

## **Extent of invasion (Core)**

### **Reason/Evidentiary Support**

Extent of invasion is part of staging for radical pleural surgical specimens. In biopsies the presence of invasion is the most important parameter for separating benign from malignant mesothelial proliferations.

Invasion into the endothoracic fascia is a staging parameter and should be determined only by the surgeon or radiologist, since there are no characteristic pathological features appreciable by gross or microscopic examination.

The endothoracic fascia represents a connective tissue plane that lies between the parietal pleura and the innermost intercostal muscle. Its histology is not well defined. Sections from parietal pleura that appose the chest wall showing histologic involvement of skeletal muscle is the best surrogate indicator that the endothoracic fascia has been breached.