The three subgroups of UC defined by extent are:

1. Ulcerative proctitis (E1): involvement limited to the rectum (ie, proximal extent of inflammation is distal to the rectosigmoid junction).
2. Left-sided UC (E2) (also known as distal UC): involvement limited to the portion of the colorectum distal to the splenic flexure.
3. Extensive UC (E3) (also known as pancolitis): involvement extents proximal to the splenic flexure.