

Histological types of malignancy

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A malignant tumour showing features of epithelial differentiation, and typically arising in an epithelial layer, is a carcinoma. Other important types of malignancy include malignant melanoma (melanocytes) (Figure 11.13b), lymphoma (lymphoid cells) and sarcoma (mesenchymal cells). Further subclassification is often appropriate and necessary. For example, categories of carcinoma include squamous cell carcinoma (with evidence of keratinisation) (Figure 11.15), adenocarcinoma (with evidence of glandular differentiation and/or mucin production) (Figure 11.16) or neuroendocrine carcinoma (Figure 11.13a) (usually requiring immunohistochemical confirmation of neuroendocrine differentiation). Some carcinomas have a pattern that raises a certain differential diagnosis, e.g. clear cell carcinoma (Figure 11.17). There are many other morphological types of carcinoma.

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