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
    T1b  Tumour greater than 2 cm and or with stromal invasion greater than 1 mm

T2  Tumour invades any of the following structures: lower third urethra, lower third vagina, anus
T3b  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
a  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.
b  T3 is not used by pTIGO.

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 inguino-femoral 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Tis</th>
<th>N0</th>
<th>M0</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
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<td>Stage</td>
<td>T1b</td>
<td>N0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage II</td>
<td>T2</td>
<td>N0</td>
<td>M0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage IIIA</td>
<td>T1, T2</td>
<td>N1a, N1b</td>
<td>M0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage IIIB</td>
<td>T1, T2</td>
<td>N2a, N2b</td>
<td>M0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage IIIC</td>
<td>T1, T2</td>
<td>N2c</td>
<td>M0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage IVA</td>
<td>T1, T2</td>
<td>N3</td>
<td>M0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage IVB</td>
<td>T3</td>
<td>Any N</td>
<td>M0</td>
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**Prognostic Factors Grid – Vulva**

Prognostic risk factors for cancer of the vulva

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prognostic factors</th>
<th>Tumour related</th>
<th>Host related</th>
<th>Environment related</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Essential          | Lymph node metastases:  
|                    | • Number  
|                    | • Size  
|                    | • Extracapsular tumour growth | Experience of treating centre/ concentration of care for vulvar cancer patients in tertiary referral centres |
| Additional         | FIGO stage  
|                    | Depth of invasion | Age | Smoking | Adjacent dermatosis (LS, VIN) | Surgical margins |
|                    | Diameter of primary tumour | | | | |
|                    | Histological type | | | | |
| New and promising  | EGFR status  
|                    | p53 over-expression | HPV status | Pretreatment | haemoglobin level | |
|                    | P16INK4a level | | | | | |
|                    | Microvessel density | | | | | |