

## Vulva (ICD-O-3 C51)

The definitions of the T, N, and M categories correspond to the FIGO stages.

### Rules for Classification

The classification applies only to primary carcinomas of the vulva. There should be histological confirmation of the disease.

A carcinoma of the vulva that has extended to the vagina is classified as carcinoma of the vulva.

The following are the procedures for assessing T, N, and M categories:

T categories	Physical examination, endoscopy, and imaging
N categories	Physical examination and imaging
M categories	Physical examination and imaging

The FIGO stages are based on surgical staging. (TNM stages are based on clinical and/or pathological classification.)

### Regional Lymph Nodes

The regional lymph nodes are the inguinofemoral (groin) nodes.

### TNM Clinical Classification

#### T – Primary tumour

TX	Primary tumour cannot be assessed
T0	No evidence of primary tumour
Tis	Carcinoma in situ (preinvasive carcinoma), intraepithelial neoplasia grade III (VIN III)
T1	Tumour confined to vulva or vulva and perineum
T1a	Tumour 2 cm or less in greatest dimension and with stromal invasion no greater than 1.0 mm <sup>a</sup>
T1b	Tumour greater than 2 cm and or with stromal invasion greater than 1 mm <sup>a</sup>
T2	Tumour invades any of the following structures: lower third urethra, lower third vagina, anus

T3<sup>b</sup> Tumour invades any of the following perineal structures: upper 2/3 urethra, upper 2/3 vagina, bladder mucosa, rectal mucosa; or fixed to pelvic bone

#### Notes

<sup>a</sup> The depth of invasion is defined as the measurement of the tumour from the epithelial–stromal junction of the adjacent most superficial dermal papilla to the deepest point of invasion.

<sup>b</sup> T3 is not used by FIGO.

### N – Regional Lymph Nodes

NX Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed

N0 No regional lymph node metastasis

N1 Regional lymph node metastasis with the following features:

N1a One or two lymph node metastasis each less than 5 mm

N1b One lymph node metastases 5 mm or greater

N2 Regional lymph node metastasis with the following features:

N2a Three or more lymph node metastases each less than 5 mm

N2b Two or more lymph node metastases 5 mm or greater

N2c Lymph node metastasis with extracapsular spread

N3 Fixed or ulcerated regional lymph node metastasis

### M – Distant Metastasis

M0 No distant metastasis

M1 Distant metastasis (including pelvic lymph node metastasis)

### pTNM Pathological Classification

The pT and pN categories correspond to the T and N categories. For pM see page 8.

pN0 Histological examination of an inguinofemoral lymphadenectomy specimen will ordinarily include 6 or more lymph nodes. If the lymph nodes are negative, but the number ordinarily examined is not met, classify as pN0.

#### Stage

Stage 0	Tis	N0	M0
I	I	0	0
IA	IA	0	0

Stage IB	T1b	N0	M0
Stage II	T2	N0	M0
Stage IIIA	T1, T2	N1a, N1b	M0
Stage IIIB	T1, T2	N2a, N2b	M0
Stage IIIC	T1, T2	N2c	M0
Stage IVA	T1, T2	N3	M0
	T3	Any N	M0
Stage IVB	Any T	Any N	M1

### Prognostic Factors Grid – Vulva

Prognostic risk factors for cancer of the vulva

Prognostic factors	Tumour related	Host related	Environment related
Essential	Lymph node metastases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number</li> <li>• Size</li> <li>• Extracapsular tumour growth</li> </ul>		Experience of treating centre/ concentration of care for vulvar cancer patients in tertiary referral centres
Additional	FIGO stage Depth of invasion Diameter of primary tumour Histological type	Age Smoking Adjacent dermatosis (LS, VIN) Immune status	Surgical margins
New and promising	EGFR status p53 over-expression P16INK4a level Microvessel density	HPV status Pretreatment haemoglobin level	

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