

# Gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine neoplasms

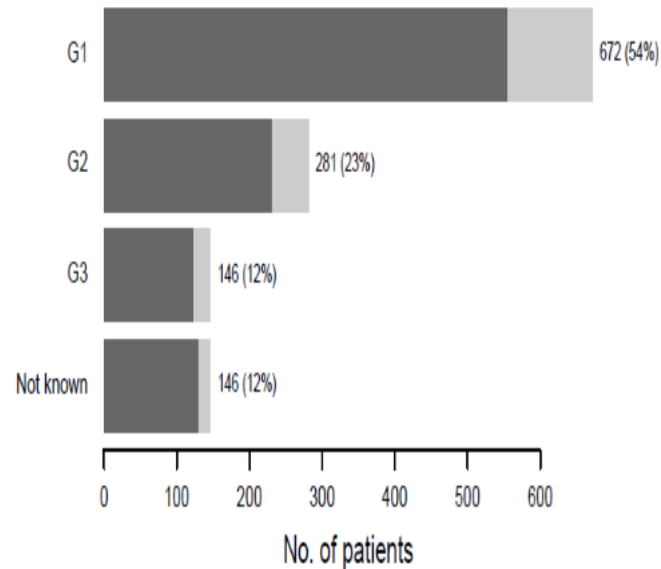
Benjamin Misselwitz, Marion Bionda 16.06.2021

# History

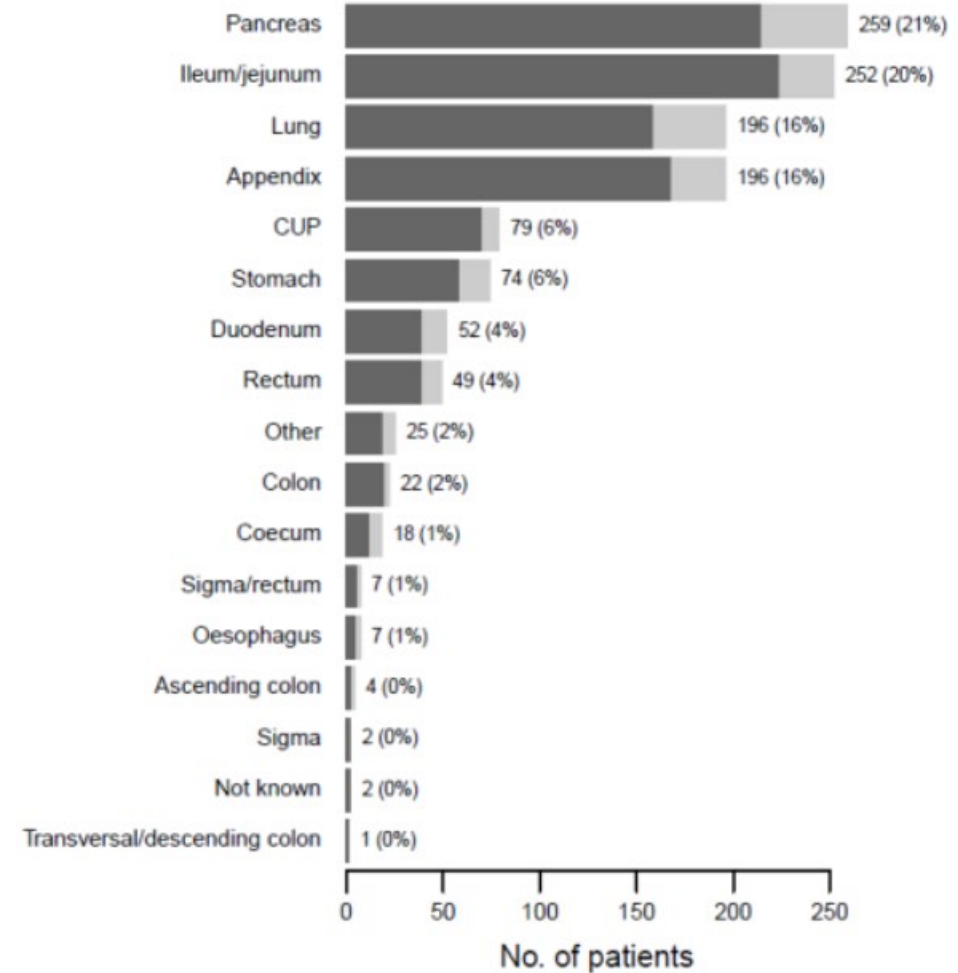
- Siegfried Oberndorfer first described and depicted carcinoid (“carcinoma-like”) tumors in 1907
- He initially thought carcinoids were benign, but later recognized that «*karzinoide*» might exhibit malignant features and metastasize
- These tumors are “*certainly not so rare. . .I am convinced that if more attention is paid to them in the future, then its number will rapidly increase*”.



# NET in Switzerland – SwissNET data base



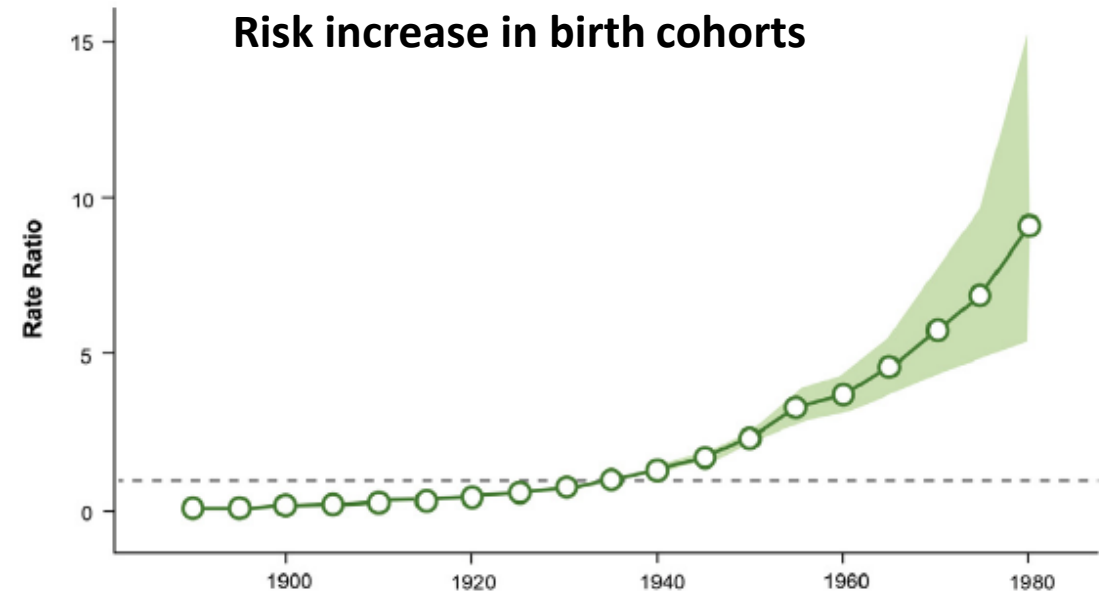
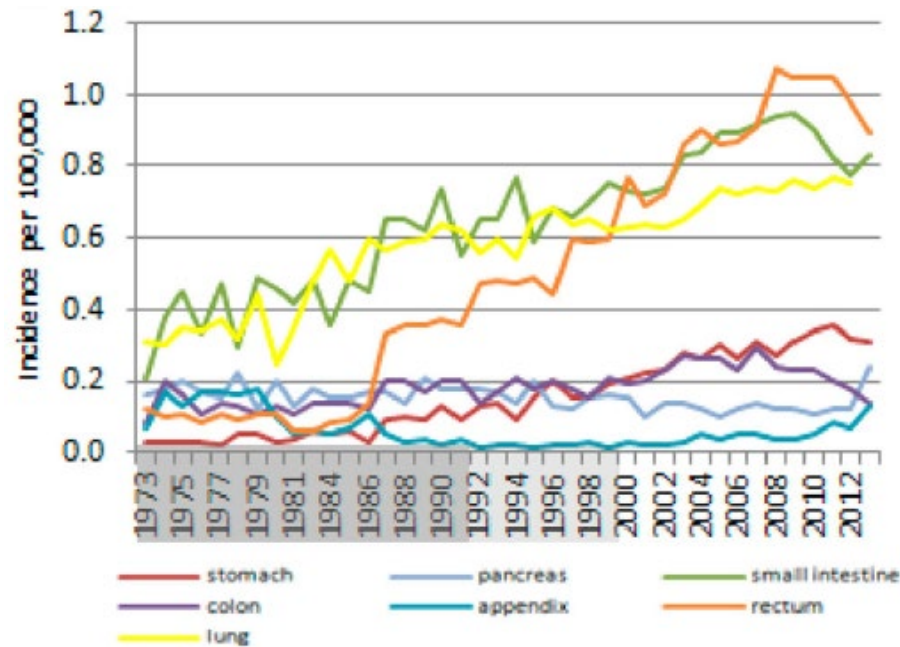
- 180 cases per year in CH
- Male/ female: 53%/ 47%
- Mean age at diagnosis: 59-60 years
- Rare tumors, 2/3 affect GI tract



# What is the incidence of NETs?

- 7/ 100'000 per year
- Ontario: 1994: incidence 2.5/ 100'000, 29% metastasis  
2009: incidence 5.9/100'000, 13% metastasis
- USA (SEER data base)  
1973: incidence 1.1/ 100'000  
2012: incidence 7/ 100'000

# Increase in the incidence of NET



## Reasons: increase in diagnostics?

- 54% increase in upper endoscopy 2000-2009
- Participation in screening doubled 2000-2010
- Why did small intestine NET also increase
- Why is colon NET stable?

# Genetics

NETs are mainly sporadic, but may occur as part of a complex **familial endocrine cancer syndrome**.

Which syndromes are these?

MEN1, MEN2

Neurofibromatosis type 1

Von Hippel Lindau

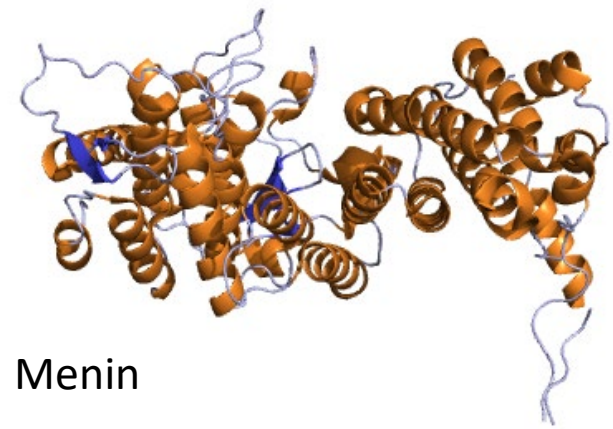
Tuberous sclerosis complex

→ **detailed family history**, clinical examination

→ Genetic counseling

## MEN 1

- Autosomal dominant
- > 2 typical tumours, positive family history, relatives with known MEN-mutation
- Mutation in tumor suppressor gene (MEN1) → be aware of MEN1 associated tumors and ask for family history
- Which tumours are associated with MEN1?
  - Parathyroid hyperplasia and other symptoms!!!!
  - Islet cell tumours of the **pancreas (often multifocal)**
  - Pituitary adenomas and
  - Rarer lung and thymus carcinoids
  - Frequently type 2 gastric carcinoid in case of **gastrinoma (often multifocal)**



## MEN 2

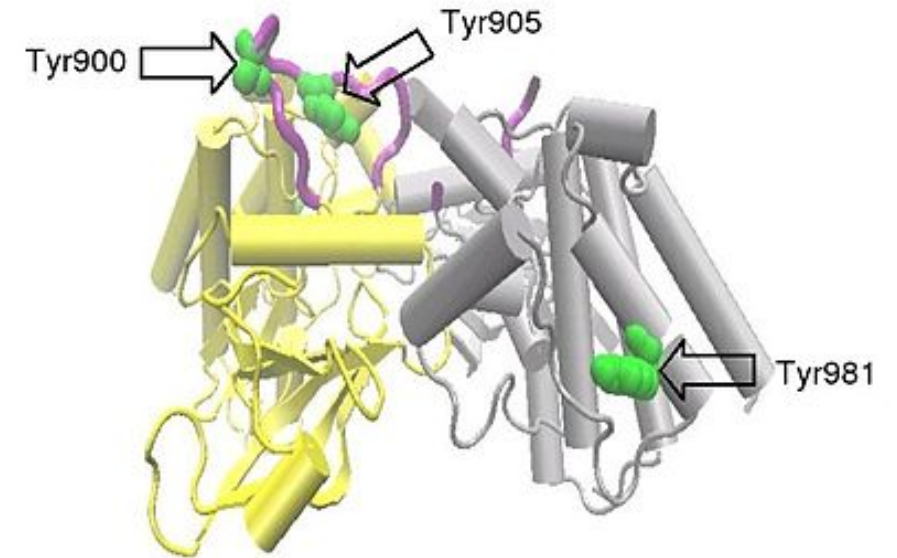
- Mutation in RET protooncogene
- 98 % of MEN 2 patients have?  
→ Medullary thyroid cancer
- Which tumours/associations?

### MEN 2A

- Medullary thyroid cancer
- Pheochromocytoma
- Parathyroidadenoma/hyperplasia
- Hirschsprungs disease

### MEN2B

- Medullary thyroid cancer
- Mucosal neuromas or intestinal ganglioneuromas
- Pheochromocytoma
- „Marfanoid“ body habitus, ectopic lenses



Receptor tyrosine kinase  
glial cell line-derived neurotrophic factor family



## Which subclassifications with prognostic value can be made?

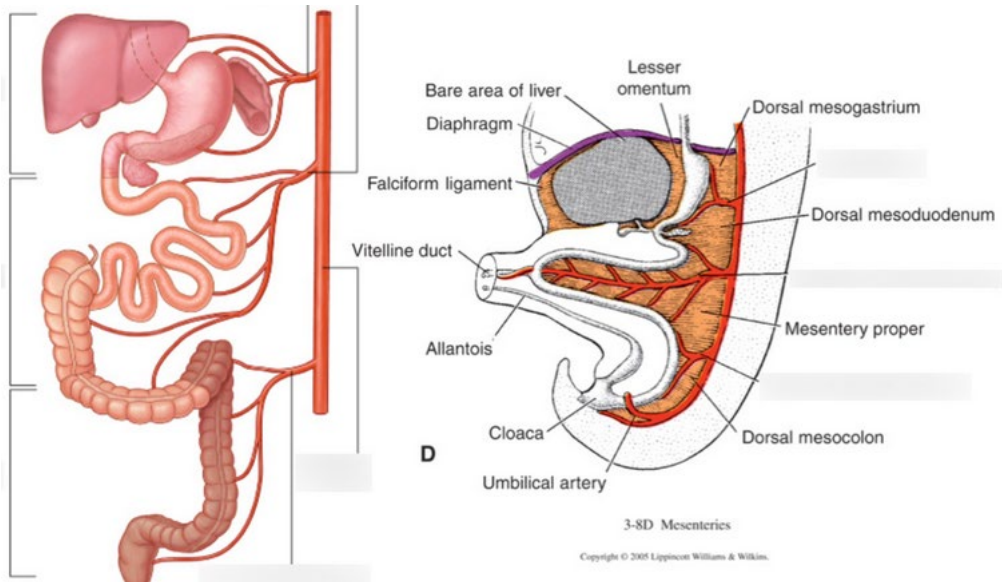
- Localisation/ Stage
  - Embryological origin → unexact (WHO 2000)
  - Side of origin
  - TMN Stage: localized, regional or distant metastases
- Histopathological features
  - Grading and differentiation
- Clinical presentation
  - Symptoms of hormonal hypersecretion
    - Nonfunctional vs functional

# Williams 1963

## Embryological origin

- **foregut** (bronchi, stomach, esophagus, gallbladder, duodenum... till ligamentum teres)
- **midgut** (jejunum, ileum, cecum, appendix, right colon) and
- **hindgut** (distal of ileum, rectum, sigmoid, left colon, rectum)

**Unexact  
classification**



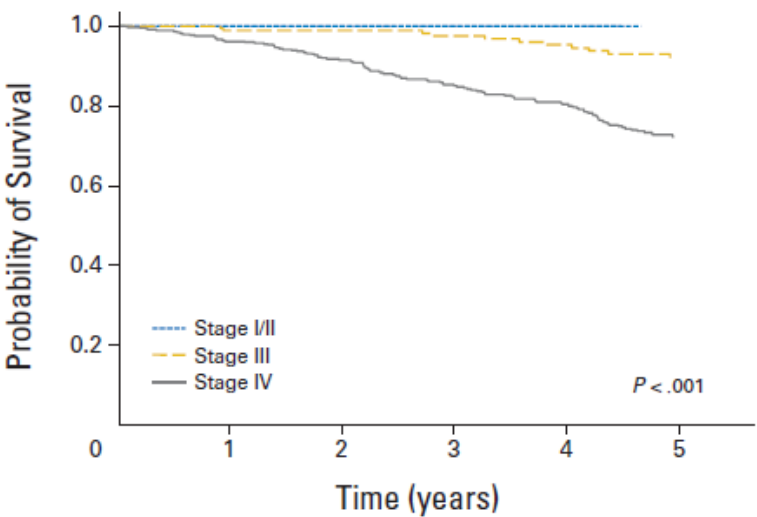
# Staging – small intestinal NEN

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Primary Tumor (T)        |  |
| T1                       | Tumor invades lamina propria or submucosa and is size 1 cm or less                                   |
| T2                       | Tumor invades muscularis propria or is size > 1 cm   |
| T3                       | Tumor invades through the muscularis propria into the subserosa or into the nonperitonealized tissue |
| T4                       | Tumor invades the visceral peritoneum (serosa) or any other organs or structures                     |
| Regional Lymph Nodes (N) |  |
| N0                       | No regional lymph node metastasis  |
| N1                       | Regional lymph node metastasis   |
| Distant Metastasis (M)   |  |
| M0                       | No distant metastasis  |
| M1                       | Distant metastasis   |

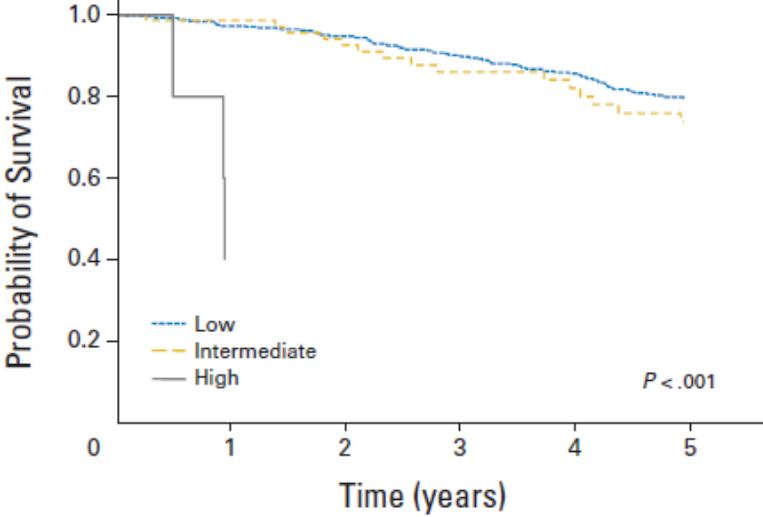
|       |       |       |    |
|-------|-------|-------|----|
| Stage |       |       |    |
| I     | T1    | N0    | M0 |
| IIA   | T2    | N0    | M0 |
| IIB   | T3    | N0    | M0 |
| IIIA  | T4    | N0    | M0 |
| IIIB  | Any T | N1    | M0 |
| IV    | Any T | Any N | M1 |

|                       |                        |                 |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Differentiation/Grade | Mitotic Count (10 HPF) | Ki-67 Index (%) |
| Well differentiated   |                        |                 |
| Low grade             | < 2                    | ≤ 2             |
| Intermediate grade    | 2-20                   | 3-20            |
| Poorly differentiated | > 20                   | > 20            |

TNM Stage



Grading low – intermediate – high



G2: Hazard ratio 1.9  
 G3: Hazard ratio 38.4

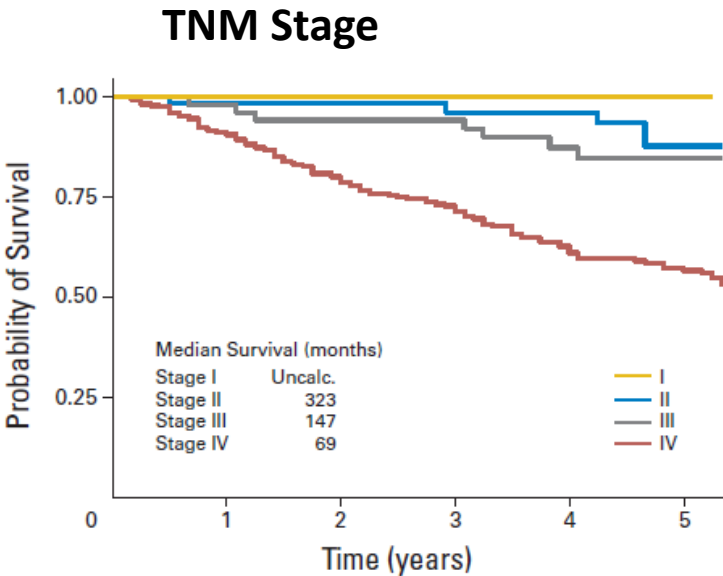
TMN→ Stage: localized (N0), regional (N1) or distant metastases (M1)  
 → *Si NET stage I-IV 5-y OS 100%,100%, 91%, 72 %*

# Staging – pancreatic NEN

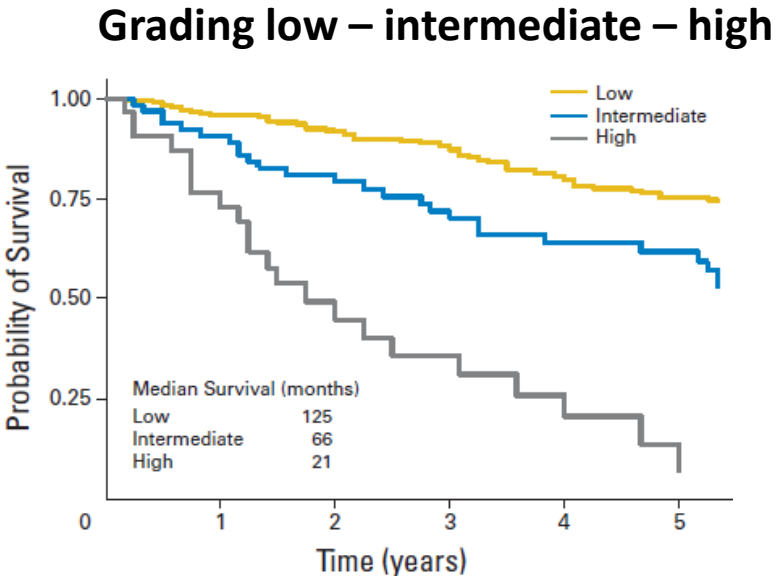
## ENETS Staging Classification

- T1 Tumor limited to the pancreas, < 2 cm
- T2 Tumor limited to the pancreas, 2-4 cm
- T3 Tumor limited to the pancreas, > 4 cm, or invading duodenum or CBD
- T4 Tumor invades adjacent structures
- N0 No regional LN metastasis
- N1 Regional LN metastasis
- M0 No distant metastasis
- M1 Distant metastasis

| Stage | T     | N     | M  |
|-------|-------|-------|----|
| I     | T1    | N0    | M0 |
| IIA   | T2    | N0    | M0 |
| IIB   | T3    | N0    | M0 |
| IIIA  | T4    | N0    | M0 |
| IIIB  | Any T | N1    | M0 |
| IV    | Any T | Any N | M1 |



Stage II: HR 1.2  
 Stage III: HR 1.7  
 Stage IV: HR 5.8



G2: HR 2.0  
 G3: HR 5.4

TMN→ Stage: localized (N0), regional (N1) or distant metastases (M1)  
 → *pancreatic NEN stage I-IV 5-y OS 92%, 84%, 81%, 57%*

| Covariate   | HR (95% CI)                                 |                                 |  |
|---|---|---------------------------------|--|
|   | Total SEER 18<br>NET Cohort<br>(n = 14 757) | Distant GI<br>NET<br>(n = 2681) | Distant Pancreatic<br>NET<br>(n = 850) |
| Year  |   |                                 |  |
| 2000-2004   | 1 [Reference]                               | 1 [Reference]                   | 1 [Reference]                          |
| 2005-2008   | 0.83 (0.78-0.89)                            | 0.76 (0.67-0.86)                | 0.76 (0.61-0.96)                       |
| 2009-2012   | 0.79 (0.73-0.85)                            | 0.71 (0.62-0.81)                | 0.56 (0.44-0.70)                       |
| Grade   |   |                                 |  |
| 1: Well differentiated  | 1 [Reference]                               | 1 [Reference]                   | 1 [Reference]                          |
| 2: Moderately differentiated                                    | 1.76 (1.59-1.94)                            | 1.81 (1.52-2.14)                | 1.36 (1.04-1.77)                       |
| 3 and 4: Poorly differentiated and undifferentiated; anaplastic | 5.26 (4.85-5.71)                            | 6.72 (5.89-7.67)                | 4.81 (3.85-6.02)                       |
| Race  |   |                                 |  |
| White   | 1 [Reference]                               | 1 [Reference]                   | 1 [Reference]                          |
| American Indian/Alaska Native                                   | 1.45 (1.00-2.11)                            | 1.73 (0.86-3.47)                | 2.07 (0.66-6.50)                       |
| Asian or Pacific Islander                                       | 1.03 (0.91-1.17)                            | 1.40 (1.11-1.76)                | 1.00 (0.69-1.46)                       |
| Black   | 1.23 (1.13-1.34)                            | 1.31 (1.12-1.52)                | 1.28 (0.98-1.68)                       |
| Age, y  |   |                                 |  |
| ≤30   | 0.23 (0.17-0.33)                            | 0.46 (0.28-0.76)                | 0.44 (0.23-0.86)                       |
| 31-60   | 0.54 (0.51-0.57)                            | 0.62 (0.56-0.69)                | 0.58 (0.48-0.70)                       |
| ≥61   | 1 [Reference]                               | 1 [Reference]                   | 1 [Reference]                          |
| Stage   |   | NA                              | NA                                     |
| Localized   | 1 [Reference]                               |                                 |  |
| Regional  | 1.73 (1.57-1.90)                            |                                 |  |
| Distant   | 5.05 (4.64-5.50)                            |                                 |  |
| Site  |   | NA                              | NA                                     |
| Lung  | [Reference]                                 |                                 |  |
| Appendix  | 0.53 (0.43-0.65)                            |                                 |  |
| Cecum   | 0.81 (0.72-0.91)                            |                                 |  |
| Colon   | 0.99 (0.88-1.12)                            |                                 |  |
| Liver   | 1.85 (1.46-2.36)                            |                                 |  |
| Pancreas  | 0.86 (0.78-0.94)                            |                                 |  |
| Rectum  | 0.71 (0.62-0.82)                            |                                 |  |
| Small intestine   | 0.53 (0.48-0.59)                            |                                 |  |
| Stomach   | 1.20 (1.07-1.34)                            |                                 |  |

## Unfavorable prognostic factors

- High Grading
- Advanced Stage
- Older age
- Site (Lung, Colon, Liver, Stomach)

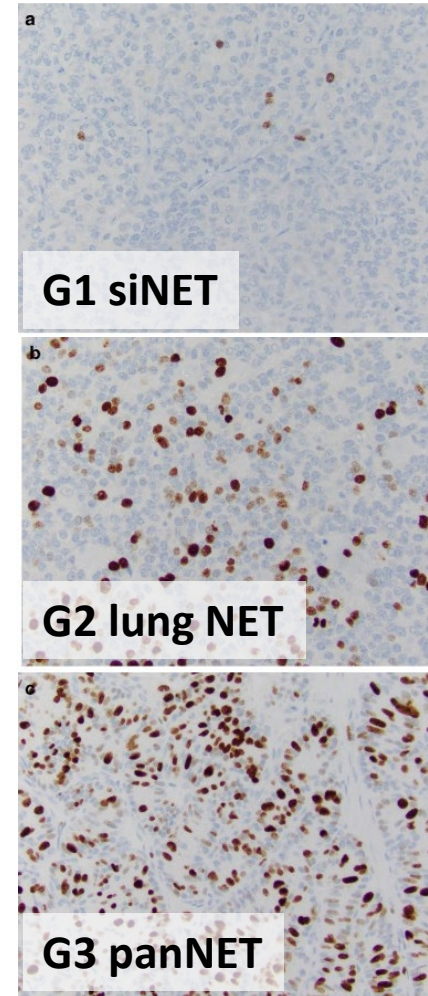
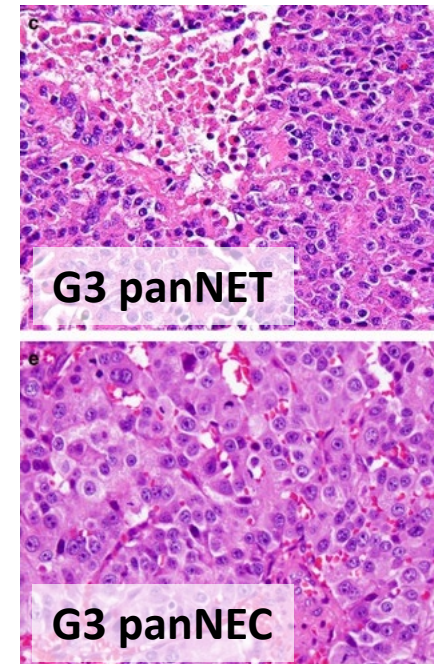
Slow improvement of survival over time...

→ more frequently diagnosed?

# WHO classification 2017

- To which major groups are GI neuroendocrine tumours classified according to WHO 2017 according to grading and differentiation?
- Which two pathomorphologic parameters of the tumours are used for grading?

| Differenzierung  | Grading   | Mitotic rate:<br>Mitosen/10 HPF<br>(better: per area!) | Ki-67 Index % |
|--|-----------|--|---------------|
| Well-differentiated NET  | <b>G1</b> | < 2  | < 3           |
| Well-differentiated NET  | <b>G2</b> | 2-20   | 3-20          |
| Well-differentiated<br><b>Pancreatic-NET</b><br>... also supported for<br>other gastroenteric NETs | <b>G3</b> | > 20   | > 20          |
| Poorly-differentiated <b>NEC</b><br>(small or large cell type)                                     | <b>G3</b> | > 20   | > 20          |







1907 Oberndorfer „carcinoid“

- WHO 1980 carcinoids all
- WHO 2000 → GEP-NET, carcinoids well-differentiated GI/lung
- WHO 2010 → mixed (MANEC)

- **WHO 2017**  
NEW: poorly differentiated  
G3 NETs

**G3 panNET ≠ panNEC**

**→ Different genetics**

**→ Better prognosis (panNET)**

**→ Different therapy (like G1/G2 NET)**

cell type) and

NET G1/G2, **NET G3**, NEC G3, mixed

MANEC (mixed adenoneuroendocrine Carcinoma

→ MiNEN (mixed neuroendocrine-nonneuroendocrine tumors)

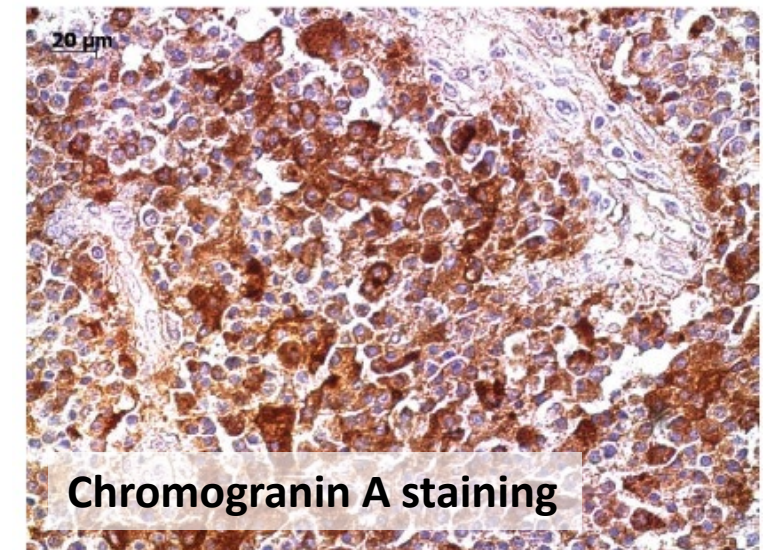
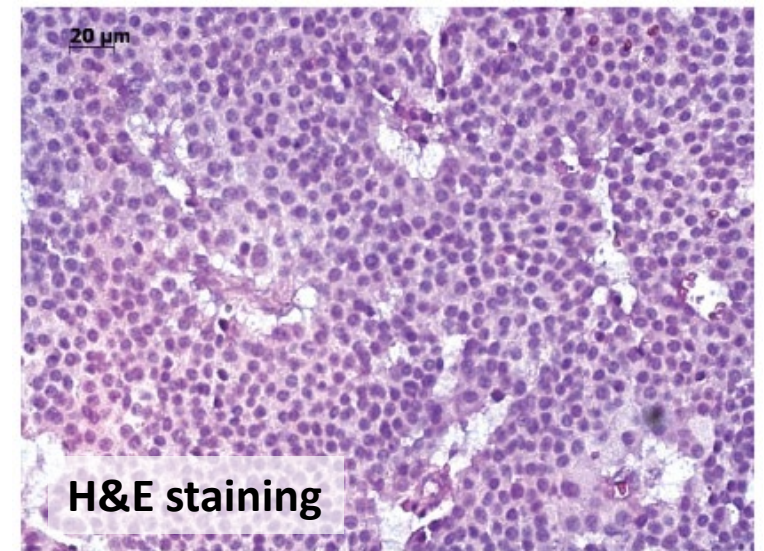
# Immunohistochemistry

Specific markers are

- Chromogranin A
  - Synaptophysin
- can help to establish the neuroendocrine differentiation

In case of unknown origin:

- Midgut → CDX2 Homeobox protein CDX2, nuclei of intestinal cells
- Lung → TTF1 Thyroidal Transcription factor 1
- Pancreas → Isl-1/PAX8 ISL LIM homeobox 1



Neuroendocrine tumor of Papilla Vateri

→ Whipple procedure

→ No abnormalities after 9 years



## Clinical features: Non-functioning GI neuroendocrine tumors

**Which are the typical symptoms of non-functioning NETs?**

No symptoms at all or:

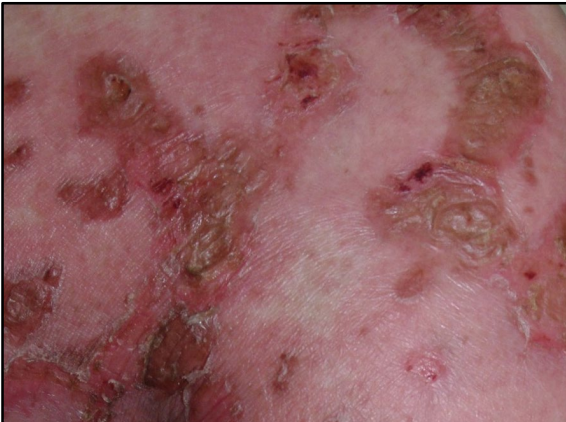
- Symptoms from pancreatic mass and/ or liver metastases
- Abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting
- Weight loss
- Gastrointestinal bleeding
- Obstruction

# Functioning GI neuroendocrine tumors

Which are the typical symptoms of functioning NETs (of the Pancreas)?

| Functioning NETs | Clinical features   |
|------------------|---|
| Insulinoma       | Whipple Trias (1938) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hypoglycaemia (&lt;2.5 mmol/l)</li><li>• Hypoglycemic symptoms: confusion, sweating, dizziness...</li><li>• Relief with eating or i.v. glucose</li></ul> |
| Gastrinoma       | Zollinger-Ellison-Syndrome (1955) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Severe peptic Ulceration, reflux, diarrhoea</li></ul>   |
| VIPoma           | Verner-Morrison Syndrom; WDHA (1958) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Profuse watery diarrhea, hypokalemia, achlorhydria</li></ul>   |
| Glucagonoma      | Necrolytic migratory erythema, weight loss, diabetes mellitus, stomatitis, thrombosis, depression, diarrhoea  |
| Somatostatinoma  | Cholelithiasis, Steatorrhoe   |

**Delay of diagnosis after symptom onset 7 years**



Necrolytic migratory erythema

# Carcinoid syndrome (Thorson, 1954)

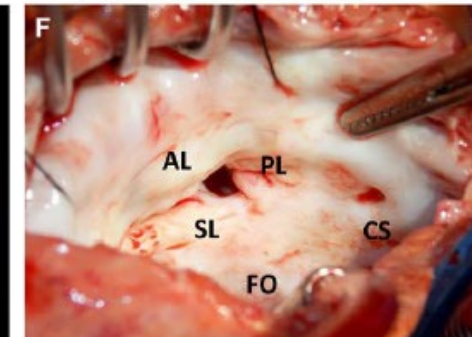
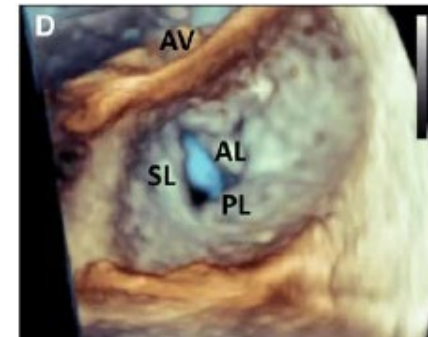
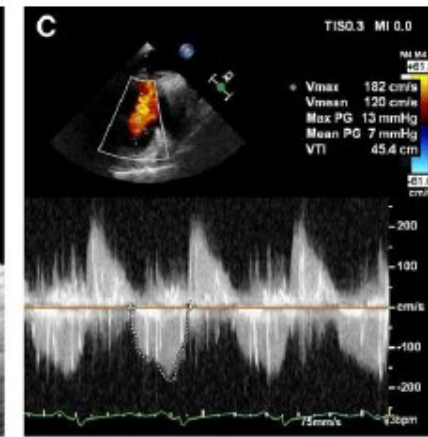
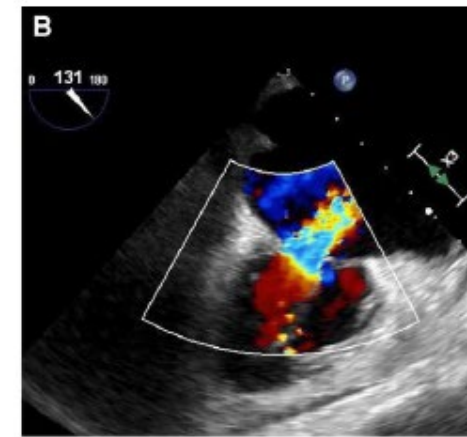
## Release of Serotonin

also: Histamine, kallikrein, hydroxytryptophan, prostaglandines, Substance P, neuropeptide Y

## Typical symptoms?

- Dry flushing +/- palpitations 80 %
  - Only with liver metastasis/ liver dysfunction/ high tumor burden
  - Bright red face, neck, torso
  - Minutes OR 2-4 hours OR long standing with teleangiectasias
  - Precipitated by exercise, stress, alcohol, some food.
- Secretory diarrhoea 80 %
- Intermittent abdominal pain 40 %
- Wheezing < 10%
- Possible carcinoid heart disease 20-50 %

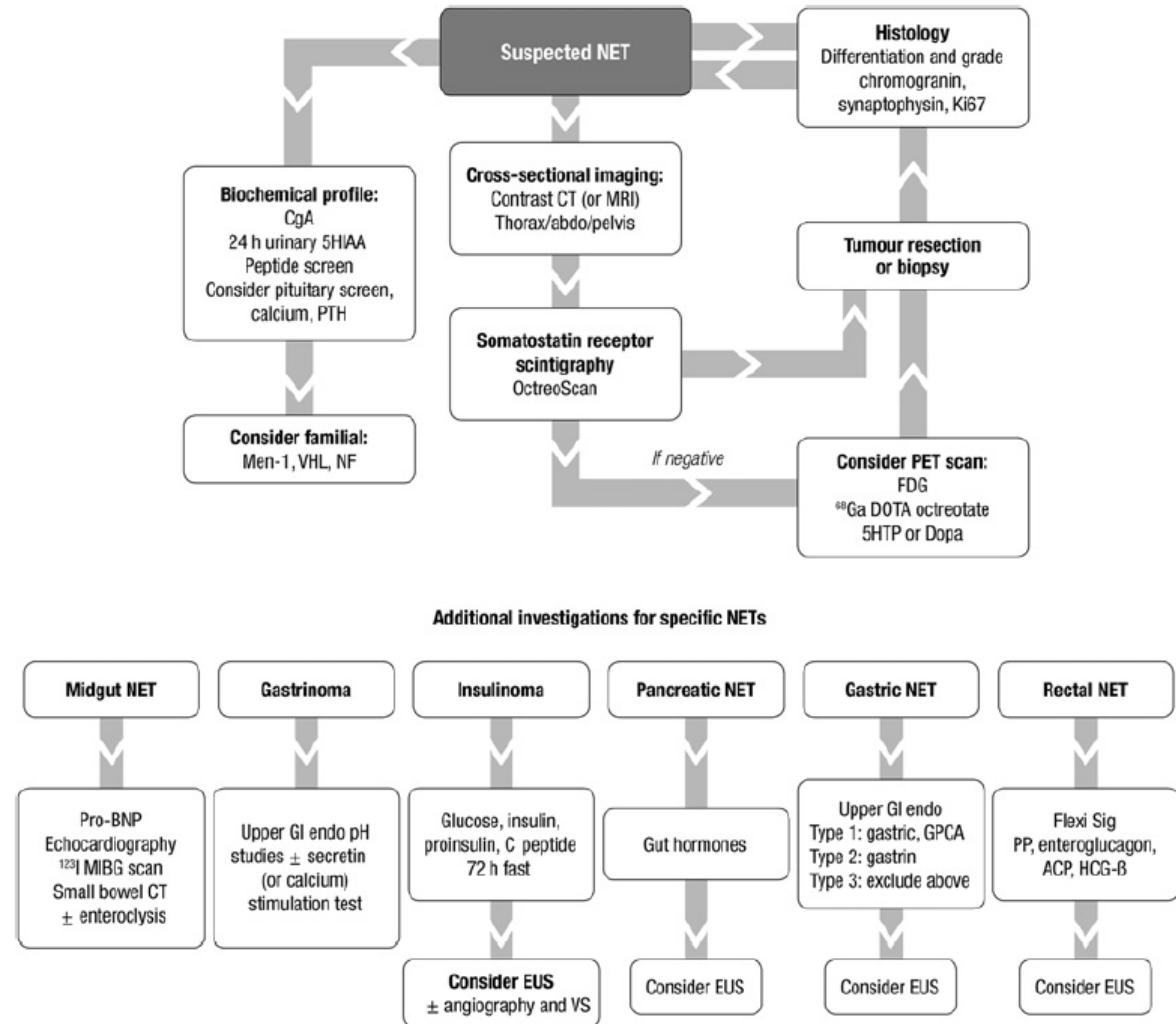
**Carcinoid crisis:** Profound flushing, bronchospasm, cardiac arrhythmias and fluctuating blood pressure



# Diagnosis

**Diagnosis of NETs is based on the followings:**

- Pathology as the gold standard
- Clinical manifestations
- Peptide and amine secretion (biochemical)
- Radiological and nuclear imaging
  - Contrast CT or MRI
  - Ga-DOTATATE PET-CT
    - If negative consider FDG-PET
  - Primary tumour? Extension?
- Endoscopy, EUS, ± Enteroklyses, capsule endoscopy



## Biochemistry

- To assist with initial diagnosis
- To assess the efficacy of treatment
- To assess changing prognosis
- Absence of a marker does not equate to the absence of a tumour
- Screening for hormones in asymptomatic patients is not required
- In case of metastatic lung or GI NEN, evaluation for Serotonin and baseline Chromogranin A as tumormarkers is recommended

- Chromogranin A
- 5-hydroxyindolacetic acid
- Gastrin
- Insulin, C peptide, glucose
- HCG- $\beta$  glucose
- PTH
- Somatostatin, vasoactive intestinal peptide, pancreatic polypeptide,

# Chromogranin A

**Chromogranin A:** nonspecific general marker

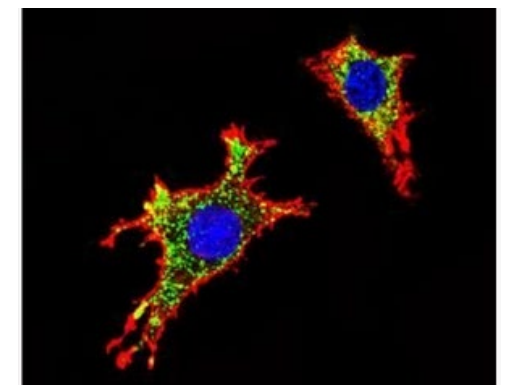
→ most guidelines recommended against screening marker, but for surveillance/follow-up as tumor marker

but

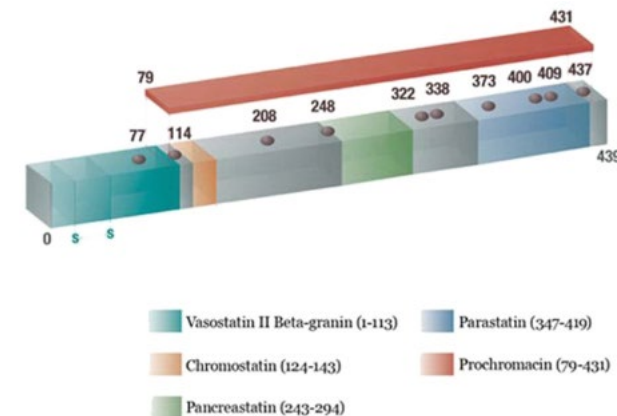
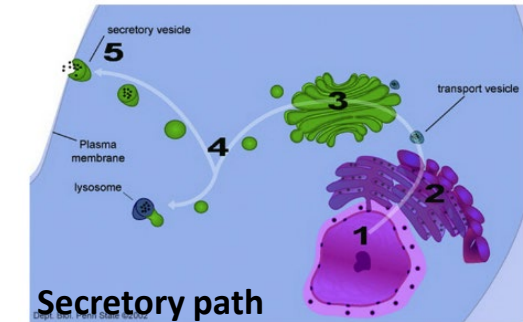
Sensitivity 73%, specificity 95%, diagnostic OR 56.3  
non-functioning and functioning, well differentiated NETs

**What are confounding conditions for the detection of chromogranin A?**

- PPI (stop 1-2 weeks before measurement)
- Chronic atrophic gastritis
- Impaired liver and kidney function, congestive heart failure
- HCC, medullary thyroid cancer



460 amino acid protein  
→ Staining of secretory granula  
in pheochromocytoma cells



Precursor for functional peptides



# Biochemistry: Peptide markers according to tumor site

| Peptide markers specific to the tumour site |                 |   |   |
|---|-----------------|---|---|
| Site  | Type            | Laboratory tests required                           | Results expected  |
| Gastric                                     | I and II        | CgA, gastrin  | Raised  |
|   | III             | CgA, gastrin  | Raised CgA, gastrin not raised  |
| Duodenal                                    |                 | CgA, gastrin, PP, urinary 5-HIAA, SOM               | Raised CgA in 90%   |
|   |                 |   | Consider MEN1   |
| Jejunal, ileal and proximal colon           |                 | CgA, urinary 5-HIAA, NKA                            | Raised CgA (>80%), U-5-HIAA (70%) and/or NKA (>80%); see text                         |
| Proximal colon                              |                 | CgA, urinary 5-HIAA, NKA, (PP)                      | Raised CgA (>80%), U-5-HIAA (70%) and/or NKA (>80%); see text                         |
| Appendiceal                                 |                 | CgA, urinary 5-HIAA, NKA, (PP)                      | None raised unless metastatic<br>Metastatic: markers as ileal                         |
| Goblet cell                                 |                 | CgA, urinary 5-HIAA, NKA, (PP)                      | None raised   |
| Rectal                                      |                 | CgA, CgB, PP, glucagon, HCG- $\beta$                | Raised CgA (rarely); see text<br>Raised CgB, PP, glucagon and/or HCG- $\beta$ in some |
| Pancreatic                                  |                 | CgA   | Raised CgA in metastatic tumours only   |
|   | Insulinoma      | CgA, insulin, blood glucose,                        | Insulin inappropriate to glucose; see text  |
|   |                 | C peptide or pro-insulin                            | Raised C peptide and pro-insulin  |
|   | Gastrinoma      | Gastrin   | Raised gastrin; see text  |
|   | Glucagonoma     | Glucagon, enteroglucagon                            | Raised glucagon   |
|   | VIPoma          | VIP   | Raised VIP  |
|   | Somatostatinoma | SOM   | Raised SOM  |
|   | PPoma           | PP  | Raised PP   |
|   | MEN1            | CgA, gastrin, (calcium, PTH), insulin, glucagon, PP |   |

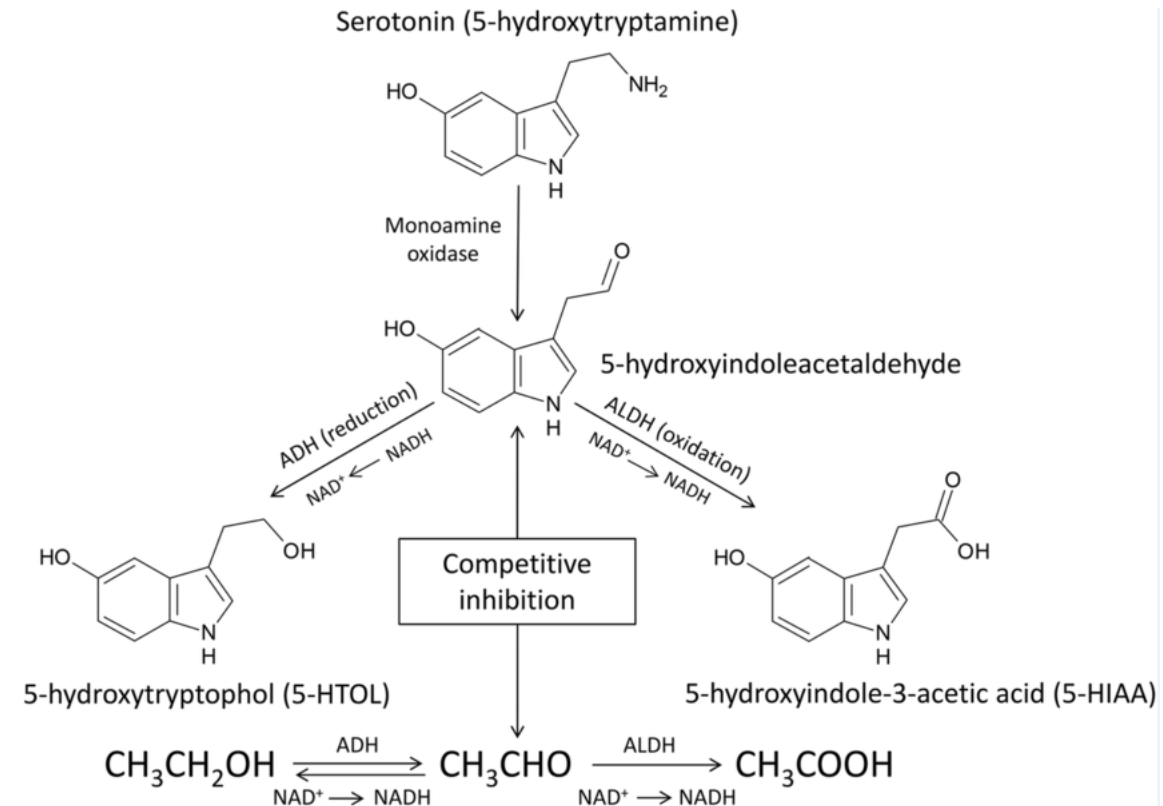
Items in parentheses may be helpful for diagnosis and monitoring in individual patients.

CgA, chromogranin A; CgB, chromogranin B; HCG- $\beta$ , human chorionic gonadotrophin  $\beta$ ; 5-HIAA, 5 hydroxyindoleacetic acid; NKA, neurokinin A; PP, pancreatic polypeptide; PTH, parathyroid hormone; SOM, somatostatin; VIPoma, vasoactive intestinal peptide-secreting tumour.

## Diagnosis: 5-HIAA

If the 24 h urine collection of 5'-hydroxyindolaecetic acid (5'-HIAA) is positive, the most probable and second most probable site site of tumour is?

- Midgut (jejunum, ileum, proximal colon and appendix (>70%))
  - \* carcinoid syndrom only with extensive liver metastastes (> 95%)
- Respiratory system (10-35%)





## Diagnosis: 5-HIAA

Patient instructions for the 5-HIAA 24 h urin collection?

- 48 h – 72 h before dietary and drug restrictions:
- 48 h before no avokados, bananas, eggplant, cantaloupe, pineapple, plums, tomatoes, kiwi, hickory nuts, dates, grapefruit, walnuts  
→ contain serotonin
- Avoid coffee (catecholamines), nicotine and alcohol
- False high values with paracetamol, cumarine, phenobarbital, diazepam;
- False low values with ASS, chlorpromazin, isoniazid, levodopa, Streptozotocin



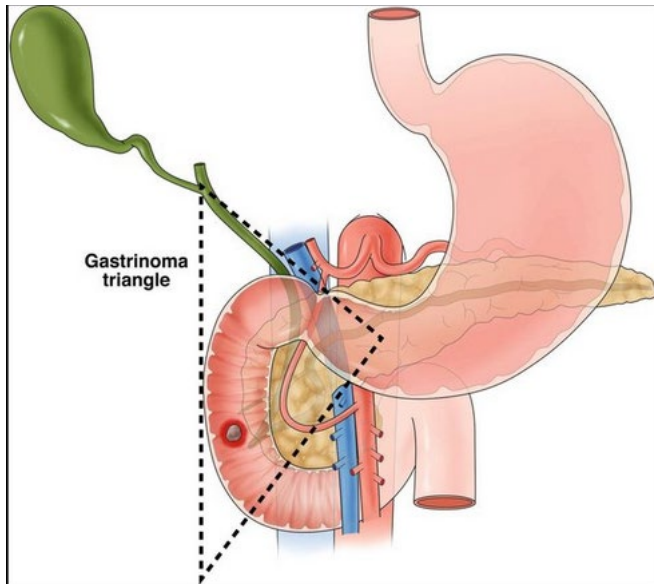
# Diagnosis Gastrinoma (Zollinger-Ellison Syndrom)

## Gastrinoma (Zollinger-Ellison Syndrom)

- Acid hypersecretion in the presence of hypergastrinemia
- 25% of the patients have MEN I
- Mostly located in the duodenum (>50%) and pancreas

## Diagnostic?

- Gastroscopy (> 50 % duodenal) and histology
- Basal gastrin level (Norm 13 -115 pg/ml)



Freckling and multiple café-au-lait spots, neurofibromas  
→ Neurofibromatosis 1



Epigastric soreness, heartburn, nausea, vomiting,  
diarrhea, and a significant weight loss



EGD: multiple ulcers in the duodenum + upper jejunum.  
Fasting gastrin >10x upper limit of normal



# Diagnosis: Gastrinoma (Zollinger-Ellison Syndrom)

## What are confounding conditions for the detection of gastrin?

= Differential diagnosis of hypergastrinaemia?

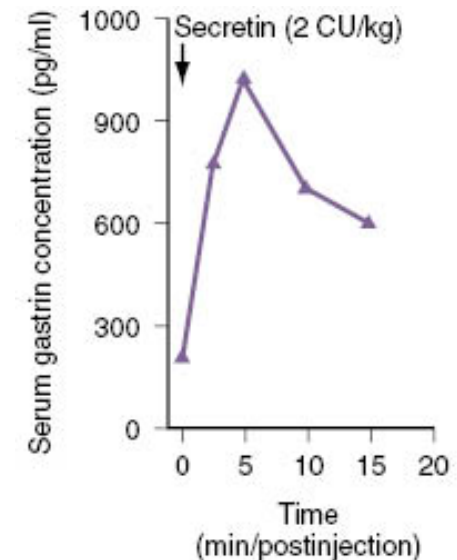
- Not fasting
  - PPI
  - Atrophic gastritis, achlorhydria, *H. pylori*, gastric outlet obstruction, short-bowel syndrom, liver or kidney failure
- Patient has to be fasting > 8 h, PPI stopp for minimal 1 week

## With high suspicion of gastrinoma but you cannot stop PPI...what do you do?

- Stopp PPI, H2-antagonists are possible + recommended
- Or EUS/ endoscopy first most tumors are located in pancreas or duodenum

## What other test is available?

Secretin test: paradox gastrin increase >120 pg/ml after i.v. secretin (2 IE/ kg within 30 min)



## Diagnosis: Gastrinoma (Zollinger-Ellison Syndrom)

In reality most cases remain unclear (... PPI, liver or kidney failure...)  
→ additional diagnostics during endoscopy?

**Gastrin > 1.000 pg/ml + gastric pH > 2**

exclusion gastrinoma

**Gastrin > 1.000 pg/ml + gastric pH < 2**

**gastrinoma → tumor localisation**

**Gastrin 110 – 1.000 pg/ml + gastric pH < 2**

secretin test



**+  
Bx →  
HP  
A-gastritis**



# Diagnosis gastric neuroendocrine tumors

How would you distinguish between different types of NET in the stomach?



| Gastric NET       | <u>Typ I</u>  | <u>Typ II</u>   | <u>Typ III</u>                   |
|-------------------|---|---|----------------------------------|
| Number of tumours | Solitary or multiple  | Solitary or multiple  | Solitary                         |
| Tumour size       | small   | small   | Often large, > 2 cm              |
| ECL -hyperplasia  | yes   | yes   | absent                           |
| Gastrin           | <b>Hypergastrinaemia</b>                                    | <b>Hypergastrinämie, MEN I,</b>                             | no                               |
| Association       | <b>Autoimmune gastritis</b>                                 | <b>Zollinger-Ellison-Syndrom</b>                            | Sporadic tumours                 |
| Metastasis        | rare  | rare  | often                            |
| Therapy           | < 1cm <b>endoscopic</b> removal,<br>> 2 cm surgical removal | < 1cm <b>endoscopic</b> removal,<br>> 2 cm surgical removal | Surgical removal with lymphnodes |
| Prognosis         | Very well   | Very well   | <b>Variabel</b>                  |



# Somatostatin Receptor PET Imaging in NET

**Chelator**     **Octreotide analogon**

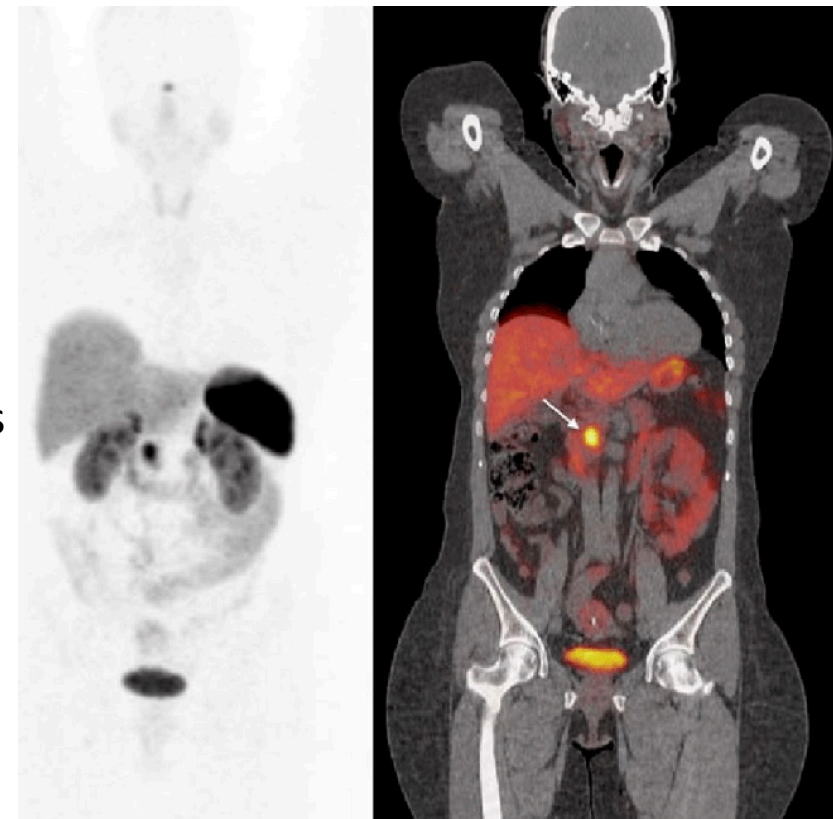
DOTA     TOC = d-Phe-Cys-Tyr-d-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-Thr(OH)

DOTA     TATE = d-Phe-Cys-Tyr-d-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-Thr. ← 9x higher affinity to somastotatin receptors

68-Gallium:     fast renal elimination

## SSTR-PET: $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -DOTATATE

- Better sensitivity than scintigraphy scans
- Clinical use
  - Localisation of unknown primaries/at initial diagnosis
  - Selecting patients for PRRT
  - Response to therapy/ surveillance
- Best studied in G1/G2
- Variable sensitivity in NEC
  - poorly differentiated NECs often have low SSTR expression
  - may be better imaged on fluorodeoxyglucose ( $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG) PET/CT



Neuroendocrine tumor of pancreatic head

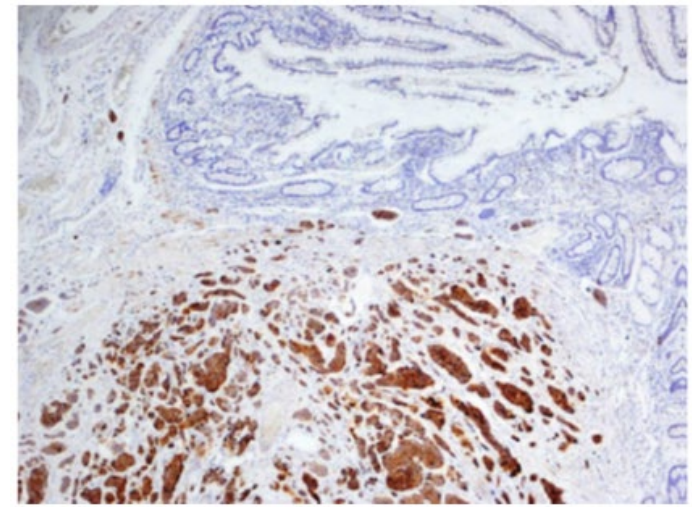
## Treatment

What is the primary treatment approach for most localized neuroendocrine tumors?

- Resection



**Small intestinal obstruction**



**Synaptophysin staining**

# Which NETs can be treated endoscopically?

**Table 5 Therapy of gastric NENs**

|        | No risk factors (for metastatic disease)    | risk factors <sup>a</sup>                         |
|--------|---|---|
| Size   | ≤ 1 cm                                      | 1-2 cm  |
| Type 1 | Surveillance <sup>b</sup><br>optionally EMR | EMR followed by surveillance Surgery <sup>c</sup> |
| Type 2 | Surveillance <sup>b</sup>                   | EMR followed by surveillance Surgery <sup>c</sup> |
| Type 3 | EMR   | Surgery <sup>c</sup>                              |
| Type 4 | -   | -   |

**Table 6 Therapy of duodenal NENs**

| Type         | ≤ 1 cm <sup>a</sup> | 1-2 cm <sup>a</sup>  | Any size but risk factors <sup>b</sup>   |
|--------------|---------------------|--|--|
| Sporadic NET |                     | Surgery (in case of surgical risk: EMR followed by surveillance) | Surgery  |
|              |                     | Surgery <sup>c</sup>   | Surgery <sup>c</sup>   |
|              |                     | (particularly gastrinoma) or PPI combined surveillance           | Surgery (or PPI therapy combined with surveillance in G1 gastrinomas and/or surgical risk) |
|              |                     | -  | Surgery or cytoreductive chemotherapy  |

**Table 7 Therapy of rectal NENs**

|            | No risk factors (for metastatic disease) | risk factors <sup>a</sup>  |
|------------|--|--|
| Grade/Size | ≤ 1.0 cm                                 | 1.1 - 2 cm   |
| G1         | EMR or polypectomy or ESD                | Surgery <sup>b</sup> (EMR or ESD in case of surgical risk or for carcinoids of 11-14 mm in diameter) |
| G2         | EMR, ESD, surgery <sup>b</sup>           | Surgery <sup>b</sup>   |
| G3         | -  | Surgery <sup>b</sup>   |

**Gastric, duodenal, rectal**

**Early:  
≤ 1 cm, G1  
No infiltration of  
muscularis propria  
No angio-invasion**

**EMR, ESD, FTRD**



# Treatment

## First-line Management in symptomatic patients with tumor-related symptoms or carcinoid syndrom and unresectable or progressive NENs

- Somatostatin analogues are the first-line long-term medical treatment of NETs.

## Which effect do they have on NETs/ indications?

- Control of symptoms

→ Biochemical response = inhibition of hormone production (carcinoid syndrome)

- Antiproliferative effects → indication for progressive disease

→ delay progression, cannot prolongate survival

» Octreotide?

PROMID study: 85 patients, 30 mg octreotide-LAR vs. placebo.

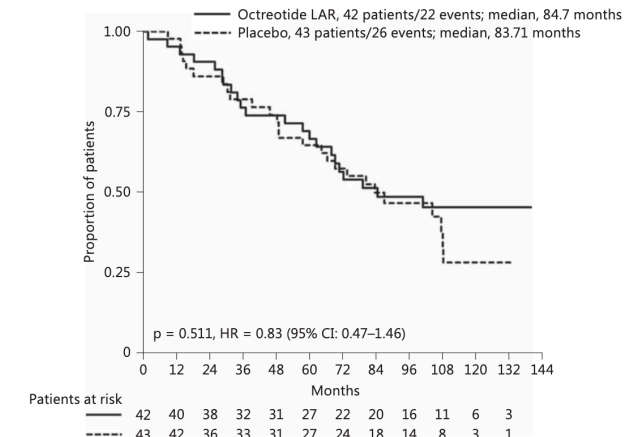
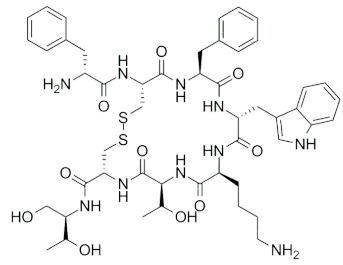
→ HR for progression 0.34; 67% stable disease at 6months

→ Longterm survival (>10 years): 43%; no advantage for Octerotide

» Lanreotide?

## CLARINET study: 204 patients with gastroenteropancreatic NET

→ HR for progression at 18 months: 0.43 with Lanreotide



## Treatment

Why is prophylactic cholecystectomy is recommended in patients who already receiving, or are due to start long-term treatment with somatostatin analogues?

- Risk of cholelithiasis (10-50%)

Other side effects of somatostatin treatment?

- Local reactions (pain and erythema) at the injection site
- Abdominal cramps, nausea, flatulence, diarrhoea and steatorrhoea
- Bradycardia
- Lanreotide 120 mg s.c. monthly 2268,- CHF
- Octreotide LAR 30 mg i.m. 1185, - CHF

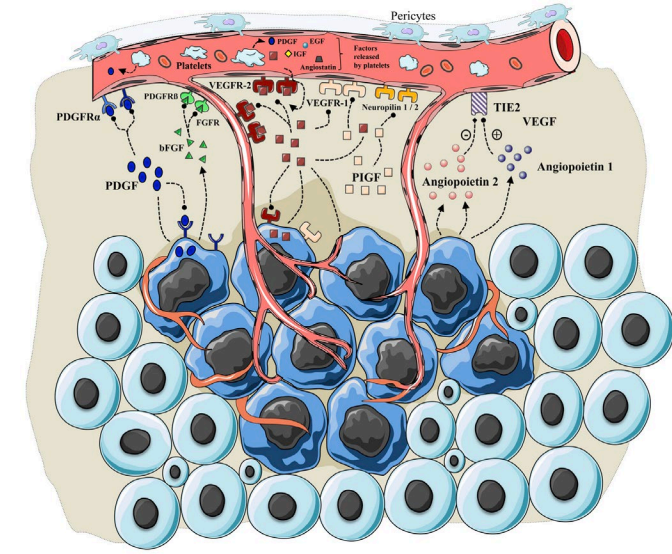


7 years octreotide  
For metastatic carcinoid

# Molecularly targeted therapies

NETs are highly vascularized, via VEGF, PDGF activity  
→ Tyrosine kinase inhibitors block VEGF/ PDGF signaling  
→ Everolimus inhibits mTOR and downstream signaling

- Everolimus, targeting mTOR
  - RADIANT 2: 429 patients with advanced GI-NET, octreotide +/- 10 mg Everolimus  
→ PFS 16 vs. 11 months, significant only after adjustment for confounders
  - RADIANT 4: 302 patients, advanced lung or GINET: everolimus vs. Placebo  
→ HR progression 0.48; disease control 1 year: 81% vs. 64%  
→ FDA approved
- Tyrosine kinase inhibitors: sunitinib, sorafenib, pazopanib, lenvatinib, cabozantinib
  - Pazopanib: 171 patients, PFS: 11.6 vs. 8.5 months, HR: 0.53
  - Sunitinib: 171 patients, PFS: 11.4 vs. 5.5 months.  
→ FDA approved



# Peptide receptor radioligand therapy

## Chelator      Octerotide analogon

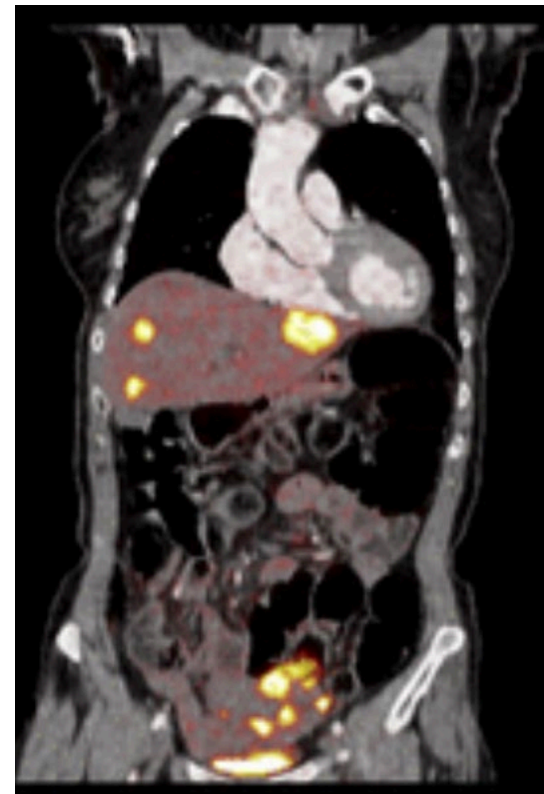
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DOTA      TATE = d-Phe-Cys-Tyr-d-Trp-Lys-Thr-Cys-Thr. ← 9x higher affinity to somastotatin receptors

90-Yttrium:      2 mm range

177-Lutetium:      12 mm range

- $^{177}\text{Lu}$ -DOTATATE in a RCT
  - 230 patients, progressive disease with octreotide 20 or 30 mg
  - Randomized vs. octreotide 60mg
    - Progression free survival at 20 months: 65% vs. 10.8%
    - Median PFS: >30 months vs. 8.4 months
    - Overall survival 14 vs. 26 deaths at 30 months
  - FDA approved
  - Side effects:
    - Myelotoxicity, hematologic malignancy 2.6%
    - nephrotoxicity



# Management of locoregional advanced or distant metastatic disease

Lack of data for sequencing specific therapies → multidisciplinary discussions

- Observation is an option
- PRRT: Peptide receptor radionucleotide therapy
- Liver directed therapies (embolisation), debulking surgery
  - » RETNET ongoing
- Molecularly targeted therapies
- Cytotoxic chemotherapy
  - no good data, moderate benefits in NETs (streptozotocin)
  - more useful in G3-NECs
- IFN- $\alpha$ : reserve option
  - no difference to octreotide in RCT
  - severe side effects

## Is OLT an option?

- Considered investigational of nearly all institutions/guidelines
- “an option with careful patient selection for NET metastatic to the liver”
- UNOS (USA): 150 Tx 1998-2008:  
survival data 1 year: 81%; 3 years: 65%, 5 years: 49%
- Modified Milan criteria «Milan NET» criteria
  - Age < 60 (relative)
  - G1/G2, primary tumor has been removed
  - Metastatic involvement to the liver
  - Hepatic tumor burden not > 50%
  - 6 month no tumor progression with therapy
  - Exclusion: G3 or small-cell carcinoma  
non-gastrointestinal tumors

