

SKIN

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THICKNESS, DEPTH OF INVASION, AND CLARK LEVEL

(Use Only for Melanoma of the Skin; Vulva, Penis, and Scrotum)

Below is a guideline for melanoma of the skin for Breslow's depth and/or Clark's Level.

Note: Clark's level is not routinely used, but is kept here for historical purposes.

Summary Stage	Breslow's: Thickness/Depth	Clark's Level
In Situ	In Situ	Level I
Localized	≤ 0.75 mm	Level II
	0.76 to 1.50 mm	Level III
	≥1.50 mm	Level IV
Regional Direction Extension	Through entire dermis	Level V
Regional LN	(See LNs by primary site)	
Distant	Underlying cartilage, bone, muscle, or metastatic (generalized) skin lesions	

SKIN (EXCEPT EYELID)

8000-8040, 8042-8180, 8191-8246, 8248-8700, 8940, 8982

C000-C002, C006, C440, C442-C449

C000 External upper lip

C001 External lower lip

C002 External lip, NOS

C006 Commissure of lip

C440 Skin of lip, NOS

C442 External ear

C443 Skin of other and unspecified parts of face

C444 Skin of scalp and neck

C445 Skin of trunk

C446 Skin of upper limb and shoulder

C447 Skin of lower limb and hip

C448 Overlapping lesion of skin

C449 Skin, NOS

Note 1: The following sources were used in the development of this chapter

- SEER Extent of Disease 1988: Codes and Coding Instructions (3rd Edition, 1998) (<https://seer.cancer.gov/archive/manuals/EOD10Dig.3rd.pdf>)
- SEER Summary Staging Manual-2000: Codes and Coding Instructions (<https://seer.cancer.gov/tools/ssm/ssm2000/>)
- Collaborative Stage Data Collection System, version 02.05: <https://cancerstaging.org/cstage/Pages/default.aspx>
- For *primary sites C000-C002, C006, C440, C442-C444*, Chapter 15 *Cutaneous Carcinoma Head and Neck*, in the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual, Eighth Edition (2017) published by Springer International Publishing. Used with permission of the American College of Surgeons, Chicago, Illinois.

Note 2: See the following chapters for the listed histologies

- 8041, 8190, 8247: *Merkel Cell Skin*
- 8710-8714, 8800-8934, 8941-8981, 8983-9138, 9141-9582: *Soft Tissue*
- 8720-8790: *Melanoma Skin*
- 8935-8936: *GIST*
- 9140: *Kaposi Sarcoma*
- 9700-9701: *Mycosis Fungoides*

Note 3: Summary Stage is the only applicable staging system for primary sites C445-C449.

Note 4: Bilateral or contralateral nodes are classified as regional nodes for head, neck, and truncal tumors with bidirectional drainage to primary nodal basins, as shown on

lymphoscintigraphy. Truncal tumors may also drain to both cephalad and caudal primary nodal basins as shown on lymphoscintigraphy.

- Clinical assessment of bilateral/contralateral or cephalad/caudal regional nodal involvement is required for tumors where lymphoscintigraphy is not performed

Note 5: Contiguous or secondary nodal basins are the next nodal drainage basins beyond the primary nodal basins and are coded as regional nodes.

SUMMARY STAGE

0 In situ, intraepidermal, intraepithelial, noninvasive

- Carcinoma in situ

1 Localized only (localized, NOS)

- Lesion(s) confined to dermis
- Subcutaneous tissue (through entire dermis)

2 Regional by direct extension only

- All Sites
 - Bone
 - Cartilage
 - Skeletal muscle
 - Underlying cartilage
- Head and Neck skin primaries only (C000-C002, C006, C440, C442-C444)
 - Bone erosion (minor or NOS)
 - Deep invasion
 - Gross cortical bone/marrow
 - Mandible
 - Maxilla
 - Orbital bone
 - Perineural invasion
 - Skull base foramen
 - Skull base invasion
 - Temporal bone

3 Regional lymph node(s) involved only

- All sites (Single, Multiple, Ipsilateral) (See Code 7 for contralateral or bilateral nodes (except for head and neck skin primaries))
 - Regional lymph node(s), NOS
 - Lymph node(s), NOS
- Head and Neck skin primaries only (C000-C002, C006, C440, C442-C444) (includes contralateral and bilateral nodes)
 - Levels I-VII
 - Axillary (neck only, C444)
 - Cervical, NOS
 - Deep cervical, NOS
 - Facial (buccinator, buccal, nasolabial)
 - Internal jugular, NOS
 - Parapharyngeal
 - Parotid (infraauricular, intraparotid, periparotid, preauricular)
 - Retroauricular (mastoid)
 - Retropharyngeal
 - Suboccipital
- Skin of trunk (C445)
 - Upper trunk
 - Axillary
 - Cervical
 - Internal mammary
 - Supraclavicular
 - Lower trunk
 - Superficial inguinal (femoral) (lower trunk only)
- Skin of upper limb and shoulder (C446)
 - Axillary
 - Cervical
 - Epitrochlear for hand/forearm
 - Internal mammary (parasternal)
 - Spinal accessory for shoulder
 - Supraclavicular (transverse cervical)
- Skin of lower limb and hip (C447)
 - Femoral (superficial inguinal)
 - Inguinal
 - Popliteal for heel and calf

4 Regional by BOTH direct extension AND regional lymph node(s) involved

- Codes (2) + (3)

7 Distant site(s)/lymph node(s) involved

- Distant site(s) (including further contiguous extension)
- Distant lymph node(s), NOS
- Distant metastasis, NOS
 - Carcinomatosis
 - Distant metastasis WITH or WITHOUT distant lymph node(s)

9 Unknown if extension or metastasis

KAPOSI SARCOMA

9140 Kaposi Sarcoma (C000-C699, C739-C750, C754-C809)

Note 1: The following sources were used in the development of this chapter

- SEER Extent of Disease 1988: Codes and Coding Instructions (3rd Edition, 1998) (<https://seer.cancer.gov/archive/manuals/EOD10Dig.3rd.pdf>)
- SEER Summary Staging Manual-2000: Codes and Coding Instructions (<https://seer.cancer.gov/tools/ssm/ssm2000/>)
- Collaborative Stage Data Collection System, version 02.05: <https://cancerstaging.org/cstage/Pages/default.aspx>
- Chapter 45 *Soft Tissue Sarcoma - Unusual Histologies and Sites*, in the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual, Eighth Edition (2017) published by Springer International Publishing. Used with permission of the American College of Surgeons, Chicago, Illinois.

Note 2: Kaposi Sarcoma of the brain, central nervous system and intracranial glands is now collected in the following:

- C700, C710-C719: Brain
- C701, C709, C720-C725, C728-C729: CNS Other
- C751-C753: Intracranial Gland

Note 3: Summary Stage is the only applicable staging system for this site/histology/schema.

Note 4: Code 0 is not applicable for this chapter.

SUMMARY STAGE

1 Localized only

- Single or multiple lesion(s)
 - Mucosa (e.g., oral cavity, anus, rectum, vagina, vulva)
 - Skin and/or connective tissue
 - Viscera (e.g., pulmonary, gastrointestinal tract, spleen, other)

2 Regional by direct extension only

- Multiple lesion(s)
 - Mucosa plus skin and/or connective tissue
 - Viscera plus mucosa
 - Viscera plus skin and/or connective tissue

3 Regional lymph node(s) involved only

- Both clinically enlarged palpable lymph node(s) (adenopathy) and pathologically positive lymph node(s)
- Clinically enlarged palpable lymph node(s) (adenopathy) and either pathologically negative node(s) or no pathological statement
- No clinically enlarged palpable lymph node(s) (adenopathy) but pathologically positive lymph node(s)
- Regional lymph node(s), NOS
 - Lymph node(s), NOS

4 Regional by BOTH direct extension AND regional lymph node(s) involved

- Codes (2) + (3)

7 Distant site(s)/lymph node(s) involved

- Distant site(s) (including further contiguous extension)
 - Multiple lesions in all THREE of following: viscera plus mucosa plus skin and/or connective tissue
- Distant lymph node(s), NOS
- Distant metastasis, NOS
 - Carcinomatosis
 - Distant metastasis WITH or WITHOUT distant lymph node(s)

9 Unknown if extension or metastasis

MERKEL CELL SKIN

8041, 8190, 8247 (C000-C006, C008-C009, C440-C449, C510-C512, C518-C519, C600-C602, C608-C609, C632)

8190, 8247 (C809)

Note 1: The following sources were used in the development of this chapter

- SEER Extent of Disease 1988: Codes and Coding Instructions (3rd Edition, 1998) (<https://seer.cancer.gov/archive/manuals/EOD10Dig.3rd.pdf>)
- SEER Summary Staging Manual-2000: Codes and Coding Instructions (<https://seer.cancer.gov/tools/ssm/ssm2000/>)
- Collaborative Stage Data Collection System, version 02.05: <https://cancerstaging.org/cstage/Pages/default.aspx>
- Chapter 46 *Merkel Cell Carcinoma*, in the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual, Eighth Edition (2017) published by Springer International Publishing. Used with permission of the American College of Surgeons, Chicago, Illinois.

Note 2: Merkel cell carcinoma presenting in nodal or visceral site with primary site unknown is coded to C449, Skin, NOS.

Note 3: Isolated tumor cells (ITCs) are defined as single tumor cells or small clusters not greater than 0.2 mm, usually detected by immunohistochemical (IHC) or molecular methods. ITCs do not usually show evidence of malignant activity (e.g., proliferation or stromal reaction).

- Lymph nodes with isolated tumor cells (ITCs) are counted as positive lymph nodes

Note 4: In transit metastasis is defined as a tumor distinct from the primary lesion and located either between the primary lesion and the draining regional lymph node(s) or distal to the primary lesion. In transit metastasis with positive lymph node(s) are coded under regional lymph nodes.

- In-transit metastasis are counted as positive nodes

Note 5: Bilateral or contralateral nodes are classified as regional nodes for head, neck, and truncal tumors with bidirectional drainage to primary nodal basins, as shown on lymphoscintigraphy. Truncal tumors may also drain to both cephalad and caudal primary nodal basins as shown on lymphoscintigraphy.

- Clinical assessment of bilateral/contralateral or cephalad/caudal regional nodal involvement is required for tumors where lymphoscintigraphy is not performed

Note 6: Contiguous or secondary nodal basins are the next nodal drainage basins beyond the primary nodal basins and are coded as regional nodes.

SUMMARY STAGE

0 In situ, intraepidermal, intraepithelial, noninvasive

1 Localized only (localized, NOS)

- Confined to site of origin
- Lesion(s) confined to dermis
- Subcutaneous tissue (through entire dermis)

2 Regional by direct extension only

- Bone
- Cartilage
- Fascia
- Skeletal muscle

3 Regional lymph node(s) involved only

- All sites (Single, Multiple, Ipsilateral) (See Code 7 for contralateral or bilateral nodes (except for head and neck skin primaries))
 - Isolated tumor cells (ITCs) WITH or WITHOUT regional lymph node involvement
 - In-transit mets WITH or WITHOUT regional lymph node involvement
 - Regional lymph node(s), NOS
 - Lymph node(s), NOS
- Head and Neck skin primaries only (C000-C002, C006, C440, C442-C444) (includes contralateral and bilateral nodes)
 - Levels I-VII
 - Axillary (neck only, C444)
 - Cervical, NOS
 - Deep cervical, NOS
 - Facial (buccinator, buccal, nasolabial)
 - Internal jugular, NOS
 - Parapharyngeal
 - Parotid (infraauricular, intraparotid, periparotid, preauricular)
 - Retroauricular (mastoid)
 - Retropharyngeal
 - Suboccipital
- Skin of trunk (C445)
 - Upper trunk
 - Axillary
 - Cervical
 - Internal mammary

- Supraclavicular
 - Lower trunk
 - Superficial inguinal (femoral)
- Skin of upper limb and shoulder (C446)
 - Axillary
 - Cervical
 - Epitrochlear for hand/forearm
 - Internal mammary (parasternal)
 - Spinal accessory for shoulder
 - Supraclavicular (transverse cervical)
- Skin of lower limb and hip (C447)
 - Femoral (superficial inguinal)
 - Inguinal
 - Popliteal for heel and calf
- Vulva (C510-C512, C518-C519)
 - Deep inguinal, NOS
 - Femoral
 - Inguinal, NOS
 - Inguinofemoral (groin)
 - Node of Cloquet or Rosenmuller (highest deep inguinal)
 - Superficial inguinal (femoral)
- Penis (C600-C602, C608-C609)
 - Iliac, NOS
 - External
 - Internal (hypogastric, obturator)
 - Inguinal, NOS
 - Node of Cloquet or Rosenmuller (highest deep inguinal)
 - Superficial [femoral]
 - Pelvic, NOS
- Scrotum (C632)
 - Iliac, NOS
 - External
 - Internal (hypogastric), NOS
 - Obturator
 - Inguinal, NOS
 - Deep inguinal, NOS
 - Node of Cloquet or Rosenmuller (highest deep inguinal)
 - Superficial inguinal (femoral)

4 Regional by BOTH direct extension AND regional lymph node(s) involved

- Codes (2) + (3)

7 Distant site(s)/lymph node(s) involved

- Distant site(s) (including further contiguous extension)
 - Bone
 - Cartilage
 - Fascia
 - Lung
 - Other visceral sites
 - Skeletal muscle (excluding direct extension)
 - Skin or subcutaneous tissue beyond regional lymph nodes
 - Underlying cartilage
- Distant lymph node(s), NOS
 - Axillary (lower trunk)
 - Femoral (cephalad/caudal) (upper trunk)
 - Iliac (leg/hip)
 - Supraclavicular (head and neck, arm/shoulder)
- Distant metastasis, NOS
 - Carcinomatosis
 - Distant metastasis WITH or WITHOUT distant lymph node(s)

9 Unknown if extension or metastasis

MELANOMA SKIN

8720-8790 (C000-C002, C006, C440-C449, C500, C510-C512, C518-C519, C600-C602, C608-C609, C632)

Note 1: The following sources were used in the development of this chapter

- SEER Extent of Disease 1988: Codes and Coding Instructions (3rd Edition, 1998) (<https://seer.cancer.gov/archive/manuals/EOD10Dig.3rd.pdf>)
- SEER Summary Staging Manual-2000: Codes and Coding Instructions (<https://seer.cancer.gov/tools/ssm/ssm2000/>)
- Collaborative Stage Data Collection System, version 02.05: <https://cancerstaging.org/cstage/Pages/default.aspx>
- Chapter 47 *Melanoma of the Skin*, in the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual, Eighth Edition (2017) published by Springer International Publishing. Used with permission of the American College of Surgeons, Chicago, Illinois.

Note 2: For melanoma of sites other than those above

- C003-C005, C008-C069, C090-C148, C300-C329: See Melanoma Head and Neck
- C690: See Melanoma Conjunctiva
- C693, C694: See Melanoma Uvea
- For all other sites, use the appropriate site-specific schema

Note 3: If there is a discrepancy between the Clark level and the pathological description of extent (invasion into the layers of the dermis), use the higher (more extensive) code.

Note 4: Code the greatest extent of invasion from any procedure performed on the lesion, whether it is described as a biopsy or an excision. For example, if a punch biopsy with involvement of Clark level IV is followed by a re-excision with residual tumor involving Clark level II, code 2 (Clark level V).

Note 5: If a Breslow's depth is given in the pathology report and there is no other indication of involvement, the following guidelines may be used (*Note: If a physician documents a different Clark's Level then provided by these guidelines, go with the physician's Clark Level*)

- In situ: Level 1
- Localized
 - Level II (< 0.75 mm Breslow's Depth)
 - Level III (0.76 mm to 1.50 mm Breslow's Depth)
 - Level IV (> 1.50 mm Breslow's Depth)
- Regional
 - Level V: Through entire dermis

Note 6: Isolated tumor cells (ITCs) are defined as single tumor cells or small clusters not greater than 0.2 mm, usually detected by immunohistochemical (IHC) or molecular methods. ITCs do not usually show evidence of malignant activity (e.g., proliferation or stromal reaction).

- Lymph nodes with isolated tumor cells (ITCs) are counted as positive lymph nodes

Note 7: In-transit, satellite, and/or microsatellite metastasis are metastasis that have occurred via lymphatic or angiolymphatic spread. Satellite nodules are subcutaneous metastasis that occur within 2 cm of the primary tumor. Microsatellite metastasis are microscopic cutaneous metastasis found adjacent or deep to a primary melanoma tumor.

- In-transit, satellite, and/or microsatellite metastasis are counted as positive nodes

Note 8: Bilateral or contralateral nodes are classified as regional nodes for head, neck, and truncal tumors with bidirectional drainage to primary nodal basins, as shown on lymphoscintigraphy. Truncal tumors may also drain to both cephalad and caudal primary nodal basins as shown on lymphoscintigraphy.

- Clinical assessment of bilateral/contralateral or cephalad/caudal regional nodal involvement is required for tumors where lymphoscintigraphy is not performed

Note 9: Contiguous or secondary nodal basins are the next nodal drainage basins beyond the primary nodal basins and are coded as regional nodes.

SUMMARY STAGE

0 In situ, intraepithelial, noninvasive

- Basement membrane of the epidermis is intact
- In situ, intraepidermal, intraepithelial, noninvasive
 - Clark level I

1 Localized only (localized, NOS)

- Papillary dermis invaded
 - Clark level II
- Papillary-reticular dermal interface invaded
 - Clark level III
- Reticular dermis invaded
 - Clark level IV
- Skin/dermis, NOS

2 Regional by direct extension only

- Subcutaneous tissue (through entire dermis)
 - Clark level V

3 Regional lymph node(s) involved only

- All sites (Single, Multiple, Ipsilateral) (See Code 7 for contralateral or bilateral nodes (except for head and neck skin primaries))
 - Isolated tumor cells (ITCs) WITH or WITHOUT regional lymph node involvement
 - In-transit, satellite, and/or microsatellite metastasis WITH or WITHOUT regional lymph node involvement
 - Regional lymph node(s), NOS
 - Lymph node(s), NOS
- Head and Neck skin primaries only (C000-C002, C006, C440, C442-C444) (includes contralateral and bilateral nodes)
 - Levels I-VII
 - Axillary (neck only, C444)
 - Cervical, NOS
 - Deep cervical, NOS
 - Facial (buccinator, buccal, nasolabial)
 - Internal jugular, NOS
 - Parapharyngeal
 - Parotid (infraauricular, intraparotid, periparotid, preauricular)
 - Retroauricular (mastoid)
 - Retropharyngeal
 - Suboccipital
- Skin of trunk (C445)
 - Upper trunk
 - Axillary
 - Cervical
 - Internal mammary
 - Supraclavicular
 - Lower trunk
 - Superficial inguinal (femoral)
- Skin of upper limb and shoulder (C446)
 - Axillary
 - Cervical
 - Epitrochlear for hand/forearm
 - Internal mammary (parasternal)
 - Spinal accessory for shoulder
 - Supraclavicular (transverse cervical)
- Skin of lower limb and hip (C447)
 - Femoral (superficial inguinal)

- Inguinal
 - Popliteal for heel and calf
- Vulva (C510-C512, C518-C519)
 - Deep inguinal, NOS
 - Femoral
 - Inguinal, NOS
 - Inguinofemoral (groin)
 - Node of Cloquet or Rosenmuller (highest deep inguinal)
 - Superficial inguinal (femoral)
- Penis (C600-C602, C608-C609)
 - Iliac, NOS
 - External
 - Internal (hypogastric, obturator)
 - Inguinal, NOS
 - Node of Cloquet or Rosenmuller (highest deep inguinal)
 - Superficial [femoral]
 - Pelvic, NOS
- Scrotum (C632)
 - Iliac, NOS
 - External
 - Internal (hypogastric), NOS
 - Obturator
 - Inguinal, NOS
 - Deep inguinal, NOS
 - Node of Cloquet or Rosenmuller (highest deep inguinal)
 - Superficial inguinal (femoral)

4 Regional by BOTH direct extension AND regional lymph node(s) involved

- Codes (2) + (3)

7 Distant site(s)/lymph node(s) involved

- Distant site(s) (including further contiguous extension)
 - Bone
 - Central nervous system (CNS)
 - Lung
 - Skeletal muscle (including direct extension)
 - Skin or subcutaneous tissue beyond regional lymph nodes
 - Underlying cartilage
 - Visceral metastasis, NOS
- Distant lymph node(s), NOS
 - Axillary (lower trunk)
 - Femoral (cephalad/caudal) (upper trunk)

- Iliac (leg/hip)
- Distant metastasis, NOS
 - Carcinomatosis
 - Distant metastasis WITH or WITHOUT distant lymph node(s)

9 Unknown if extension or metastasis