

Extent of pleural involvement (Recommended)

Although tumour penetration beyond the visceral pleural elastic layer has been shown to have the same prognostic significance as tumour extending to the visceral pleural surface (see above), the pathologist may wish to provide greater detail in the report by documenting the extent of pleural invasion. A scheme for classifying pleural involvement by tumour put forth by Hammar, which has been recognised by the Japan Lung Society and recently undergone slight modification by the International Staging Committee, is as follows:

PL0, no penetration beyond the visceral pleural elastic layer;

PL1, tumour penetration beyond the visceral pleural elastic layer;

PL2, tumour extension to the visceral pleural surface; and

PL3, extension into the parietal pleura.^{1,2}

PL0 is categorized as VPI absent, while both PL1 and PL2 types of VPI change the category of otherwise T1 tumours to T2. Tumours that would otherwise be categorized as T1 or T2 are changed to T3 in the presence of type PL3 pleural involvement.¹

References

- 1 Travis WD, Brambilla E, Rami-Porta R, Vallières E, Tsuboi M, Rusch V and Goldstraw P (2008). Visceral pleural invasion: pathologic criteria and use of elastic stains: proposal for the 7th edition of the TNM classification for lung cancer. *J Thorac Oncol* 3(12):1384–1390.
- 2 Dail DH and Hammar SP (eds) (1994). *Pulmonary Pathology. 2nd ed*, Springer-Verlag, New York.