

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: HEAD AND NECK LYMPH NODE DISSECTION (refer to radical neck dissection guidelines, if necessary)

- Submit all lymph nodes
 - Note: an adequate lymph node dissection should include 20 lymph nodes.
 - After submitting all grossly identified lymph nodes, submit the remainder of the fibroadipose tissue and/or soft tissue.
 - There is no need to submit the entire salivary gland if received as part of the dissection.
- For grossly positive nodes:
 - Describe size of metastatic focus (*staging cutoffs: 3 cm, 6 cm*) and if extranodal extension is present grossly.

Gross Template:

MMODAL COMMAND: "INSERT LYMPH NODE DISSECTION"

It consists of a [*measure in three dimensions****] cm portion of tan-yellow fibroadipose tissue. Sectioning reveals [*describe # of lymph nodes found****] lymph node candidates, ranging from [*smallest to largest****] cm in maximum dimensions. [*The lymph node is/The lymph nodes are****] sectioned to reveal [*describe cut surface and comment on grossly positive lymph nodes, measuring the grossly positive tumor****]. The specimen is entirely submitted. [*cassette submission/ if lymph nodes are serially sectioned, only place one lymph node in each cassette or you MUST differentially ink them****] [*Describe salivary gland if present-only submit one section of gland if present****]

[*insert cassette summary****]

Cassette Submission: 5-15 cassettes

- Submit all lymph nodes
- Submit remainder of soft tissue and/or fibroadipose tissue

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- Large nodes (including matted nodes), 1/cm including one full cross section, to include largest focus of tumor and suspicious areas for extranodal extension
- One representative section of submandibular gland (submit more if involved by tumor; make sure to section)