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## **[Desmoplastic Infantile Ganglioglioma - Childhood - Stages and Grades \[1\]](#)**

**This section has been reviewed and approved by the [Cancer.Net Editorial Board](#) [2], 08/2015**

**ON THIS PAGE:** You will learn about how doctors describe the growth and spread of DIG. This is called the grade. To see other pages, use the menu on the side of your screen.

Staging and grading are the way of describing where a tumor is located, if it is likely to spread, if or where it has spread, and whether it is affecting other parts of the body. Doctors use diagnostic tests to find this information, so the diagnosis may not be complete until all of the tests are finished. Knowing this information helps the doctor to decide what kind of treatment is best and can help predict a patient's prognosis, which is the chance of recovery.

Usually, there are different stage descriptions for different types of tumors. However, there is no standard staging system for DIG. Instead, DIG is usually described by grade (see below).

### **Grade**

Grade describes how much the tumor cells look like healthy cells when viewed under a microscope. The doctor compares the cancerous tissue with healthy tissue. Healthy tissue usually contains many different types of cells grouped together. If the tumor looks similar to healthy tissue and contains different cell groupings, it is called differentiated or a low-grade tumor. If the tumor looks very different from healthy tissue, it is called poorly differentiated or a high-grade tumor. The tumor's grade may help the doctor predict how quickly it will grow and spread. In general, the lower the tumor's grade, the better the prognosis.

The World Health Organization (WHO) classifies DIG as a grade I tumor. A grade I tumor includes distinct, unconnected tumors that are less likely to spread and can often be successfully treated with only the surgical removal of the tumor.

## **Recurrent DIG**

A recurrent tumor is a tumor that has come back after treatment. If the tumor does return, there will be another round of tests to learn about the extent of the recurrence. These tests and scans are often similar to those done at the time of the original [diagnosis](#) [3].

*Information about the tumor will help the doctor recommend a specific treatment plan. The [next section in this guide is Treatment Options](#) [4]. Or, use the menu on the side of your screen to choose another section to continue reading this guide.*

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### **Links**

[1] <http://www.cancer.net/cancer-types/desmoplastic-infantile-ganglioglioma-childhood-tumor/stages-and-grades>

[2] <http://www.cancer.net/about-us>

[3] <http://www.cancer.net/node/18734>

[4] <http://www.cancer.net/node/18736>