



Staging and Risk Stratification

When multiple myeloma is diagnosed, the stage of the disease varies from patient to patient. The most commonly used clinical staging system, the Durie-Salmon Staging System, demonstrates the correlation between the amount of myeloma and the damage it has caused, such as [bone disease \(/bone-disease\)](#) or [anemia \(/multiple-myeloma-anemia\)](#) .



Staging can also be done according to prognosis, or expected survival. The most common staging system for MM that is based on prognostic factors is the [Revised International Staging System \(R-ISS\) \(/international-staging-system-iss-revised-iss-r-iss\)](#) .

Multiple Myeloma Prognosis

A multiple myeloma prognosis is determined by both the number and specific properties of myeloma cells in a given patient. These specific properties include the following:

- the growth rate of myeloma cells,
- the production rate of monoclonal proteins, and
- the production or non-production of various cytokines and chemicals that damage or significantly impair other tissues, organs, or bodily functions.

Durie-Salmon Staging System

In 1975, the [Durie-Salmon Staging System \(/durie-salmon-staging\)](#) was developed, bringing together the major clinical parameters in correlation with measure

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Europe, and Asia. Potential prognostic factors were evaluated using a variety of statistical techniques. Serum β 2 microglobulin (S β 2M), serum albumin, platelet count, serum creatinine, and age emerged as powerful predictors of survival and were then further analyzed.

A combination of serum β 2 microglobulin and serum albumin provided the most powerful, simple, and reproducible three-stage classification. This system, the International Staging System (/international-staging-system-iss-revised-iss-r-iss), was further validated by demonstrating effectiveness

in patients in North America, Europe, and Asia;

in patients younger and older than age 65 years;

with standard therapy or auto transplant; and

in comparison with the Durie-Salmon Staging System.

Revised International Staging System (R-ISS)



In August 2015, the IMWG published the Revised International Staging System (R-ISS) (/international-myeloma-working-group-imwg-criteria-diagnosis-multiple-myeloma) for multiple myeloma to incorporate two further prognostic factors: genetic risk as assessed by fluorescence in-situ hybridization (FISH) (/denver), and level of lactate dehydrogenase level (LDH).

What's Next?

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The International Myeloma Foundation medical and editorial content team

Comprised of leading medical researchers, hematologist, oncologists, oncology-certified nurses, medical editors, and medical journalists, our team has extensive knowledge of the multiple myeloma treatment and care landscape. Additionally, [Dr. Brian G.M. Durie \(/Brian-Durie-md\)](#) reviews and approves all medical content on this website.

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