

Table 1. Thyroid Carcinoma Staging according to the TNM/UICC System, 6th Edition (2002) (60,61)

Primary Tumor Size

Tx	Primary tumor cannot be assessed
T0	No evidence of primary tumor
T1	Tumor size: maximal 2 cm, limited to the thyroid
T2	Tumor size: >2 cm and ≤4 cm, limited to the thyroid
T3	Tumor size: >4 cm, limited to the thyroid, or any tumor with minimal extrathyroid extension (i.e., to sternothyroid muscle or perithyroid soft tissues)
T4	T4a: tumor extends beyond the thyroid capsule and invades subcutaneous soft tissues, larynx, trachea, esophagus, or recurrent laryngeal nerve T4b: tumor invades prevertebral fascia, mediastinal vessels, or encases carotid artery

Presence of Regional Lymph Node Metastasis

Nx	Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed
N0	No regional lymph node metastasis
N1	Regional lymph node metastasis
N1a	Metastasis in Level VI (pretracheal and paratracheal, including prelaryngeal and Delphian lymph nodes)
N1b	Metastasis in other unilateral, bilateral, or contralateral cervical or mediastinal lymph nodes

Presence of Distant Metastasis

Mx	Distant metastasis cannot be assessed
M0	No distant metastasis
M1	Distant metastasis

Derivant TNM/UICC Clinicopathologic Stages

Stage I	Tx Nx M0 <45 yrs T1 N0 M0 ≥45 yrs
Stage II	Tx Nx M1 <45 yrs T2 N0 M0 ≥45 yrs
Stage III	T3 N0 M0 ≥45 yrs T1–3 N1a M0 ≥45 yrs
Stage IV	A: T1–3 N1b M0 ≥45 yrs or T4a N0–1 M0 ≥45 yrs B: T4b Nx M0 ≥45 yrs C: Tx Nx M1 ≥45 yrs

Abbreviations: UICC: Union Internationale Contre le Cancer, yrs: years of age