

# Tumor size and level of visceral pleura invasion can impact survival of NSCLC patients

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A study published in the August 2009 edition of the *Journal of Thoracic Oncology* found that non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) patients could be more accurately staged at diagnosis by taking into account the level of visceral pleura invasion (VPI). VPI is the extension of a tumor beyond the elastic layer of the visceral pleura.

Researchers from the National Cancer Center East in Kashiwa, Japan conducted a review of data from the Japanese Joint Committee for [Lung Cancer](#) Registration. After examining the records of 9,758 patients who underwent surgical resection in 1999, the patients were divided into nine groups based on tumor size and VPI.

The status of disease progression is determined through staging by measuring the presence of a localized tumor (T Status), presence of [cancerous cells](#) in the lymph nodes (N status) and metastasized tumors (M status). The TNM classification has several subgroups, or stages, that allow physicians to pinpoint the most accurate level of disease progression and develop a treatment plan. Using the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer's staging model, Junji Yoshida, MD and his team concluded that a [tumor](#) 7cm or less with VPI should be upgraded to the next stage in T status.

"This research is extremely necessary in order to fine tune the lung cancer staging guidelines and be sure [patients](#) receive the most accurate

staging and treatment," said Dr. Yoshida. "Accurate staging and course of treatment can impact the patient's prognosis tremendously."

Source: International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer

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