





THE 9TH TNM EDITION OF THORACIC MALIGNANCIES. LUNG CANCER.

Paul E. Van Schil, MD, PhD Antwerp University Hospital

The International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC) launched its third phase of the International Staging Project (ISP) in 2018 (1). The Staging and Prognostic Factors Committee (SPFC) which has now become the Staging and Prognostic Factors Group (SPFG), was restructured and expanded with several subcommittees. The main purpose was to establish a worldwide database to inform the 9th TNM edition of thoracic malignancies. Patients with lung cancer, thymic epithelial malignancies and pleural mesothelioma who were treated between January 2011 and December 2019 were included with a follow-up period until December 2021. For this new edition data on esophageal cancer were not collected.

The 9th TNM edition for **lung cancer** is based on a database of 124,581 cases, of which 18.9 % were entered prospectively by Electronic Data Capturing (EDC) (2). Regarding the T component no changes are proposed as the 8th edition descriptors perform well in the new database (3). Concerning the N component, N2 is subdivided into N2a and N2b representing single station and multiple stations N2 involvement, respectively (4). Individual lymph nodes in each station are not counted. With regard to the M component, M1c is subdivided into M1c1 and M1c2 when multiple extrathoracic metastases are present in a single organ system or multiple organ systems, respectively (5). Bone and muscle are counted as a single organ system. Especially the new N descriptors have an impact on the overall stage groupings, whereby e.g. T1N1 belongs to stage IIA, and T1N2a to stage IIB. M1c1 and M1c2 both belong to stage IVB (6). For the 10th edition it will be encouraged to send prospective data by electronic data capturing (EDC) and hopefully, more data will become available on specific histology, biomarkers and targetable mutations to incorporate these in the new TNM classification.

Key References

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