NETWise

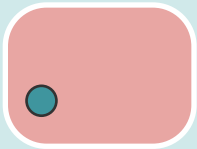# Stage, Differentiation, & Grade
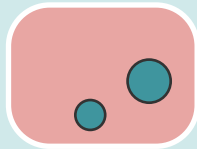
These are easily confused, but are actually very different metrics that say very different things about a tumor

Stage | Tells *how far* cancer has travelled from the site of the original tumor
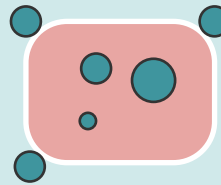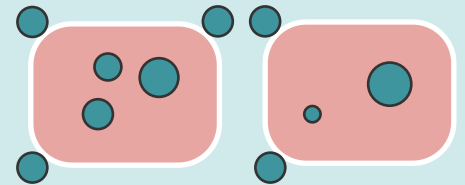
Stage 1
Tumor is small and hasn't spread

Stage 2
Tumor is large but hasn't spread

Stage 3
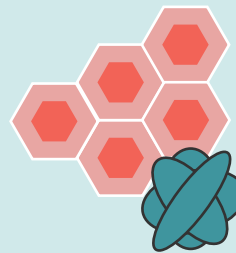Tumors have spread to neighboring lymph nodes

Stage 4
Tumors have spread to other organs

Differentiation | Tells *how abnormal* the tumor cells look when compared to the surrounding healthy cells

Well-differentiated Cancer Cell:
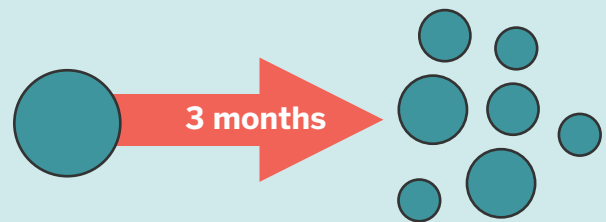has a shape and structure that resembles nearby healthy cells

Poorly-differentiated Cancer Cell:
has a completely different shape and structure

Grade | Tells *how quickly* the tumor cells are dividing

3 months

Low-grade Tumor

3 months

High-grade Tumor