

# Melanoma of the Skin Staging

7th EDITION

## Definitions

### Primary Tumor (T)

- Tx** Primary tumor cannot be assessed (for example, curettaged or severely regressed melanoma)
- T0** No evidence of primary tumor
- Tis** Melanoma in situ
- T1** Melanomas 1.0 mm or less in thickness
- T2** Melanomas 1.01–2.0 mm
- T3** Melanomas 2.01–4.0 mm
- T4** Melanomas more than 4.0 mm

**NOTE:** a and b subcategories of T are assigned based on ulceration and number of mitoses per mm<sup>2</sup>, as shown below:

| T  | CLASSIFICATION | THICKNESS (mm) | ULCERATION STATUS/MITOSIS                                                                           |
|----|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| T1 |                | ≤1.0           | a: no ulceration and mitosis <1/mm <sup>2</sup><br>b: with ulceration or mitoses ≥1/mm <sup>2</sup> |
| T2 |                | 1.01–2.0       | a: no ulceration<br>b: with ulceration                                                              |
| T3 |                | 2.01–4.0       | a: no ulceration<br>b: with ulceration                                                              |
| T4 |                | >4.0           | a: no ulceration<br>b: with ulceration                                                              |

### Regional Lymph Nodes (N)

- Nx** Patients in whom the regional nodes cannot be assessed (for example, previously removed for another reason)
- N0** No regional metastases detected
- N1–3** Regional metastases based upon the number of metastatic nodes and presence or absence of intralymphatic metastases (in transit or satellite metastases)

**NOTE:** N1–3 and a–c subcategories assigned as shown below:

| N  | CLASSIFICATION | NO. OF METASTATIC NODES                                                                                | NUMBER METASTATIC SITES                                                                                                          |
|----|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| N1 |                | 1 node                                                                                                 | a: micrometastasis <sup>1</sup><br>b: macrometastasis <sup>2</sup>                                                               |
| N2 |                | 2–3 nodes                                                                                              | a: micrometastasis <sup>1</sup><br>b: macrometastasis <sup>2</sup><br>c: in transit met(p)/satellite(s) without metastatic nodes |
| N3 |                | 4 or more metastatic nodes, or matted nodes, or in transit met(p)/satellite(s) with metastatic node(s) |                                                                                                                                  |

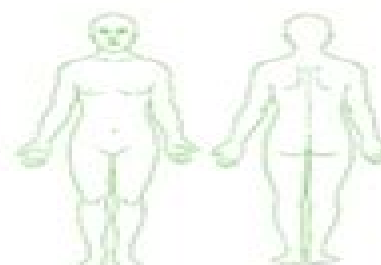


### Distant Metastasis (M)

- M0** No detectable evidence of distant metastases
- M1a** Metastases to skin, subcutaneous, or distant lymph nodes
- M1b** Metastases to lung
- M1c** Metastases to all other visceral sites or distant metastases to any site combined with an elevated serum LDH

**NOTE:** Serum LDH is incorporated into the M category as shown below:

| M   | CLASSIFICATION | SITE                                      | SERUM LDH |
|-----|----------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------|
| M1a |                | Distant skin, subcutaneous, or nodal mets | Normal    |
| M1b |                | Lung metastases                           | Normal    |
| M1c |                | All other visceral metastases             | Normal    |
|     |                | Any distant metastasis                    | Elevated  |



| ANATOMIC STAGE/PROGNOSTIC GROUPS |       |       |    |                    |       |       |    |  |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|----|--------------------|-------|-------|----|--|
| Clinical Staging                 |       |       |    | Pathologic Staging |       |       |    |  |
| Stage 0                          | Tis   | N0    | M0 | 0                  | Tis   | N0    | M0 |  |
| Stage IA                         | T1a   | N0    | M0 | IA                 | T1a   | N0    | M0 |  |
| Stage IB                         | T1b   | N0    | M0 | IB                 | T1b   | N0    | M0 |  |
|                                  | T2a   | N0    | M0 |                    | T2a   | N0    | M0 |  |
| Stage IIA                        | T2b   | N0    | M0 | IIA                | T2b   | N0    | M0 |  |
|                                  | T3a   | N0    | M0 |                    | T3a   | N0    | M0 |  |
| Stage IIB                        | T3b   | N0    | M0 | IIB                | T3b   | N0    | M0 |  |
|                                  | T4a   | N0    | M0 |                    | T4a   | N0    | M0 |  |
| Stage IIC                        | T4b   | N0    | M0 | IIC                | T4b   | N0    | M0 |  |
| Stage III                        | Any T | ≥ N1  | M0 | IIIA               | T1–4a | N1a   | M0 |  |
|                                  |       |       |    | IIIB               | T1–4a | N2a   | M0 |  |
|                                  |       |       |    |                    | T1–4b | N1a   | M0 |  |
|                                  |       |       |    |                    | T1–4b | N2a   | M0 |  |
|                                  |       |       |    |                    | T1–4a | N2b   | M0 |  |
|                                  |       |       |    |                    | T1–4a | N2c   | M0 |  |
|                                  |       |       |    |                    | T1–4b | N2b   | M0 |  |
|                                  |       |       |    |                    | T1–4b | N2c   | M0 |  |
|                                  |       |       |    |                    | Any T | N3    | M0 |  |
| Stage IV                         | Any T | Any N | M1 | IV                 | Any T | Any N | M1 |  |

## Notes

- Micrometastases are diagnosed after sentinel lymph node biopsy and completion lymphadenectomy (if performed).
- Macrometastases are defined as clinically detectable nodal metastases confirmed by therapeutic lymphadenectomy or when nodal metastasis exhibits gross extracapsular extension.
- Clinical staging includes macrostaging of the primary melanoma and clinical/radiologic evaluation for metastases. By convention, it should be used after complete resection of the primary melanoma with clinical assessment for regional and distant metastases.
- Pathologic staging includes microstaging of the primary melanoma and pathologic information about the regional lymph nodes after partial or complete lymphadenectomy. Pathologic Stage 0 or Stage IA patients are the exception; they do not require pathologic evaluation of their lymph nodes.

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**Padhraic Smyth**



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