

# Cancer Staging

Staging defines how much cancer exists and whether the cancer has spread to other parts of the body. General staging information varies for specific kinds of cancer.

## HOW BIG IS THE TUMOR?

PEANUT-SIZED  
[2 cm]\*



GRAPE-SIZED  
[3 cm]\*



WALNUT-SIZED  
[5 cm]\*



LIME-SIZED  
[7 cm]\*



\*Sizes are approximate

### Typical TNM Tumor Staging System

Primary Tumor (T)	
TX	Primary tumor cannot be evaluated
T0	No evidence of primary tumor
Tis	Carcinoma in situ (non-invasive)
T1, T2, T3, T4	Depends on size and/or extent of primary tumor
Regional Lymph Nodes (N)	
NX	Regional lymph nodes cannot be evaluated
N0	No regional lymph node involvement
N1, N2, N3	Depends on number and location of spread to regional lymph nodes
Distant Metastasis (M)	
MX	Distant metastasis cannot be evaluated
M0	Cancer has not spread to other parts of the body
M1	Cancer has spread to other parts of the body

### Overall Stage Groupings

STAGE	DESCRIPTION
Stage 0	Carcinoma in situ (non-invasive)
Stage 1 to 3	More extensive disease indicated by higher numbers (could include larger tumor, cancer present in nearby lymph nodes and/or cancer present in organs adjacent to the organ in which the cancer began)
Stage 4	Cancer has spread to a distant organ (metastasized)