Lung cancer staging is a system that describes the overall size and spread of the main tumor.

**WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?**
Doctors need staging information to plan a patient’s treatment.

**WHAT IS STAGING?**

**STAGE 0**
- Trachea
- Airway passage
- Carcinoma in situ

**STAGE I**
- Cancer is small
- Single lobe

**STAGE II**
- Single lung affected
- Primary tumor: 5-7 cm wide
- Spread to nearby lymph nodes

**STAGE II A**
- Primary tumor: up to 5 cm wide
- Spread only to nearby lymph nodes

**STAGE II B**
- Primary tumor: 5-7 cm wide
- Spread to lymph nodes along the windpipe on the same side as the tumor

**STAGE IIA**
- Primary tumor: up to 5 cm wide
- Spread to nearby lymph nodes

**STAGE IIB**
- Primary tumor: 5-7 cm wide
- Spread only to nearby lymph nodes

**STAGE III**
- Single lung affected
- Primary tumor: more than 7 cm
- Spread to lymph nodes along the windpipe on the opposite side of the tumor

**STAGE III A**
- Primary tumor: more than 7 cm
- Spread to lymph nodes along the windpipe on the opposite side of the tumor

**STAGE III B**
- Spread to lymph nodes along the windpipe on the opposite side of the tumor

**STAGE IV**
- Cancer has spread to other areas of the body including:
  - Other lung
  - Fluid surrounding the heart
  - Infected lymph nodes outside the lungs
  - Nodules in the pleura
  - Fluid surrounding the lungs
  - Other organs