

Prostate cancer Essential TNM

Key points for prostate cancer staging

1. Distant metastasis is most common to the bone. Look for evidence of this on imaging.
2. Remember that **distant nodes beyond the pelvis** are M+; these include the following nodes: aortic (para-aortic, lumbar), common iliac, inguinal (femoral and deep), supraclavicular, cervical, scalene, and retroperitoneal.
3. Regional nodes are those of the true pelvis (the pelvic nodes below the bifurcation of the common iliac arteries: obturator, periprostatic, perivesical, pelvic, iliac, sacral, and hypogastric).
4. Look for tumour extension beyond the prostate capsule; if it is confined to the prostate, the tumour is localized (L).

Fig. 7. Prostate cancer Essential TNM flow chart. A, advanced extension; L, localized extension; M, distant metastasis; R, regional lymph nodes; TNM, Tumour, Node, Metastasis.

