

The Stages of Cancer

The Numbered Stages of Cancer

Stage 1: Cancer is small and contained within the organ

Stage 2: A larger cancer, which hasn't spread to other organs, but may be in local lymph nodes

Stage 3: The cancer is larger again, has started to spread into nearby tissues, and is in local lymph nodes

Stage 4: The cancer has spread to another organ

The TNM System of Cancer Stages

T is for "Tissue" and refers to how big and how spread the cancer is, and ranges from 1 to 4, a bit like the 4 numbered stages above

N is for "Nodes" and refers to how many lymph nodes are affected, ranging from 0 (none) to 3 (lots)

M is for "Metastasis" and refers to whether the cancer has spread to other organs, rated as either 0 (no) or 1 (yes)