

Report on the U.K. Salivary Gland Tumour Panel

THE U.K. Salivary Gland Tumour Panel was established in the early 1970s, largely on the initiative of Professors Patey and Thackray from the Middlesex Hospital in London. It had been recognised for some time that salivary gland tumours, through their relative rarity and morphological diversity caused considerable difficulties in histological diagnosis and clinical management. The panel consisted of pathologists who had a particular interest in salivary gland tumours and over the subsequent years members of the panel have included: Professor J.C. Azzopardi, Dr M.H. Bennett, Professor W.H. Binnie, Professor R.A. Cawson (ex-Secretary), Professor A.H. Cruikshank, Dr J.W. Eveson, Mr M.J. Gleeson, Professor L. Henry, Professor B. Lennox, Professor R.B. Lucas, Mr J. Maynard (ex-Chairman), Dr G.K. Missen, Dr T.J. Palmer, Dr D.J. Pollock, Professor A.C. Thackray and Dr J.S. Whittaker.

Pathologists were invited to submit all their salivary gland tumour cases to the panel to accumulate as unbiased a sample of tumours as possible in order to undertake demographic studies and to offer a specialist opinion on tumours of a doubtful nature.

Shortly after the formation of the panel the organisation was undertaken by Professor Rod Cawson at Guy's Hospital and it was mainly through his commitment and energy in the face of very limited financial support that the present series of nearly 4000 cases was accumulated. This now forms a substantial data base to allow the behaviour and response of these tumours to be evaluated. Members of the panel have written several papers on demographic aspects of these tumours and on the clinicopathological characteristics of different tumour types [1-5]. This feature of the panel's work is still ongoing and will be a very important component in the future. In addition the data base is currently being re-evaluated in the

light of the revised WHO classification of salivary gland tumours. None of this work would have been possible without the support of the many pathologists who have generously submitted material to the panel.

The current chairman is Mr M. Gleeson who works in the Department of Surgery at Guy's Hospital and the secretary is Dr J. Eveson in the Bristol Dental Hospital. The panel continues to welcome receiving material (either slides, blocks or unprocessed tissue) from all types of salivary gland tumours and will offer a second opinion on difficult or controversial tumours. Any material or correspondence should be sent to Dr J.W. Eveson.

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