## TCGA DICOM Folder Structure

When you download DICOM data from TCIA (e.g., **TCGA-SARC**), the folder hierarchy looks like this:

TCGA-SARC/

├── TCGA-XX-YYYY/ ← Patient ID

│ ├── 03-03-2001-CT CHEST/ ← Study date + Study description

│ │ ├── 1.2.840...123456/ ← Series Instance UID (Scan series)

│ │ │ ├── 1-001.dcm ← Individual DICOM files (image slices)

│ │ │ ├── 1-002.dcm

│ │ │ └── ...

### What Each Level Means

| Level | Example | Meaning |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Patient folder** | TCGA-XX-YYYY | Unique patient ID |
| **Study folder** | 03-03-2001-CT CHEST | Study date and description (e.g., CT scan of the chest) |
| **Series folder** | 1.2.840.113619... | Unique DICOM Series (e.g., different scan angles or phases) |
| **Image files (.dcm)** | 1-001.dcm | Individual DICOM image slices for that scan series |

Each **patient** can have multiple **studies** (e.g., scans done at different times), each **study** can have multiple **series** (e.g., pre-contrast, post-contrast, T1, T2), and each **series** contains multiple **DICOM files** (slices of the image volume).