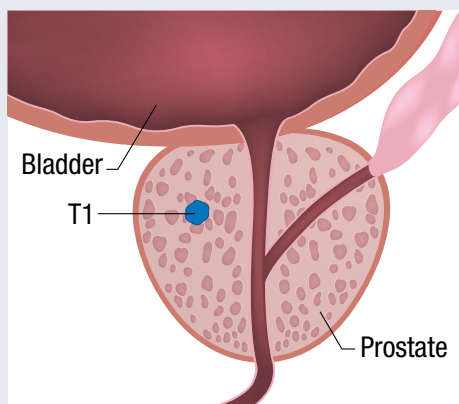


Prostate cancer staging

What is prostate cancer staging?

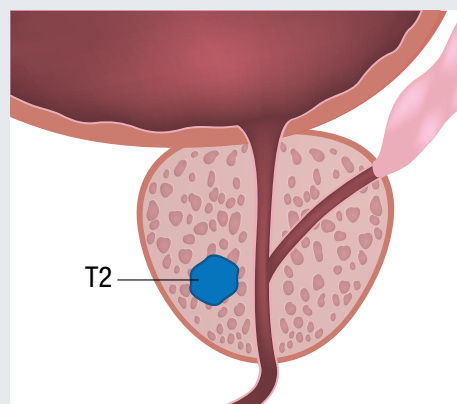
Doctors classify cancer according to how far it has spread. This process is called staging. Knowing your cancer stage helps doctors decide on which treatment is best for you.

T1 tumours are too small to be seen on scans or felt during a prostate examination. They are often discovered by needle biopsy, after a raised prostate-specific antigen (PSA) result from a blood test.



T2 tumours are contained inside the prostate and are divided into three subgroups:

- T2a: The tumour is in only half of one of the lobes of the prostate
- T2b: The tumour is in more than half of one of the lobes
- T2c: The tumour is in both lobes, but is still inside the prostate

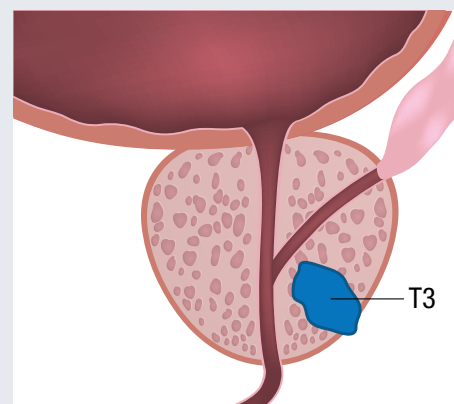


TNM stages of prostate cancer

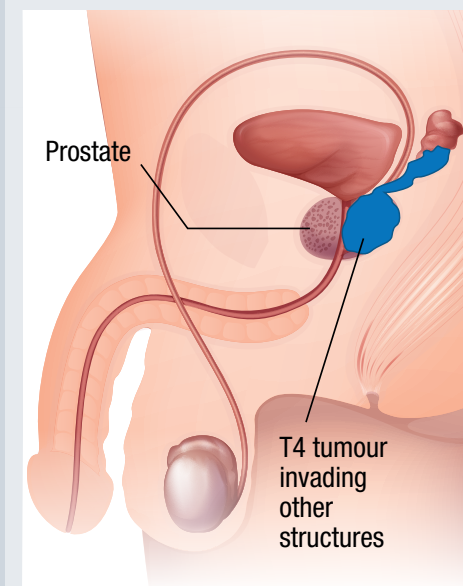
Prostate cancer is staged using the TNM system. It separately assesses the tumour (T), lymph nodes (N) and secondary cancer (metastases, M).

T3 tumours have broken through the capsule (covering) of the prostate gland, but have not spread into other organs – they are divided into two subgroups:

- T3a: The tumour has broken through the capsule (covering) of the prostate
- T3b: The tumour has spread into the seminal vesicles



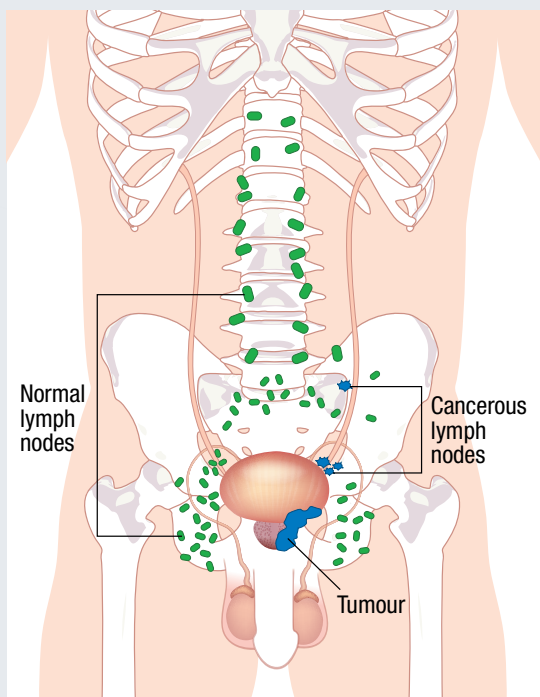
T4 tumours have spread into other body organs nearby, such as the rectum (back passage), bladder, muscles or the sides of the pelvic cavity.



N (lymph node) staging

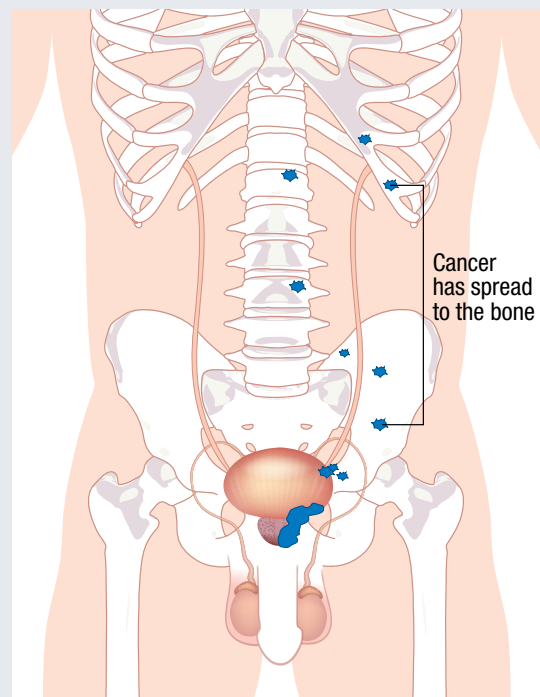
Lymph nodes that contain cancer cells are said to be 'positive'. Positive lymph nodes are usually bigger than normal. The more cancer cells a positive lymph node contains, the bigger it will be.

- NX: The lymph nodes cannot be checked
- N0: There are no cancer cells in lymph nodes close to the prostate
- N1: There are cancer cells present in lymph nodes

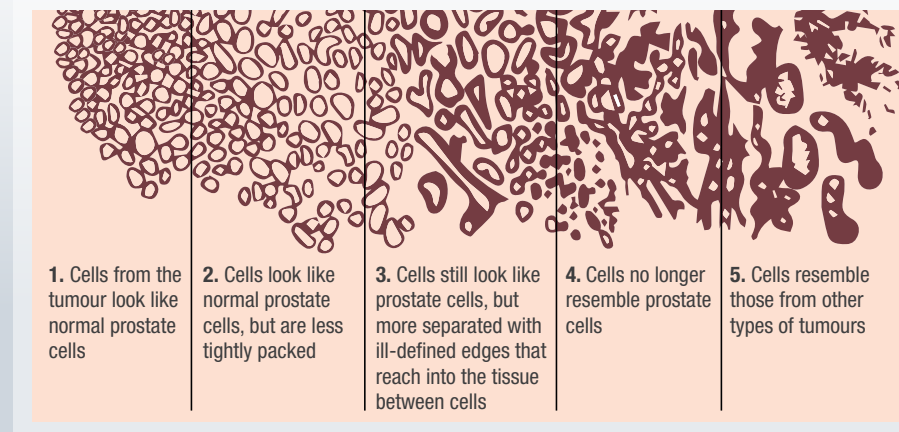


M staging – metastases (cancer spread)

- M0: No cancer has spread outside the pelvis
- M1: Cancer has spread outside the pelvis
- M1a: There are cancer cells in lymph nodes outside the pelvis
- M1b: There are cancer cells in the bone
- M1c: There are cancer cells in other places



Gleason grading



As well as using the TNM staging, doctors put prostate cancers into three groups:

Localised prostate cancer is where the cancer is completely contained within the prostate.

Locally advanced prostate cancer is where the cancer has broken through the outer covering (capsule) of the prostate.

Metastatic prostate cancer is where the cancer has spread to other parts of the body. Prostate cancer most commonly spreads to lymph nodes in other parts of the body or to bones, but it can spread to other organs.

Your cancer stage is:

Notes: