

Oral Cavity and Laryngeal Cancer Staging

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TNM Classification for Oral Cavity and Laryngeal Cancers

The TNM classifications for oral cavity and laryngeal cancers are provided below, along with histologic grades and anatomic stages.^[1]

Table. TNM classification ([Open Table in a new window](#))

Primary tumor (T)	
TX	Primary tumor cannot be assessed
T0	No evidence of primary tumor
Tis	Carcinoma in situ
T1	Tumor ≤ 2 cm in greatest dimension
T2	Tumor > 2 cm but not more than 4cm in greatest dimension
T3	Tumor > 4 cm in greatest dimension
T4a	Moderately advanced, local disease - Lip - Tumor invades through cortical bone, inferior alveolar nerve, floor of mouth, or skin of face - Oral cavity - Tumor invades adjacent structures (eg, through cortical bone into deep extrinsic muscle of the tongue, maxillary sinus, or skin of face)
T4b	Very advanced, local disease Tumor invades masticator space, pterygoid plates, or skull base and/or encases internal carotid artery
<i>Glottis:</i>	
TX	Primary tumor cannot be assessed
T0	No evidence of primary tumor
Tis	Carcinoma in situ
T1	Tumor limited to the vocal cord(s) (may involve anterior or posterior commissure), with normal mobility
T1a	Tumor limited to 1 vocal cord
T1b	Tumor involves both vocal cords
T2	Tumor extends to the supraglottis and/or subglottis, and/or with impaired vocal cord mobility
T3	Tumor limited to the larynx with vocal cord fixation and/or invasion of the paraglottic space and/or inner cortex of the thyroid cartilage
T4a	Moderately advanced, local disease Tumor invades through the outer cortex of the thyroid cartilage and/or invades tissues beyond the larynx (eg, trachea, soft tissues of the neck, including deep extrinsic muscle of the tongue, strap muscles, thyroid, or esophagus)
T4b	Very advanced, local disease Tumor invades prevertebral space, encases carotid artery, or invades mediastinal structures
<i>Supraglottis:</i>	
TX	Primary tumor cannot be assessed
T0	No evidence of primary tumor
Tis	Carcinoma in situ
T1	Tumor limited to 1 subsite of the supraglottis, with normal vocal cord mobility
T2	Tumor invades mucosa of more than 1 adjacent subsite of the supraglottis or glottis or region outside the supraglottis (eg, mucosa of base of the tongue, vallecula, medial wall of piriform sinus), without fixation of the larynx

T3	Tumor limited to the larynx, with vocal cord fixation, and/or invades any of the following: postcricoid area, preepiglottic space, paraglottic space, and/or inner cortex of the thyroid cartilage
T4a	Moderately advanced, local disease Tumor invades through the thyroid cartilage and/or invades tissues beyond the larynx (eg, trachea, soft tissues of the neck, including deep extrinsic muscle of the tongue, strap muscles, thyroid, or esophagus)
T4b	Very advanced local disease Tumor invades prevertebral space, encases carotid artery, or invades mediastinal structures
Subglottis:	
TX	Primary tumor cannot be assessed
T0	No evidence of primary tumor
Tis	Carcinoma in situ
T1	Tumor limited to the subglottis
T2	Tumor extends to vocal cord(s), with normal or impaired mobility
T3	Tumor limited to the larynx, with vocal cord fixation
T4a	Moderately advanced, local disease Tumor invades cricoid or thyroid cartilage and/or invades tissues beyond the larynx (eg, trachea, soft tissues of the neck, including deep extrinsic muscle of the tongue, strap muscles, thyroid, or esophagus)
T4b	Very advanced, local disease Tumor invades prevertebral space, encases carotid artery, or invades mediastinal structures
Regional lymph nodes (N)	
NX	Regional nodes cannot be assessed
N0	No regional lymph node metastasis
N1	Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node ≤ 3 cm in greatest dimension
N2	Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node > 3 cm but not more than 6 cm in greatest dimension; or in multiple ipsilateral lymph nodes, none > 6 cm in greatest dimension; or in bilateral or contralateral lymph nodes, none > 6 cm in greatest dimension
N2a	Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node > 3 cm but not more than 6 cm in greatest dimension
N2b	Metastasis in multiple ipsilateral lymph nodes, none > 6 cm in greatest dimension
N2c	Metastasis in bilateral or contralateral lymph nodes, none > 6 cm in greatest dimension
N3	Metastasis in a lymph node > 6 cm in greatest dimension
Distant metastasis (M)	
M0	No distant metastasis
M1	Distant metastasis

Table. Histologic grade ([Open Table in a new window](#))

Histologic grade (G)	
GX	Grade cannot be assessed
G1	Well differentiated
G2	Moderately differentiated
G3	Poorly differentiated
G4	Undifferentiated

Table. Anatomic stage/prognostic groups ([Open Table in a new window](#))

Stage	T	N	M
0	Tis	N0	M0
I	T1	N0	M0
II	T2	N0	M0

III	T3	N0	M0
T1	N1	M0	
T2	N1	M0	
T3	N1	M0	
IVA	T4a	N0	M0
T4a	N1	M0	
T1	N2	M0	
T2	N2	M0	
T3	N2	M0	
T4a	N2	M0	
IVB	T Any	N3	M0
T4b	N Any	M0	
IVC	T Any	N Any	M1

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1. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology: Head and Neck Cancers. V 1.2015. Available at http://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/head-and-neck.pdf. Accessed: December 30, 2015.



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