

Working Groups

Recommendations for coding Tumours of the Brain and Central Nervous System

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TUMOURS TO BE REGISTERED

It is recommended that cancer registries include in their database all intracranial and intraspinal neoplasms irrespective of their behaviour (benign/uncertain/malignant).

The principal reasons are:

- It is difficult to distinguish benign from malignant tumours by symptoms alone
- All brain and spinal tumours are capable of producing severe clinical effects, irrespective of malignancy
- Aetiological and clinical syndromes associated with certain benign tumours may be of especial interest (meningiomas, pituitary tumours...)
- Certain tumours - notably astrocytomas - progress from low grade (benign) to high grade (malignant) during their clinical course

Certain 'tumours' such as benign vascular lesions of meninges (haemangiomas), and cysts may, however, be excluded.

Reporting of brain and spinal lesions may or may not include benign/uncertain neoplasms, according to the comparisons being made.

**WHO GRADING SYSTEM (MALIGNANCY SCALE) OF CNS TUMOURS
AND ICD-O BEHAVIOUR CODE**

Tumour Type	Grade				ICD-O behaviour code
	I	II	III	IV	
Astrocytic tumours					
Subependymal giant cell	*				1
Pilocytic	*				3
Low grade		*			3
Pleomorphic xanthoastrocytoma		*	*		3
Anaplastic			*		3
Glioblastoma				*	3
Oligodendrogliomas					
Low grade		*			3
Anaplastic			*		3
Oligo-astrocytomas					
Low grade		*			3
Anaplastic			*		3
Ependymal tumours					
Subependymoma	*				1
Myxopapillary	*				1
Low grade		*			3
Anaplastic			*		3
Choroid plexus tumours					
Papilloma	*				0
Carcinoma			*	*	3
Neuronal/glial tumours					
Gangliocytoma	*				0
Ganglioglioma	*	*			1
Anaplastic ganglioglioma			*		3
Desmoplastic infantile ganglioglioma	*				0
Dysembryoplastic neuroepithelial tumour	*				-
Central neurocytoma	*				0
Pineal tumours					
Pineocytoma		*			1
Pineocytoma/pineoblastoma			*	*	-
Pineoblastoma				*	3
Embryonal tumours					
Medulloblastoma				*	3
Other PNETs				*	3
Medulloepithelioma				*	3
Neuroblastoma				*	3
Ependymblastoma				*	3
Cranial and spinal nerve tumours					
Schwannoma	*				0
Malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumour			*	*	3
Meningeal tumours					
Meningioma	*				0
Atypical meningioma		*			1
Papillary meningioma		*	*		1
Haemangiopericytoma		*	*		3
Anaplastic meningioma			*		3

Footnote: " - " = no specific histology or malignancy code

UNUSED ICD-O CODES

The European Network of Cancer Registries working group recommends that cancer registries no longer use certain morphology codes, which correspond to diagnostic terms considered to be obsolete. When these terms are encountered, the appropriate code (and diagnostic synonym) is as follows:

Neurological Tumours

Proposed ICD-O-2 codes for obsolete categories

Current code	Description	Proposed code	ICD-O-2 rubric
9393/1	Papillary ependymoma	9391/3	Ependymoma, NOS
9422/3	Spongioblastoma, NOS	9443/3	Primitive polar spongioblastoma
9423/3	Spongioblastoma polare	9443/3	
9460/3	Oligodendroblastoma	9473/3	Primitive neuroectodermal tumour
9480/3	Cerebellar sarcoma, NOS	9473/3	
9481/3	Morstrocellular sarcoma	9440/3	Glioblastoma, NOS
9502/3	Teratoid medulloepithelioma	9501/3	Medulloepithelioma, NOS
9503/3	Neuroepithelioma, NOS	9500/3	Neuroblastoma, NOS
9504/3	Spongioneuroblastoma	9500/3	
9511/3	Retinoblastoma, differentiated	9510/3	Retinoblastoma, NOS
9512/3	Retinoblastoma, undifferentiated	9510/3	
9520/3	Olfactory neurogenic tumour	9522/3	Aesthesioneuroblastoma
9521/3	Aesthesioneurocytoma	9522/3	
9532/0	Fibrous meningioma - Fibroblastic meningioma	9530/0	Meningioma, NOS
9536/0	Haemangiopericytic meningioma	9150/3	Haemangiopericytoma, malignant
9541/0	Melanotic neurofibroma	9560/0	Neurilemmoma, NOS
9560/1	Neurinomatosis	9560/0	
9560/3	Neurilemmoma, malignant	9540/3	Neurofibrosarcoma
	- Malignant Schwannoma - Neurilemmosarcoma		
9570/0	Neuroma, NOS	9540/0	Neurofibroma, NOS

SUPPLEMENTARY INDEX*

9505/0	Dysembryoplastic neuroepithelial tumour (DNET)
9505/0	Desmoplastic infantile ganglioglioma
9505/3	Anaplastic (malignant) ganglioglioma
9361/1	Mixed/transitional pineal tumour
8726/1	Melanocytoma
9390/3	Choroid plexus carcinoma
9506/0	Central neurocytoma
9530/1	Atypical meningioma
9540/3	Malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumour
9470/3	Melanotic medulloblastoma (WHO blue book)
9470/3	Lipomatous medulloblastoma (Kleihues et al.)
8963/3	Atypical teratoid/rhabdoid tumour (Kleihues et al.)

* Terms not appearing in the ICD-O index

Some codes are 'matrix codes' - i.e. already exist but without the behaviour code specified

Working Group Members:

Dr D. Pheby, Bristol Cancer Epidemiology Unit, Bristol, UK (Chairman)

Dr M. Sant, Lombardy Cancer Registry, Milano, Italy

Dr J. Ironside, Department of Pathology, Western General Hospital, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK

Prof. W.M. Molenaar, Academisch Ziekenhuis, Groningen, the Netherlands
