FIGO staging of carcinoma of the vulva

Stage I Tumour confined to the vulva
IA: Lesions ≤ 2 cm in size, confined to the vulva or perineum, and with stromal invasion ≤ 1 mm; no nodal metastases. (Depth of invasion is defined as the measurement of the tumour from the epithelial-stromal junction of the adjacent, most superficial dermal papilla to the deepest point of invasion.)
IB: Lesions > 2 cm in size or with stromal invasion > 1 mm, confined to the vulva or perineum, with negative nodes.

Stage II Tumour of any size, with extension to the adjacent perineal structures (lower 1/3 of urethra, lower 1/3 of vagina, anus), with negative nodes.

Stage III Tumour of any size, with or without extension to the adjacent perineal structures (lower 1/3 of urethra, lower 1/3 of vagina, anus), with positive inguino-femoral lymph nodes.
IIIA: (i) with one lymph node metastasis (≥ 5 mm), or (ii) one or two lymph node metastases (< 5 mm)
IIIB: (i) with two or more lymph node metastases (≥ 5 mm), or (ii) three or more lymph node metastases (< 5 mm)
IIIC: With positive nodes with extracapsular spread

Stage IV Tumour invades other regional (upper 2/3 of urethra, upper 2/3 of vagina) or distant structures.
IVA: Tumour invades any of the following: (i) upper urethral and/or vaginal mucosa, bladder mucosa, rectal mucosa, or fixed to pelvic bone, or (ii) fixed or ulcerated inguino-femoral lymph nodes
IVB: Any distant metastases, including pelvic lymph nodes

References

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The most important direct implication of using the new staging system is that no woman can be adequately staged in the absence of a standardised operation preceding the staging. Inadequate staging will have an immediate impact on the accuracy of the total treatment plan. This will include decision making regarding subsequent therapeutic modalities, and also in relation to setting a prognosis.

It is furthermore of great importance that units treating patients with carcinoma of the vulva follow the staging criteria meticulously, as these should be audited for usefulness in clinical practice.