

Mapping the Evidence for the WHO Classification of Tumours: A Living Evidence Gap Map by Tumour Type (WCT-EVI-MAP)

Project summary: Decisions for the WHO Classification of Tumours (WCT) as a global reference tool are not always informed by the best available evidence, and risk of incorporating misinformation into the clinical decisions pathway exist. We aim to map the evidence base of the WCT in order to facilitate evidence-based decisions making in future editions and promote the application of higher research standards in the field. We will adapt the recently developed Evidence Gap Map (EGM) methodology and apply it to the WCT, identifying gaps and pockets of low-level evidence that require new evidence, and collections of studies in need of better assessment. The resulting EGMs will increase the discoverability and use of studies by the WCT decision-makers, research commissioners and researchers, and will represent a ground-breaking advance for the research in the field, impacting over time positively in cancer diagnosis and management.

Justification

The WCT underpins cancer diagnosis, and hence treatment and care of cancer patients, as well as research into cancer epidemiology, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. However, decisions for such a global reference tool are not always informed by the best available evidence, and risk of incorporating misinformation into the clinical decisions pathway exist. We aim to map the evidence base of the WCT in order to facilitate evidence-based decisions making in future editions and promote the application of higher research standards in the field.

Goal

Our WCT-EVI-MAP project is organized in three subsequent phases, where we will apply a mixed method, stepwise approach to first develop a framework and define categories based on expert consensus, second elaborate a series of megamaps in iterative cycles describing evidence of all tumour types, and third perform a comparative analysis of the use of evidence prior and after the living EGM..

Several strategies are proposed to overcome identified challenges as to use recent advances in technologies, to follow a strict multidisciplinary approach and to integrate this project into the WCT strategic planning for the 6th edition.

Target audience

Pathologists, Oncologists, Epidemiologist, and any other researcher, stakeholder or actor in the field.

This project is being developed under IARC's leadership, led by Dr Iciar Indave, with DHM German Heart Centre Munich, ISCIII Páginas - Instituto de Salud Carlos III, Nuffield Department of Surgical Sciences, University Oxford, Scharr School of Health and Related Research, University of Sheffield, Institute Curie (Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology), Singapore General Hospital



collaboration for
cancer classification