

**Cancer staging** is the classification of the severity of a cancer based on factors such as tumor size and location, whether it has spread to lymph nodes, and whether it has spread to other organs in the body (metastasis).

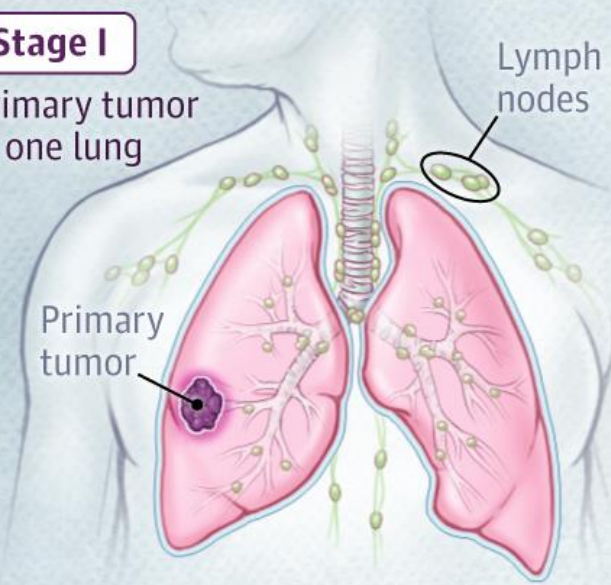
**Staging characteristics for non-small cell lung cancer**

**Stage I**

Primary tumor in one lung

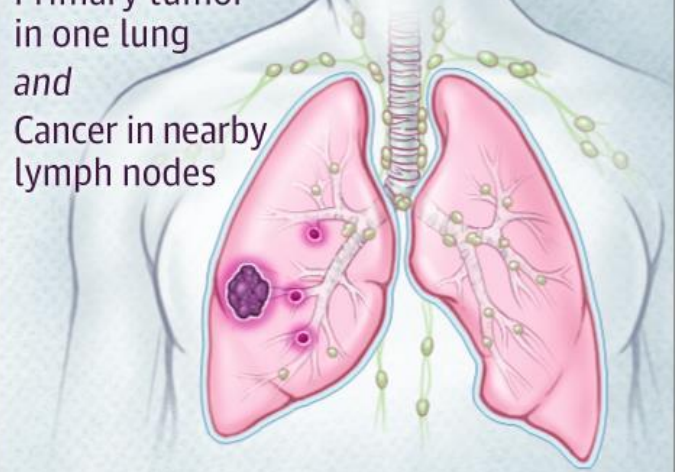
Primary tumor

Lymph nodes



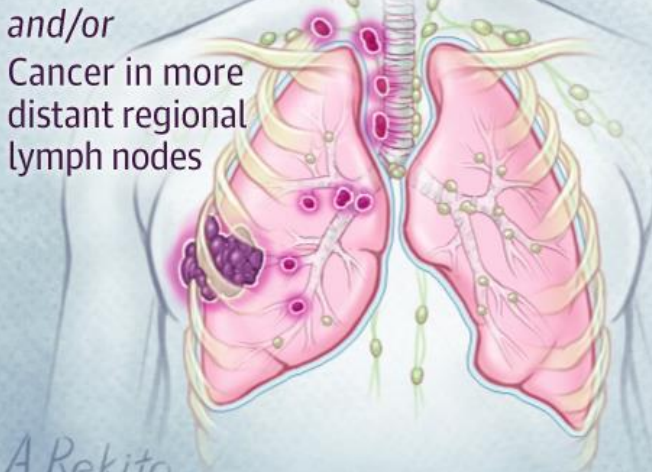
**Stage II**

Primary tumor in one lung and  
Cancer in nearby lymph nodes



**Stage III**

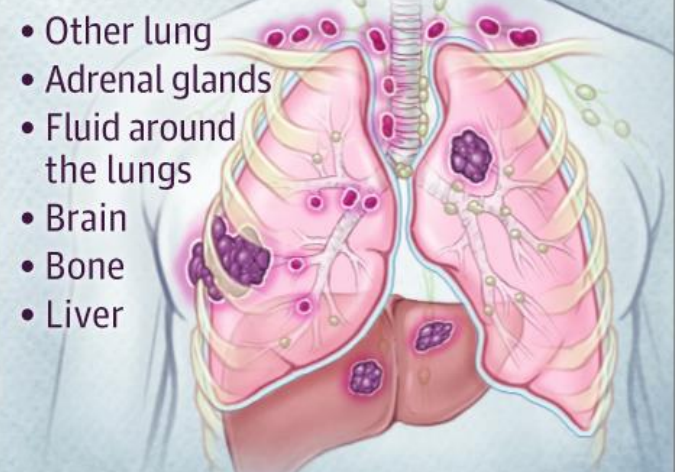
Primary tumor in one lung growing into chest structures  
and/or  
Cancer in more distant regional lymph nodes



**Stage IV**

Many stage I-III features, plus metastasis in one or more distant sites, such as:

- Other lung
- Adrenal glands
- Fluid around the lungs
- Brain
- Bone
- Liver



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