

Lymphoma - Non-Hodgkin - Childhood - Stages [1]

This section has been reviewed and approved by the [Cancer.Net Editorial Board \[2\]](#), 06/2014

ON THIS PAGE: You will learn about how doctors describe a cancer's growth or spread. This is called the stage. To see other pages, use the menu on the side of your screen.

Staging is a way of describing where the cancer is located, if or where it has spread, and whether it is affecting other parts of the body. Doctors use diagnostic tests to find out the cancer's stage, so staging may not be complete until all the tests are finished. Knowing the stage helps the doctor to decide what kind of treatment is best and can help predict a child's prognosis, which is the chance of recovery. There are different stage descriptions for different types of cancer. Doctors use the following stages to describe NHL in children:

Stage I: Describes cancer that occurs in only one area, either above or below the diaphragm, the large breathing muscle that separates the chest and abdomen.

Stage II: Describes a tumor that may occur in one area and surrounding lymph nodes, or it may be found in two or more lymph nodes or other areas on the same side of the diaphragm.

Stage III: Describes any of these four cases:

- Cancer occurs in tissue or lymph nodes on both sides of the diaphragm.
- Cancer started in the chest (mediastinum).
- Cancer started in the abdomen and spread throughout the abdomen and cannot be completely removed with surgery.
- Cancer is found in the area around the spine.

Stage IV: Describes cancer that is found in the bone marrow, spinal cord, and/or brain.

Recurrent: Recurrent cancer is cancer that has come back after treatment. If there is a recurrence, the cancer may need to be staged again (called re-staging) using the system above.

Source: National Cancer Institute.

Information about the cancer's stage will help the doctor recommend a treatment plan. The next section helps explain the treatment options for this type of cancer. Use the menu on the side of your screen to select Treatment Options, or you can select another section, to continue reading this guide.

Links:

[1] <http://www.cancer.net/cancer-types/lymphoma-non-hodgkin-childhood/stages>

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