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The TNM Staging System

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The TNM staging system is an internationally standardized system for the staging of cancer and is in its seventh decade of continuing formulation. The TNM classification is put forth by the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) and the International Union Against Cancer (UICC; <http://www.uicc.org>). The AJCC's Cancer Staging Manual and the UICC's TNM Classification of Malignant Tumours present the stages of cancer as defined by TNM classifications. The TNM definitions and stage groupings are based on prognostic outcome. Information about TNM may be accessed at the UICC website, <http://www.uicc.org/index.php?id=508>. The TNM symbols follow. # T: tumor (indicates size, extent,