KEY WORDS
Carcinoma, vulva, pathologic, TNM, tumour, stromal invasions, metastasis

CLASSIFICATION AND STAGING OF CANCER OF THE VULVA

BACKGROUND
Carcinoma of the vulva is staged by surgical and/or pathologic findings. It is the only gynaecologic malignancy that routinely includes the TNM classification. TNM classification of carcinoma of the vulva is based on the FIGO classification.

FIGO (2009) STAGING

Stage I

1A
Lesions < 2cm in size, confined to the vulva or perineum and with stromal invasions ≤ 1.0mm*, no nodal metastasis.

1B
Lesions > 2cm in size or with stromal invasion > 1.0mm* confined to the vulva or perineum, with negative nodes.

Stage II
Tumour of any size with extension to adjacent perineal structures (1/3 lower urethra, 1/3 lower vagina, anus) with negative nodes.

Stage III
Tumour of any size with or without extension to adjacent perineal structures (1/3 lower urethra, 1/3 lower vagina, anus) with positive inguino-femoral lymph nodes.

III A
(i) With 1 lymph node metastasis (≥ 5mm), or
(ii) 1-2 lymph node metastasis(es) (< 5mm)

III B
(i) with 2 or more lymph node metastases (≥ 5mm) or
(ii) 3 or more lymph node metastases (< 5mm)

Stage 4
Tumour invades other regional (2/3 upper urethra, 2/3 upper vagina), or distant structures

IVA
Tumour invades any of the following
(i) upper urethral and/or vaginal mucosa, bladder mucosa, rectal mucosa or fixed to pelvic bone or
(ii) fixed or ulcerated inguino-femoral lymph nodes

IVB

Any distant metastasis including pelvic lymph nodes

*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.

REFERENCE

FIGO Committee on Gynaecologic Oncology. 2009.