Head and Neck Pathology Grossing Guidelines

Do not cut any HN specimens unless you are fully oriented anatomically

- Orient by anatomic structures (oral tongue, junction of buccal/gingival mucosa, alveolar ridge, angle of jaw, hard palate, etc)
- For mandibulectomies/maxillectomies, please ask for help if unsure
- Ink resection margins
- Describe all abnormalities: size (staging cutoffs: 2 cm, 4 cm), location, extent, depth (staging cutoffs: 0.5 cm, 1 cm), distance to margins
- Sample all margins (if grossly close, e.g. 1 cm, submit perpendicular section; otherwise submit a shave of the margin closest to tumor)
- Sample tumor:
  - Show relationship to peripheral/deep margins
  - Show maximum depth of invasion
- Specimens containing mandible or maxilla:
  - Bone margins
  - Sections of bone adjacent to tumor or gross involvement of bone
- Diagrams and gross photos are appreciated

**Specimen Type:** GLOSSECTOMY (total/partial, including base of tongue and lingual tonsil)

**Gross Template:**
Labeled with the patient’s name (last name, first name), medical record number (#), designated “***”, and received [fresh/in formalin] is a [right/left/anterior/posterior partial/total] glossectomy measuring *** x *** x *** cm. [Describe orientation provided]. The mucosa is remarkable for [describe lesion – location, size, texture, distance from margins]. Sectioning reveals the lesion has a [describe cut surface of lesion] and *** cm maximum thickness. The lesion measures *** cm from the deep resection margin [indicate extent of lesion].

The remaining mucosal surface is [smooth, pink, glistening, unremarkable]. Representative sections are submitted [describe cassette submission].

**Ink Key:** (will depend on type of resection as some colors may not be used)
Anterior – orange
Posterior – black
Superior – blue
Inferior – green
Medial – purple
Lateral - yellow

**Cassette Submission:** 8-10 cassettes
  - Sample all margins
  - One cassette per 1 cm of lesion
    - Show maximum depth of invasion
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- Show relationship to peripheral/deep margins
  - One cassette of unremarkable tissue