1920: Establishing the system to "grade" tumors

Cancer is chaos on all levels, from cells to emotions. Dr. Charles H. Mayo observed, "While there are several chronic diseases more destructive to life than cancer, none is more feared."

In 1920, Mayo Clinic took a significant step to quell cancer chaos by developing a novel approach to characterize and categorize tumors. Dr. Albert C. Broders, a surgical pathologist, devised the concept of microscopically grading tumors on a numerical basis, I-IV, ranging from least to greatest malignancy. This system helps physicians determine the current severity of a patient's condition as well as how quickly a tumor is likely to grow and spread. With this information, it is possible to devise effective treatment plans.

Foundational system

Dr. Broders showed for the first time that microscopic exam findings could independently predict prognosis and guide treatment. His system was the first accurate, reliable framework for characterizing the threat that a tumor posed to a patient.

Over time, "Broders' Index" has evolved to become part of the conceptual and practice foundations for staging, grading and biomarker assessments that improve cancer care. His system has been adopted by medical centers throughout the world, helping establish consistent standards for best practices in cancer diagnosis and treatment.

SOURCES
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