

Lung Cancer Staging

7th EDITION

Definitions

Primary Tumor (T)

TX Primary tumor cannot be assessed, or tumor proven by the presence of malignant cells in sputum or bronchial washings but not visualized by imaging or bronchoscopy

T0 No evidence of primary tumor

Tis Carcinoma in situ

T1 Tumor 3 cm or less in greatest dimension, surrounded by lung or visceral pleura, without bronchoscopic evidence of invasion more proximal than the lobar bronchus (for example, not in the main bronchus)¹

T1a Tumor 2 cm or less in greatest dimension

T1b Tumor more than 2 cm but 3 cm or less in greatest dimension

T2 Tumor more than 3 cm but 7 cm or less or tumor with any of the following features (T2 tumors with these features are classified T2a if 5 cm or less): involves main bronchus, 2 cm or more distal to the carina; invades visceral pleura (PL1 or PL2); associated with atelectasis or obstructive pneumonitis that extends to the hilar region but does not involve the entire lung

T2a Tumor more than 3 cm but 5 cm or less in greatest dimension

T2b Tumor more than 5 cm but 7 cm or less in greatest dimension

T3 Tumor more than 7 cm or one that directly invades any of the following: parietal pleural (PL3), chest wall (including superior sulcus tumors), diaphragm, phrenic nerve, mediastinal pleura, parietal pericardium; or tumor in the main bronchus less than 2 cm distal to the carina¹ but without involvement of the carina; or associated atelectasis or obstructive pneumonitis of the entire lung or separate tumor nodule(s) in the same lobe

T4 Tumor of any size that invades any of the following: mediastinum, heart, great vessels, trachea, recurrent laryngeal nerve, esophagus, vertebral body, carina, separate tumor nodule(s) in a different ipsilateral lobe

Distant Metastasis (M)

M0 No distant metastasis

M1 Distant metastasis

M1a Separate tumor nodule(s) in a contralateral lobe, tumor with pleural nodules or malignant pleural (or pericardial) effusion²

M1b Distant metastasis (in extrathoracic organs)

Notes

¹ The uncommon superficial spreading tumor of any size with its invasive component limited to the bronchial wall, which may extend proximally to the main bronchus, is also classified as T1a.

² Most pleural (and pericardial) effusions with lung cancer are due to tumor. In a few patients, however, multiple cytopathologic examinations of pleural (pericardial) fluid are negative for tumor, and the fluid is nonbloody and is not an exudate. Where these elements and clinical judgment dictate that the effusion is not related to the tumor, the effusion should be excluded as a staging element and the patient should be classified as M0.

ANATOMIC STAGE/PROGNOSTIC GROUPS			
Occult Carcinoma	TX	N0	M0
Stage 0	Tis	N0	M0
Stage IA	T1a	N0	M0
	T1b	N0	M0
Stage IB	T2a	N0	M0
Stage IIA	T2b	N0	M0
	T1a	N1	M0
	T1b	N1	M0
Stage IIB	T2a	N1	M0
	T2b	N1	M0
Stage IIIA	T3	N0	M0
	T3	N1	M0
	T3	N2	M0
	T4	N0	M0
	T4	N1	M0
	T1a	N2	M0
	T1b	N2	M0
Stage IIIB	T2a	N2	M0
	T2b	N2	M0
	T3	N2	M0
	T3	N3	M0
	T4	N2	M0
	T4	N3	M0
Stage IV	Any T	Any N	M1a
	Any T	Any N	M1b

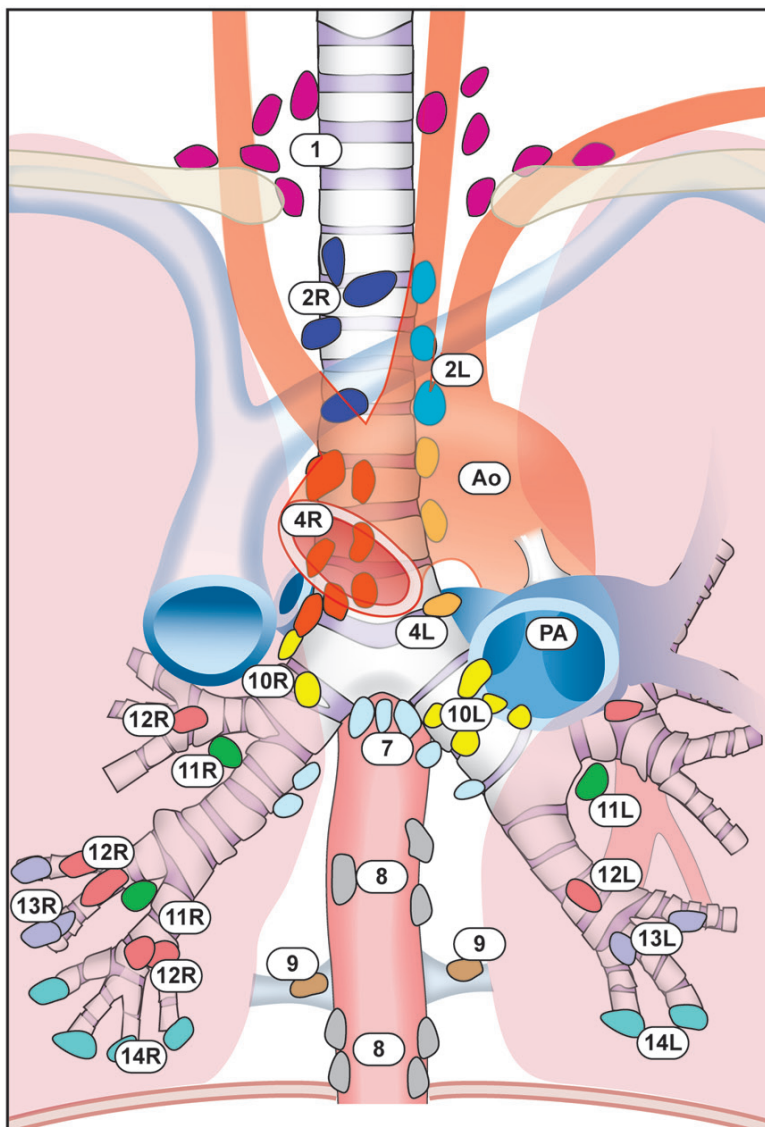


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Supraclavicular zone

- **1** Low cervical, supraclavicular, and sternal notch nodes

Superior Mediastinal Nodes

Upper zone

- **2R** Upper Paratracheal (right)
- **2L** Upper Paratracheal (left)
- **3a** Pre-vascular
- **3p** Retrotracheal
- **4R** Lower Paratracheal (right)
- **4L** Lower Paratracheal (left)

Aortic Nodes

AP zone

- **5** Subaortic
- **6** Para-aortic (ascending aorta or phrenic)

Inferior Mediastinal Nodes

Subcarinal zone

- **7** Subcarinal

Lower zone

- **8** Paraesophageal (below carina)
- **9** Pulmonary ligament

N₁ Nodes

Hilar/Interlobar zone

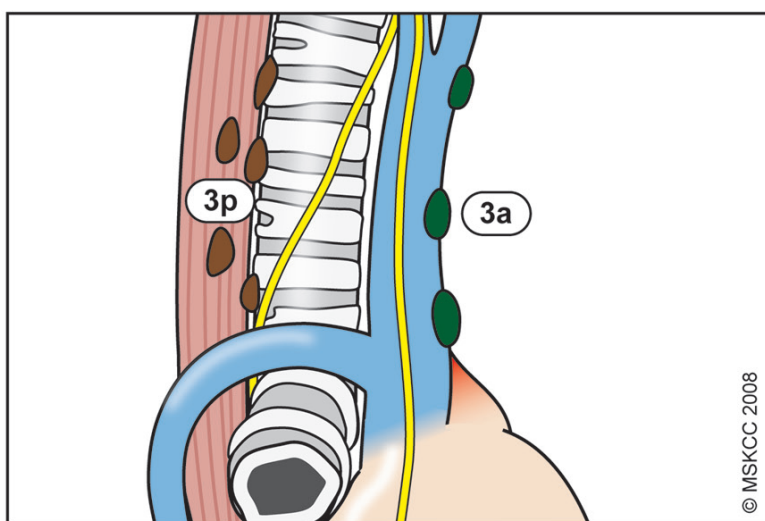
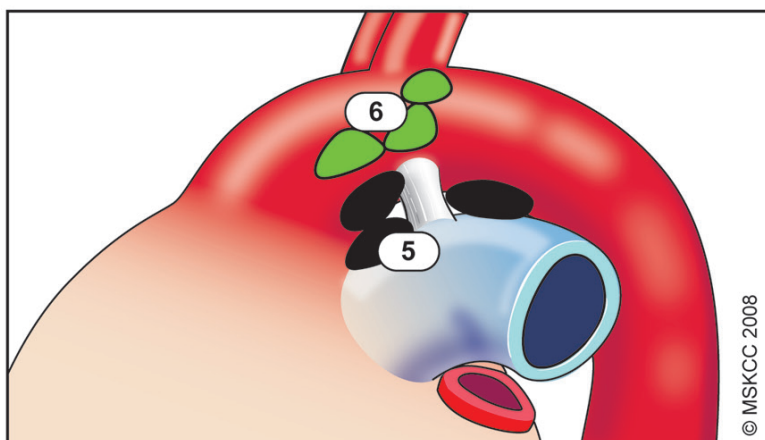
- **10** Hilar
- **11** Interlobar

Peripheral zone

- **12** Lobar
- **13** Segmental
- **14** Subsegmental

Regional Lymph Nodes (N)

- NX** Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed
- N0** No regional lymph node metastases
- N1** Metastasis in ipsilateral peribronchial and/or ipsilateral hilar lymph nodes and intrapulmonary nodes, including involvement by direct extension
- N2** Metastasis in ipsilateral mediastinal and/or subcarinal lymph node(s)
- N3** Metastasis in contralateral mediastinal, contralateral hilar, ipsilateral or contralateral scalene, or supraclavicular lymph node(s)



ILLUSTRATION

The IASLC lymph node map shown with the proposed amalgamation of lymph into zones.

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