

# PROSTATE CANCER FAST FACTS STAGES

## GRADING

Determining the grade of prostate cancer involves examining a tissue sample of the prostate tumour cells under a microscope. By examining how similar or different the cancer cells are compared to your normal prostate cells, your doctor will be able to determine if you have a high- or low-grade cancer. The two systems for grading cancers are 1) General Grading System and 2) Gleason Grading System.

### 1) General Grading System

This grading system classifies prostate cancer cells as low-, intermediate- or high-grade based on the appearance of the cancer cells as compared to healthy prostate cells.

Low-grade	This type of cancer cell is slow-growing and looks similar to normal prostate cells
Intermediate-grade	This type of cancer cell is more aggressive than low-grade tumour cells and looks abnormal as compared to low-grade cells.
High-grade	This type of cancer cells is extremely aggressive and grows and spreads quickly. They do not resemble healthy prostate cells at all.

### 2) Gleason Grading System

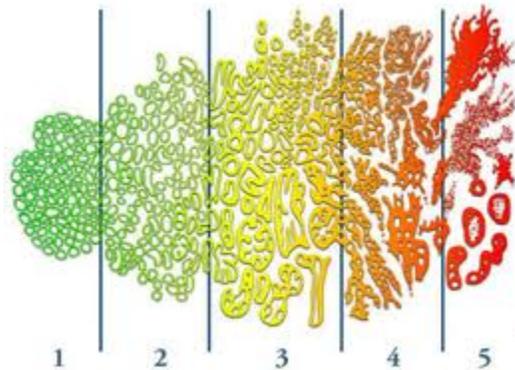
The Gleason grading system is a measure from 2 to 10 that allows your doctor to determine how aggressive your cancer is. An aggressive cancer is more likely to spread to other parts of your body. A higher number indicates a more aggressive cancer. The Gleason score is the best predictor of the progression and growth of your cancer.

## Gleason Grade:

To determine your overall Gleason score, the pathologist must first determine the Gleason grade. The Gleason score is the sum of the primary and secondary grade, each is given a score from 1 to 5.

To determine the **primary Gleason grade**, the pathologist looks at the most common tumor pattern and from there looks at what grade the cancerous cells in this pattern are. The bigger the difference in appearances between the healthy and cancerous cells the higher the Gleason grade (up to 5).

The **secondary Gleason grade** is determined the same way, however, the pathologist looks at the second most common tumor pattern.



Grade 1: the cancerous tissue will closely resemble the normal tissue

Grade 2: tissue that has well advanced structures, such as the glands, but they are much larger and the tissues are present among them

Grade 3: tissue has recognizable glands, though, the cells are dimmer

Grade 4: the tissue has hardly any glands that are identifiable

Grade 5: there are no identifiable glands in the tissue

## STAGING

While the Gleason score determines how aggressive the cancer is, staging the tumor allows doctors to see how far the cancer has spread. The TNM classification system is used as the standard around the world. In general a lower number in each category means a better prognosis. The stage of the cancer is used to plan the treatment.

**T** describes the site and size of the main tumour (primary)

**N** describes involvement of lymph nodes

**M** relates to whether the cancer has spread (presence or absence of distant metastases)

The **ABCD** Staging numbers in parentheses refer to the older Whitmore-Jewett system.

T1	can't feel the tumour during a digital rectal exam (A)
T2	a nodule that can be felt on rectal examination (B)
T2a	the tumour is small, on one side of the prostate only (B1)
T2b	on both sides but confined to prostate (B2)
T3	extends through the capsule of the prostate (C)
T4 or N+	tumour is touching or attached to other organs, or cancer has escaped to lymph nodes or beyond (D-1)
M+	metastatic (spread) to other organs, e.g. bone (D2)

Raymond James is proud to step forward as the lead sponsor of the 2017 Father's Day Walk/Run on June 18, 2017 in support of Prostate Cancer Foundation BC. For more information on prostate cancer, please visit: [www.prostatecancerbc.ca](http://www.prostatecancerbc.ca)

Come out and support Prostate Cancer Foundation BC for the Father's Day Walk Run. [Click here](#) to learn more or to sign up.