

Cervical cancer Essential TNM

Key points for cervical cancer staging

1. Distant metastasis is common to the bone, lung, and brain. Look for evidence on imaging.
2. Invasion of the tumour into the bladder, the rectum, or beyond the pelvis is very advanced (A2) and is considered Stage IV.
3. Regional lymph nodes are those of the pelvis: the paracervical, parametrial, hypogastric (internal iliac, obturator), common iliac, external iliac, presacral, and lateral sacral nodes. When looking for information on regional nodes, look also for mention of para-aortic nodes.
4. Look for tumour extension to the lower third of the vagina, or to the wall of the pelvis, or hydronephrosis due to obstruction of the ureter.
5. Most cervical cancers are staged using the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) system, for which the codes for stage (I–IV) are the same as those of the TNM system.

Fig. 5. Cervical cancer Essential TNM flow chart. A, advanced extension; FIGO, International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics; L, localized extension; M, distant metastasis; N/A, not applicable; R, regional lymph nodes; TNM, Tumour, Node, Metastasis.

