Pancreas

(ICD-O C25)

Rules for Classification

The classification applies to carcinomas of the exocrine pancreas and pancreatic neuroendocrine tumours including carcinoids. There should be histological or cytological confirmation of the disease.

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

T categories: Physical examination, imaging, and/or surgical exploration

N categories: Physical examination, imaging, and/or surgical exploration

M categories: Physical examination, imaging, and/or surgical exploration

Anatomical Subsites

C25.0	Head of pancreas[1]
C25.1	Body of pancreas[2]
C25.2	Tail of pancreas[3]
C25.3	Pancreatic duct
C25.4	Islets of Langerhans (endocrine pancreas)

Notes:

1. Tumours of the head of the pancreas are those arising to the right of the left border of the superior mesenteric vein. The uncinate process is considered as part of the head.

2. Tumours of the body are those arising between the left border of the superior mesenteric vein and left border of the aorta.

3. Tumours of the tail are those arising between the left border of the aorta and the hilum of the spleen.

Regional Lymph Nodes

The regional lymph nodes are the peripancreatic nodes, which may be subdivided as follows:

Superior   Superior to head and body

Inferior   Inferior to head and body

Anterior   Anterior pancreaticoduodenal, pyloric (for tumours of head only), and

proximal mesenteric

Posterior   Posterior pancreaticoduodenal, common bile duct, and proximal mesenteric

Splenic Hilum of spleen and tail of pancreas (for tumours of body and tail only)

Coeliac (for tumours of head only)

T - Primary Tumour

TX	Primary tumour cannot be assessed
T0	No evidence of primary tumour
Tis	Carcinoma in situ*
T1	Tumour limited to pancreas, 2cm or less in greatest dimension
T2	Tumour limited to pancreas, more than 2cm in greatest dimension
T3	Tumour extends beyond pancreas, but without involvement of coeliac axis or superior mesenteric artery
T4	Tumour involves coeliac axis or superior mesenteric artery

Note: *This also includes the 'PanIN-III' classification.

N - Regional Lymph Nodes

NX	Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed
N0	No regional lymph node metastasis
N1	Regional lymph node metastasis

M - Distant Metastasis

M0	No distant metastasis
M1	Distant metastasis

Note: The MX category is considered to be inappropriate as clinical assessment of metastasis can be based on physical examination alone. (The use of MX may result in exclusion from staging).

pTNM Pathological Classification

The pT and pN categories correspond to the T and N categories.

pN0   Histological examination of a regional lymphadenectomy specimen will ordinarily

       include 10 or more lymph nodes.

       If the lymph nodes are negative, but the number ordinarily examined is not met,

       classify as pN0.

pM – Distant Metastasis*

pM1   Distant metastasis microscopically confirmed

Note: *pM0 and pMX are not valid categories

Residual Tumour (R) Classification*

The absence or presence of residual tumour after treatment is described by the symbol R. More details can be found in the TNM Supplement (International Union Against Cancer (UICC). *TNM Supplement. A Commentary On Uniform Use*, 3rd ed. Wittekind CH, Henson DE, Hutter RVP, et al., eds. New York; Wiley; 2003).

TNM and pTNM describe the anatomical extent of cancer in general without considering treatment. They can be supplemented by the R classification, which deals with tumour status after treatment. It reflects the effects of therapy, influences further therapeutic procedures and is a strong predictor of prognosis. The definitions of the R categories are:

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

Note: *Some consider the R classification to apply only to the primary tumour and its local or regional extent. Others have applied it more broadly to include distant metastasis. The specific usage should be indicated when the R is used.

G Histopathological Grading

GX	Grade of differentiation cannot be assessed
G1	Well differentiated
G2	Moderately differentiated
G3	Poorly differentiated
G4	Undifferentiated

Stage Grouping

Stage 0	Tis	N0	M0
Stage IA	T1	N0	M0
Stage IB	T2	N0	M0
Stage IIA	T3	N0	M0
Stage IIB	T1, T2, T3	N1	M0
Stage III	T4	Any N	M0
Stage IV	Any T	Any N	M1

Pancreas	
T1	Limited to pancreas <2cm
T2	limited to pancreas >2cm
T3	Beyond pancreas
T4	Coeliac axis or superior mesenteric artery
N1	Regional