

TNM - CLASSIFICATION OF MALIGNANT TUMOURS



A MEMBERSHIP ORGANISATION
FIGHTING CANCER TOGETHER

ABOUT TNM

Through the support of numerous cancer experts from around the globe, UICC has been convening volunteers to achieve and publish the UICC TNM classification of malignant tumours for over 50 years. The extent of disease, or stage, is the most requisite factor to predict cancer outcome and guide cancer treatment. The UICC TNM classification is the internationally accepted standard for cancer staging.

SUMMARY OF SLIDE 1 (TNM CLASSIFICATION)

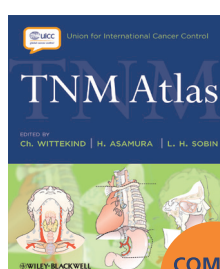
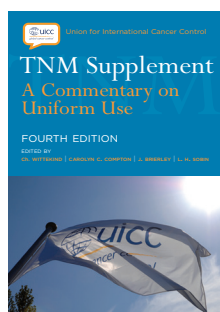
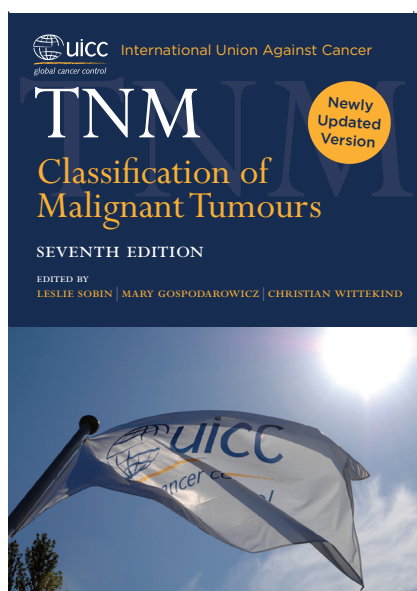
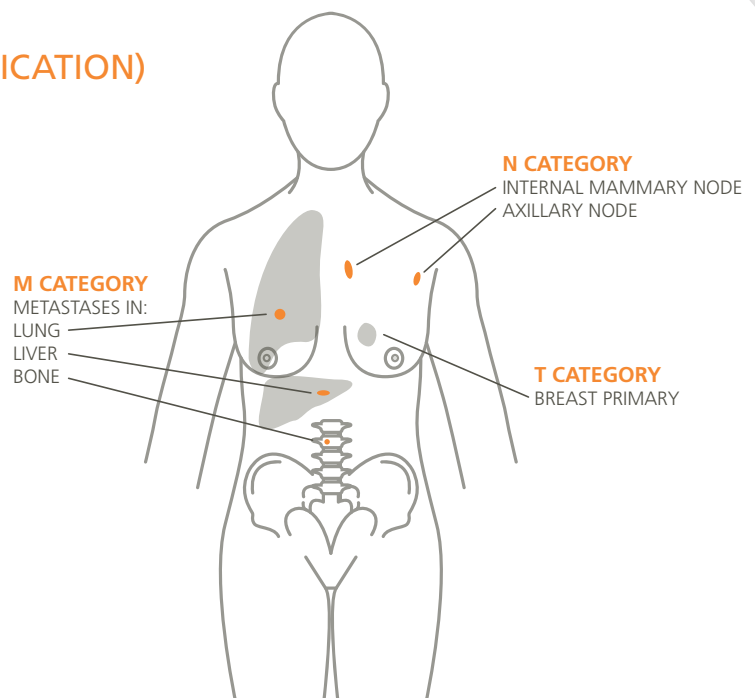
TNM CLASSIFICATION

An anatomically based system that records the primary and regional nodal extent of the tumor and the absence or presence of metastases.

Each individual aspect of TNM is termed a category.

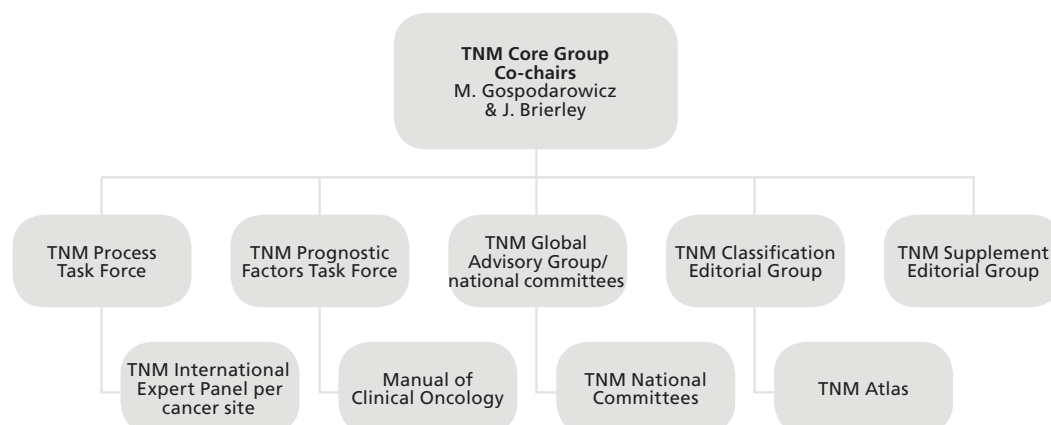
- **T category** describes the primary tumor site
- **N category** describes the regional lymph node involvement
- **M category** describes the presence or otherwise of distant metastatic spread

The definition of each category depends on the site and histology of the cancer and are described in detail in the 7th edition.



The TNM system is the common language in which oncology health professionals can communicate on the cancer staging for individual patients as a basis for decision making on treatment management and individual prognosis but also on a population basis to inform and evaluate treatment guidelines, national cancer planning and research. TNM staging is rightly a foundation of many fields of cancer control and as such is often exposed to pressures to evolve rapidly as our understanding of cancer biology increases, with the contrasting need to maintain stability and consistency in the long term and provide a simple system that can be used on a global basis and allow comparisons over time. These competing pressures explain the need for achieving and maintaining consensus in a constantly changing environment. UICC is both proud to have established the TNM staging classification and is committed to promoting its collection at the centre of global cancer control and classification of disease.

HOW IS THE GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE AND CONSENSUS FOR THE UICC TNM CLASSIFICATION MAINTAINED?



GLOBAL ADVISORY GROUP

The TNM Global Advisory Group is a network of multidisciplinary national or regional TNM committees which serve as TNM envoys, promoting, disseminating and educating in the use of the classification. These groups can also provide input to the annual literature review by providing national publications and non-English language articles for consideration as well as reviewing the outputs of the literature review when requested, providing evidence-based expert opinion on the development and enhancement of staging and prognostic factors classification. We also encourage the establishment of local language help desk functions to augment the global service provided via the UICC website.

The current Global Advisory Group is composed of representatives from all WHO regions.

NATIONAL COMMITTEES ON CANCER STAGING:

- **Have multidisciplinary representation** including medical, radiation, and surgical oncology, pathology, cancer registry, epidemiology, and statistics;
- **Develop a process for regular interaction** (through face to face meetings or teleconferences) and discussion to meet the needs of its constituency;
- **Represent the national/regional organisations** on appropriate national and international cancer staging committees;
- **Be a member of the UICC TNM Project Global Advisory Group** and provide an annual report on their activities;
- **Act as a conduit for proposals** for changes to the TNM classification using accepted premises supported by the international scientific community and the UICC.

If you are interested in joining an existing committee of the Global Advisory Group or wish to establish a new committee in your country or region, we would be pleased to hear from you.



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