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Epidemiology of the non-Hodgkin's lymphomas: distributions of the major subtypes differ by **geographic** locations. Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma Classification Project.

Ann Oncol 1998 Jul;9(7):717-20 (ISSN: 0923-7534)

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USA.

BACKGROUND: There has been no previous systematic study of the distribution of the major subtypes of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL) across **geographic** regions, although there have been isolated reports of such differences. **DESIGN:** As part of a clinical evaluation of the International Lymphoma Study Group (ILSG) classification of NHL, we classified 1378 NHLs from eight different **geographic** sites (Omaha, NE, USA; Vancouver, BC, Canada; Capetown, South Africa; London, England; Wurzburg/Gottingen, Germany; Lyon, France; Locarno/Bellinzona, Switzerland; and Hong Kong) using the ILSG classification. **RESULTS:** Substantial differences were found in the distribution of the major subtypes of NHL across **geographic** regions ($P < 0.0001$). A greater percentage of follicular lymphoma was seen in North America, London and Capetown (31% versus 14% at other sites). Peripheral T-cell lymphoma was more common in London, Capetown and Hong Kong (9%) than elsewhere (3%). In Locarno/Bellinzona, higher percentages of mediastinal large B-cell lymphoma (9% versus 2% elsewhere) and mantle cell lymphoma (14% versus 6% elsewhere) were seen. Angiocentric nasal T-/NK-cell lymphoma was only seen in Hong Kong (8%) and Lyon (2%). **CONCLUSIONS:** Our study provides evidence that the distribution of NHL subtypes differs by **geographic** region. These findings suggest that **geographical** differences in etiologic or host factors may be responsible for the observed differences in the distribution of cases across NHL subtypes.

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