



Protocol for the Examination of Specimens From Patients With Primary Carcinoma of the Vulva

Version: Vulva 4.0.0.1

Protocol Posting Date: June 2017

Includes pTNM requirements from the 8th Edition, AJCC Staging Manual, and 2015 FIGO Cancer Report

For accreditation purposes, this protocol should be used for the following procedures AND tumor types:

Procedure	Description
Resection	Includes vulvectomy (with or without removal of other organs and tissues)
Tumor Type	Description
Carcinoma	Includes squamous cell carcinoma, adenocarcinoma and variants, carcinosarcoma, neuroendocrine carcinoma, and mixed epithelial – neuroendocrine tumors □

This protocol is NOT required for accreditation purposes for the following:

Procedure
Biopsy
Primary resection specimen with no residual cancer (eg, following neoadjuvant therapy)
Cytologic specimens

The following tumor types should NOT be reported using this protocol:

Tumor Type
Melanoma (consider the Skin Melanoma protocol)
Lymphoma (consider the Hodgkin or non-Hodgkin Lymphoma protocols)
Sarcoma (consider the Soft Tissue protocol)

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With guidance from the CAP Cancer and CAP Pathology Electronic Reporting Committees.

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Accreditation Requirements

This protocol can be utilized for a variety of procedures and tumor types for clinical care purposes. For accreditation purposes, only the definitive primary cancer resection specimen is required to have the core and conditional data elements reported in a synoptic format.

- Core data elements are required in reports to adequately describe appropriate malignancies. For accreditation purposes, essential data elements must be reported in all instances, even if the response is “not applicable” or “cannot be determined.”
- Conditional data elements are only required to be reported if applicable as delineated in the protocol. For instance, the total number of lymph nodes examined must be reported, but only if nodes are present in the specimen.
- Optional data elements are identified with “+” and although not required for CAP accreditation purposes, may be considered for reporting as determined by local practice standards.

The use of this protocol is not required for recurrent tumors or for metastatic tumors that are resected at a different time than the primary tumor. Use of this protocol is also not required for pathology reviews performed at a second institution (ie, secondary consultation, second opinion, or review of outside case at second institution).

Synoptic Reporting

All core and conditionally required data elements outlined on the surgical case summary from this cancer protocol must be displayed in synoptic report format. Synoptic format is defined as:

- Data element: followed by its answer (response), outline format without the paired "Data element: Response" format is NOT considered synoptic.
- The data element must be represented in the report as it is listed in the case summary. The response for any data element may be modified from those listed in the case summary, including “Cannot be determined” if appropriate.
- Each diagnostic parameter pair (Data element: Response) is listed on a separate line or in a tabular format to achieve visual separation. The following exceptions are allowed to be listed on one line:
 - Anatomic site or specimen, laterality, and procedure
 - Pathologic Stage Classification (pTNM) elements
 - Negative margins, as long as all negative margins are specifically enumerated where applicable
- The synoptic portion of the report can appear in the diagnosis section of the pathology report, at the end of the report or in a separate section, but all Data element: Responses must be listed together in one location

Organizations and pathologists may choose to list the required elements in any order, use additional methods in order to enhance or achieve visual separation, or add optional items within the synoptic report. The report may have required elements in a summary format elsewhere in the report IN ADDITION TO but not as replacement for the synoptic report i.e. all required elements must be in the synoptic portion of the report in the format defined above.

CAP Laboratory Accreditation Program Protocol Required Use Date: March 2018*

* Beginning January 1, 2018, the 8th edition AJCC Staging Manual should be used for reporting pTNM.

CAP Vulva Protocol Summary of Changes

Version 4.0.0.1 errata:

Explanatory Notes

- **MODIFIED** N1a IIIA 1 or 2 lymph node metastasis each less than 5 mm

Version 4.0.0.0:

The following data elements were modified:

Pathologic Staging Classification (pTNM) has been updated per AJCC 8th Edition. Additional revisions to this protocol have been made to support the AJCC 8th Edition elements and prognostic factors important to the treatment of the patient.

Deletion of Lymph Node Sampling section

Addition of Other Tissue/ Organ Involvement section

Surgical Pathology Cancer Case Summary

Protocol posting date: June 2017

VULVA:**Select a single response unless otherwise indicated.****Procedure (Note A)**

- Local excision
 Wide excision
 Partial vulvectomy
 Total vulvectomy
 Radical vulvectomy
 Other (specify): _____
 Not specified

Tumor Site (select all that apply)

- Right vulva
 + Labium majus
 + Labium minus
 + Bartholin gland
 Left vulva
 + Labium majus
 + Labium minus
 + Bartholin gland
 Clitoris
 Other (specify): _____
 Not specified

Tumor Size (Note B)

- Greatest dimension (centimeters): ____ cm
 + Additional dimensions (centimeters): ____ x ____ cm
 Cannot be determined (explain): _____

Tumor Focality

- Unifocal
 Multifocal
 Cannot be determined (explain): _____
 Not specified

Histologic Type (Notes C and D)

- Squamous cell carcinoma, NOS
 Squamous cell carcinoma, keratinizing
 Squamous cell carcinoma, nonkeratinizing
 Squamous cell carcinoma, basaloid
 Squamous cell carcinoma, verrucous
 Squamous cell carcinoma, warty
 Squamous cell carcinoma, papillary
 Adenocarcinoma, NOS
 Adenocarcinoma, mammary gland type
 Adenocarcinoma, skene gland type
 Adenocarcinoma, sweat gland type
 Adenocarcinoma, intestinal type
 Adenocarcinoma, with associated Paget disease

+ Data elements preceded by this symbol are not required for accreditation purposes. These optional elements may be clinically important but are not yet validated or regularly used in patient management.

- Adenosquamous carcinoma
- Transitional cell carcinoma
- Adenoid cystic carcinoma
- Adenoid basal carcinoma
- Small cell neuroendocrine carcinoma
- Large cell neuroendocrine carcinoma
- Undifferentiated carcinoma
- Other histologic type not listed (specify): _____
- Carcinoma, type cannot be determined

Histologic Grade

- G1: Well differentiated
- G2: Moderately differentiated
- G3: Poorly differentiated
- G4: Undifferentiated
- Other (specify): _____
- GX: Cannot be assessed
- Not applicable

Depth of Invasion (Note E)

- Specify depth of invasion (millimeters): mm
- Cannot be determined (explain): _____

+ Tumor Border (Note F)

- + Pushing
- + Infiltrating

Other Tissue/ Organ Involvement (select all that apply)

Note: Any organ not selected is either not involved or was not submitted.

- Not applicable
- Not identified
- Vagina, lower one-third
- Vagina, upper two-thirds
- Urethra, lower one-third
- Urethra, upper two-thirds
- Anus
- Bladder mucosa
- Rectal mucosa
- Pelvic bone
- Other organs/tissue (specify): _____
- Cannot be determined (explain): _____

Margins

Peripheral Margin

- Cannot be assessed (explain): _____
- Uninvolved by invasive carcinoma
 - + Distance of invasive carcinoma from margin (millimeters): mm
 - + Specify location: _____
- Involved by invasive carcinoma
 - Specify location(s), if possible: _____
- Uninvolved by intraepithelial neoplasia
- Involved by high-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion (VIN 2-3)
 - + Specify location(s): _____
- Involved by vulvar intraepithelial neoplasia, differentiated (simplex) type (dVIN)
 - + Specify location(s): _____

+ Data elements preceded by this symbol are not required for accreditation purposes. These optional elements may be clinically important but are not yet validated or regularly used in patient management.

___ Involved by Paget disease
+ Specify location(s): _____

Deep Margin

___ Cannot be assessed (explain): _____
 ___ Uninvolved by invasive carcinoma
 + Distance of invasive carcinoma from margin (millimeters): ___ mm
 + Specify location: _____
 ___ Involved by invasive carcinoma
 Specify location(s), if possible: _____
 ___ Uninvolved by intraepithelial neoplasia
 ___ Involved by high-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion (VIN 2-3)
 + Specify location(s): _____
 ___ Involved by vulvar intraepithelial neoplasia, differentiated (simplex) type (dVIN)
 + Specify location(s): _____
 ___ Involved by Paget disease
 + Specify location(s): _____

Lymphovascular Invasion (Note G)

___ Not identified
 ___ Present
 ___ Cannot be determined (explain): _____

Regional Lymph Nodes

Note: Only inguinal and femoral nodes are considered regional lymph nodes. Any other involved nodes should be categorized as metastases (pM1) and be commented on in the distant metastasis section. Presence of isolated tumor cells no greater than 0.2 mm in regional lymph node(s) is considered NO (i+).

___ No lymph nodes submitted or found

Lymph Node Examination (required only if lymph nodes are present in specimen)

Number of Nodes with Metastasis 5 mm or Greater: ____
 ___ Number cannot be determined (explain): _____

Number of Nodes with Metastasis Less than 5 mm (excludes ITCs): ____
 ___ Number cannot be determined (explain): _____

Number of Nodes with Isolated Tumor Cells (ITCs) (0.2 mm or less) (if applicable)[#]: ____
 ___ Number cannot be determined (explain): _____

[#] Reporting the number of lymph nodes with isolated tumor cells is required only in the absence of metastasis greater than 0.2 mm in other lymph nodes.

Specify Lymph Node(s) with Tumor (if applicable)[#]: _____

[#] Note: Information should include location and laterality of sentinel or non-sentinel regional lymph nodes with tumor.

Additional Lymph Node Findings (select all that apply) (required only if applicable) (Note I)

___ None identified
 ___ Extranodal extension
 ___ Fixed/ulcerated nodes
 ___ Other (specify): _____
 ___ Cannot be determined (explain): _____

Total Number of Nodes Examined (sentinel and nonsentinel): ____
 ___ Number cannot be determined (explain): _____
 Specify Site(s)[#]: _____

+ Data elements preceded by this symbol are not required for accreditation purposes. These optional elements may be clinically important but are not yet validated or regularly used in patient management.

Note: Information should include location and laterality of sentinel or non-sentinel regional lymph nodes examined.

Number of Sentinel Nodes Examined: _____
 ___ Number cannot be determined (explain): _____

Pathologic Stage Classification (pTNM, AJCC 8th Edition) (Note H)

Note: Reporting of pT, pN, and (when applicable) pM categories is based on information available to the pathologist at the time the report is issued. Only the applicable T, N, or M category is required for reporting; their definitions need not be included in the report. The categories (with modifiers when applicable) can be listed on 1 line or more than 1 line.

TNM Descriptors (required only if applicable) (select all that apply)

- ___ m (multiple primary tumors)
 ___ r (recurrent)
 ___ y (posttreatment)

Primary Tumor (pT)

- ___ pTX: Primary tumor cannot be assessed
 ___ pT0: No evidence of primary tumor
 ___ pT1: Tumor confined to the vulva and / or perineum[#]
 ___ pT1a: Lesions 2 cm or less, confined to the vulva and/or perineum, and with stromal invasion of 1.0 mm or less^{##}
 ___ pT1b: Lesions more than 2 cm, or any size with stromal invasion more than 1.0 mm, confined to the vulva and/or perineum
 ___ pT2: Tumor of any size with extension to adjacent perineal structures (lower/distal third of the urethra, lower/distal third of the vagina, anal involvement)
 ___ pT3: Tumor of any size with extension to any of the following: upper/proximal two-thirds of the urethra, upper/proximal two-thirds of the vagina, bladder mucosa, or rectal mucosa, or fixed to pelvic bone

Multifocal lesions should be designated as such. The largest lesion or the lesion with the greatest depth of invasion will be the target lesion identified to address the highest pT stage. Depth of invasion is defined as the measurement of the tumor from the epithelial–stromal junction of the adjacent most superficial dermal papilla to the deepest point of invasion.

Note: The LAST definition of superficial invasive squamous cell carcinoma (SISCCA) conforms to AJCC pT1a/FIGO IA

Regional Lymph Nodes (pN) (select all that apply)

- + Modifier
 + ___ (sn)
 + ___ (sn)(i-)
 + ___ (sn)(i+)

Category (pN)

- ___ pNX: Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed
 ___ pN0: No regional lymph node metastasis
 ___ pN0(i+): Isolated tumor cells in regional lymph node(s) no greater than 0.2 mm
 ___ pN1: Regional lymph node metastasis with one or two lymph node metastases each less than 5 mm, or one lymph node metastasis \geq 5 mm
 ___ pN1a: One or two lymph node metastases each less than 5 mm[#]
 ___ pN1b: One lymph node metastasis \geq 5 mm
 ___ pN2: Regional lymph node metastasis with three or more lymph node metastases each less than 5 mm, or two or more lymph node metastases \geq 5 mm, or lymph node(s) with extranodal extension
 ___ pN2a: Three or more lymph node metastases each less than 5 mm[#]
 ___ pN2b: Two or more lymph node metastases \geq 5 mm
 ___ pN2c: Lymph node(s) with extranodal extension
 ___ pN3: Fixed or ulcerated regional lymph node metastasis

Includes micrometastasis, N1mi and N2mi. The site, size, and laterality of lymph node metastases should be recorded.

Distant Metastasis (pM) (required only if confirmed pathologically in this case)

___ pM1: Distant metastasis (including pelvic lymph node metastasis)[#]
Specify site(s), if known: _____

[#] *Internal iliac/hypogastric, external iliac, and common iliac lymph nodes are considered distant metastasis.*

+ FIGO Stage (2015 FIGO Cancer Report)

- + ___ I: Tumor confined to the vulva
- + ___ IA: Lesions ≤2 cm in size, confined to the vulva or perineum and with stromal invasion ≤1.0 mm, no nodal metastasis[#]
- + ___ IB: Lesions >2 cm in size or with stromal invasion >1.0 mm, confined to the vulva and/or perineum, with negative nodes
- + ___ II: Tumor of any size with extension to adjacent perineal structures (lower third of urethra, lower third of vagina, anus) with negative nodes
- + ___ III: Tumor of any size with or without extension to adjacent perineal structures (lower third of urethra, lower third of vagina, anus) with positive inguinofemoral nodes
- + ___ IIIA: With 1 lymph node metastasis (≥5 mm)
- + ___ IIIA: With 1 to 2 lymph node metastasis(es) (<5 mm)
- + ___ IIIB: With 2 or more lymph node metastases (≥5 mm)
- + ___ IIIB: With 3 or more lymph node metastases (<5 mm)
- + ___ IIIC: With positive nodes with extracapsular spread
- + ___ IV: Tumor invades other regional (upper two-thirds urethra, upper two-thirds vagina), or distant structures
- + ___ IVA: Tumor invades any of the following: upper urethral and/or vaginal mucosa, bladder mucosa, rectal mucosa, or fixed to pelvic bone, or fixed or ulcerated inguinofemoral lymph nodes
- + ___ IVB: Any distant metastasis including pelvic lymph nodes

[#] *Note: The LAST definition of superficial invasive squamous cell carcinoma (SISCCA) conforms to AJCC pT1a/FIGO IA.*

+ Additional Pathologic Findings (select all that apply) (Note I)

- + ___ None identified
- + ___ Condyloma accuminatum
- + ___ High grade squamous intraepithelial lesion (VIN 2-3)
- + ___ Low grade squamous intraepithelial lesion (VIN 1)
- + ___ Vulvar intraepithelial neoplasia, differentiated (simplex) type (dVIN)
- + ___ Lichen sclerosus
- + ___ Other (specify): _____

+ Comment(s)

Explanatory Notes

A. Suggestions for Sampling of Tissue Removed for Diagnosis or Treatment of Vulvar Carcinoma

Tumor

Sections taken will vary with procedure, as designated by the surgeon.¹ Sections to include the following should be taken (if appropriate):

- Tumor, representative sections, including site of deepest invasion and interface of tumor with adjacent epithelium
- Resection margins
- Sections of abnormal epithelium or other tissue remote from tumor
- Sections of areas(s) marked by surgeon
- Sections of prior biopsy or resection site of tumor if no tumor present grossly

Lymph Nodes

The femoral and inguinal lymph nodes are the sites of regional spread.^{1,2} When inguinal-femoral lymphadenectomy is performed, 6 or more lymph nodes will normally be included^{1,2}; 1 or more sections of all lymph nodes identified should be taken, depending on presence or absence of gross tumor as well as size of lymph node. In addition, sections to confirm presence or absence of extranodal extension should be taken.

Other Organs and Tissues

Other organs and tissues may be submitted with the vulva specimen. Sections to include the following should be taken (if appropriate):

- Sections to demonstrate presence or absence of tumor
- Sections to demonstrate its relation, if present, to vulvar tumor (contiguous or metastatic)
- Sections of other lesions, if present
- Resection margins

If frozen section analysis was performed, those tissue fragment(s) should be submitted.

B. Size of Tumor

Assessment of gross size of the tumor is important for staging. The tumor should be accurately measured to determine if its maximum dimension is ≤ 2 cm or >2 cm.

C. Etiology/Pathogenesis

Two pathways have been elucidated in the pathogenesis of invasive vulvar carcinoma.⁵⁻⁷ The first pathway involves classic vulvar intraepithelial neoplasia (VIN), which is associated with high-risk human papillomavirus (HPV) subtypes (16 > 18) and is histologically similar to dysplasia seen in the cervix. It tends to be multifocal and more common in younger women, with a relatively low risk of progression into an invasive squamous cell carcinoma. It is usually diffusely positive with p16 immunostain (reflecting HPV association). The associated invasive component is often basaloid or warty in morphology. The second pathway is referred to as differentiated or simplex VIN (dVIN). dVIN is not associated with HPV, but instead with vulvar dystrophy such as lichen sclerosus, lichen simplex chronicus, and squamous cell hyperplasia. The morphologic features are more subtle, with atypia noted in the parabasal cells. The associated invasive component is keratinizing and can be associated with p53 mutations. This subtype usually occurs in older women. Of note, overlap does exist between the 2 pathways, with some tumors exhibiting morphologic and/or clinical features of each.

	Keratinizing Squamous Carcinoma	Basaloid Squamous Carcinoma
Prevalence	More common (approximately 80%)	Less common (approximately 20%)
Age	Older females	Younger females
Distribution	Usually unifocal, may be multifocal	Often multifocal
Association with multifocal lower genital tract neoplasia	Rare	Common
Morphology	Keratinizing	Warty
Associated vulvar intraepithelial neoplasia (VIN)	Uncommon: differentiated type	Common: classic type
Association with high risk human papillomavirus (HPV)	No	Yes Type 16>18
Association with vulvar dystrophy	Common	Rare
Immunohistochemistry	p53: Some cases positive p16: Negative or focally positive at stromal interface	p53: Negative p16: Positive

Adapted from McCluggage.⁵

D. Histologic Type

The following is an abbreviated, slightly modified version of the World Health Organization (WHO) classification of histologic types of malignant and premalignant vulvar epithelial tumors.^{3,9,10}

WHO and Lower Anogenital Squamous Terminology (LAST) Classification of Vulvar Epithelial Tumors and Related Lesions

Squamous Intraepithelial Lesions

- Low-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion (VIN 1)
- High-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion (VIN 2-3)
- Differentiated (simplex) vulvar intraepithelial neoplasia (dVIN)

Invasive Carcinomas

- Squamous cell carcinoma
 - Superficially invasive (LAST classification, not WHO)¹¹
 - Keratinizing
 - Nonkeratinizing
 - Basaloid
 - Warty
 - Verrucous

Glandular Tumors

- Invasive Paget disease/Adenocarcinoma with associated Paget disease
- Bartholin gland tumors
 - Adenocarcinoma
 - Squamous cell carcinoma
 - Adenoid cystic carcinoma
 - Adenosquamous carcinoma
 - Transitional cell carcinoma

Adenocarcinoma

- Mammary gland type
- Skene gland origin
- Sweat gland type
- Intestinal type

Neuroendocrine Tumors

- Small cell neuroendocrine carcinoma
- Large cell neuroendocrine carcinoma
- Merkel cell carcinoma

Undifferentiated carcinoma**E. Depth of Invasion**

Tumor thickness and depth of invasion are separate measurements. Tumor thickness of a squamous cell carcinoma is measured in millimeters from the surface of the tumor or, if there is surface keratinization, from the bottom of the granular layer, to the deepest point of invasion.^{3,4} Tumor thickness is NOT a parameter used in staging.

The depth of invasion of squamous cell carcinoma is defined as the measurement in millimeters from the epithelial-stromal junction of the adjacent, most superficial dermal papilla to the deepest point of invasion.²⁻⁴ This parameter is important for tumor staging, especially for small tumors.

F. Tumor Growth Pattern

Vulvar squamous cell carcinomas can generally be separated into those tumors that have a predominately infiltrating (finger-like) pattern and those that invade with a broad, pushing front (verrucous carcinoma). In some studies, infiltrating invasion is associated with a higher frequency of regional lymph node metastasis and should be noted in the report.¹²

G. Lymphatic/Blood Vessel Invasion

Vascular space invasion by squamous cell carcinoma has been associated with a poorer prognosis, including a risk factor for regional lymph node metastasis, and should be noted in the report.¹³⁻¹⁵

H. Pathologic Stage Classification

The TNM staging system of the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) and the International Union Against Cancer (UICC) for carcinoma of the vulva is recommended and is shown below.^{2,16} Comparison with FIGO staging is also shown.¹⁷⁻¹⁹

According to AJCC/UICC convention, the designation “T” refers to a primary tumor that has not been previously treated. The symbol “p” refers to the pathologic classification of the TNM, as opposed to the clinical classification, and is based on gross and microscopic examination. pT entails a resection of the primary tumor or biopsy adequate to evaluate the highest pT category, pN entails removal of nodes adequate to validate lymph node metastasis, and pM implies microscopic examination of distant lesions. Clinical classification (cTNM) is usually carried out by the referring physician before treatment during initial evaluation of the patient or when pathologic classification is not possible.

Pathologic staging is usually performed after surgical resection of the primary tumor. Pathologic staging depends on pathologic documentation of the anatomic extent of disease, whether or not the primary tumor has been completely removed. If a biopsied tumor is not resected for any reason (eg, when technically infeasible) and if the highest T and N categories or the M1 category of the tumor can be confirmed microscopically, the criteria for pathologic classification and staging have been satisfied without total removal of the primary cancer.

TNM Descriptors

For identification of special cases of TNM or pTNM classifications, the “m” suffix and “y,” “r,” and “a” prefixes are used. Although they do not affect the stage grouping, they indicate cases needing separate analysis.

The “m” suffix indicates the presence of multiple primary tumors in a single site and is recorded in parentheses: pT(m)NM.

The “y” prefix indicates those cases in which classification is performed during or after initial multimodality therapy. The cTNM or pTNM category is identified by a “y” prefix. The ycTNM or ypTNM categorizes the extent of tumor actually present at the time of that examination. The “y” categorization is not an estimate of tumor before multimodality therapy.

The “r” prefix indicates a recurrent tumor when staged after a disease-free interval and is identified by the “r” prefix: rTNM.

The “a” prefix designates the stage determined at autopsy: aTNM.

Additional Descriptors

Residual Tumor (R)

The absence or presence of residual tumor after treatment. In some cases treated with surgery and/or neoadjuvant therapy there will be residual tumor at the primary site after treatment because of incomplete resection or local and regional disease that extends beyond the limit of ability of resection.

RX	Presence of residual tumor cannot be assessed
R0	No residual tumor
R1	Microscopic residual tumor
R2	Macroscopic residual tumor

For the surgeon, the R classification may be useful to indicate the known or assumed status of the completeness of a surgical excision. For the pathologist, the R classification is relevant to the status of the margins of a surgical resection specimen. That is, tumor involving the resection margin on pathologic examination may be assumed to correspond to residual tumor in the patient and may be classified as macroscopic or microscopic according to the findings at the specimen margin(s).

T Category Considerations

Lymphovascular Invasion

Lymphovascular invasion (LVI) indicates whether microscopic lymphovascular invasion is identified. LVI includes lymphatic invasion, vascular invasion, or lymphovascular invasion. According to AJCC/UICC convention, LVI does not affect the T category indicating local extent of tumor unless specifically included in the definition of a T category.

N Category Considerations

Isolated tumor cells (ITCs) are single cells or small clusters of cells not more than 0.2 mm in greatest dimension. Lymph nodes or distant sites with ITCs found by either histologic examination (eg, immunohistochemical evaluation for cytokeratin) or nonmorphological techniques (eg, flow cytometry, DNA analysis, polymerase chain reaction [PCR] amplification of a specific tumor marker) should be so identified. There is currently no guidance in the literature as to how these patients should be coded; until more data are available, they should be coded as “NO(i+)” with a comment noting how the cells were identified.

Sentinel Lymph Nodes

The sentinel lymph node is the first node to receive drainage from a primary tumor. There may be more than 1 sentinel node for some tumors. If a sentinel node contains metastatic tumor, it indicates that other more distant nodes may also contain metastatic disease. If sentinel nodes are negative, other regional nodes are less likely to contain metastasis.^{1,14}

Extranodal Extension/Nodal Replacement

Both extranodal extension and the size of lymph node metastasis have been shown to reflect prognosis and should be noted in the report.^{2,14,20,21}

TNM and FIGO Staging Systems for Vulvar Carcinoma**Primary Tumor (T)**

TNM Categories	FIGO Stages	
TX		Primary tumor cannot be assessed
T0		No evidence of primary tumor
T1a	IA	Lesions 2 cm or less in size, confined to the vulva or perineum and with stromal invasion 1.0 mm or less ^{*#}
T1b	IB	Lesions more than 2 cm in size or any size with stromal invasion more than 1.0 mm, confined to the vulva or perineum
T2	II	Tumor of any size with extension to adjacent perineal structures (lower/distal one-third urethra, lower/distal one-third vagina, anal involvement)
T3	IVA	Tumor of any size with extension to any of the following: upper/proximal two-thirds of urethra, upper/proximal two-thirds vagina, bladder mucosa, rectal mucosa, or fixed to pelvic bone

^{*}The depth of invasion is defined as the measurement of the tumor from the epithelial-stromal junction of the adjacent most superficial dermal papilla to the deepest point of invasion.

[#]The LAST definition of superficial invasive squamous cell carcinoma (SISCCA) conforms to AJCC T1a/FIGO 1A

Regional Lymph Nodes (N)

NX		Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed
N0		No regional lymph node metastasis
N1		1 or 2 regional lymph nodes with the following features
N1a*	IIIA	1 or 2 lymph node metastasis each less than 5 mm
N1b	IIIA	1 lymph node metastasis 5 mm or greater
N2	IIIB	Regional lymph nodes metastasis with the following features
N2a*	IIIB	3 or more lymph node metastases each less than 5 mm
N2b	IIIB	2 or more lymph node metastases 5 mm or greater
N2c	IIIC	Lymph node metastasis with extracapsular spread
N3	IVA	Fixed or ulcerated regional lymph node metastasis

*Includes micrometastasis, N1ami and N2ami and nodes with ITC.

Only femoral and inguinal lymph nodes are considered regional nodes in vulvar cancers. An effort should be made to describe the site and laterality of lymph node metastases.

Distant Metastasis (M)

M0		No distant metastasis
M1	IVB	Distant metastasis [includes tumor involvement of pelvic lymph nodes (such as internal iliac/hypogastric, external iliac, and common iliac nodes)]

Anatomic Stage/Prognostic Groups

Stage 0	Tis	N0	M0
Stage I	T1	N0	M0
Stage IA	T1a	N0	M0
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

I. Additional Pathologic Findings

Presence of adjacent lesions such as lichen sclerosis has been shown to increase risk of recurrence and development of new primary tumors in patients with vulvar squamous cell carcinoma.²² Therefore, presence of such a finding is recommended.

References

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