

A guide to Nodal Excisions, Neck Dissection, Parotid Gland Basin Specimens for Head & Neck Tumour Histopathology Reporting



Includes the  International Collaboration on Cancer reporting dataset denoted by *

| Clinical details | | | Microscopic findings | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|-------------------------|---|---|
| S1.02 | Clinical information on request form | Not provided OR Text OR Structured entry as below: | S3.01 | *Histological tumour type | See p2 |
| | *Operative procedure | See p2 | G3.01 | *Primary tumour site | Not specified/ unknown <i>Specify site (e.g., oral cavity, larynx)</i> |
| | Neoadjuvant therapy | See p2 | S3.02 | Lymph node laterality | Not specified OR Right Left Central Other, <i>specify</i> |
| | Recurrence | Recurrence - regional, <i>describe</i> Recurrence - distant, <i>describe</i> | S3.03 | *LYMPH NODE STATUS | |
| | Laterality | Not specified OR Right Left Bilateral Other, <i>specify</i> | | - *Node level | See p2 |
| | Previous treatment | Text | | - *Number of nodes examined | — OR Cannot be determined |
| G1.01 | Copy To doctors recorded | Text | | - *Number of nodes positive | — OR Cannot be determined |
| S1.03 | Pathology accession number | Alpha-numeric | | - *Maximum dimension of largest lymph node metastasis (if applicable) | — mm |
| S1.04 | Principal clinician | Text | | - *Maximum dimension of largest involved lymph node (if applicable) | — mm AND <i>Specify site (level)</i> |
| G1.02 | Comments | Text | | - *Soft tissue metastasis | Not identified Present, <i>specify site (level)</i> |
| Macroscopic findings | | | S3.04 | *Extranodal extension (ENE) Note: This element is optional for HPV-related/p16 positive oropharyngeal cancer and nasopharyngeal cancer | Not identified ENEmi (<2 mm) ENEmA (>2 mm) If ENEmi or ENEmA, consider recording G3.03 and G3.04 |
| S2.01 | Specimen labelled as | Text | G3.02 | *Number of nodes with ENE | — mm OR Cannot be determined |
| S2.02 | Specimen laterality | Not specified OR Right Left Bilateral Other, <i>specify</i> | G3.03 | *Greatest extent of ENE | — mm AND <i>Specify site (level)</i> |
| G2.01 | *Operative procedure | See p2 | G3.04 | *Non-lymphatic structures involved | Not identified Present, <i>specify</i> |
| S2.03 | *Specimen submitted | See p2 | G3.05 | *MARGIN STATUS - perinodal surgical margin | See p2 |
| G2.02 | Specimen dimensions | __x__x__ mm Notes: Record measurements for each specimen submitted | G3.06 | Radiation induced tissue damage If identified, specify a description of induced damage, if possible. If cannot be assessed, specify a reason, if possible. | Not identified Identified, <i>specify</i> Cannot be assessed, <i>specify</i> |
| G2.03 | Number of lymph nodes retrieved | — Note: Record number for each lymph node site submitted | G3.07 | Additional pathologic findings | Text |
| G2.04 | Macroscopic metastatic tumour | Not identified Present | G3.08 | Additional microscopic comment | Text |
| G2.05 | Maximum dimension of largest metastatic deposit | — mm | Ancillary test findings | | |
| G2.06 | Macroscopic evidence of extracapsular spread | Absent Present | G4.01 | *Ancillary studies | See p3 |
| G2.07 | Macroscopic distance of tumour to closest margin | — mm | | | |
| S2.04 | Ink application and block identification key | Text | | | |
| G2.08 | Additional macroscopic comments | Text | | | |

Synthesis and overview

S5.01 *PATHOLOGICAL STAGING (AJCC 8TH EDITION) See p3

S5.02 Year and Edition Of Staging System Text

G5.01 Diagnostic summary Text
Include:

- a. Specimen(s) submitted and laterality
- b. Tumour type
- c. Lymph node status
- d. Presence or absence of ENE
- e. Margin of resection if ENE present
- f. Tumour stage

S5.03 Overarching Comment Text

G5.02 Edition/version of RCPA protocol Text

S1.02/G2.01 Operative procedure

Text

OR

- Level I
- Level II
- Level III
- Level IV
- Level V
- Level VI
- Level VII
- Levels I-IV
- Levels I-V
- Other, *specify*

Neoadjuvant Therapy

- Information not provided
- Not administered
- Administered, *specify type (select all that apply)*
 - ◊ Chemotherapy
 - ◊ Radiotherapy
 - ◊ Chemoradiotherapy
 - ◊ Targeted therapy, *specify if available*
 - ◊ Immunotherapy, *specify if available*
 - ◊ Time interval since therapy, *specify*

S2.03 Specimen Submitted

Not specified

OR

Select all that apply:

- Lymph nodes
 - ◊ Not specified
 - ◊ Level IA
 - ◊ Level IB
 - ◊ Level II
 - ◊ Level III
 - ◊ Level IV
 - ◊ Level V
 - ◊ Level VI
 - ◊ Level VII
 - ◊ Levels I-IV
 - ◊ Levels I-V
 - ◊ Other, *specify*
- Central compartment (VI +/- VII)
 - ◊ Non-lymphoid tissue
 - ◊ Non-lymphoid tissue
 - ◊ Thymus
 - ◊ Parathyroid
 - ◊ Other, *specify*
- Non-lymphoid tissue
 - ◊ Nerve
 - ◊ Muscle
 - ◊ Vein
 - ◊ Salivary gland
 - ◊ Other, *specify*

Notes: Specimen laterality should be recorded for each specimen submitted (S2.02).

S3.01 Histological Tumour Type

Squamous cell carcinoma (SCC)

- Squamous cell carcinoma, conventional
- HPV-mediated/p16 positive oropharyngeal carcinoma
- Basaloid squamous cell carcinoma
- Papillary squamous cell carcinoma
- Spindle cell squamous cell carcinoma (sarcomatoid carcinoma)
- Adenosquamous cell carcinoma
- Acantholytic squamous cell carcinoma
- Carcinoma cuniculatum

Salivary gland carcinoma

- Acinic cell carcinoma
- Secretory carcinoma
- Mucoepidermoid carcinoma
 - ◊ Low grade mucoepidermoid carcinoma
 - ◊ Intermediate grade mucoepidermoid carcinoma
 - ◊ High grade mucoepidermoid carcinoma
- Adenoid cystic carcinoma
 - ◊ Tubular/cribriform pattern predominant
 - ◊ Solid pattern >30%
- Polymorphous adenocarcinoma
 - ◊ Classic, *specify grade*
 - ◊ Cribriform
- Epithelial-myoepithelial carcinoma (Hyalinizing) Clear cell carcinoma
- Basal cell adenocarcinoma
- Sebaceous adenocarcinoma
- Cystadenocarcinoma
- Adenocarcinoma, not otherwise specified (NOS)
- Salivary duct carcinoma
- Myoepithelial carcinoma
- Carcinoma ex pleomorphic adenoma, *specify types*
- Carcinosarcoma
- Poorly differentiated carcinoma: Neuroendocrine and non-neuroendocrine
 - ◊ Undifferentiated carcinoma
 - ◊ Large cell neuroendocrine carcinoma
 - ◊ Small cell neuroendocrine carcinoma
- Lymphoepithelial carcinoma
- Squamous cell carcinoma
- Oncocytic carcinoma
- Other, *specify*

Neuroendocrine carcinoma

- Well differentiated (typical carcinoid)
- Moderately differentiated (atypical carcinoid)
- Poorly differentiated (high grade neuroendocrine carcinoma), large cell type
- Poorly differentiated (high grade neuroendocrine carcinoma), small cell type

Nasopharyngeal carcinoma

- Squamous cell carcinoma, keratinizing
- Squamous cell carcinoma, non-keratinizing, differentiated
- Squamous cell carcinoma, non-keratinizing, undifferentiated
- Squamous cell carcinoma, basaloid
- Nasopharyngeal papillary adenocarcinoma

Sinonasal malignancies

Mucosal melanoma

Cutaneous malignancies

- Melanoma
- Squamous cell carcinoma
- Merkel cell carcinoma
- Sebaceous carcinoma

Other, *specify types*

S3.03 Lymph node status

Select all that apply:

- Level IA
- Level IB
- Level II
- Level III
- Level IV
- Level V
- Level VI
- Level VII
- Levels I-IV
- Levels I-V
- Other, *specify*

S3.05 Margin status

- perinodal surgical margin

- Not involved by carcinoma
- Involved by carcinoma
 - ◊ Right
 - ◊ Left
 - ◊ Central
 - ◊ Laterality not specified
- Cannot be assessed, *specify*

S5.01 Pathological staging (AJCC 8th Edition)^{##}

TNM descriptors

y - post therapy; r - recurrent

For primary carcinomas of the lip and oral cavity, major salivary glands, nasal cavity and paranasal sinuses, oropharynx (p16 negative), hypopharynx, larynx, cutaneous head and neck carcinomas (with the exception of Merkel cell carcinoma) and unknown primary squamous cell carcinomas that are p16 and EBV-negative. Cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck also included.

- NX Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed
- N0 No regional lymph node metastasis
- N1 Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node, 3 cm or smaller in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
- N2 Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node, 3 cm or smaller in greatest dimension and ENE (+);
or larger than 3 cm but not larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-);
or metastasis in multiple ipsilateral lymph nodes, none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-);
or bilateral or contralateral lymph nodes, none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
- N2a Metastasis in a single ipsilateral node, 3 cm or smaller in greatest dimension and ENE(+);
or a single ipsilateral lymph nodes, none larger than 3 cm but not larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
- N2b Metastasis in multiple ipsilateral lymph nodes, none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-);
- N2c Metastasis in bilateral or contralateral lymph nodes, none larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-)
- N3 Metastasis in a lymph node larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-);
or in a single ipsilateral lymph node larger than 3 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(+);
or multiple ipsilateral, contralateral or bilateral nodes any with ENE(+)
- N3a Metastasis in a lymph node larger than 6 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(-);
- N3b Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node larger than 3 cm in greatest dimension and ENE(+);
or multiple ipsilateral, contralateral or bilateral nodes any with ENE(+)

HPV-mediated (p16+) oropharyngeal carcinoma

- NX Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed
- N0 No regional lymph node metastasis
- N1 Metastasis in 4 or fewer lymph node(s)
- N2 Metastasis in more than 4 lymph node(s)

Nasopharyngeal carcinoma

- NX Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed
- N0 No regional lymph node metastasis
- N1 Unilateral metastasis in cervical lymph node(s) and/or unilateral or bilateral metastasis in retropharyngeal lymph node(s), 6 cm or smaller in greatest dimension, above the caudal border of cricoid cartilage
- N2 Bilateral metastasis in cervical lymph node(s), 6 cm or smaller in greatest dimension, and/or extension below the caudal border of cricoid cartilage

Mucosal melanoma

- NX Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed
- N0 No regional lymph node metastasis
- N1 Regional lymph node metastasis present

Cutaneous melanoma

- NX Regional nodes not assessed
- N0 No regional lymph node metastases
- N1 Metastasis in one regional lymph node or intralymphatic regional metastasis without nodal metastases
- N1a Only microscopic metastasis (clinically occult)
- N1b Macroscopic metastasis (clinically apparent)
- N1c Satellite or in-transit metastasis without regional nodal metastasis
- N2 Metastasis in two or three regional lymph nodes or intralymphatic regional metastasis with lymph node metastases
- N2a Only microscopic nodal metastasis
- N2b Macroscopic nodal metastasis
- N2c Satellite or in-transit metastasis with one regional nodal metastasis
- N3 Metastasis in four or more regional lymph nodes, of matted metastatic regional lymph nodes, or satellite(s) or in-transit metastasis with metastasis in two or more regional lymph node(s).
- N3a Only microscopic nodal metastasis
- N3b Macroscopic nodal metastasis
- N3c Satellite or in-transit metastasis with two or more regional nodal metastasis

Note: Add stage information for Merkel cell carcinoma when distinct form head and neck cutaneous SCC.

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