

This animation shows what happens in a tumor. There are cells which are dividing abnormally. We will see how in a few minutes they keep dividing at the expense of the normal cells that surround them. In 3-dimensions once they divide enough they start to pop out, you can start to see them with your naked eye, not just under a microscope. Then they recruit blood vessels. They need to recruit blood vessels in order to grow to a size that's greater than just 1/10 of an inch in diameter. The blood vessels supply oxygen and nutrients. The last stage is the metastatic stage. That blue cell in the middle represents a metastatic cell that has come from the primary tumor, invaded into the blood vessel and now can also get out of the blood vessel, invade another tissue, and form cells there.