

# Melanoma of the Skin Staging

## 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:

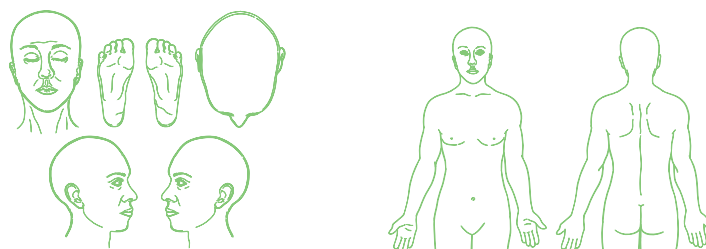
T CLASSIFICATION	THICKNESS (mm)	ULCERATION STATUS/MITOSES
<b>T1</b>	≤1.0	a: w/o ulceration and mitosis <1/mm <sup>2</sup> b: with ulceration or mitoses ≥1/mm <sup>2</sup>
<b>T2</b>	1.01–2.0	a: w/o ulceration b: with ulceration
<b>T3</b>	2.01–4.0	a: w/o ulceration b: with ulceration
<b>T4</b>	>4.0	a: w/o ulceration 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	NODAL METASTATIC MASS
<b>N1</b>	1 node	a: micrometastasis <sup>1</sup> b: macrometastasis <sup>2</sup>
<b>N2</b>	2–3 nodes	a: micrometastasis <sup>1</sup> b: macrometastasis <sup>2</sup> c: in transit met(s)/satellite(s) without metastatic nodes
<b>N3</b>	4 or more metastatic nodes, or matted nodes, or in transit met(s)/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
<b>M1a</b>	Distant skin, subcutaneous, or nodal mets	Normal
<b>M1b</b>	Lung metastases	Normal
<b>M1c</b>	All other visceral metastases	Normal
	Any distant metastasis	Elevated

ANATOMIC STAGE/PROGNOSTIC GROUPS							
Clinical Staging <sup>3</sup>				Pathologic Staging <sup>4</sup>			
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
					T1–4a	N2a	M0
					T1–4b	N1a	M0
	IIIB	T1–4b	N2a	M0			
		T1–4a	N1b	M0			
		T1–4a	N2b	M0			
		T1–4a	N2c	M0			
		T1–4b	N1b	M0			
		T1–4b	N2b	M0			
	IIIC	T1–4b	N2c	M0			
		Any T	N3	M0			
		Any T	N3	M0			
Stage IV	Any T	Any N	M1	IV	Any T	Any N	M1

## Notes

- <sup>1</sup> Micrometastases are diagnosed after sentinel lymph node biopsy and completion lymphadenectomy (if performed).
- <sup>2</sup> Macrometastases are defined as clinically detectable nodal metastases confirmed by therapeutic lymphadenectomy or when nodal metastasis exhibits gross extracapsular extension.
- <sup>3</sup> Clinical staging includes microstaging of the primary melanoma and clinical/radiologic evaluation for metastases. By convention, it should be used after complete excision of the primary melanoma with clinical assessment for regional and distant metastases.
- <sup>4</sup> 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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