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Preface

Staging is the language essential to the proper and successful management of head and neck cancer patients. It is the core of diagnosis, treatment planning, application of therapeutics from multiple disciplines, recovery, follow-up, and scientific investigation. Staging must be consistent, efficient, accurate, and reproducible. The head and neck cancer caregiver can never be too fluent in this mode of communication, as we educate patients and navigate them toward cure. The simple clarification that Stage IV disease is not synonymous with a “death sentence” has powerful impact for patients and their families. With this imperative, the American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery Foundation and the American Head and Neck Society present the fourth edition of *Quick Reference Guide to TNM Staging of Head and Neck Cancer and Neck Dissection Classification.*

Just as our knowledge of and therapeutics for head and neck cancer evolve, so does the language we use in managing the disease. Such terms as “chemo-radiation,” “organ preservation,” “HPV positive,” and “de-escalation” are now central to care planning discussions. Likewise, the staging system evolves to incorporate current knowledge and reflect state-of-the-art treatments.

This new edition of *Quick Reference Guide to TNM Staging of Head and Neck Cancer and Neck Dissection Classification* incorporates the changes from the seventh edition of the American Joint Commission on Cancer (AJCC) Cancer Staging Manual, as well as updated discussions of site-specific cancers.

We hope this *Quick Reference Guide* will serve the practitioner and the patient equally well as we ready ourselves for further evolution of head and neck cancer staging and management.

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The American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery and the American Head and Neck Society acknowledge the input from their Head and Neck Surgery Oncology Committee and Head and Neck Surgery Education Committees for the review of this publication.

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All photos have been graciously donated by Richard V. Smith, MD.
VI. Reference Photos

The following photos are linked to the highlighted text of this reference guide. To return to the page where a particular type of carcinoma is mentioned, click on the caption beneath the photo.

**Oral Cavity—Stage 0**

Right tongue carcinoma *in situ*
Oral Cavity—Stage 1

T1 tongue carcinoma

T1 tongue carcinoma

T1 floor of mouth carcinoma
Oral Cavity—Stage 2

T2 right buccal carcinoma

T2 tongue carcinoma
Oral Cavity—Stage 3

T3 tongue carcinoma
Oral Cavity—Stage 4a

- T4a alveolar ridge carcinoma
- T4a buccal carcinoma
- T4a floor of mouth carcinoma
Oropharynx—Stage 1

T1 base of tongue carcinoma

T1 tonsillar carcinoma
Oropharynx—Stage 2

T2 base of tongue carcinoma

T2 retromolar trigone carcinoma

T2 right tonsillar carcinoma

Oropharynx—Stage 3

T3 soft palate carcinoma
Larynx—Stage 0

Glottic carcinoma \textit{in situ}
Larynx/Supraglottis—Stage 2

T2 supraglottic carcinoma

T2 supraglottic carcinoma with medial pyriform extension

T2 supraglottic carcinoma
Larynx/Supraglottis—Stage 3

T3 supraglottic carcinoma with preepiglottic invasion
Larynx/Glottis—Stage 1

T1 glottic carcinoma
Larynx/Glottis—Stage 1b

T1b glottic carcinoma
Larynx/Glottis—Stage 2

T2 glottic carcinoma

T2 glottic carcinoma with supraglottic extension
Larynx/Glottis—Stage 3

T3 glottic carcinoma
Larynx/Glottis—Stage 4a

T4a glottic carcinoma
Hypopharynx—Stage 2

T2 lateral wall pyriform sinus carcinoma

Hypopharynx—Stage 3

T3 pyriform sinus carcinoma
Hypopharynx—Stage 4a

T4a hypopharyngeal carcinoma
Maxillary Sinus—Stage 3

T3 maxillary sinus carcinoma
Salivary Glands—Stage 1

T1 minor salivary mucoepidermoid carcinoma

Salivary Glands—Stage 4a

T4a minor salivary gland adenoid cystic carcinoma

T4a parotid carcinoma
Salivary Glands—Stage 4b

T4b parotid squamous cell carcinoma axial MRI
Radical Neck Dissection

Right radical neck dissection
Modified Radical Neck Dissection (first two of four photos)

Left modified radical neck dissection, sparing sternocleidomastoid muscle, internal jugular vein, and cranial nerve XI

Posterior view of left modified radical neck dissection sparing sternocleidomastoid muscle, sparing internal jugular vein, and cranial XI
Modified Radical Neck Dissection

Right modified radical neck dissection, sparing cranial nerve XI

Right modified radical neck dissection, sparing internal jugular vein and cranial nerve XI
Central compartment carcinoma level VI and left level II, III, IV dissection
Anterior Neck Dissection

Superior mediastinal extension of central neck dissection
Supraomohyoid Neck Dissection

Right supraomohyoid neck dissection of levels I, II, III
Lateral Neck Dissection

Left lateral neck dissection levels II, III, IV

Right lateral neck dissection levels II, III, IV
Extended Radical Neck Dissection

Preop right extended radical neck dissection

Resected right extended radical neck dissection deep muscles and skin
The American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery Foundation’s education initiatives are aimed at increasing the quality of patient outcomes through knowledgeable, competent, and professional physicians. The goals of education are to provide activities and services for practicing otolaryngologists, physicians-in-training, and nonotolaryngologist health professionals.

The Foundation’s AcademyU® serves as the primary education resource for otolaryngology–head and neck surgery activities and events. These include expert-developed knowledge resources, subscription products, live events, eBooks, and online education. In addition, the AAO-HNSF Annual Meeting & OTO EXPOS™ is the world’s largest gathering of otolaryngologists, offering a variety of education seminars, courses, and posters. Many of the Foundation’s activities are available for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™.

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AHNS MISSION

On May 13, 1998, The American Head and Neck Society (AHNS) became the single largest organization in North America for the advancement of research and education in head and neck oncology. The merger of two societies, the American Society for Head and Neck Surgery and the Society of Head and Neck Surgeons, formed the American Head and Neck Society. The American Head and Neck Society remains dedicated to the common goals of its parental organizations:

- To promote and advance the knowledge of prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of neoplasms and other diseases of the head and neck,
- To promote and advance research in diseases of the head and neck, and
- To promote and advance the highest professional and ethical standards.

For more information about the AHNS, visit www.ahns.info.