

**Supplementary Table S6.** Pathological classification of regional lymph nodes (pN) category [2]

pN category	Criteria
pNX	Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed
pN0	No regional lymph node metastasis identified or ITCs only
pN0(i+)	ITCs only (malignant cell clusters no larger than 0.2 mm) in regional lymph node(s)
pN1mi	Micrometastases (approximately 200 cells, larger than 0.2 mm, but none larger than 2.0 mm)
pN1a	Metastases in 1 to 3 axillary lymph nodes, at least 1 metastasis larger than 2.0 mm
pN1b	Metastases in ipsilateral internal mammary sentinel nodes, excluding ITCs
pN1c	pN1a and pN1b combined
pN2a	Metastases in 4 to 9 axillary lymph nodes (at least 1 tumor deposit larger than 2.0 mm)
pN2b	Metastases in clinically detected internal mammary lymph nodes with or without microscopic confirmation; with pathologically negative axillary nodes
pN3a	Metastases in 10 or more axillary lymph nodes (at least 1 tumor deposit larger than 2.0 mm) or metastases to the infraclavicular (Level III axillary lymph) nodes
pN3b	pN1a or pN2a in the presence of cN2b (positive internal mammary nodes by imaging); or pN2a in the presence of pN1b
pN3c	Metastases in ipsilateral supraclavicular lymph nodes

ITC, isolated tumor cell.