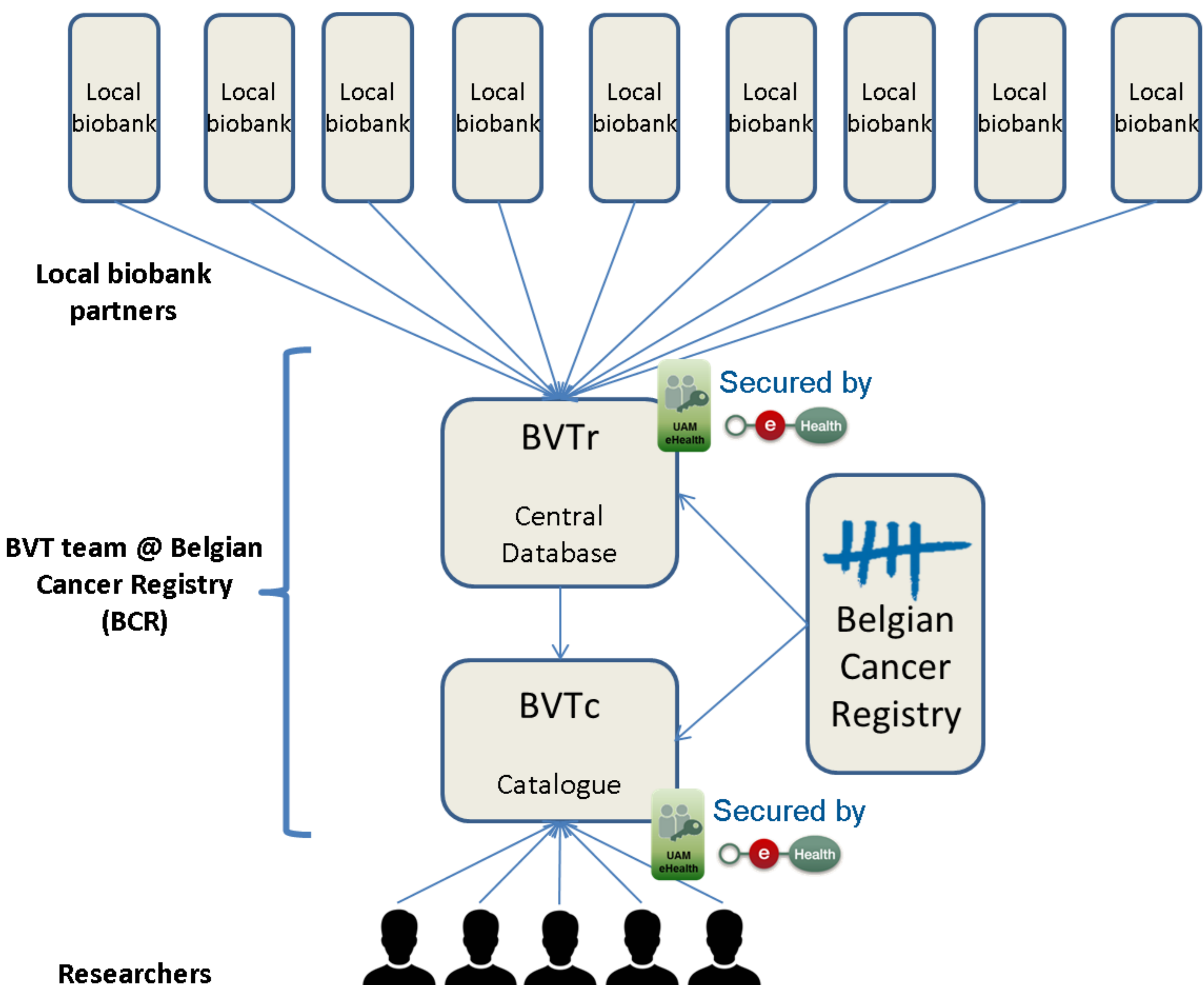


The Belgian Virtual Tumourbank (BVT) Project: Availability of metastases in the catalogue



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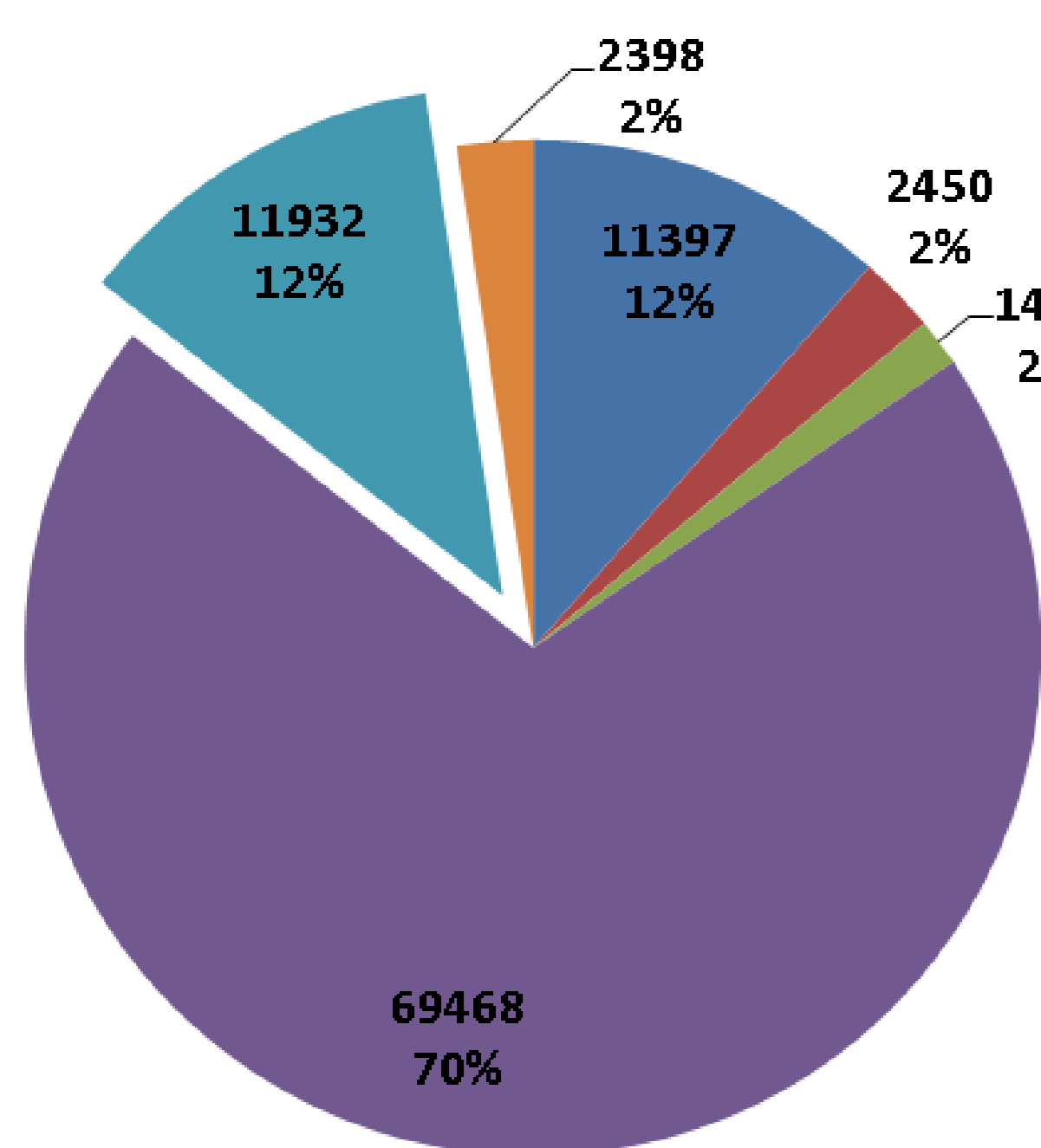
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Biobanks play a critical role in cancer research by providing high quality biological samples for research. However, the availability of tumour samples in single research institutions is often limited, especially for less frequent sample types.

The Belgian Virtual Tumourbank (BVT) network encompasses the tumour biobanks from eleven Belgian university hospitals that collect and store residual human tumour samples locally. In order to facilitate the search for tumour samples scattered among different institutions, data collected at sample level is made available for researchers via the online BVT catalogue (BVTc).

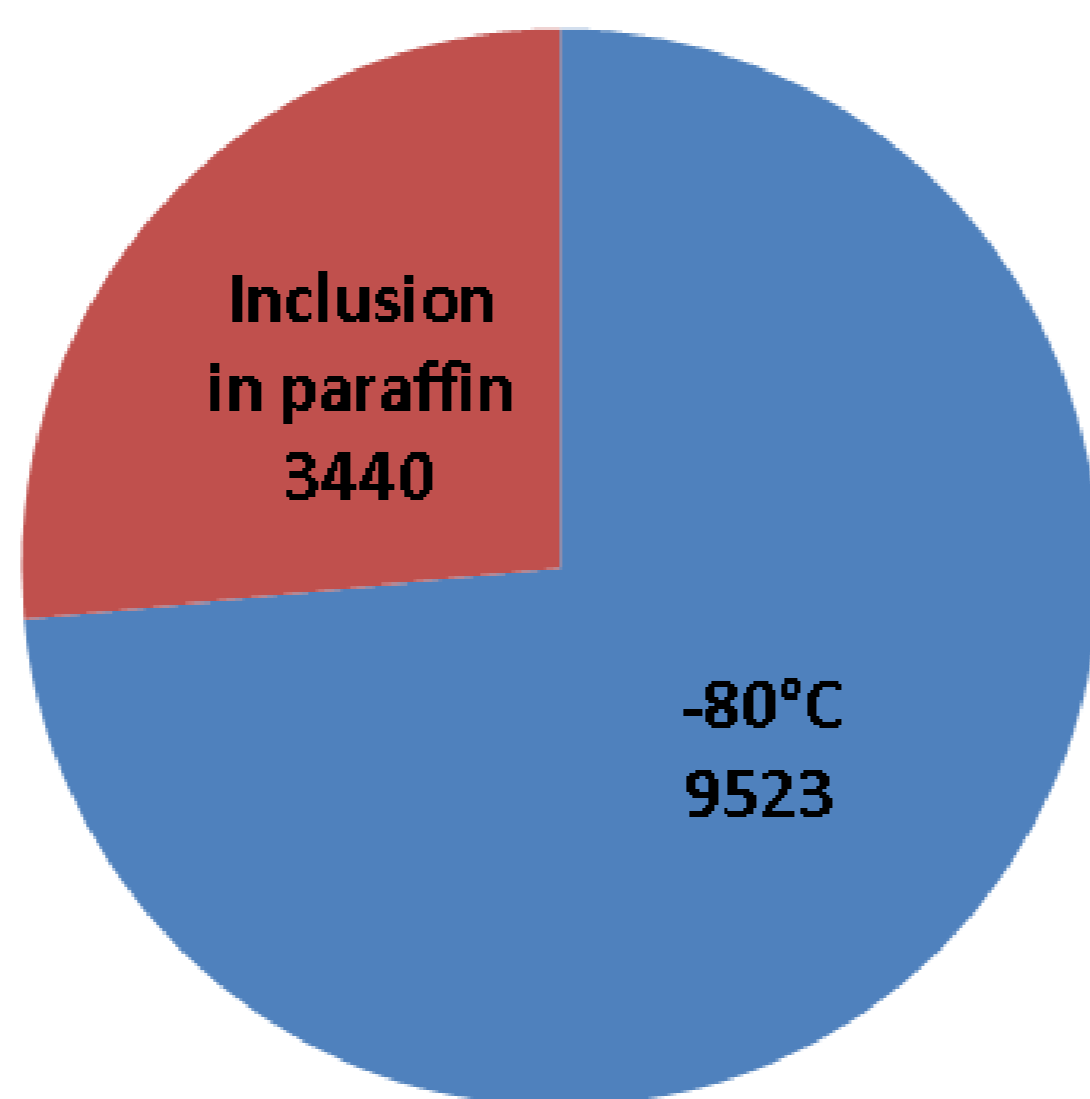
High quality of the data is guaranteed by automatic and manual controls performed by the BVT project team at the Belgian Cancer Registry.



In January 2020, a total of **99,139** registrations were available in the BVTc, including **84,809 (86%) primary tumour samples** and **11,932 metastasis (12%) samples**.

- Benign tumours
- Borderline tumours
- In situ tumours
- Primary malignant tumours
- Metastasis
- Others

Conservation mode



How are the samples stored?

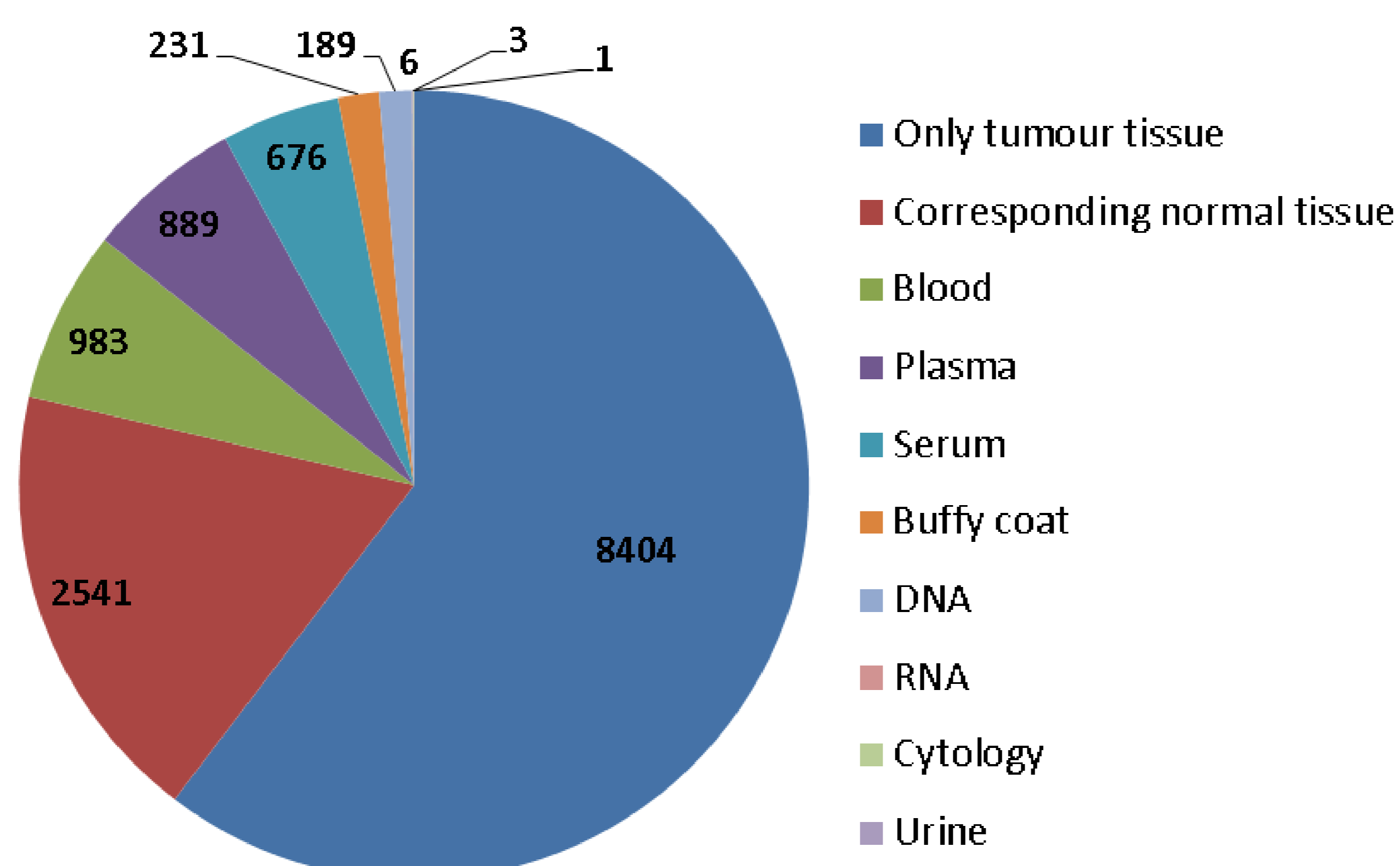
The majority of the metastasis samples (73%) are conserved at -80°C.

More than one fourth (27%) of the metastasis samples are included in paraffin.

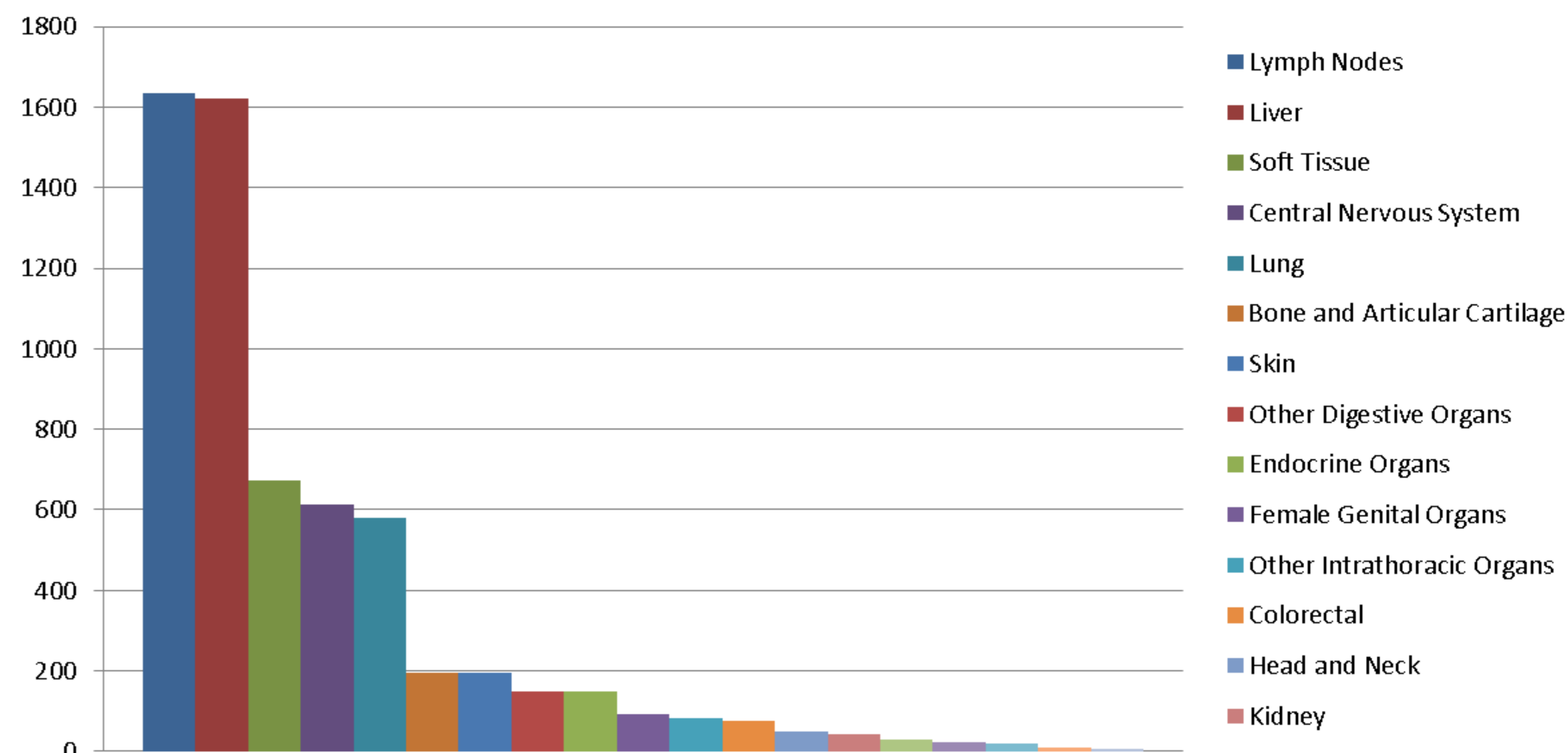
What other materials are available?

For 8,404 (70%) registrations of metastases only tumour tissue samples are available. However, also additional types of materials can be stored at the local biobank and thus be registered in the BVT catalogue.

The most common type is corresponding normal tissue (21.3%). Blood (8.2%), plasma (7.5%) and serum (5.7%) are also available in some local biobanks. RNA, cytology and urine are available as well in some cases!

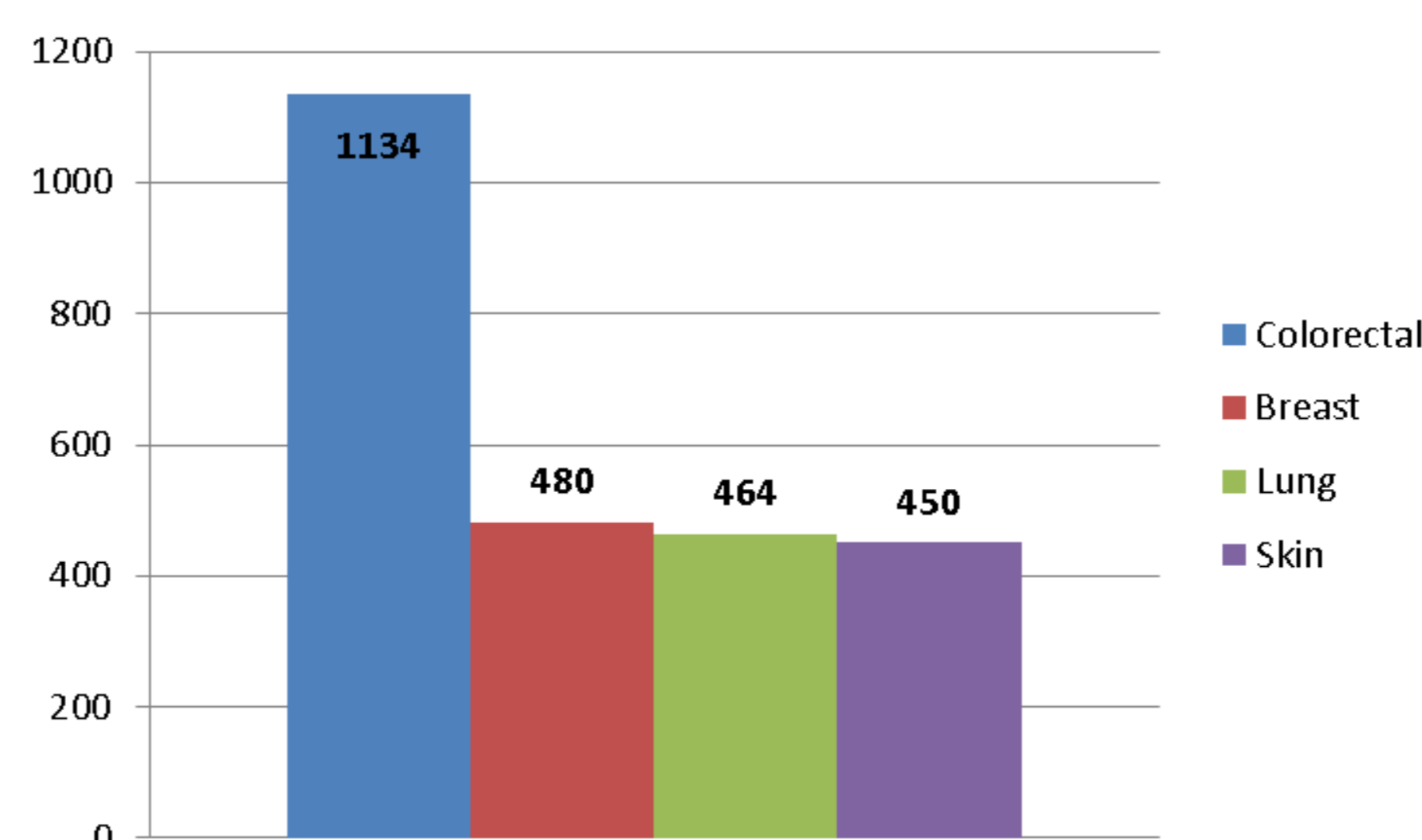


What are the localisations of metastasis samples?



The most common sample localisations of the metastasis samples in the BVT catalogue are lymph nodes (26.1%) and liver (25.9%). Soft tissue completes the top three of sample localisations with 10.8%.

What are the most common corresponding primary tumour localisations?



The metastasis samples most commonly originate from primary tumours of colon and rectum (18.2%), breast (7.7%) and lung (7.4%).

Conclusion

The BVT catalogue is of great value for cancer research, in particular for less frequent sample types such as metastases, by localising tumour samples stored in eleven biobanks.

For further information: www.virtualtumourbank.be