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## SEER\*Stat Histologic Codes

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**Seerweb** <seerweb@imsweb.com>

Fri, Jul 3, 2020 at 7:37 PM

To: Dileka &lt;sdg2@rice.edu&gt;

Hi Dileka,

How to select those cases may depend on your particular analysis goals. That being said, you can see how they are defined for our Cancer Statistics Review here: [https://seer.cancer.gov/csr/1975\\_2017/browse\\_csr.php?sectionSEL=15&pageSEL=sect\\_15\\_table.28](https://seer.cancer.gov/csr/1975_2017/browse_csr.php?sectionSEL=15&pageSEL=sect_15_table.28) . See footnotes.

If a patient has two distinct primary cancers, then they will appear as separate cases in our data. The SEER registrars follow an extensive set of rules to distinguish true separate primary cancers from mets, secondary cancers, recurrences, etc. Only distinct primary cancers are collected. In regards to your particular example below, yes, there are patients with separate lung primaries with each of those histologies. However, the SAME papillary squamous cell carcinoma is only counted once. If you want more details, you can find the solid tumor rules that the registrars follow here: <https://seer.cancer.gov/tools/solidtumor/>.

In regards to which cases end up coded as "not otherwise specified," I think that this question could be better answered by the Ask a SEER Registrar team: <https://seer.cancer.gov/registrars/contact.html>. They are responsible for many of the coding rules that registrars use to categorize cases.

Regards,

Gretchen

SEER Website Support

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