
Morphology of cancer

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Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary: NHDD
Knowledgebase ID: 000775 Version number: 1
Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT
Registration Authority: NHIMG Admin status: SUPERSEDED
Effective date: 01-MAR-05

Definition: The morphology of a cancer refers to the histological classification of the cancer tissue (histopathological type) and a description of the course of development that a tumour is likely to take: benign or malignant (behaviour). The designation is based on a microscopic diagnosis of morphology by the pathologist (Esteban, Whelan, Laudico & Parkin 1995).

Context: This information is collected for the purpose of:
-classifying tumours into clinically relevant groupings on the basis of both their morphology (cell type) and their degree of invasion or malignancy as indicated by the behaviour code component (the last digit of the morphology code);
-monitoring the number of new cases of cancer for planning treatment services.

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype: Numeric
Representational form: CODE
Representation layout: NNNNN
Minimum Size: 5
Maximum Size: 5

Data Domain: NOVAL The current version of the International Classification of Diseases for Oncology (ICDO)

Guide For Use: ICDO morphology describes histology and behaviour as separate variables, recognising that there are a large number of possible combinations.
In ICDO, morphology is a 4-digit number ranging from 8000 to 9989, and behaviour is a single digit which can be 0, 1, 2, 3, 6 or 9.

Record morphology codes in accordance with ICDO coding standards. Use the 5th-digit to record behaviour. The 5th digit behaviour code numbers used in ICDO are listed below:

- 0 Benign
- 1 Uncertain whether benign or malignant
 - borderline malignancy
 - low malignant potential
- 2 Carcinoma in situ
 - intraepithelial
 - non-infiltrating
 - non-invasive
- 3 Malignant, primary site
- 6 Malignant, metastatic site
 - malignant, secondary site
- 9 Malignant, uncertain whether primary or metastatic site

Collection Methods: Cancer registry use:

In cancer registries morphology information should be obtained from a pathology report or pathology system, and recorded with/on the patient's medical record and/or the hospital's patient administration system. Additional information may also be sought from the patient's attending clinician or medical practitioner.

Hospital morbidity use:

In hospitals, the morphology code is modified for use with ICD-10-AM. The morphology code consists of histologic type (4 digits) and behaviour code (1 digit) ranging from 8000/0 to 9989/9. The "/" between the fourth and fifth digits is not supplied.

Administrative Attributes

Source Document: International Classification of Diseases for Oncology, Second Edition (ICDO-2)
New South Wales Inpatient Statistics Collection Manual, 2000/2001

Source Organisation: World Health Organization
New South Wales Health Department
State and Territory Cancer Registries

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

NHIM Assessment event

Data Agreements which include this Data Element

DSS - Cancer (clinical) From 04-Jun-04 to