





World Health Organization

The series *International Histological Classification of Tumours* consists of the following volumes. Each of these volumes – apart from volumes 1 and 2, which have already been revised – will appear in a revised edition within the next few years. Volumes of the current editions can be ordered through WHO, Distribution and Sales, Avenue Appia, CH-1211 Geneva 27.

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21. Histological typing of tumours of the central nervous system (1979)
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23. Histological typing of endocrine tumours (1980)
24. Histological typing of tumours of the eye and its adnexa (1980)
25. Histological typing of kidney tumours (1981)

A coded compendium of the International Histological Classification of Tumours (1978).

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Histological Typing of Intestinal Tumours, 2nd edn. Jass/Sobin (1989)
Histological Typing of Oesophageal and Gastric Tumours, 2nd edn. Watanabe/Jass/Sobin (1990)
Histological Typing of Tumours of the Gallbladder and Extrahepatic Bile Ducts, 2nd edn. Albores-Saavedra/Henson/Sobin (1991)
Histological Typing of Tumours of the Upper Respiratory Tract and Ear, 2nd edn. Shanmugaratnam/Sobin (1991)
Histological Typing of Salivary Gland Tumours, 2nd edn. Seifert/Sobin (1991)

A set of 124 colour slides (35 mm), corresponding to the photomicrographs in the book, is available from the American Registry of Pathology, 14th Street and Alaska Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20306, USA. For further information please see p. 113.

Histological Typing of Salivary Gland Tumours

G. Seifert

In Collaboration with L. H. Sobin
and Pathologists in 6 Countries

Second Edition

With 124 Figures

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In this series, colour illustrations will be limited in number in order to maintain a reasonable sales price.

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General Preface to the Series

Among the prerequisites for comparative studies of cancer are international agreement on histological criteria for the definition and classification of cancer types and a standardized nomenclature. An internationally agreed classification of tumours, acceptable alike to physicians, surgeons, radiologists, pathologists and statisticians, would enable cancer workers in all parts of the world to compare their findings and would facilitate collaboration among them.

In a report published in 1952,¹ a subcommittee of the World Health Organization (WHO) Expert Committee on Health Statistics discussed the general principles that should govern the statistical classification of tumours and agreed that, to ensure the necessary flexibility and ease of coding, three separate classifications were needed according to (1) anatomical site, (2) histological type, and (3) degree of malignancy. A classification according to anatomical site is available in the International Classification of Diseases.²

In 1956, the WHO Executive Board passed a resolution³ requesting the Director-General to explore the possibility that WHO might organize centres in various parts of the world and arrange for the collection of human tissues and their histological classification. The main purpose of such centres would be to develop histological definitions of cancer types and to facilitate the wide adoption of a uniform nomenclature. The resolution was endorsed by the Tenth World Health Assembly in May 1957.⁴

¹ WHO (1952) WHO Technical Report Series. No. 53, 1952, p 45

² WHO (1977) Manual of the international statistical classification of diseases, injuries, and causes of death. 1975 version Geneva

³ WHO (1956) WHO Official Records. No. 68, p 14 (resolution EB 17.R40)

⁴ WHO (1957) WHO Official Records. No. 79, p 467 (resolution WHA 10.18)

VIII General Preface to the Series

Since 1958, WHO has established a number of centres concerned with this subject. The result of this endeavour has been the International Histological Classification of Tumours, a multivolumed series whose first edition was published between 1967 and 1981. The present revised second edition aims to update the classification, reflecting progress in diagnosis and the relevance of tumour types to clinical and epidemiological features.

Preface to Histological Typing of Salivary Gland Tumours, Second Edition

The first edition of *Histological Typing of Salivary Gland Tumours*¹ was the result of a collaborative effort organized by WHO and carried out by the International Reference/Collaborating Centre for the Histological Classification of Salivary Gland Tumours at the Bland-Sutton Institute of Pathology, Middlesex Hospital, London, United Kingdom. The Centre was established in 1964, and the classification was published in 1972.

In order to keep the classification up to date, in 1987 a new group of participants was established, coordinated from the Institute of Pathology, University of Hamburg, Federal Republic of Germany. The participants are listed on pages V and VI. After histological slides and revision proposals were circulated among the participants, an informal meeting was held on the occasion of the XVIIth International Congress of the International Academy of Pathology in Dublin, Ireland, in September, 1988.

The preliminary result was a modified classification which was reported on in a Panel Discussion on the occasion of the XIIth European Congress of Pathology in Porto, Portugal, in September, 1989, and published in 1990.² After further communications, the present classification, definitions and explanatory notes were recommended for publication.

The histological classification of salivary gland tumours, which appears on pages 9–10, contains the morphology code numbers of

¹ Thackray AC, Sobin LH (1972) *Histological Typing of Salivary Gland Tumours*, Geneva, World Health Organization (International Histological Classification of Tumours, No. 7)

² Seifert G, Brocheriou C, Cardesa A, Eveson JW (1990) WHO International Histological Classification of Tumours. Tentative Histological Classification of Salivary Gland Tumours. *Pathol Res Pract* 186: 555–581

X Preface to Histological Typing of Salivary Gland Tumours

the International Classification of Diseases for Oncology (ICD-O)³ and the Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine (SNOMED).⁴

It will, of course, be appreciated that the classification reflects the present state of knowledge, and modifications are almost certain to be needed as experience accumulates. Although the present classification has been adopted by the members of the group, it necessarily represents a view from which some pathologists may wish to dissent. It is nevertheless hoped that, in the interest of international cooperation, all pathologists will use the classification as put forward. Criticism and suggestions for its improvement would be welcomed; these should be sent to the World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland.

The publications in the series *International Histological Classification of Tumours* are not intended to serve as textbooks, but rather to promote the adoption of a uniform terminology that will facilitate communication among cancer workers. For this reason the literature references have intentionally been omitted and readers should refer to standard works for bibliographies.

³ World Health Organization (1990) International Classification of Diseases for Oncology. Geneva

⁴ College of American Pathologists (1982) Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine. Chicago

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