

What are the Stages of Cancer?

#### Stage I

When abnormal cells clump together and begin penetrating beneath the top layer of cells within the organ of origin, they can form stage I cancer.

This stage of cancer describes cancer that is small and present only within the organ of origin.

Due to these characteristics, stage I cancer is typically very treatable and has a high cure rate in the majority of cancer patients.

#### Stage II

Stage II cancer occurs when cancerous cells begin to grow into a small tumor within the organ of origin.

Typically, cancer in this stage has not spread to other tissues or organs within the body.

In certain people, cancerous cells that spread into nearby lymph nodes may be classified as stage II cancer.

#### Stage III

As the cancerous tumor grows, it can begin to spread into the lymph nodes and surrounding tissues.

When this occurs, the cancerous tumor is characterized as stage III.

#### Stage IV

Stage IV cancer develops when cancer cells spread from their point of origin to another organ within the body.

This stage of cancer, which is also referred to as metastatic or secondary cancer, is the most advanced form of cancer and is often the most difficult to treat.