

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

Project summary: The project aims to map the evidence base of the WHO Classification of Tumours (WCT) in order to facilitate evidence-based decisions making in future editions and promote the application of higher research standards in the field. The project team is adapting the recently developed Evidence Gap Map (EGM) methodology and applying it to the WCT and the available body of literature, 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 and the available body of literature in order to facilitate evidence-based decisions making in future editions and promote the application of higher research standards in the field.

Vision

Evaluation of the current evidence based for each tumour type and production of EGMs to inform the WHO Classification of Tumours 6th edition, guide research efforts in all relevant fields of cancer research and improve evidence-based practices within the broad community of scientists, clinicians, and decision-makers.

Goal

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 to and after the living EGM.

Target audience

Pathologists, oncologists, epidemiologists, and any other researcher, stakeholder or actor in the field.

This project is developed under IARC's leadership, led by Dr Dilani Lokuhetty, with German Heart Centre Munich, Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology, Instituto de Salud Carlos III, University of Oxford, University of Newcastle, and Singapore Breast Surgery Center



collaboration for
cancer classification