

Table I. TNM Staging of Thyroid Cancer

Definitions of TNM

<i>Primary Tumor (T)</i>	
Note: All categories may be subdivided: (s) solitary tumor and (m) multifocal tumor (the largest determines the classification).	
TX	Primary tumor cannot be assessed
T0	No evidence of primary tumor
T1	Tumor 2 cm or less in greatest dimension limited to the thyroid
T1a	Tumor 1 cm or less, limited to the thyroid
T1b	Tumor more than 1 cm but not more than 2 cm in greatest dimension, limited to the thyroid
T2	Tumor more than 2 cm but not more than 4 cm in greatest dimension limited to the thyroid
T3	Tumor more than 4 cm in greatest dimension limited to the thyroid or any tumor with minimal extrathyroid extension (e.g., extension to sternothyroid muscle or perithyroid soft tissues)
T4a	Moderately advanced disease. Tumor of any size extending beyond the thyroid capsule to invade subcutaneous soft tissues, larynx, trachea, esophagus, or recurrent laryngeal nerve
T4b	Very advanced disease. Tumor invades prevertebral fascia or encases carotid artery or mediastinal vessels
<i>All anaplastic carcinomas are considered T4 tumors</i>	
T4a	Intrathyroidal anaplastic carcinoma
T4b	Anaplastic carcinoma with gross extrathyroid extension

Regional Lymph Nodes (N)	
Regional lymph nodes are the central compartment, lateral cervical, and upper mediastinal lymph nodes.	
NX	Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed.
N0	No regional lymph node metastasis
N1	Regional lymph node metastasis
N1a	Metastasis to Level VI (pretracheal, paratracheal, and prelaryngeal/Delphian lymph nodes)
N1b	Metastasis to unilateral, bilateral, or contralateral cervical (Levels I, II, III, IV or V) or retropharyngeal or superior mediastinal lymph nodes (Level VII)

Distant Metastasis (M)	
M0	No distant metastasis
M1	Distant metastasis

Anatomic Stage / Prognostic Groups

Separate stage groupings are recommended for papillary or follicular (differentiated), medullary, and anaplastic (undifferentiated) carcinoma.

Papillary or Follicular (Differentiated)

UNDER 45 YEARS

GROUP	T	N	M
I	Any T	Any N	M0
II	Any T	Any N	M1

Papillary or Follicular (Differentiated)

45 YEARS AND OLDER

GROUP	T	N	M
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I	T1	N0	M0
II	T2	N0	M0
	T3	N0	M0
III	T1	N1a	M0
	T2	N1a	M0
	T3	N1a	M0
IVA	T4a	N0	M0
	T4a	N1a	M0
	T1	N1b	M0
	T2	N1b	M0
	T3	N1b	M0
	T4a	N1b	M0
IVB	T4b	Any N	M0
IVC	Any T	Any N	M1
<i>Medullary Carcinoma (All age groups)</i>			
GROUP	T	N	M
I	T1	N0	M0
II	T2	N0	M0
	T3	N0	M0
III	T1	N1a	M0
	T2	N1a	M0
	T3	N1a	M0
IVA	T4a	N0	M0
	T4a	N1a	M0

	T1	N1b	M0
	T2	N1b	M0
	T3	N1b	M0
	T4a	N1b	M0
IVB	T4B	Any N	M0
IVC	Any T	Any N	M1
Anaplastic Carcinoma			
All anaplastic carcinomas are considered Stage IV			
GROUP	T	N	M
IVA	T4a	Any N	M0
IVB	T4b	Any N	M0
IVC	Any T	Any N	M1

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