

Stage Groups of the 9th Edition of the Tumor, Node, Metastasis (TNM)

T: Primary tumor	
Tx	Primary tumor cannot be assessed ^a
T0	No evidence of primary tumor
Tis	Carcinoma in situ ^b
T1	Tumor surrounded by lung or visceral pleura, or in a lobar or more peripheral bronchus ^c
T1mi	Minimally invasive adenocarcinoma ^d
T1a	Tumor ≤1 cm in greatest dimension
T1b	Tumor >1 cm but ≤2 cm in greatest dimension
T1c	Tumor >2 cm but ≤3 cm in greatest dimension
T2	Tumor with any of the following features:
T2a	- tumor >3 cm but ≤4 cm in greatest dimension; - invades visceral pleura; - invades an adjacent lobe; - involves main bronchus (up to but not including the carina) or is associated with atelectasis or obstructive pneumonitis extending to the hilar region, involving either part of or the entire lung
T2b	Tumor >4 cm but ≤5 cm in greatest dimension
T3	Tumor with any of the following features: - tumor >5 cm but ≤7 cm in greatest dimension; - invades parietal pleura or chest wall; - invades pericardium, phrenic nerve, or azygos vein;^e - invades thoracic nerve roots (i.e. T1, T2) or stellate ganglion; - separate tumor nodule(s) in the same lobe as the primary
T4	Tumor with any of the following features: - tumor >7 cm in greatest dimension; - invades mediastinum, thymus, trachea, carina, recurrent laryngeal nerve, vagus nerve, esophagus or diaphragm; - invades heart, great vessels (aorta, superior/inferior vena cava, intrapericardial pulmonary arteries/ veins), supra-aortic arteries, or brachiocephalic veins; - invades subclavian vessels, vertebral body, lamina, spinal canal, cervical nerve roots, or brachial plexus (i.e. trunks, divisions, cords, or terminal nerves); - separate tumor nodule(s) in a different ipsilateral lobe than 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 and/or intrapulmonary lymph nodes, including involvement by direct extension
N2	Metastasis in ipsilateral mediastinal and/or subcarinal lymph node(s)
N2a	Single N2 station involvement
N2b	Multiple N2 station involvement
N3	Metastasis in contralateral mediastinal and/or contralateral hilar, ipsilateral or contralateral scalene or supraclavicular lymph node(s)

M: Distant Metastasis	
M0	No distant metastasis
M1	Distant metastasis
M1a	Tumor with pleural or pericardial nodules or malignant pleural or pericardial efusions, separate tumor nodule(s) in a contralateral lobe
M1b	Single extrathoracic metastasis in a single organ system
M1c	Multiple extrathoracic metastases
M1c1	Multiple extrathoracic metastases in a single organ system
M1c2	Multiple extrathoracic metastases in multiple organ systems

^aThis includes tumors proven by the presence of malignant cells in sputum or bronchial washings but not visualized by imaging or bronchoscopy.

^bThis includes adenocarcinoma in situ – Tis (AIS) – and squamous cell carcinoma in situ – Tis (SCIS).

^cThe uncommon superficial spreading tumor 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.

^dSolitary adenocarcinoma (not more than 3 cm in greatest dimension), with a predominantly lepidic pattern and not more than 5 mm invasion in greatest dimension.

^eAlthough these structures lie within the mediastinum, the degree of mediastinal penetration by the tumor needed to invade these structures is not counted as T4.

Classification of Lung Cancer

9 th Edition TNM Descriptors and Stages						
T/M	Categories and Descriptors	N0	N1	N2		N3
				N2a	N2b	
T1	T1a ≤1 cm	IA1	IIA	IIB	IIIA	IIIB
	T1b >1 to ≤2 cm	IA2	IIA	IIB	IIIA	IIIB
	T1c >2 to ≤3 cm	IA3	IIA	IIB	IIIA	IIIB
T2	T2a Visceral pleura and/or central invasion	IB	IIB	IIIA	IIIB	IIIB
	T2a >3 to ≤4 cm	IB	IIB	IIIA	IIIB	IIIB
	T2b >4 to ≤5 cm	IIA	IIB	IIIA	IIIB	IIIB
T3	T3 >5 to ≤7 cm	IIB	IIIA	IIIA	IIIB	IIIC
	T3 Invasion	IIB	IIIA	IIIA	IIIB	IIIC
	T3 Same lobe separate tumor nodules	IIB	IIIA	IIIA	IIIB	IIIC
T4	T4 >7 cm	IIIA	IIIA	IIIB	IIIB	IIIC
	T4 Invasion	IIIA	IIIA	IIIB	IIIB	IIIC
	T4 Ipsilateral separate tumor nodules	IIIA	IIIA	IIIB	IIIB	IIIC
M1	M1a Contralateral tumor nodules	IVA	IVA	IVA	IVA	IVA
	M1a Pleural / pericardial effusion, nodules	IVA	IVA	IVA	IVA	IVA
	M1b Single extrathoracic metastasis	IVA	IVA	IVA	IVA	IVA
	M1c1 Multiple metastases in 1 organ system	IVB	IVB	IVB	IVB	IVB
	M1c2 Multiple metastases in >1 organ systems	IVB	IVB	IVB	IVB	IVB

Adapted from: Rami-Porta R, Nishimura KK, Giroux DJ, et al. The International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer Lung Cancer Staging Project: Proposals for Revision of the TNM Stage Groups in the Forthcoming (Ninth) Edition of the TNM Classification for Lung Cancer. J Thorac Oncol 2024; 19: 1007–27