
Degree of spread of cancer

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Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary: NHDD
Knowledgebase ID: 000862 Version number: 1
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Definition: Degree of spread of cancer is a measure of the progression/extent of cancer at a particular point in time.

Context: This information is collected for the purpose of:

- Determining what proportion of cancers are localised to the site of the primary cancer at the time of diagnosis.
- Indicating the extent of disease at the time of diagnosis.
- For previously diagnosed cancers, the degree of spread may be measured at each patient episode to track the progression of the cancer.
- Assessing how early in its course the cancer was diagnosed (used to assess impact of early diagnosis measure).
- Estimating severity by degree of spread (used for comparing survival after adjusting for degree of spread).

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype: Numeric
Representational form: CODE
Representation layout: N
Minimum Size: 1
Maximum Size: 1

Data Domain: 1 Localised to the Tissue of Origin
2 Invasion of Adjacent Tissue or Organs
3 Regional Lymph Nodes
4 Distant Metastases

5 Not Applicable
9 Unknown

Guide For Use: The valid values for the variable are listed below.

1 - Localised to the tissue of origin: Includes a primary cancer where the spread is contained within the organ of origin.

Note: (this includes insitu breast (D05.0-D05.9) and in situ melanoma (D03.0-D03.9))

Example 1: For colon cancer, the cancer has not progressed into the adventitia (peritoneal layer) surrounding the colon).

Example 2: For breast cancer, the cancer has not progressed into the underlying muscle layer (pectoral) or externally to the skin.

Example 3: For melanoma of the skin, the cancer has not invaded the subcutaneous fat layer (that is, it is contained within the dermis and epidermis).

Example 4: For lung cancer, the cancer has not invaded the pleura.

2 - Invasion of adjacent tissue or organs: A primary cancer has spread to adjacent organs or tissue not forming part of the organ of origin. This category includes sub-cutaneous fat or muscle and organs adjacent to the primary cancer site.

Example 1: For colon cancer, the cancer has progressed into the adventitia (peritoneal layer) surrounding the colon.

Example 2: For breast cancer, the degree of spread has progressed into the underlying muscle layer (pectoral) or externally into the skin.

Example 3: For melanoma of the skin, the cancer has invaded into subcutaneous fat or muscle.

Example 4: For lung cancer, the cancer has invaded the pleura or tissues of the mediastinum.

3 - Regional Lymph Nodes: The primary cancer has metastasised to the nearby draining lymph nodes.

The list below shows the regional lymph nodes by site of primary cancer (International Union Against Cancer's definition).

Head and neck - Cervical Nodes

Larynx - Cervical Nodes

Thyroid - Cervical and Upper Mediastinal Nodes

Stomach - Perigastric nodes along the lesser and greater curvatures

Colon and Rectum - Pericolonic, perirectal, and those located along the ileocolic, right colic, middle colic, left colic, inferior mesenteric and superior rectal

Anal - Perirectal, internal iliac, and inguinal lymph nodes

Liver - Hilar nodes eg the hepatoduodenal ligament

Pancreas - Peripancreatic nodes

Lung - Intrathoracic, scalene and supraclavicular

