

Pathological staging (TNM 8th ed.) - Primary tumour (T) (Core)

In the 8th edition of the American Joint Commission on Cancer (AJCC)/Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) melanoma staging system,¹ tumour thickness and ulceration continue to define T1, T2, T3 and T4 categories.

If a partial biopsy of a melanoma has been performed, the maximum tumour thickness from the thicker of either the biopsy or definitive excision and presence of (nontraumatic) ulceration in either specimen should be recorded for pathological T categorization purposes.¹

The reference document, TNM Supplement: A commentary on uniform use, 4th Edition (C Wittekind editor) may be of assistance when staging.²

References

- 1 Amin MB, Edge SB and Greene FL et al (eds) (2017). *AJCC Cancer Staging Manual. 8th ed.*, Springer, New York.
- 2 Wittekind C (ed) (2012). *TNM Supplement : A Commentary on Uniform Use*, The Union for International Cancer Control (UICC), Wiley-Blackwell.