

Histological tumour type (Core)

Pathological staging is different for the two major groups of oesophageal carcinomas, adenocarcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma.¹ It is important to refer to the current World Health Organization (WHO) Classification of Tumours of the Digestive System, 5th edition, 2019 (Table 1) for the different oesophageal malignant neoplasms.²

Adenoid cystic carcinoma, undifferentiated carcinoma or neuroendocrine carcinoma (NEC) with an adenocarcinoma component use the adenocarcinoma stage grouping.³ There is no definite evidence for whether the staging of adenosquamous carcinoma or mucoepidermoid carcinoma should follow that of squamous cell carcinoma or adenocarcinoma staging groups.²

For adenocarcinoma, there are different histological patterns. In most instances, they could be grouped either into tubular, papillary and mucinous patterns. In rare circumstances, the tumour could be poorly cohesive and have either signet ring or non-signet ring pattern.

In mixed neuroendocrine–non-neuroendocrine neoplasm of the oesophagus, the neuroendocrine component is nearly always NEC.

Table 1: World Health Organization classification of tumours of the oesophagus.²

Descriptor	ICD-O codes ^a
Benign epithelial tumours and precursors	
Squamous cell papilloma NOS	8052/0
Squamous papillomatosis	8060/0
Oesophageal glandular dysplasia (intraepithelial neoplasia), low grade	8148/20
Oesophageal glandular dysplasia (intraepithelial neoplasia), high grade	8148/2
Oesophageal squamous intraepithelial neoplasia (dysplasia), low grade	8077/0
Oesophageal squamous intraepithelial neoplasia (dysplasia), low grade	8077/2
Malignant epithelial tumours	
Adenocarcinoma NOS	8140/3
Adenoid cystic carcinoma	8200/3
Mucoepidermoid carcinoma	8430/3
Adenosquamous carcinoma	8560/3
Squamous cell carcinoma NOS	8070/3
Verrucous squamous cell carcinoma	8051/3
Squamous cell carcinoma, spindle cell	8074/3
Basaloid squamous cell carcinoma	8083/3
Carcinoma, undifferentiated, NOS	8020/3
Lymphoepithelioma-like carcinoma	8082/3
Neuroendocrine tumour NOS	8240/3
Neuroendocrine tumour, grade 1	8240/3
Neuroendocrine tumour, grade 2	8249/3
Neuroendocrine tumour, grade 3	8249/3
Neuroendocrine carcinoma NOS	8246/3
Large cell neuroendocrine carcinoma	8013/3
Small cell neuroendocrine carcinoma	8041/3

Descriptor	ICD-O codes ^a
Mixed neuroendocrine-non-neuroendocrine neoplasm (MiNEN)	8154/3
Combined small cell-adenocarcinoma	8045/3
Combined small cell-squamous cell carcinoma	8045/3

^a These morphology codes are from the International Classification of Diseases for Oncology, Third Edition, second revision (ICD-O-3.2).⁴ Behaviour is coded /0 for benign tumours; /1 for unspecified, borderline, or uncertain behaviour; /2 for carcinoma in situ and grade III intraepithelial neoplasia; and /3 for malignant tumours, primary site; and /6 for malignant tumours, metastatic site.

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References

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