



Breast Cancer Staging AJCC Cancer Staging Manual 8th Edition

TNM

Definition of Primary T Categories

Stage	Definition
TX	Primary tumor cannot be assessed
T0	No evidence of primary tumor
Tis (DCIS)	Ductal carcinoma <i>in situ</i>
Tis (Paget's)	Paget's disease of nipple NOT associated with invasive carcinoma and/or carcinoma <i>in situ</i> (DCIS) in underlying breast parenchyma. Carcinomas in breast parenchyma associated with Paget disease are categorized based on size and characteristics of parenchymal disease, although presence of Paget disease should still be noted
T1	Tumor ≤ 20 mm in greatest dimension
T1mi	Tumor ≤ 1 mm in greatest dimension
T1a	Tumor > 1 mm but ≤ 5 mm in greatest dimension (round any measurement 1.0–1.9 mm to 2 mm)
T1b	Tumor > 5 mm but ≤ 10 mm in greatest dimension
T1c	Tumor > 10 mm but ≤ 20 mm in greatest dimension
T2	Tumor > 20 mm but ≤ 50 mm in greatest dimension
T3	Tumor > 50 mm in greatest dimension
T4	Tumor of any size with direct extension to chest wall and/or to skin (ulceration or macroscopic nodules); invasion of dermis alone does not qualify as T4
T4a	Extension to chest wall, not including only pectoralis muscle adherence/invasion
T4b	Ulceration and/or ipsilateral macroscopic satellite nodules and/or edema (including peau d'orange) of skin, which do not meet criteria for inflammatory carcinoma
T4c	Both T4a and T4b
T4d	Inflammatory carcinoma

Definition of Clinical Regional Lymph N Categories

Stage	Definition
cNX	Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed (for example, previously removed)
cN0	No regional lymph node metastases
cN1	Metastases to movable ipsilateral level I, II axillary lymph node(s)
cN2	Metastases in ipsilateral level I, II axillary lymph nodes that are clinically fixed or matted; or in clinically detected ipsilateral internal mammary nodes in absence of clinically evident axillary lymph node metastases
cN2a	Metastases in ipsilateral level I, II axillary lymph nodes fixed to one another (matted) or to other structures
cN2b	Metastases only in clinically detected ipsilateral internal mammary nodes and in absence of clinically evident level I, II axillary lymph node metastases
cN3	Metastases in ipsilateral infraclavicular (level III axillary) lymph node(s) with or without level I, II axillary lymph node involvement; or in clinically detected ipsilateral internal mammary lymph node(s) with clinically evident level I, II axillary lymph node metastases; or metastases in ipsilateral supraclavicular lymph node(s) with or without axillary or internal mammary lymph node involvement
cN3a	Metastases in ipsilateral infraclavicular lymph node(s)
cN3b	Metastases in ipsilateral internal mammary lymph node(s) and axillary lymph node(s)
cN3c	Metastases in ipsilateral supraclavicular lymph node(s)

Definition of Pathologic Regional Lymph N Categories

Stage	Definition
pNX	Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed (e.g., not removed for pathological study or previously removed)
pN0	No regional lymph node metastasis identified or ITCs only
pN0 (i+)	ITCs only (malignant cell clusters no larger than 0.2 mm) in regional lymph node(s)
pN0 (mol+)	Positive molecular findings by reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction; no ITCs detected
pN1	Micrometastases; or metastases in 1–3 axillary lymph nodes; and/or clinically negative internal mammary lymph nodes with micrometastases or macrometastases by sentinel lymph node biopsy
pN1mi	Micrometastases (approximately 200 cells, larger than 0.2 mm, but none larger than 2.0 mm)
pN1a	Metastases in 1–3 axillary lymph nodes, at least one metastasis larger than 2.0 mm
pN1b	Metastases in ipsilateral internal mammary sentinel lymph nodes, excluding ITCs
pN1c	pN1a and pN1b combined
pN2	Metastases in 4–9 axillary lymph nodes; or positive ipsilateral internal mammary lymph nodes by imaging in absence of axillary lymph node metastases
pN2a	Metastases in 4–9 axillary lymph nodes (at least one tumor deposit larger than 2.0 mm)
pN2b	Metastases in clinically detected internal mammary lymph nodes with or without microscopic confirmation; with pathologically negative axillary lymph nodes
pN3	Metastases in 10 or more axillary lymph nodes; or in infraclavicular (level III axillary) lymph nodes; or positive ipsilateral internal mammary lymph nodes by imaging in presence of one or more positive level I and II axillary lymph nodes; or in more than 3 axillary lymph nodes and micrometastases or macrometastases by sentinel lymph node biopsy in clinically negative ipsilateral internal mammary lymph nodes; or in ipsilateral supraclavicular lymph nodes
pN3a	Metastases in 10 or more axillary lymph nodes (at least one tumor deposit larger than 2.0 mm); or metastases to infraclavicular (level III axillary lymph) nodes
pN3b	pN1a or pN2a in presence of cN2b (positive internal mammary lymph nodes by imaging); or pN2a in presence of pN1b
pN3c	Metastases in ipsilateral supraclavicular lymph nodes

ITCs = isolated tumor cells

Definition of Distant M Categories

Stage	Definition
M0	No clinical or radiographic evidence of distant metastases
cM0 (i+)	No clinical or radiographic evidence of distant metastases, but deposits of molecularly or microscopically detected tumor cells in circulating blood, bone marrow, or other non-regional nodal tissue that are no larger than 0.2 mm in patient without symptoms or signs of metastases
cM1	Distant metastases detected by clinical and radiographic means
pM1	Any histologically proven metastases in distant organs; or if in non-regional nodes, metastases greater than 0.2 mm

Stage	Tumor	Node	Metastasis
0	Tis	N0	M0
IA	T1	N0	M0
IB	T0	N1mi	M0
	T1	N1mi	M0
IIA	T0	N1	M0
	T1	N1	M0
	T2	N0	M0
IIB	T2	N1	M0
	T3	N0	M0
IIIA	T0	N2	M0
	T1	N2	M0
	T2	N2	M0
	T3	N1	M0
IIIB	T3	N2	M0
	T4	N0	M0
	T4	N1	M0
IIIC	T4	N2	M0
	AnyT	N3	M0
IV	AnyT	AnyN	M1

Tis = *in situ*, mi = micrometastasis