Table II. TNM Staging of Soft Tissue Sarcoma

Definitions of TMN

Primary Tumor (T)				
TX	Primary tumor cannot be assessed			
T0	No evidence of primary tumor			
T1	Tumor 5 cm or less in greatest dimension			
T1a	Superficial tumor			
T1b	Deep tumor			
T2	Tumor more than 5 cm in greatest dimension			
T2a	Superficial tumor			
T2b	Deep tumor			

Note: Superficial tumor is located exclusively above the superficial fascia without invasion of the fascia; deep tumor is located either exclusively beneath the superficial fascia, superficial to the fascia with invasion of or through the fascia, or both superficial yet beneath the fascia.

Regional Lymph Nodes (N)				
NX	Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed			
N0	No regional lymph node metastasis			
N1*	Regional lymph node metastasis			
*Presence of positive nodes (N1) in M0 tumors is considered Stage III				

Distant Metastasis (M)				
M0		No distant metastasis		
M1		Distant metastasis		

Anatomic Stage / Prognostic Groups

GROUP	T	N	M	Grade
IA	T1a	N0	M0	G1,GX
	T1b	N0	M0	G1,GX
IB	T2a	N0	M0	G1,GX
	T2b	N0	M0	G1,GX
	T1a	N0	M0	G1,GX
	T1b	N0	M0	G1,GX
IIA	T1a	N0	M0	G2,G3
	T1b	N0	M0	G2,G3
IIB	T2a	N0	M0	G2
	T2b	N0	M0	G2
III	T2a, T2b	N0	M0	G3
	Any T	N1	M0	Any G
IV	Any T	Any N	M1	Any G

^{*}Used with the permission of the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC), Chicago, Illinois. The original source of this material is the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual, Seventh Edition (2010) published by Springer SBM, LLC.