

Stages and Characteristics of Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC)⁸

The chart below represents each stage of non-small cell lung cancer, as defined by the TNM system. This rich medical language is dense and difficult to understand on your own.

It is important to take this chart with you to your doctor to understand your cancer and treatment options accordingly.

The following chart is from Goldstraw's 2009 IASLC Lung Cancer Staging Project

Tumor Characteristics (T)

STAGE	DIFFERENTIATING CHARACTERISTICS
TX	Primary tumor cannot be assessed or tumor proven by the presence of malignant cells in sputum or bronchial washings but not visualized by imaging or bronchoscopy
T0	No evidence of primary tumor
Tis	Carcinoma in situ
T1	Tumor is equal to or less than 3 cm in greatest dimension, surrounded by lung or visceral pleura, without bronchoscopic evidence of invasion more proximal than the lobar bronchus (i.e., not in the main bronchus)
T1a	Tumor equal to or less than 2 cm in greatest dimension
T1b	Tumor is greater than 2 cm but equal to or less than 3 cm in greatest dimension
T2	Tumor is greater than 3 cm but equal to or less than 7 cm or tumor with any of the following features (T2 tumors with these features are classified T2a if equal to or less than 5 cm): Involves main bronchus greater than or equal to 2 cm distal to the carina, invades visceral pleura, or is associated with atelectasis or obstructive pneumonitis that extends to the hilar region but does not involve the entire lung

Tumor Characteristics (T) continued

STAGE	DIFFERENTIATING CHARACTERISTICS
T2a	Tumor greater than 3 cm but equal to or less than 5 cm in greatest dimension
T2b	Tumor greater than 5 cm but equal to or less than 7 cm in greatest dimension
T3	Tumor is greater than 7 cm or one that directly invades any of the following: chest wall, diaphragm, phrenic nerve, mediastinal pleura, parietal pericardium; or tumor in the main bronchus is less than 2 cm distal to the carina but without involvement of the carina; or associated atelectasis or obstructive pneumonitis of the entire lung or separate tumor nodule(s) in the same lobe
T4	Tumor of any size that invades any of the following: mediastinum, heart, great vessels, trachea, recurrent laryngeal nerve, esophagus, vertebral body, carina; separate tumor nodule(s) in a different ipsilateral lobe

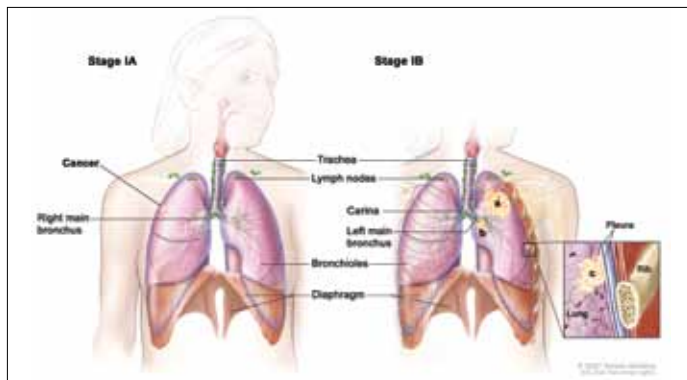
Lymph Node Involvement (N)

STAGE	DIFFERENTIATING CHARACTERISTICS
NX	Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed
N0	No regional lymph node metastasis
N1	Metastasis in ipsilateral peribronchial and/or ipsilateral hilar lymph nodes and intrapulmonary nodes, including involvement by direct extension
N2	Metastasis in ipsilateral mediastinal and/or subcarinal lymph node(s)
N3	Metastasis in contralateral hilar, ipsilateral or contralateral scalene, or supraclavicular lymph node(s)

Metastasis (M)

STAGE	DIFFERENTIATING CHARACTERISTICS
MX	Distant metastasis cannot be assessed
M0	No distant metastasis
M1	Distant metastasis
M1a	Separate tumor nodule(s) in a contralateral lobe; tumor with pleural nodules or malignant pleural (or pericardial) effusion
M1b	Distant metastasis

Overview of Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Stages⁹

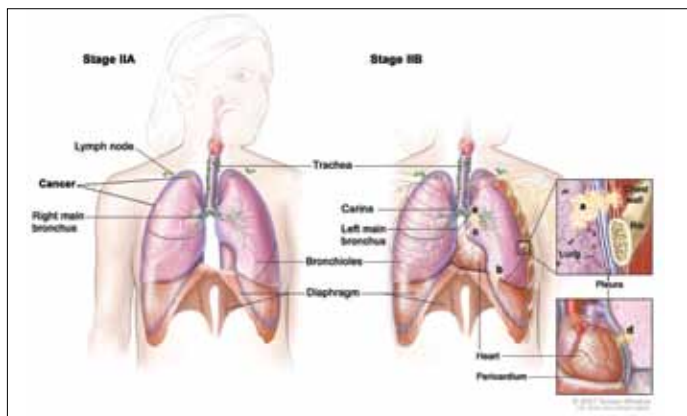


STAGE I NON-SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER

Stage IA: cancer is in the lung only

Stage IB: cancer may do one or more of the following:

- (a) grow larger in the lung, (b) spread to the main bronchus of the lung,
- (c) spread to the innermost layer of the pleura that covers the lungs.



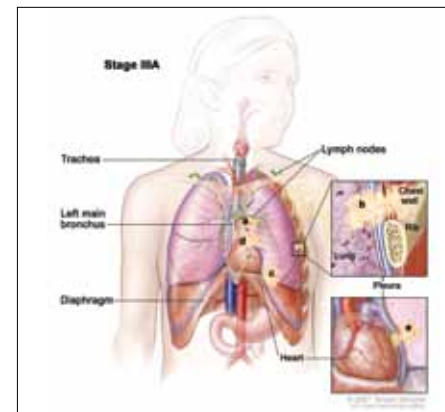
STAGE II NON-SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER

Stage IIA: cancer has spread to lymph nodes on the same side of the chest as the cancer.

Stage IIB: cancer is either the same as in stage IB and has also spread to lymph nodes on the same side of the chest; *or*

cancer has not spread to lymph nodes but has spread to one or more of the following:

- (a) the chest wall, (b) the diaphragm, (c) the pleura between the lungs, (d) the membrane around the heart, (e) the main bronchus.

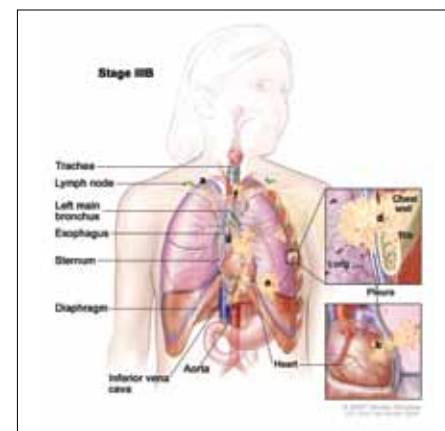


STAGE IIIA NON-SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER

The cancer has spread to the lymph nodes on the same side of the chest as the cancer.

It may also spread to one or more of the following:

- (a) the main bronchus, (b) the chest wall, (c) the diaphragm, (d) the pleura between the lungs, (e) the pericardium (membrane around the heart).

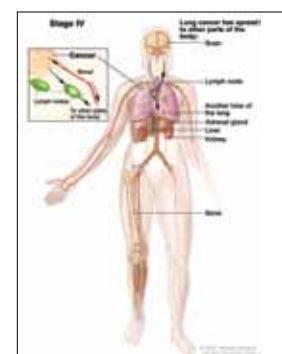


STAGE IIIB NON-SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER

The cancer has spread to lymph nodes above the collarbone or lymph nodes on the opposite side of the chest from the cancer, and/or it may also spread to one or more of the following:

- (a) the heart, (b) the inferior vena cava and the aorta, (c) the chest wall, (d) the diaphragm, (e) the trachea, (f) the sternum or esophagus.

Cancer may also spread to the fluid between the pleura (thin layers of tissue lining the lungs and chest cavity).



STAGE IV NON-SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER

The cancer has spread to another lobe of the same lung, to the other lung, and/or to one or more other parts of the body.