Structured Pathology Reporting of Cancer Newsletter

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PDF versions of this newsletter are available from the structured pathology website.

Welcome to the 29th edition of the Structured Pathology Reporting of Cancer newsletter.

This newsletter is intended to provide information on the project to expand and promote the use of structured pathology reporting of cancer.

"Cervical screening" protocol

The protocol for the structured pathology reporting of small biopsies taken at colposcopy and cervical excisions such as LLETZ and LEEP, laser excisions and cold knife cone excisions is now nearing completion. Thank you to those who sent in their comments during the open consultation period.

The International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting (ICCR) is currently in process of development of a cervical cancer dataset. To avoid our 'cervical screening' protocol from containing non-current information, the project team have included the relevant ICCR segments related to malignancy in the protocol. "The ICCR have kindly provided access to their drafts so that we can stay abreast and publish almost simultaneously with them", said Meagan Judge, Project Manager, SPRC.

As recently announced, the National Cervical Screening Program (NCSP) has been delayed until approximately 1st December, however, the 'cervical screening' protocol will be published by the end of March on schedule.

Look for the new protocol here after 31st March:

http://www.rcpa.edu.au/Library/Practising-Pathology/Structured-Pathology-Reporting-of-Cancer/Cancer-Protocols

The college's macroscopic cut-up manual for cervical excision specimens eg LLETZ and small cervical biopsies, is also being updated in synchrony with the new protocol and will be published around the same time:

http://www.rcpa.edu.au/Library/Practising-Pathology/Macroscopic-Cut-Up/Specimen/Gynaecology-and-perinatal

TNM 8 update

The AJCC 8th edition of the TNM staging system (TNM8) was published at the end of October but there are still long delays for delivery of the manual and an e-book version is not yet available. The UICC 8th edition was published in late November as well and is available in both electronic and paper formats. However, the UICC are already planning a number of errata to address some harmonisation issues between the UICC and AJCC versions. Errata will be published to the UICC website.

The RCPA's Cancer Services Advisory Committee (CanSAC) is developing a statement regarding implementation of TNM8 in Australia. At the moment, advice from a number of organisations such as the Australian Association of Cancer Registries (AACR) and Clinical Oncology Society of Australia (COSA) etc is being sought. The College of American Pathologists (CAP) has announced that implementation of TNM8 in the USA will be January 2018. Canada is following suit. The Royal College of Pathologists UK (RCPath) are currently considering their position regarding TNM8 – they generally use the UICC version and will need to wait on the published errata before moving ahead.

ICCR progress

Public consultation

Public consultation for the ICCR cervical cancer dataset is now closed and a significant number of comments were received. These have now been reviewed and draft changes made which the committee is now reviewing. Publication of the cervical cancer dataset is expected in late March.

TNM8

As previously reported many of the ICCR datasets at various stages of development, are impacted by the publication of TNM8. The Dataset Steering Committee (DSC) decided to delay publication of those datasets and incorporate TNM8. However some differences between the UICC and AJCC versions of TNM8 have raised a number of problem areas. "For an international dataset, a single agreed definition of TNM

staging for an anatomical site is imperative. Differences in TNM staging terminology between the two published versions is problematic, however the ICCR is assisting the organisations involved in addressing the issues" said David Ellis, ICCR President. The DSC will be making a decision on how best to proceed at its meeting in March.

CNS dataset

The development of a dataset for the Central Nervous System has now commenced under the chairmanship of Prof David Louis (Boston). As the WHO classification of CNS tumours requires the integration of molecular characteristics, this dataset is a watershed which has required breaking the dataset into 3 separate documents:
1. Histology - for reporting of the histological assessment
2. Molecular - for reporting of molecular information
3. Integrated diagnosis - for reporting of the final integrated report/diagnosis

This approach is in alignment with recommendations published in International Society of Neuropathology-Haarlem Consensus Guidelines for Nervous System Tumor Classification and Grading[1] in which a report format should consist of:

> Layer 1: Integrated diagnosis (incorporating all tissue-based information)
> Layer 2: Histological classification
> Layer 3: WHO grade (reflecting natural history)
> Layer 4: Molecular information

This approach emphasises that the reporting process can occur at different stages (and possibly in different laboratories or by different people). This also allows those laboratories with no molecular capability (eg Africa) to report the histological assessment only.

Draft documents have been circulated to the Dataset Authoring Committee (DAC) and meetings will start in April.

Head and Neck

Datasets in the Head & Neck Tumour Series are progressing very well under the direction of Prof Lester Thompson (Los Angeles). Eight datasets have been drafted, meetings held and they are now being prepared for public consultation:

- Nasal cavity and paranasal sinuses (Chair: Alessandro Franchi)

- Nasopharynx and oropharynx (Chair: Jim Lewis)

- Larynx, hypopharynx and trachea (Chair: Tim Helliwell)

- Oral cavity (Chair: Susan Muller)

- Salivary glands (Chair: Raja Seethala)

- Odontogenic tumours (Chair: Edward Odell)

- Ear (Chair: Lester Thompson)

- Nodal excisions and neck dissection (Chair: Martin Bullock)

A ninth dataset, Mucosal Melanoma has been added recently. Mucosal melanoma had been included in the scope of four of the existing Head & Neck datasets however, on review of the new TNM8, mucosal melanoma was listed separately. It was therefore proposed that this be extracted from the four datasets and formed into a new separate dataset. This process is now underway. Lester Thompson will undertake the role of chair of the new dataset, with the chairs of the datasets from which it has been removed involved in the authoring committee.

Public consultation for the Head and Neck series is expected in April.

Endocrine
Planning for datasets in the Endocrine series has commenced. The search for a suitably qualified Series Champion to oversee the process is underway.

Breast and Colorectal

The ICCR is very keen to commence development of breast and colorectal datasets as soon as possible. Whilst the development of these datasets would be out of synch with the WHO Blue book publications, their absence from the suite of ICCR datasets is problematic as these are two of the most common cancers. Therefore the ICCR is actively seeking sponsorship to fund the development effort.

1. Louis DN, Perry A, Burger P, Ellison DW, Reifenberger G, von Deimling A, Aldape K, Brat D, Collins VP, Eberhart C, Figarella-Branger D, Fuller GN, Giangaspero F, Giannini C, Hawkins C, Kleihues P, Korshunov A, Kros JM, Beatriz Lopes M, Ng HK, Ohgaki H, Paulus W, Pietsch T, Rosenblum M, Rushing E, Soylemezoglu F, Wiestler O and Wesseling P (2014). International Society Of Neuropathology--Haarlem consensus guidelines for nervous system tumor classification and grading. Brain Pathol 24(5):429-435.