

TNM stage grouping for NSCLC*

Stage	T	N	M
Occult carcinoma	TX	N0	M0
Stage 0	Tis	N0	M0
Stage IA	T1	N0	M0
Stage IB	T2	N0	M0
Stage IIA	T1	N1	M0
Stage IIB	T2 T3	N1 N0	M0 M0
Stage IIIA	T1 T2 T3 T3	N2 N2 N1 N2	M0 M0 M0 M0
Stage IIIB	Any T T4	N3 Any N	M0 M0
Stage IV	Any T	Any N	M1

*Adapted from the American Joint Committee on Cancer, 2002.



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NSCLC staging guidelines*

Primary tumor (T)

TX	Tumor cannot be assessed, or tumor is detected by the presence of malignant cells in sputum or bronchial washings. Cancer cells are not visualized by imaging or bronchoscopy.
T0	No evidence of tumor
Tis	Carcinoma <i>in situ</i>
T1	≤3 cm; surrounded by lung/visceral pleura. No bronchoscopic evidence of invasion more proximal than the lobar bronchus (not in the main bronchus). Invasive component of uncommon superficial tumor is limited to bronchial wall, but may extend proximal to the main bronchus.
T2	>3 cm; involves main bronchus, ≥2 cm distal to the carina. Invades the visceral pleura; associated with atelectasis or obstructive pneumonitis extending to hilar region. Entire lung is not involved.
T3	Any-sized tumor that directly invades chest wall, diaphragm, mediastinal pleura, parietal pericardium; or, tumor in main bronchus (<2 cm distal to carina), but no involvement of carina; or, tumor associated with atelectasis or obstructive pneumonitis of entire lung
T4	Any-sized tumor that invades mediastinum, heart, great vessels, trachea, esophagus, vertebral body, carina; or, separate tumor nodules in same lobe; or, tumor has malignant pleural effusion [†]

Regional lymph nodes (N)

NX	Cannot be assessed
N0	No node metastasis
N1	Metastasis to ipsilateral peribronchial and/or ipsilateral hilar lymph nodes; intrapulmonary nodes involved, including by direct extension of the primary tumor
N2	Metastasis to ipsilateral mediastinal/subcarinal lymph node(s)
N3	Metastasis to either contralateral mediastinal, contralateral hilar, ipsilateral, contralateral scalene, or supraclavicular lymph node(s)

Distant metastasis (M)

MX	Cannot be assessed
M0	No distant metastasis
M1	Distant metastasis present, including involvement of separate tumor nodule(s) in a different lobe (ipsilateral or contralateral)

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†In patients in whom pleural fluid was negative for tumor on multiple cytopathologic examinations, fluid is not bloody and is not an exudate. These patients should be further evaluated by video-assisted thoracoscopy and direct pleural biopsies. If the effusion is not related to the tumor, effusion should not be considered a staging element. The patient should be staged T1, T2, or T3.