

## The stages of breast cancer

<b>Stage 1 or 2</b> breast cancer is often called 'early breast cancer'.	
Stage 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The cancer (lump) is 2cm or smaller and has not spread to the lymph nodes in the armpit.</li></ul>
<b>Stage 2</b> is divided into two stages	
Stage 2A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The cancer is smaller than 2cm and has spread to the lymph nodes in the armpit.</li></ul> <p><b>or</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The cancer is bigger than 2cm and has not spread to the lymph nodes.</li></ul> <p><b>or</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The cancer can't be found in the breast but is in the lymph nodes close to the breast.</li></ul>
Stage 2B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The cancer is smaller than 5cm and has spread to the lymph nodes in the armpit.</li></ul> <p><b>or</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The cancer is bigger than 5cm but has not spread to the lymph nodes.</li></ul>

<p><b>Stage 3</b> is divided into three stages. Stage 3 breast cancer is sometimes called 'locally advanced' breast cancer.</p>	
<p>Stage 3A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The cancer can't be found in the breast but has spread to the lymph nodes in the armpit (which are found close together).</li> </ul> <p><b>or</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The cancer is under 5cm and has spread to the lymph nodes in the armpit.</li> </ul> <p><b>or</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The cancer is bigger than 5cm and has spread to the lymph nodes.</li> </ul>
<p>Stage 3B</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The cancer has spread to tissue near the breast.</li> <li>• It may be attached to skin or muscles and has usually spread to the lymph nodes in the armpit.</li> </ul>
<p>Stage 3C</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The cancer has spread to 10 or more lymph nodes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• in the armpit</li> <li>• or below the breast bone, near or under the collar bone.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Stage 4</b> breast cancer is also called 'secondary' or 'metastatic' breast cancer.</p>	
<p>Stage 4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The cancer has spread to other parts of the body such as the bones, liver or lungs.</li> </ul>