

Ovarian Cancer Stages

Stage I

IA- tumor confined to the inside of one ovary

IB- tumor confined to the inside of both ovaries

IC- either IA or IB tumor but with tumor cells found in fluid (ascites) from the abdominal cavity, rupture of one of the ovarian tumors (either spontaneous or accidental), or tumor found on the outer surface of an ovarian tumor

Stage II

IIA- tumor extending onto an adjacent fallopian tube, the uterus, or both

IIB- tumor extending onto other pelvic organs (rectum, bladder, pelvic sidewall) without involvement of the upper abdomen

IIC- IIA or IIB with either malignant ascites or tumor within washings of fluid taken from the pelvis

Stage III

IIIA- involvement of tumor in the upper abdomen, microscopic size

IIIB- involvement of tumor in the upper abdomen, visible by eye, but less than 2cm size for each nodule

IIIC- involvement of tumor in the upper abdomen with tumor greater than 2cm size; OR metastasis to lymph nodes

Stage IV

IVA- tumor cells in pleural effusions (fluid on the lung)

IVB- distant metastasis of tumor (within the liver, lungs, brain)

Recurrent Ovarian Cancer- This doesn't change the initial stage (Ex. Initial tumor confined to ovary but recurs in liver- would be recurrent stage IA ovarian cancer)

Grading- Tumors are also given a grade (1 through 3, 3 being the worst) based on the microscopic appearance of the cells; i.e. how "aggressive" or "bad" do they look. Some cell types are by default Grade 3 (Clear cell).