



## Staging in Myeloma

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### **Audience Member:**

In most diseases they say if you catch it early you can work with it better or get better results or something, advance things, but I don't know if that relates to the multiple myeloma or not.

### **Dr. Lonial:**

Let's skip ahead before I come back to the smoldering and MGUS kind of situation, but staging in myeloma is not the same as it is in other solid tumor malignancies like lung cancer or breast cancer where, if you have stage I lung cancer or breast cancer you cut out the problem and you move on. In myeloma stages really refer to how rapidly the disease is dividing, or proliferating is the word that we use.

When you have stage I versus stage III myeloma it's systemic. It's in all the marrow for the most part, so you can't say stage I means that you treat it this way where stage III means you're metastatic. That same analogy doesn't apply to myeloma. Now, what we do know about myeloma is that there are precursors to myeloma called smoldering myeloma or asymptomatic myeloma or MGUS.