

## Pattern of invasion (Non-core)

It is controversial as to whether the pattern of invasion in Stage I mucinous ovarian carcinoma has prognostic significance; therefore this is a non-core element.<sup>1-6</sup> The expansile/confluent/non-destructive pattern of invasion is characterised by architecturally complex glands, cysts or papillae lined by atypical epithelium with minimal to no intervening stroma. The destructive/infiltrative pattern is characterised by haphazardly arranged glands, tubules, nests and cords of malignant cells infiltrating stroma with an associated oedematous, inflammatory or desmoplastic response. While several studies have shown the expansile pattern heralds a better prognosis,<sup>1-3,5-8</sup> a population-based registry study of mucinous ovarian carcinomas was not able to prognosticate utilising the distinction between the two patterns of invasion.<sup>4</sup> It is recommended that the pattern of invasion in mucinous ovarian carcinomas be recorded. The focus of invasion should measure >5 millimetres in greatest linear extent; otherwise, this should be considered microinvasion or microinvasive carcinoma.

## References

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