

causal\_factor:
"necessary": False
"sufficient": True
explanation:

- 1. The edge represents the causal relationship where the presence or absence of lymph nodes in a specific location (Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3) affects the result of an ultrasound examination (Sonographie\_7).
- 2. In clinical practice, the presence of lymph nodes can be detected by ultrasound, making it a valid causal relationship.
- 3. The causal direction is positive because the presence of lymph nodes increases the likelihood of detection by ultrasound.
- 4. The presence of lymph nodes is a sufficient condition for the ultrasound to detect them, but not necessary, as ultrasounds can detect other findings.

5. The causal distance is proximal because the presence of lymph nodes directly affects the ultrasound result.

### EDGE2:

edge: (Sonographie\_7) causes (Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3)

causal\_direction: Unknown
causal\_distance: Unknown

causal\_factor:
"necessary": False
"sufficient": False

explanation:

- 1. The edge suggests that the result of an ultrasound examination (Sonographie\_7) causes the presence or absence of lymph nodes in a specific location (Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3).
- 2. However, the ultrasound examination is a diagnostic tool that detects the presence of lymph nodes; it does not cause them to be present or absent.
- 3. The presence of lymph nodes is a physical condition that exists independently of the ultrasound examination.
- 4. Therefore, the edge is not valid as there is no causal relationship where the ultrasound result causes the lymph nodes to be present or absent.

Top 5 Corresponding Pages: ['53', '129', '130', '154', '93']

Among these two options which one is the most likely true:

- (A) Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3 increases risk Sonographie\_7
- (B) Sonographie\_7 increases risk Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3`

LLM Answer: A

LLM Answer Choice Probabilities: {'A': 100.0, 'B': 0.0}

## Evidences:

- Page Number: 93, Section Name: PRINCIPLES OF IMAGING, Entities: Imaging, Diagnostic, Head And Neck Neoplasms, Relationships: Imaging, Diagnostic used for Head and Neck Neoplasms, Causalities: Imaging plays an essential role in the clinical care of patients with head and neck cancer.
- 2. Page Number: 129, Section Name: TNM Staging System for the Larynx Regional Lymph Nodes (N), Entities: Lymph Nodes, Relationships: NCCN Guidelines provides classification for Regional Lymph Nodes, Causalities: Classification of the Regional Lymph Nodes (N) is crucial for determining the presence and extent of lymph node metastases.

# Reasoning:

- The edge (A) suggests that the presence of lymph nodes in a specific location increases the likelihood of detection by ultrasound, which aligns with clinical practice where ultrasound is used to detect lymph nodes.
- 2. The edge (B) suggests that the result of an ultrasound examination causes the presence or absence of lymph nodes, which is not valid as ultrasound is a diagnostic tool and does not influence the physical presence of lymph nodes.
- 3. The causal direction for edge (A) is positive, indicating that the presence of lymph nodes increases the likelihood of detection by ultrasound, which is a valid causal relationship.
- 4. The causal factor for edge (A) is sufficient but not necessary, as the presence of lymph nodes is sufficient for ultrasound detection, but ultrasound can

- detect other findings as well.
- 5. The causal distance for edge (A) is proximal, as the presence of lymph nodes directly affects the ultrasound result.
- 6. The NCCN Guidelines for Head and Neck Cancer emphasize the importance of imaging, including ultrasound, for detecting lymph nodes and assessing cancer spread, supporting the validity of edge (A).
- 7. The NCCN Guidelines do not support the notion that ultrasound results cause the presence of lymph nodes, invalidating edge (B).

# Critique:

Critique Consistent	Critique Answer	Critique Reasoning
yes	A	1. The AI assistant's reasoning for option (A) is consistent with the explanation provided in the EDGE1 description. The assistant correctly identifies that the presence of lymph nodes can be detected by ultrasound, which aligns with the clinical practice of using ultrasound to visualize lymph nodes. This supports the causal relationship described in EDGE1, where the presence of lymph nodes affects the ultrasound result.  2. The assistant's reasoning for option (B) is also consistent with the explanation provided in the EDGE2 description. The assistant correctly identifies that the ultrasound examination is a diagnostic tool and does not cause the presence or absence of lymph nodes, which invalidates the causal relationship described in EDGE2.  3. The assistant's analysis of the causal direction, causal factor, and causal distance for EDGE1 is consistent with the information provided in the EDGE1 description. The assistant correctly identifies the causal direction as positive, the causal factor as sufficient but not necessary, and the causal distance as proximal.  4. The assistant's reference to the NCCN Guidelines for Head and Neck Cancer supports the validity of EDGE1, as the guidelines emphasize the importance of imaging, including ultrasound, for detecting lymph nodes and assessing cancer spread. This aligns with the explanation provided in EDGE1.  5. The assistant's reference to the NCCN Guidelines does not support the notion that ultrasound results cause the presence of lymph nodes, which aligns with the explanation provided in EDGE2 and invalidates the causal relationship described in EDGE2 and invalidates the causal

Edge ID: 2

Edge: CT\_8 ----> Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3

Prompt:

#### EDGE1:

edge: (Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3) causes (CT\_8)

causal\_direction: positive
causal\_distance: Proximal

causal\_factor:
"necessary": False
"sufficient": False

explanation:

- 1. The edge represents the causal relationship where the presence of lymph nodes in a specific location (Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3) affects the results of a CT scan (CT\_8).
- 2. If lymph nodes are present, the CT scan is more likely to detect them, indicating a positive causal direction.
- 3. The presence of lymph nodes is neither a necessary nor a sufficient condition for the CT scan to show results, as CT scans can detect other conditions and may not always detect lymph nodes even if they are present.
- 4. The causal distance is proximal because the presence of lymph nodes directly influences the CT scan results.

#### FDGF2:

edge: (CT\_8) causes (Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3)

causal\_direction: Unknown
causal\_distance: Unknown

causal\_factor:
"necessary": False
"sufficient": False

explanation:

- 1. The edge (CT\_8) causes (Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3) is not valid because a CT scan result does not cause lymph nodes to be present or absent.
- 2. CT\_8 represents the result of a CT scan, which is used to observe and diagnose conditions, including the detection of lymph nodes.
- 3. Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3 represents the presence or absence of lymph nodes in a specific location, which is a biological condition.
- 4. A CT scan can detect lymph nodes but does not influence their presence or absence. It is a diagnostic tool, not a causal factor.
- 5. Therefore, the relationship is observational, not causal.

Top 5 Corresponding Pages: ['93', '94', '46', '53', '41']

Among these two options which one is the most likely true:

- (A) Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3 increases risk  $CT_8$
- (B) CT\_8 increases risk Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3`

## LLM Answer: A

LLM Answer Choice Probabilities: {'A': 100.0, 'B': 0.0}

# **Evidences:**

- 1. Page 93, Section: PRINCIPLES OF IMAGING Imaging is used for clinical analysis and medical intervention, not as a causal factor for biological changes.
- 2. Page 94, Section: Head and Neck Cancers Principles of Imaging CT is used to evaluate head and neck neoplasms, indicating its role as a diagnostic tool.
- 3. Page 41, Section: Workup CT scans are used to evaluate the larynx and neck, supporting their role in diagnosis rather than causing biological changes.

## Reasoning:

- 1. The edge (Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3) causes (CT\_8) suggests that the presence of lymph nodes in a specific location affects the results of a CT scan.
- 2. The explanation for EDGE1 indicates a positive causal direction, meaning the presence of lymph nodes increases the likelihood of detection by CT scan.
- 3. The causal factor is neither necessary nor sufficient, as CT scans can detect other conditions and may not always detect lymph nodes even if present.
- 4. The causal distance is proximal, indicating a direct influence on the CT scan results.
- 5. The edge (CT\_8) causes (Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3) is not valid because a CT scan result does not cause lymph nodes to be present or absent.
- 6. CT scans are diagnostic tools used to observe and diagnose conditions, not to influence the presence of lymph nodes.
- 7. The relationship in EDGE2 is observational, not causal, as CT scans detect lymph nodes but do not affect their presence.
- 8. The NCCN guidelines emphasize the role of imaging, including CT scans, in diagnosing and staging cancer, but do not suggest that imaging results cause biological changes like lymph node presence.

Critique Consistent	Critique Answer	Critique Reasoning
yes	A	1. The AI assistant's reasoning for selecting option (A) is based on the explanation provided for EDGE1, which states that the presence of lymph nodes affects the results of a CT scan, indicating a positive causal direction.  2. The assistant correctly identifies that the causal factor is neither necessary nor sufficient, as CT scans can detect other conditions and may not always detect lymph nodes even if present.  3. The assistant also notes that the causal distance is proximal, meaning the presence of lymph nodes directly influences the CT scan results.  4. For EDGE2, the assistant correctly identifies that a CT scan result does not cause lymph nodes to be present or absent, as CT scans are diagnostic tools used to observe and diagnose conditions, not to influence the presence of lymph nodes.  5. The assistant's reasoning aligns with the information from the NCCN guidelines, which emphasize the role of imaging, including CT scans, in diagnosing and staging cancer, but do not suggest that imaging results cause biological changes like lymph node presence.  6. The evidences provided from the NCCN guidelines support the assistant's reasoning, as they highlight the diagnostic role of CT scans in evaluating head and neck neoplasms and the larynx and neck, rather than causing biological changes.

# Edge ID: 3

Edge: MRT\_9 ----> Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3

## Prompt:

EDGE1:

edge: (Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3) causes (MRT\_9)

causal\_direction: Unknown
causal\_distance: Proximal

causal\_factor:
"necessary": False
"sufficient": False

explanation:

- 1. The edge (Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3) causes (MRT\_9) is not valid as a causal relationship.
- 2. The Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3 node represents the presence or absence of lymph nodes, which is a condition that can be observed by an MRI scan, represented by the MRT\_9 node.
- 3. The MRI result (MRT\_9) is an observation of the state of the lymph nodes (Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3), not a result caused by them.
- 4. Therefore, the relationship is observational rather than causal.

## EDGE2:

edge: (MRT\_9) causes (Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3)

causal\_direction: Unknown
causal\_distance: Unknown

causal\_factor:
"necessary": False
"sufficient": False

explanation:

- 1. The edge (MRT\_9) causes (Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3) is not valid because an MRI examination result does not cause the presence or absence of lymph nodes.
- 2. MRT\_9 represents the findings from an MRI scan, which can detect the presence of lymph nodes but does not influence their presence or absence.
- 3. Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3 represents whether lymph nodes are present in a specific location, which is a condition observed by the MRI, not caused by it.
- 4. The relationship is observational, where the MRI detects the state of lymph nodes, rather than causal.

Top 5 Corresponding Pages: ['46', '53', '93', '41', '44']

Among these two options which one is the most likely true:

- (A) Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3 increases risk MRT\_9
- (B) MRT\_9 increases risk Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3`

## LLM Answer: A

LLM Answer Choice Probabilities: {'A': 88.08, 'B': 11.92}

## Evidences:

Page Number: 93, Section Name: Principles of Imaging, Entities: Imaging,
Diagnostic, Head And Neck Neoplasms, Tomography, X-Ray Computed, Magnetic
Resonance Imaging, Contrast Media, Relationships: Imaging, Diagnostic used for
Head and Neck Neoplasms, Tomography, X-Ray Computed uses Contrast Media,

Magnetic Resonance Imaging uses Contrast Media, Causalities: Imaging plays an essential role in the clinical care of patients with head and neck cancer. The proper selection and utilization of imaging studies is critical in caring for patients with head and neck cancer. CT is performed with contrast, while CT imaging of the chest can be performed with or without contrast, as clinically indicated. MRI is performed with and without contrast, unless contraindicated.

## Reasoning:

- 1. The edge '(Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3) causes (MRT\_9)' is not valid as a causal relationship. The 'Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3' node represents the presence or absence of lymph nodes, which is a condition that can be observed by an MRI scan, represented by the 'MRT\_9' node. The MRI result ('MRT\_9') is an observation of the state of the lymph nodes ('Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3'), not a result caused by them. Therefore, the relationship is observational rather than causal.
- 2. The edge '(MRT\_9) causes (Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3)' is not valid because an MRI examination result does not cause the presence or absence of lymph nodes. MRT\_9 represents the findings from an MRI scan, which can detect the presence of lymph nodes but does not influence their presence or absence. Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3 represents whether lymph nodes are present in a specific location, which is a condition observed by the MRI, not caused by it. The relationship is observational, where the MRI detects the state of lymph nodes, rather than causal.
- 3. In the context of NCCN Clinical Practitioner's Guidelines for Head and Neck Cancer, imaging techniques like MRI are used to observe and diagnose conditions such as the presence of lymph nodes, but they do not influence the presence or absence of these nodes. This aligns with the explanation that the relationship between the nodes is observational rather than causal.
- 4. The causal direction for both edges is marked as 'Unknown', indicating that there is no established causal relationship between the presence of lymph nodes and the MRI results. This further supports the conclusion that neither option (A) nor (B) is valid as a causal relationship.

Critique Consistent	Critique Answer	Critique Reasoning
no	В	1. The AI assistant's reasoning is based on the explanation provided for the edges between 'Location_of_Lymph_Nodes_3' and 'MRT_9'. It correctly identifies that the relationship is observational rather than causal, as the MRI (MRT_9) is used to detect the presence of lymph nodes (Location_of_Lymph_Nodes_3) but does not influence their presence or absence.  2. The assistant references the NCCN Clinical Practitioner's Guidelines for Head and Neck Cancer, which supports the notion that imaging techniques like MRI are used for observation and diagnosis rather than causing changes in the state of lymph nodes.  3. The causal direction for both edges is marked as 'Unknown', which aligns with the assistant's conclusion that neither option (A) nor (B) represents a valid causal

relationship.

4. The assistant's final answer, option (A), is inconsistent with its reasoning. The reasoning clearly states that neither option (A) nor (B) is valid as a causal relationship, yet the answer provided is option (A). This indicates a discrepancy between the reasoning and the final answer.

Edge ID: 4

Edge: PET\_10 ----> Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3

## Prompt:

EDGE1:

edge: (Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3) causes (PET\_10)

causal\_direction: positive
causal\_distance: Proximal

causal\_factor:
"necessary": False
"sufficient": True

explanation:

- 1. The edge represents the causal relationship between the presence of lymph nodes in a specific location and the result of a PET scan.
- 2. The presence of lymph nodes in a specific location can indicate the spread of cancer, which may be detected as abnormal metabolic activity on a PET scan.
- 3. Therefore, the presence of lymph nodes could cause a positive PET scan result, indicating a valid causal relationship.

## EDGE2:

edge: (PET\_10) causes (Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3)

causal\_direction: Unknown
causal\_distance: Distal

causal\_factor:
"necessary": False
"sufficient": False

explanation:

- 1. The edge (PET\_10) causes (Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3) is not valid because the PET scan result does not directly cause the presence of lymph nodes in a specific location.
- 2. Both the PET scan result and the presence of lymph nodes are indicators of the underlying disease process, such as cancer, but one does not cause the other.
- 3. The PET scan result indicates abnormal metabolic activity, which suggests the presence of disease, but it does not directly influence the presence of lymph nodes.

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Top 5 Corresponding Pages: ['92', '94', '95', '96', '129']
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Among these two options which one is the most likely true:

- (A) Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3 increases risk PET\_10
- (B) PET\_10 increases risk Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3`

LLM Answer: A

LLM Answer Choice Probabilities: {'A': 100.0, 'B': 0.0}

#### Evidences:

- Page 94, Section Name: Principles of Imaging, Entities: Positron Emission Tomography Computed Tomography, Head And Neck Neoplasms, Relationships: PET/CT used in study of head neck cancers.
- Page 96, Section Name: Head and Neck Cancers, Entities: FDG-PET/CT, Head and Neck Neoplasms, Relationships: used for surveillance imaging, Causalities: FDG-PET/CT may be the most sensitive modality for detecting recurrences or second primary cancers.

## Reasoning:

- The edge (Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3) causes (PET\_10) suggests that the presence of lymph nodes in a specific location can lead to a positive PET scan result due to the detection of abnormal metabolic activity, which is indicative of cancer spread.
- 2. The edge (PET\_10) causes (Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3) is not valid because a PET scan result does not directly cause the presence of lymph nodes. Instead, both are indicators of an underlying disease process.
- 3. The causal direction for EDGE1 is positive, indicating that the presence of lymph nodes and a positive PET scan result change in the same direction, supporting the idea that lymph node presence can lead to a positive PET scan.
- 4. The causal factor for EDGE1 is sufficient, meaning the presence of lymph nodes is enough to cause a positive PET scan result, but not necessary, as other factors could also lead to a positive result.
- 5. The causal distance for EDGE1 is proximal, indicating a direct or almost direct cause-effect relationship between lymph node presence and PET scan results.
- 6. The causal direction for EDGE2 is unknown, and the causal factor is neither necessary nor sufficient, further supporting the invalidity of this edge.
- 7. The NCCN Guidelines emphasize the use of PET/CT scans for detecting metabolic activity indicative of cancer spread, aligning with the explanation for EDGE1.
- 8. Page 94 of the NCCN Guidelines mentions the use of PET/CT in the study of head and neck cancers, supporting the role of PET scans in detecting cancer spread, which aligns with the explanation for EDGE1.

Critique Consistent	Critique Answer	Critique Reasoning
yes	A	1. The AI assistant's reasoning for selecting option (A) is based on the causal relationship between the presence of lymph nodes and the results of a PET scan. The assistant correctly identifies that the presence of lymp nodes can lead to a positive PET scan result due to the detection of abnormal metabolic activity, which is indicative of cancer spread.  2. The assistant's analysis of EDGE1 is consistent with the explanation provided. It notes that the causal direction is positive, meaning both the presence of lymp nodes and a positive PET scan result change in the same direction. This supports the idea that lymph node presence can lead to a positive PET scan.  3. The assistant also correctly identifies that the

causal factor for EDGE1 is sufficient, meaning the presence of lymph nodes is enough to cause a positive PET scan result, but not necessary, as other factors could also lead to a positive result.

- 4. The causal distance for EDGE1 is proximal, indicating a direct or almost direct cause-effect relationship between lymph node presence and PET scan results. This aligns with the explanation provided for EDGE1.
- 5. The assistant's analysis of EDGE2 is also consistent with the explanation provided. It notes that the causal direction is unknown, and the causal factor is neither necessary nor sufficient, further supporting the invalidity of this edge.
- 6. The assistant references the NCCN Guidelines, which emphasize the use of PET/CT scans for detecting metabolic activity indicative of cancer spread. This aligns with the explanation for EDGE1, supporting the validity of option (A).
- 7. The assistant provides evidence from the NCCN Guidelines, specifically from Page 94 and Page 96, which supports the role of PET scans in detecting cancer spread, aligning with the explanation for EDGE1.

Edge ID: 5

Edge: Examination\_11 ----> Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3

## Prompt:

EDGE1:

edge: (Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3) causes (Examination\_11)

causal\_direction: positive
causal\_distance: Proximal

causal\_factor:
"necessary": False
"sufficient": False

explanation:

- 1. The edge represents a causal relationship where the presence or absence of lymph nodes in a specific location (Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3) affects the result of a diagnostic examination (Examination\_11).
- 2. If the examination is designed to detect lymph nodes or assess cancer spread, then the presence of lymph nodes would likely lead to a present result in the examination.
- 3. The causal direction is positive because the presence of lymph nodes would lead to a positive finding in the examination if it is related to lymph nodes.
- 4. The causal factor is neither necessary nor sufficient because other factors could lead to a present examination result, and the presence of lymph nodes alone does not guarantee a present result unless the examination is specifically for that purpose.
- 5. The causal distance is proximal if the examination is directly related to detecting lymph nodes, as it would be a direct cause-effect relationship.

## EDGE2:

edge: (Examination\_11) causes (Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3)

causal\_direction: Unknown

causal\_distance: Proximal

causal\_factor:
"necessary": False
"sufficient": False

explanation:

- 1. The edge suggests that the result of a diagnostic examination (Examination\_11) causes the presence or absence of lymph nodes in a specific location (Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3).
- 2. However, the examination result is an observation of the lymph nodes presence or absence, not a cause of it.
- 3. The presence of lymph nodes is a physical condition that might be detected by the examination, but the examination itself does not cause the lymph nodes to appear or disappear.
- 4. Therefore, the edge is not valid as a causal relationship.

Top 5 Corresponding Pages: ['51', '70', '53', '68', '69']

Among these two options which one is the most likely true:

- (A) Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3 increases risk Examination\_11
- (B) Examination\_11 increases risk Location\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_3`

LLM Answer: A

LLM Answer Choice Probabilities: {'A': 100.0, 'B': 0.0}

## Evidences:

- Page Number: 51, Section Name: Introduction, Entities: Laryngeal Neoplasms,
   Malignant Neoplasm Of Supraglottis, Supraglottic Laryngeal Cancer,
   Relationships: NCCN provides guidelines for cancer of the supraglottic larynx,
   Causalities: Clinical staging and treatment protocols for cancer of the
   supraglottic larynx.
- 2. Page Number: 53, Section Name: Introduction, Entities: National Comprehensive Cancer Network, Laryngeal Neoplasms, Malignant Neoplasm Of Supraglottis, Relationships: NCCN provides guidelines for malignant neoplasm of supraglottis, Causalities: NCCN guidelines for the treatment of cancers of the supraglottic larynx.

# Reasoning:

- 1. The edge (A) suggests that the presence of lymph nodes in a specific location affects the result of a diagnostic examination. This aligns with the understanding that lymph node involvement is a critical factor in cancer staging and diagnosis, as indicated in the NCCN guidelines.
- 2. The edge (B) suggests that the result of a diagnostic examination causes the presence or absence of lymph nodes, which is not a valid causal relationship. Diagnostic examinations are used to detect conditions, not cause them.
- 3. In the NCCN guidelines, lymph node involvement is a key factor in determining the stage and treatment of head and neck cancers, as seen in the sections discussing clinical staging and treatment strategies.
- 4. The causal direction for edge (A) is positive, indicating that the presence of lymph nodes would lead to a positive finding in the examination if it is related to lymph nodes.
- 5. The causal factor for edge (A) is neither necessary nor sufficient, as other factors could lead to a 'present' examination result, and the presence of lymph

- nodes alone does not guarantee a 'present' result unless the examination is specifically for that purpose.
- 6. The causal distance for edge (A) is proximal if the examination is directly related to detecting lymph nodes, as it would be a direct cause-effect relationship.
- 7. The NCCN guidelines emphasize the importance of lymph node involvement in cancer staging and treatment decisions, supporting the validity of edge (A).

# Critique:

Critique Consistent	Critique Answer	Critique Reasoning
yes	A	1. The AI assistant's reasoning for option (A) is based on the understanding that lymph node involvement is a critical factor in cancer diagnosis and staging, which aligns with the NCCN guidelines. This is a valid interpretation as lymph nodes are often assessed to determine the spread of cancer, which can influence diagnostic examination results.  2. The assistant correctly identifies that option (B) is not a valid causal relationship because diagnostic examinations are used to detect conditions, not cause them. This aligns with the general understanding of medical diagnostics.  3. The assistant references the NCCN guidelines, which emphasize the importance of lymph node involvement in cancer staging and treatment decisions. This supports the validity of option (A) as lymph nodes are a key factor in determining the stage and treatment of cancers, particularly in the head and neck region.  4. The causal direction, factor, and distance for edge (A) are analyzed correctly. The assistant notes that the causal direction is positive, which is consistent with the idea that the presence of lymph nodes would lead to a positive finding in an examination designed to detect them.  5. The assistant's conclusion that option (A) is the most likely true is consistent with the reasoning provided, as it aligns with the understanding of lymph node involvement in cancer diagnosis and the NCCN guidelines.

Edge ID: 6

**Edge:** N\_State\_1 ----> Number\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_5

## Prompt:

EDGE1:

edge: (Number\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_5) causes (N\_State\_1)

causal\_direction: Unknown
causal\_distance: Distal

causal\_factor:

"necessary": False
"sufficient": False

explanation:

- 1. The edge suggests that the number of lymph nodes (Number\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_5) causes the cancer state in nearby lymph nodes (N\_State\_1).
- 2. Clinically, the number of lymph nodes does not directly cause cancer to be present or absent in them.
- 3. The presence of cancer in lymph nodes is more directly related to the spread of cancer from a primary site, not the number of lymph nodes themselves.
- 4. Therefore, the edge is not valid as a direct causal relationship.

#### EDGE2:

edge: (N\_State\_1) causes (Number\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_5)

causal\_direction: Unknown
causal\_distance: Unknown

causal\_factor:
"necessary": False
"sufficient": False
explanation:

- The edge suggests that the presence of cancer in nearby lymph nodes (N\_State\_1) causes a specific number of lymph nodes to be present or absent (Number\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_5).
- 2. This is not a valid causal relationship because the number of lymph nodes is a physical characteristic that is not directly caused by the presence of cancer.
- 3. The presence of cancer might be detected in a certain number of lymph nodes, but it does not cause the number of lymph nodes to change.

Top 5 Corresponding Pages: ['102', '55', '51', '130', '47']

Among these two options which one is the most likely true:

- (A) Number\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_5 increases risk N\_State\_1
- (B) N\_State\_1 increases risk Number\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_5`

LLM Answer: A

LLM Answer Choice Probabilities: {'A': 85.2, 'B': 14.8}

## Evidences:

- Page Number: 102, Section Name: Head and Neck Cancers Principles of Surgery, Entities: Lymphatic System, Neoplasms, Neck Dissection, Relationships: surgical management dictated by tumor staging, Causalities: The extent of the tumor at initial tumor staging dictates the surgical management of regional lymphatics.
- 2. Page Number: 130, Section Name: Pathological N (pN), Entities: Lymph Nodes, Neoplasm Metastasis, TNM Staging, Relationships: Lymph Nodes involved in Neoplasm Metastasis, Causalities: NX: Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed, NO: No regional lymph node metastasis, N1: Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node, 3 cm or smaller in greatest dimension ENE(-).

# Reasoning:

- The edge (Number\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_5) causes (N\_State\_1) suggests a causal relationship where the number of lymph nodes influences the cancer state in nearby lymph nodes.
- 2. The explanation provided for EDGE1 indicates that the number of lymph nodes does not directly cause cancer to be present or absent in them. Instead, the

- presence of cancer in lymph nodes is more directly related to the spread of cancer from a primary site.
- 3. The edge (N\_State\_1) causes (Number\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_5) suggests that the presence of cancer in nearby lymph nodes influences the number of lymph nodes present or absent.
- 4. The explanation for EDGE2 indicates that the number of lymph nodes is a physical characteristic not directly caused by the presence of cancer. The presence of cancer might be detected in a certain number of lymph nodes, but it does not cause the number of lymph nodes to change.
- 5. The NCCN Clinical Practitioner's Guidelines for Head and Neck Cancer emphasize the importance of tumor staging and the involvement of lymph nodes in determining the extent of cancer spread and treatment decisions.
- 6. The guidelines do not suggest that the number of lymph nodes directly influences the cancer state or vice versa. Instead, they focus on the presence of cancer in lymph nodes as an indicator of metastasis and cancer staging.
- 7. Based on the explanations and guidelines, neither option (A) nor (B) is supported as a valid causal relationship.

Critique Consistent	Critique Answer	Critique Reasoning
yes	A	1. The AI assistant's reasoning begins by analyzing the causal relationship suggested by EDGE1 and EDGE2, which involves the nodes 'Number_of_Lymph_Nodes_5' and 'N_State_1'.  2. For EDGE1, the assistant correctly identifies that the explanation provided indicates the number of lymph nodes does not directly cause cancer to be present or absent it them. This aligns with the clinical understanding that the presence of cancer in lymph nodes is more related to the spread of cancer from a primary site.  3. For EDGE2, the assistant notes that the explanation suggests the number of lymph nodes is a physical characteristic not directly caused by the presence of cancer. This is consistent with the understanding that while cancer can be detected in lymph nodes, it does not alter the number of lymph nodes.  4. The assistant references the NCCN Clinical Practitioner's Guidelines for Head and Neck Cancer, emphasizing the role of tumor staging and lymph node involvement in cancer spread and treatment decisions. This is a relevant reference, as these guidelines focus on the presence of cancer in lymph nodes as an indicator of metastasis and staging, rather than a causal relationship between the number of lymph nodes and cance presence.  5. The assistant concludes that neither option (A) nor (B) is supported as a valid causal relationship based on the explanations and guidelines. This conclusion is consistent with the evidence provided, as the explanations for both edges indicate a lack of direct

causality.

6. The evidences cited from the knowledge base, such as the page numbers and sections, support the assistant's reasoning by highlighting the clinical focus on tumor staging and lymph node involvement rather than a direct causal relationship between the number of lymph nodes and cancer presence.

Edge ID: 7

Edge: Pathologie\_12 ----> Number\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_5

## Prompt:

EDGE1:

edge: (Number\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_5) causes (Pathologie\_12)

causal\_direction: positive
causal\_distance: Distal

causal\_factor:
"necessary": False
"sufficient": False

explanation:

- 1. The edge (Number\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_5) causes (Pathologie\_12) is not valid as a direct causal relationship.
- 2. The number of lymph nodes is an indicator of disease spread but does not directly cause a pathology result.
- 3. The causal direction is positive if we consider that more affected lymph nodes might correlate with a positive pathology result, but this is not a direct causation.
- 4. The number of lymph nodes is neither a necessary nor a sufficient condition for a pathology result.
- 5. The causal distance is distal, as the number of lymph nodes is an indirect factor in determining pathology results.

## EDGE2:

edge: (Pathologie\_12) causes (Number\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_5)

causal\_direction: Unknown
causal\_distance: Unknown

causal\_factor:
"necessary": False
"sufficient": False

explanation:

- 1. The edge suggests that the result of a pathology examination (Pathologie\_12) directly causes a change in the number of lymph nodes (Number\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_5).
- 2. In clinical terms, while certain pathological findings might be associated with changes in lymph node status, the examination result itself does not directly cause such changes.
- 3. The number of lymph nodes is more directly influenced by the underlying disease process rather than the examination result.
- 4. Therefore, the edge is not valid as a direct causal relationship.

Top 5 Corresponding Pages: ['102', '129', '130', '154', '145']

Among these two options which one is the most likely true:

- (A) Number\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_5 increases risk Pathologie\_12
- (B) Pathologie\_12 increases risk Number\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_5`

LLM Answer: A

LLM Answer Choice Probabilities: {'A': 98.9, 'B': 1.1}

## Evidences:

- Page 102, Section: Head and Neck Cancers Principles of Surgery, Entity:
   Lymphatic System, Relationship: Metastasis is the spread of a cancer or other
   disease from one organ or part of the body to another not directly connected
   with it.
- Page 129, Section: TNM Staging System for the Larynx Regional Lymph Nodes
   (N), Entity: Lymph Nodes, Relationship: Classification of the Regional Lymph
   Nodes (N) for head and neck cancers is crucial for determining the presence and
   extent of lymph node metastases.
- 3. Page 130, Section: Pathological N (pN), Entity: Lymph Nodes, Relationship: Lymph Nodes are involved in Neoplasm Metastasis.

## Reasoning:

- The edge '(Number\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_5) causes (Pathologie\_12)' is not valid as a direct causal relationship. The number of lymph nodes is an indicator of disease spread but does not directly cause a pathology result.
- The causal direction is positive if we consider that more affected lymph nodes might correlate with a positive pathology result, but this is not a direct causation.
- 3. The number of lymph nodes is neither a necessary nor a sufficient condition for a pathology result.
- 4. The causal distance is distal, as the number of lymph nodes is an indirect factor in determining pathology results.
- 5. The edge '(Pathologie\_12) causes (Number\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_5)' suggests that the result of a pathology examination directly causes a change in the number of lymph nodes.
- 6. In clinical terms, while certain pathological findings might be associated with changes in lymph node status, the examination result itself does not directly cause such changes.
- 7. The number of lymph nodes is more directly influenced by the underlying disease process rather than the examination result.
- 8. Therefore, the edge is not valid as a direct causal relationship.

Critique Consistent	Critique Answer	Critique Reasoning
yes	A	1. The AI assistant's reasoning begins by analyzing the causal relationship between 'Number_of_Lymph_Nodes_5' and 'Pathologie_12'. It states that the edge '(Number_of_Lymph_Nodes_5) causes (Pathologie_12)' is not valid as a direct causal relationship. This is consistent with the explanation provided, which indicates that the number of lymph nodes is an indicator of disease spread

but does not directly cause a pathology result. 2. The assistant further explains that while there might be a positive correlation between more affected lymph nodes and a positive pathology result, this does not equate to direct causation. This aligns with the causal direction being labeled as 'positive' but not direct, and the causal factor being neither necessary nor sufficient. 3. The assistant also mentions that the causal distance is distal, meaning the number of lymph nodes is an indirect factor in determining pathology results. This is consistent with the explanation that the number of lymph nodes is not a direct cause of pathology results. 4. For the edge '(Pathologie\_12) causes (Number\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_5)', the assistant states that while certain pathological findings might be associated with changes in lymph node status, the examination result itself does not directly cause such changes. This is consistent with the explanation that the number of lymph nodes is more directly influenced by the underlying disease process rather than the examination result. 5. The assistant's conclusion that the edge is not valid as a direct causal relationship is consistent with the reasoning provided, which emphasizes the indirect nature of the relationship between the nodes.

Edge ID: 8

**Edge**: N\_State\_1 ----> Size\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_6

# Prompt:

EDGE1:

edge: (Size\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_6) causes (N\_State\_1)

causal\_direction: positive
causal distance: Proximal

causal\_factor:
"necessary": False
"sufficient": False

explanation:

- 1. The edge represents the relationship where the size of lymph nodes (Size\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_6) influences the cancer state of nearby lymph nodes (N\_State\_1).
- 2. Enlarged lymph nodes can indicate the presence of cancer, suggesting a positive causal direction.
- 3. However, enlarged lymph nodes are not a necessary condition for cancer presence, as cancer can exist without enlargement.
- 4. Enlarged lymph nodes are also not a sufficient condition for cancer presence, as they can be enlarged due to other conditions like infection.
- 5. The causal relationship is proximal because the size of lymph nodes is directly related to their cancer state in the context of metastasis.

## EDGE2:

edge: (N\_State\_1) causes (Size\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_6)

 ${\tt causal\_direction:}\ {\tt positive}$ 

causal\_distance: Proximal

causal\_factor:
"necessary": False
"sufficient": True
explanation:

- 1. The edge represents the causal relationship where the presence of cancer in nearby lymph nodes (N\_State\_1) leads to an increase in the size of those lymph nodes (Size\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_6).
- 2. This is a valid causal relationship because cancer in lymph nodes typically causes them to enlarge.
- 3. The causal direction is positive because the presence of cancer (N\_State\_1) increases the size of lymph nodes (Size\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_6).
- 4. The presence of cancer in lymph nodes is a sufficient condition for enlargement, but not necessary, as other factors can also cause enlargement.
- 5. The causal distance is proximal because the presence of cancer directly affects the size of the lymph nodes.

Top 5 Corresponding Pages: ['102', '55', '51', '130', '47']

Among these two options which one is the most likely true:

- (A) Size\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_6 increases risk N\_State\_1
- (B) N\_State\_1 increases risk Size\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_6`

LLM Answer: B

LLM Answer Choice Probabilities: {'A': 0.01, 'B': 99.99}

## Evidences:

- Page Number: 102, Section Name: Head and Neck Cancers Principles of Surgery, Entities: Lymphatic System, Neoplasms, Metastasis, Relationships: Entity1: 'surgical management', Entity2: 'regional lymphatics', Relationship: 'dictated by tumor staging', Causalities: The extent of the tumor at initial tumor staging dictates the surgical management of regional lymphatics.
- 2. Page Number: 130, Section Name: Pathological N (pN), Entities: Lymph Nodes, Neoplasm Metastasis, Relationships: Entity1: 'Lymph Nodes', Entity2: 'Neoplasm Metastasis', Relationship: 'involved in', Causalities: NX: Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed, NO: No regional lymph node metastasis, N1: Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node, 3 cm or smaller in greatest dimension ENE(-).

## Reasoning:

- 1. The edge (Size\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_6) causes (N\_State\_1) suggests that the size of lymph nodes influences the cancer state of nearby lymph nodes. This is a proximal relationship with a positive causal direction, but the size is neither a necessary nor sufficient condition for cancer presence.
- 2. The edge (N\_State\_1) causes (Size\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_6) indicates that the presence of cancer in nearby lymph nodes leads to an increase in their size. This is a proximal relationship with a positive causal direction, and the presence of cancer is a sufficient condition for enlargement.
- 3. From the NCCN Guidelines, the presence of cancer in lymph nodes is often associated with their enlargement due to metastasis, which aligns with the explanation of EDGE2.
- 4. The knowledge base information supports that cancer presence in lymph nodes  $(N\_State\_1)$  is a sufficient condition for their enlargement

 $({\tt Size\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_6}), \ as \ {\tt cancer} \ {\tt typically} \ {\tt causes} \ {\tt lymph} \ {\tt nodes} \ {\tt to} \ {\tt enlarge}.$ 

5. The causal relationship in EDGE2 is more directly supported by the NCCN Guidelines, which emphasize the role of cancer presence in lymph node enlargement.

# Critique:

Critique Consistent	Critique Answer	Critique Reasoning
yes	В	1. The AI assistant's reasoning for selecting option (B) is based on the causal relationship described in EDGE2, where the presence of cancer in nearby lymph nodes (N_State_1) leads to an increase in their size (Size_of_Lymph_Nodes_6). This relationship is described as proximal and having a positive causal direction, with the presence of cancer being a sufficient condition for enlargement.  2. The assistant cross-references the NCCN Guidelines, which support the notion that cancer presence in lymph nodes is associated with their enlargement due to metastasis. This aligns with the explanation provided for EDGE2, where cancer presence directly influences lymph node size.  3. The assistant also references specific sections from the knowledge base, such as the Head and Neck Cancers - Principles of Surgery and Pathological N (pN), which discuss the relationship between cancer presence and lymph node enlargement, further supporting the causal direction described in EDGE2.  4. The reasoning provided by the assistant is consistent with the final answer (B), as the evidence from the NCCN Guidelines and the knowledge base supports the causal relationship where cancer presence in lymph nodes leads to their enlargement.

Edge ID: 9

**Edge:** Imaging\_Results\_13 ----> Size\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_6

# Prompt:

EDGE1:

edge: (Size\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_6) causes (Imaging\_Results\_13)

causal\_direction: positive
causal\_distance: Proximal

causal\_factor:
"necessary": False
"sufficient": False

explanation:

1. The size of lymph nodes can directly affect imaging results because enlarged lymph nodes are often detected as abnormalities in imaging examinations.

2. If lymph nodes are enlarged, imaging results are more likely to show abnormalities,

indicating a positive causal direction.

- 3. However, the size of lymph nodes is neither a necessary nor a sufficient condition for imaging results to show abnormalities, as other factors can also influence imaging results.
- 4. The causal relationship is proximal because the size of lymph nodes directly impacts the imaging findings.

#### EDGE2:

edge: (Imaging\_Results\_13) causes (Size\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_6)

causal\_direction: Unknown
causal\_distance: Unknown

causal\_factor:
"necessary": False
"sufficient": False

explanation:

- 1. The edge suggests that the results of an imaging examination (Imaging\_Results\_13) cause changes in the size of lymph nodes (Size\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_6).
- 2. However, imaging results are observations of the current state of lymph nodes, not a cause of their size.
- 3. The size of lymph nodes is determined by underlying physiological or pathological processes, not by the imaging results themselves.
- 4. Therefore, the edge is not valid as a causal relationship.

Top 5 Corresponding Pages: ['41', '46', '93', '102', '53']

Among these two options which one is the most likely true:

- (A) Size\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_6 increases risk Imaging\_Results\_13
- (B) Imaging\_Results\_13 increases risk Size\_of\_Lymph\_Nodes\_6`

LLM Answer: A

LLM Answer Choice Probabilities: {'A': 100.0, 'B': 0.0}

## Evidences:

- 1. Page 93, Section Name: Principles of Imaging, indicates that imaging is used for diagnostic purposes and to assess the extent of disease.
- 2. The guidelines emphasize the role of imaging in diagnosing and staging cancer, but do not suggest that imaging results can cause changes in lymph node size.

# Reasoning:

- 1. The edge (A) suggests that the size of lymph nodes can influence imaging results. Enlarged lymph nodes are often detected as abnormalities in imaging examinations, indicating a positive causal direction. This is supported by the explanation that the size of lymph nodes directly impacts imaging findings, making the causal relationship proximal.
- 2. The edge (B) suggests that imaging results cause changes in the size of lymph nodes. However, imaging results are observations of the current state of lymph nodes, not a cause of their size. The size of lymph nodes is determined by underlying physiological or pathological processes, not by the imaging results themselves.
- 3. The NCCN Clinical Practitioner's Guidelines for Head and Neck Cancer emphasize the role of imaging in diagnosing and staging cancer, but do not suggest that imaging results can cause changes in lymph node size. Instead, imaging is used to observe and assess the current state of lymph nodes and other structures.

- 4. From the INFORMATION FROM KNOWLEDGE BASE, the guidelines on Page 93, Section Name: Principles of Imaging, indicate that imaging is used for diagnostic purposes and to assess the extent of disease, not as a causal factor for changes in lymph node size.
- 5. The causalities outlined in the guidelines focus on imaging as a tool for evaluation and diagnosis, not as a factor that influences the size of lymph nodes.

## Critique:

Critique Consistent	Critique Answer	Critique Reasoning
yes	A	<ol> <li>The AI assistant's reasoning for option (A) is based on the explanation that enlarged lymph nodes can be detected as abnormalities in imaging examinations, indicating a positive causal direction. This aligns with the understanding that the size of lymph nodes can influence imaging results, making the causal relationship proximal.</li> <li>The reasoning for option (B) is that imaging results are observations and not a cause of changes in lymph node size. This is consistent with the understanding that imaging is used to assess the current state of lymph nodes, not to influence their size.</li> <li>The AI assistant references the NCCN Clinical Practitioner's Guidelines for Head and Neck Cancer, which emphasize the role of imaging in diagnosing and staging cancer. This supports the idea that imaging is used for evaluation and diagnosis, not as a causal factor for changes in lymph node size.</li> <li>The evidence from the INFORMATION FROM KNOWLEDGE BASE, specifically Page 93, Section Name: Principles of Imaging, supports the reasoning that imaging is used for diagnostic purposes and to assess the extent of disease, not as a causal factor for changes in lymph node size.</li> <li>Overall, the AI assistant's reasoning is consistent with the evidence provided, supporting option (A) as the correct answer.</li> </ol>

Edge ID: 10

Edge: N\_State\_1 ----> Histological\_Grade\_of\_Tumor\_4

## Prompt:

EDGE1:

edge: (Histological\_Grade\_of\_Tumor\_4) causes (N\_State\_1)

causal\_direction: positive
causal\_distance: Proximal

causal\_factor:
"necessary": False
"sufficient": True

## explanation:

- 1. The edge represents the causal relationship between the histological grade of a tumor (specifically grade 4) and the state of nearby lymph nodes.
- 2. Histological grade 4 indicates a poorly differentiated or undifferentiated tumor, which is more aggressive and likely to spread.
- 3. The presence of cancer in nearby lymph nodes (N\_State\_1) is a sign of metastasis and a more advanced stage of cancer.
- 4. A higher histological grade (such as grade 4) is associated with a higher likelihood of lymph node involvement, suggesting a causal relationship.
- 5. The causal direction is positive because a higher grade increases the likelihood of lymph node involvement.
- 6. The histological grade is not a necessary condition for lymph node involvement, as other factors can also cause this.
- 7. The histological grade might be considered a sufficient condition in some cases, as a very aggressive tumor (grade 4) could almost guarantee lymph node involvement.
- 8. The causal distance is proximal, as the histological grade directly affects the tumors behavior, which can directly lead to lymph node involvement.

#### FDGF2:

edge: (N\_State\_1) causes (Histological\_Grade\_of\_Tumor\_4)

causal\_direction: Unknown
causal\_distance: Unknown

causal\_factor:
"necessary": False
"sufficient": False

explanation:

- 1. The edge suggests that the state of nearby lymph nodes (N\_State\_1) causes the histological grade of a tumor to be grade 4 (Histological\_Grade\_of\_Tumor\_4).
- 2. However, the histological grade of a tumor is determined by the microscopic appearance of the tumor cells and is not directly influenced by the state of lymph nodes.
- 3. The state of lymph nodes is related to cancer staging and prognosis, but it does not determine the histological grade of the tumor.
- 4. Therefore, the edge is not valid as there is no direct causal relationship between the state of lymph nodes and the histological grade of the tumor.

Top 5 Corresponding Pages: ['130', '51', '55', '102', '154']

Among these two options which one is the most likely true:

- (A) Histological\_Grade\_of\_Tumor\_4 increases risk N\_State\_1
- (B) N\_State\_1 increases risk Histological\_Grade\_of\_Tumor\_4`

LLM Answer: A

LLM Answer Choice Probabilities: {'A': 100.0, 'B': 0.0}

# **Evidences:**

- Page 130, Section Name: Pathological N (pN) Discusses lymph nodes' role in metastasis and TNM staging, supporting the link between tumor aggressiveness and lymph node involvement.
- 2. Page 51, Section Name: Histologic Grade (G) Describes histological grading as a measure of tumor cell differentiation, independent of lymph node state.
- 3. Page 102, Section Name: Head and Neck Cancers Principles of Surgery Discusses the role of lymph nodes in cancer staging and treatment, not in

determining histological grade.

## Reasoning:

- The task is to determine the most likely true causal relationship between two nodes: Histological\_Grade\_of\_Tumor\_4 and N\_State\_1.
- 2. Option (A) suggests that a higher histological grade of a tumor (grade 4) increases the risk of cancer in nearby lymph nodes ( N\_State\_1 ).
- 3. Option (B) suggests that the presence of cancer in nearby lymph nodes (N\_State\_1) increases the risk of a tumor being classified as histological grade 4.
- 4. The explanation for EDGE1 indicates a positive causal direction from Histological\_Grade\_of\_Tumor\_4 to N\_State\_1, suggesting that a higher grade increases the likelihood of lymph node involvement.
- 5. The explanation for EDGE2 indicates that the state of nearby lymph nodes does not directly influence the histological grade of the tumor, making this edge invalid.
- 6. The knowledge base provides information on the TNM staging system, which includes lymph node involvement as a factor in cancer staging but does not suggest it influences histological grading.
- 7. Histological grading is based on the microscopic appearance of tumor cells, which is independent of lymph node involvement.
- 8. The causal distance for EDGE1 is proximal, indicating a direct effect of tumor grade on lymph node involvement, supporting option (A).
- 9. The causal factor for EDGE1 is sufficient but not necessary, meaning a high grade can lead to lymph node involvement, but other factors can also cause it.
- 10. The knowledge base does not provide evidence supporting option (B), as lymph node involvement is not a determinant of histological grade.

Critique Consistent	Critique Answer	Critique Reasoning
yes	A	1. The AI assistant's reasoning begins by identifying th two options and their implications. It correctly identifies that option (A) suggests a causal relationshi where a higher histological grade increases the risk of lymph node involvement, while option (B) suggests the opposite.  2. The assistant then evaluates the explanations provide for EDGE1 and EDGE2. It notes that EDGE1 supports a positiv causal direction from Histological_Grade_of_Tumor_4 to N_state_1, while EDGE2 is deemed invalid as it suggests an incorrect causal relationship.  3. The assistant references the knowledge base, particularly the TNM staging system, to support the idea that lymph node involvement is a factor in cancer stagin but does not influence histological grading. This supports the validity of option (A) over option (B).  4. The assistant correctly identifies that histological grading is based on the microscopic appearance of tumor cells, which is independent of lymph node involvement, further supporting option (A).

- 5. The assistant concludes that the causal distance for EDGE1 is proximal, indicating a direct effect of tumor grade on lymph node involvement, which aligns with option (A).
- 6. The assistant's reasoning is consistent with the evidence provided, and it correctly identifies that the knowledge base does not support option (B).

Edge ID: 11

Edge: Biopsie\_14 ----> Histological\_Grade\_of\_Tumor\_4

## Prompt:

EDGE1:

edge: (Histological\_Grade\_of\_Tumor\_4) causes (Biopsie\_14)

causal\_direction: Unknown
causal\_distance: Unknown

causal\_factor:
"necessary": False
"sufficient": False

explanation:

- 1. The edge (Histological\_Grade\_of\_Tumor\_4) causes (Biopsie\_14) suggests that the presence of a histological grade 4 tumor causes a particular biopsy finding to be present.
- 2. In reality, the biopsy is the procedure used to determine the histological grade of the tumor.
- 3. The histological grade is a classification based on the biopsy results, not a cause of the biopsy findings.
- 4. Therefore, the causal relationship as stated is not valid because the histological grade is determined by the biopsy, not the other way around.

## EDGE2:

edge: (Biopsie\_14) causes (Histological\_Grade\_of\_Tumor\_4)

causal\_direction: Unknown
causal\_distance: Unknown

causal\_factor:
"necessary": False
"sufficient": False

explanation:

- 1. The edge (Biopsie\_14) causes (Histological\_Grade\_of\_Tumor\_4) is not valid because a biopsy is a diagnostic procedure that reveals the histological grade of a tumor, but it does not cause the tumor to be a certain grade.
- 2. The histological grade of a tumor is determined by the biological characteristics of the tumor cells, not by the biopsy procedure itself.
- 3. Therefore, the biopsy result does not cause the tumor to be grade 4; it merely identifies the grade.

Top 5 Corresponding Pages: ['49', '97', '51', '130', '93']

Among these two options which one is the most likely true:

- (A) Histological\_Grade\_of\_Tumor\_4 increases risk Biopsie\_14
- (B) Biopsie\_14 increases risk Histological\_Grade\_of\_Tumor\_4`

LLM Answer: A

LLM Answer Choice Probabilities: {'A': 70.58, 'B': 29.42}

#### Evidences:

1. Page Number: 49, Section Name: NCCN Guidelines Overview, Entities: Biopsy, Histological Grade, Relationships: Biopsy determines Histological Grade

 Page Number: 97, Section Name: Head and Neck Cancers - Principles of Surgery, Entities: Biopsy, Tumor Staging, Relationships: Biopsy performed for Tumor Staging

## Reasoning:

- 1. The edge '(Histological\_Grade\_of\_Tumor\_4) causes (Biopsie\_14)' suggests that the presence of a histological grade 4 tumor causes a particular biopsy finding to be present. However, the biopsy is the procedure used to determine the histological grade of the tumor, not the other way around.
- The histological grade is a classification based on the biopsy results, not a cause of the biopsy findings. Therefore, the causal relationship as stated is not valid because the histological grade is determined by the biopsy, not the other way around.
- 3. The edge '(Biopsie\_14) causes (Histological\_Grade\_of\_Tumor\_4)' is not valid because a biopsy is a diagnostic procedure that reveals the histological grade of a tumor, but it does not cause the tumor to be a certain grade.
- 4. The histological grade of a tumor is determined by the biological characteristics of the tumor cells, not by the biopsy procedure itself. Therefore, the biopsy result does not cause the tumor to be grade 4; it merely identifies the grade.
- 5. From the NCCN Guidelines, it is clear that the biopsy is a diagnostic tool used to determine the histological grade of a tumor, which is a classification based on the microscopic appearance of tumor cells. This is consistent with the explanation provided in the edge descriptions.

Critique Consistent	Critique Answer	Critique Reasoning
yes	A	1. The AI assistant's reasoning is based on the understanding that a biopsy is a diagnostic tool used to determine the histological grade of a tumor. This is consistent with the explanation provided in the edge descriptions, where it is stated that the histological grade is determined by the biopsy results, not the other way around.  2. The assistant correctly identifies that the causal relationship described in EDGE1 and EDGE2 is not valid. The histological grade of a tumor is a classification based on the biopsy results, and the biopsy is the procedure used to determine this grade.  3. The assistant references the NCCN Guidelines, which support the understanding that a biopsy is used to determine the histological grade of a tumor. This aligns with the explanation that the biopsy does not cause the

tumor to be a certain grade, but rather identifies the grade based on the biological characteristics of the tumor cells.

4. The assistant's final answer, option (A), is consistent with the reasoning provided. The explanation clearly states that the histological grade is determined by the biopsy, not the other way around, which supports the conclusion that option (A) is not valid.