

Status of muscularis propria (Required)

The presence or absence of muscularis propria is a vital piece of information in determining the adequacy of a biopsy or transurethral resection (TUR) specimen that contains an invasive carcinoma.¹⁻³ For such patients, the absence of muscularis propria in a transurethral resection of bladder tumour (TURBT) would be an indication for a repeat TUR to be performed if treatment is other than cystectomy. It is well documented that absence of muscularis propria in a TURBT specimen is associated with a significantly increased risk of residual disease and early recurrence.⁴ The current European Association of Urology (EAU) guidelines recommend repeat TUR (i) after an incomplete initial TUR, (ii) if there is no muscle in the specimen after initial resection with the exception of Ta, LG/G1 tumours and primary carcinoma in situ (CIS), (iii) in all T1 tumours and (iv) in all HG/G3 tumours except primary CIS.³ It generally is also considered appropriate to comment on the presence or absence of muscularis propria in a biopsy or TUR specimen, irrespective of the presence or absence of invasive carcinoma.

References

- 1 Hansel DE, Amin MB, Comperat E, Cote RJ, Knuchel R, Montironi R, Reuter VE, Soloway MS, Umar SA and Van der Kwast TH (2013). A contemporary update on pathology standards for bladder cancer: transurethral resection and radical cystectomy specimens. *Eur Urol* 63(2):321-332.
- 2 Lopez-Beltran A, Bassi PF, Pavone-Macaluso M and Montironi R (2004). Handling and pathology reporting of specimens with carcinoma of the urinary bladder, ureter, and renal pelvis. A joint proposal of the European Society of Urology and the Urology Working Group. *Virchows Arch* 445(2):103-110.
- 3 Babjuk M, Burger M, Zigeuner R, Shariat SF, van Rhijn BW, Comperat E, Sylvester RJ, Kaasinen E, Bohle A, Palou Redorta J and Roupret M (2013). EAU guidelines on non-muscle-invasive urothelial carcinoma of the bladder: update 2013. *Eur Urol* 64(4):639-653.
- 4 Mariappan P, Finney SM, Head E, Somani BK, Zachou A, Smith G, Mishriki SF, N'Dow J and Grigor KM (2012). Good quality white-light transurethral resection of bladder tumours (GQ-WLTURBT) with experienced surgeons performing complete resections and obtaining detrusor muscle reduces early recurrence in new non-muscle-invasive bladder cancer: validation across time and place and recommendation for benchmarking. *BJU Int* 109(11):1666-1673.