

Chapter 7

Classification, Grading, and Staging of Salivary Gland Tumors

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Introduction

Scientific classification is a method by which scientists categorize species of organisms. Modern classification has its root in the work of Carolus Linnaeus, also known as Carl von Linné, the Father of Taxonomy, who grouped species according to shared physical characteristics. Accordingly, scientific classification belongs to the science of taxonomy or biological systematics. Molecular systematics, which uses genomic and proteomic expression data, has driven many recent revisions in these systems. In a like manner, surgeons, pathologists, and oncologists have endeavored to symmetrically categorize tumors on the basis of designated characteristics so as to predict probable biological behavior that would help dictate appropriate therapeutic modalities to be employed and to forecast a probable prognosis. As such, the “designated characteristics” upon which