The PNM system for describing the anatomical extent of alveolar echinococcosis is based on the assessment of three components at the time of diagnosis:

**P: HEPATIC LOCALIZATION OF THE PARASITE**
- P 0: no detectable tumor in the liver
- P 1: peripheral lesions without proximal vascular and/or biliar involvement
- P 2: central lesions with proximal vascular and/or biliar involvement of one lobe
- P 3: central lesions with hilar vascular and biliar involvement of both lobes and/or with involvement of two hepatic veins
- P 4: any liver lesion with extension along the vessels and the biliary tree

**N: EXTRAHEPATIC INVOLVEMENT OF NEIGHBOURING ORGANS**
- N 0: no regional involvement (see list)
- N 1: regional involvement of contiguous organs or tissues

**M: THE ABSENCE OR PRESENCE OF DISTANT METASTASIS**
- M X: not completely evaluable
- M 0: no metastasis (see list)
- M 1: metastasis

**STAGING ACCORDING TO PNM - CLASSIFICATION**
- Stage I: P1 N0 M0
- Stage II: P2 N0 M0
- Stage IIIa: P3 N0 M0
- Stage IIIb: P1-3 N1 M0
- Stage IV: P4 N1 M0

The Principles of the PNM
1. To aid the clinician in the planning of treatment
2. To give some indication of prognosis
3. To assist in evaluation of the results of treatment
4. To facilitate the exchange of information between treatment centres
5. To contribute to the continuing investigation of alveolar echinococcosis

Application of the proposed PNM-Classification to a rather large patient group. Altogether 97 patients have been evaluated retrospectively in the treatment centers of Besancon and Ulm. Core data are presented here:

**Clinical evaluation after 5 years (in 52 patients)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staging group</th>
<th>Cure</th>
<th>Regression</th>
<th>Progression</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stage I</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage II</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage IIIa</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage IIIb</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage IV</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>