

# The World Health Organization grading system

The [World Health Organization](#) grading system is contained in the volume *Histological Typing the Central Nervous System tumors*, whose first edition dates back to [1979](#), the second to [1993](#) the third [2007, 2016, 2021](#).

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The 2016 World Health Organization (WHO) histological grading system is similar to older 3-tier systems (the St. Anne/Mayo system, the Ringertz system, and previous WHO systems).

Grade I is reserved for special types of [astrocytomas](#) that are more circumscribed, including [pilocytic astrocytomas](#), while [diffuse astrocytomas](#) are graded II through IV. The frequencies of occurrence among 287 astrocytomas were: grade I=0.7% (very rare tumors), grade II=16%, grade III = 17.8%, and grade IV = 65.5%.

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The WHO grade has four categories of tumors:

[World Health Organization grade 1](#)

[World Health Organization grade 2](#)

[World Health Organization grade 3](#)

[World Health Organization grade 4](#)

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