

**EORTC, GORTEC AND RTOG ENDORSED CONSENSUS GUIDELINES FOR THE
DELINEATION OF THE CTV IN THE N0 NECK OF PATIENTS WITH HEAD & NECK
SQUAMOUS CELL CARCINOMA.**

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The materials presented in this website illustrates the consensus reached among cooperatives groups with respect to the delineation of the lymph node levels in the node negative neck.

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Level	Anatomical boundaries					
	Cranial	Caudal	Anterior	Posterior	Lateral	Medial
Ia	Geniohyoid m., plane tangent to basilar edge of mandible	Plane tangent to body of hyoid bone	Symphysis menti, platysma m.	Body of hyoid bone	Medial edge of ant. belly of digastric m.	n.a. ^a
Ib	Mylohyoid m., cranial edge of submandibular gland	Plane through central part of hyoid bone	Symphysis menti, platysma m.	Posterior edge of submandibular gland	Basilar edge / innerside of mandible, platysma m., skin	Lateral edge of ant. belly of digastric m.
IIa	Caudal edge of lateral process of C1	Caudal edge of the body of hyoid bone	Post. edge of sub-mandibular gland; ant. edge of int. carotid artery; post. edge of post. belly of digastric m.	Post. Border of int. jugular vein	Medial edge of sternocleidomastoid	Medial edge of int. carotid artery, paraspinal (levator scapulae) m.
IIb	Caudal edge of lateral process of C1	Caudal edge of the body of hyoid bone	Post. Border of int. jugular vein	Post. border of the sternocleidomastoid m.	Medial edge of sternocleidomastoid	Medial edge of int. carotid artery, paraspinal (levator scapulae) m.
III	Caudal edge of the body of hyoid bone	Caudal edge of cricoid cartilage	Postero-lateral edge of the sternohyoid m.; ant. edge of sternocleidomastoid m.	Post. edge of the sternocleidomastoid m.	Medial edge of sternocleidomastoid	Int. edge of carotid artery, paraspinal (scalenius) m.
IV	Caudal edge of cricoid cartilage	2 cm cranial to sternoclavicular joint	Anteromedial edge of sternocleido-mastoid m	Post. edge of the sternocleidomastoid m.	Medial edge of sternocleidomastoid	Medial edge of internal carotid artery, paraspinal (scalenius) m.
V	Cranial edge of body of hyoid bone	CT slice encompassing the transverse cervical vessels ^b	Post. edge of the sternocleidomastoid m.	Ant. border of the trapezius m.	Platysma m., skin	Paraspinal (levator scapulae, splenius capitis) m.
VI	Caudal edge of body of thyroid cartilage ^c	Sternal manubrium	Skin; platysma m.	Separation between trachea and esophagus ^d	Medial edges of thyroid gland, skin and ant.-medial edge of sternocleidomastoid m.	n.a..

Level	Anatomical boundaries					
	Cranial	Caudal	Anterior	Posterior	Lateral	Medial
Retro-pharyngeal	Base of skull	Cranial edge of the body of hyoid bone	Fascia under the pharyngeal mucosa	Prevertebral m. (longus colli, longus capitis)	Medial edge of the internal carotid artery	Midline

^a Midline structure lying between the medial borders of the anterior bellies of the digastric muscles

^b for NPC, the reader is referred to the original description of the UICC/AJCC 1997 edition of the Ho's triangle. In essence, the fatty planes below and around the clavicle down to the trapezius muscle.

^c for paratracheal and recurrent nodes, the cranial border is the caudal edge of the cricoid cartilage.

^d for pretracheal nodes, trachea and anterior edge of cricoid cartilage