TNM
Classification of Malignant Tumours

Edited by
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and
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Seventh Edition
2009
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This updated reprint of the TNM Classification of Malignant Tumours, 7th edition contains a number of corrections that include the following:

Changes to:
- T1a and 1b categories in Melanoma – Skin
- N category in Kidney
- Stages in Stages IIB and III Soft Tissue Sarcoma
- Stage I Bone Sarcoma
- Stage IIA Prostate
- Stage IVA Larynx
- Stage IVA Salivary Gland
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They are called wise
who put things in their right order
—Thomas Aquinas
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PREFACE

In the seventh edition of the *TNM Classification* many of the tumour sites have remained unchanged from the sixth edition.\(^1\) However, some tumour entities and anatomic sites have been newly introduced and some tumours contain modifications: this follows the basic philosophy of maintaining stability of the classification over time. The modifications and additions reflect new data on prognosis, as well as new methods for assessing prognosis.\(^2\) Some changes have already appeared in the *TNM Supplement*\(^3\) as proposals. Subsequent support warrants their incorporation into the classification.

The major alterations concern carcinomas of the oesophagus and the oesophagogastric junction, stomach, lung, appendix, biliary tract, skin carcinoma, and prostate. There are several new classifications: gastrointestinal carcinoids (neuroendocrine tumours), gastrointestinal stromal tumour, upper aerodigestive mucosal melanoma, Merkel cell carcinoma, uterine sarcomas, intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma, and adrenal cortical carcinoma.

A new approach has been adopted to separate stage groupings from prognostic groupings in which other prognostic factors are added to T, N, and M categories. These new prognostic groupings are presented for oesophagus and prostate.

Except for the presentation of both stage groupings and prognostic groupings at the sites mentioned above, the International Union Against Cancer (UICC)
TNM Classification is identical to that published by the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC).4 This is the result of the intent to have only one standard and reflects the collaborative efforts made by all national TNM committees to achieve uniformity in this field.

Changes made between the sixth and seventh editions are indicated by a bar at the left-hand side of the text. To avoid ambiguity, users are encouraged to cite the year of the TNM publication they have used in their list of references.

A TNM homepage on the Internet with Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and a form for submitting questions or comments on the TNM can be found at: http://www.uicc.org.

The UICC’s TNM Prognostic Factors Project has instituted a process for evaluating proposals to improve the TNM Classification. This procedure aims at a continuous systematic approach composed of two arms: (1) procedures to address formal proposals from investigators, and (2) a periodic literature search for articles concerning improvements to TNM. The proposals and results of the literature search are evaluated by members of a UICC panel of experts as well as by the TNM Prognostic Factors Project Committee members. The national TNM Committees including the American Joint Committee on Cancer participated in this process. More details and a checklist that will facilitate the formulation of proposals can be obtained at http://www.uicc.org.

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Preface


ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Editors have much pleasure in acknowledging the great help received from the members of the TNM Prognostic Factors Project Committee and the National Staging Committees Global Representatives and international organizations listed on pages xvii–xix.

Professor Paul Hermanek has continued to provide encouragement and valuable criticism.

The seventh edition of the *TNM Classification* is the result of a number of consultative meetings organized and supported by the UICC and AJCC secretariats.

This publication was made possible by grants 1U58DP001819-01, HR/CCH 013713 and HR3/CCH417470 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (USA). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the CDC.