

TNM classification for oropharyngeal cancer

TNM CATEGORIES		DEFINITION	
T	TX	Primary tumor cannot be assessed	
	T0	No evidence of primary tumor	
	Tis	Carcinoma in situ	
	T1	Tumor 2 cm or less in greatest dimension	
	T2	Tumor more than 2 cm but not more than 4 cm in greatest dimension	
	T3	Tumor more than 4 cm in greatest dimension or extension to lingual surface of epiglottis	
	T4	T4a	Tumor invades any of the following: larynx, deep/extrinsic muscle of tongue (genioglossus, hyoglossus, palatoglossus, and styloglossus), medial pterygoid, hard palate, or mandible
T4b		Tumor invades any of the following: lateral pterygoid muscle, pterygoid plates, lateral nasopharynx, skull base; or encases carotid artery	
N	NX	Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed	
	NO	No regional lymph node metastasis	
	N1	Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node, 3 cm or less in greatest dimension	
	N2	N2a	Metastasis in a single ipsilateral lymph node, more than 3 cm but not more than 6 cm in greatest dimension
		N2b	Metastasis in multiple ipsilateral lymph nodes, none more than 6 cm in greatest dimension
		N2b	Metastasis in bilateral or contralateral lymph nodes, none more than 6 cm in greatest dimension
N3	Metastasis in a lymph node more than 6 cm in greatest dimension		
M	M0	No distant metastasis	
	M1	Distant metastasis	