

Tumour dimensions (Core and Non-core)

The dimension is that of the microscopically proven dominant tumour, based upon a reconciliation of the imaging, macroscopic and microscopic findings. The dominant tumour is defined as the most clinically relevant tumour because of its aggressiveness and/or its higher T stage. As such, it is often, but not necessarily, the largest tumour. Tumour size has an impact on prognosis and is a component of TNM staging. For example, papillary carcinomas measuring 1 cm or less are associated with an excellent prognosis, while tumours measuring over 4 cm are associated with a worse prognosis.¹ If the exact tumour size cannot be measured, the report should mention the reason such as specimen fragmentation or a grossly positive margin.

References

- 1 Machens A, Holzhausen HJ and Dralle H (2005). The prognostic value of primary tumor size in papillary and follicular thyroid carcinoma. *Cancer* 103(11):2269-2273.