

Gastroenteropancreatic Neuroendocrine Tumors

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Review Course

Disclosures

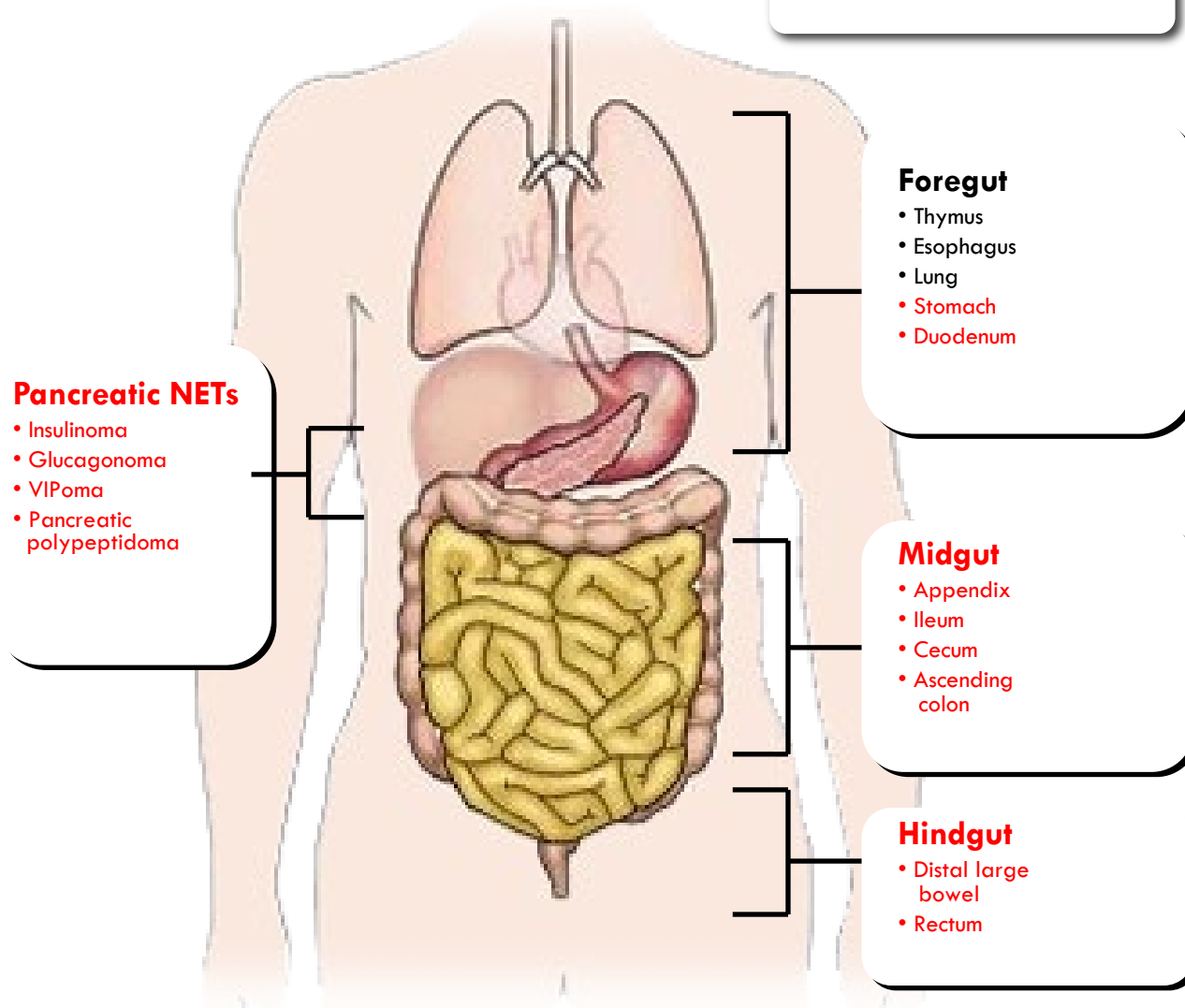
- Research funding through institution: Pfizer, Tanabe, Astellas, Genentech, Adaptimmune, Replimmune
- Advisory board: HalioDx, Genentech, Exelixis

Abbreviations

- NET = neuroendocrine tumor
- PNET = pancreatic neuroendocrine tumor
- GEP NET = gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine tumor = neuroendocrine tumor of GI tract and pancreas
- SSTR = somatostatin receptor
- SSA = somatostatin analogue

Sites of NETs

Carcinoid Tumors

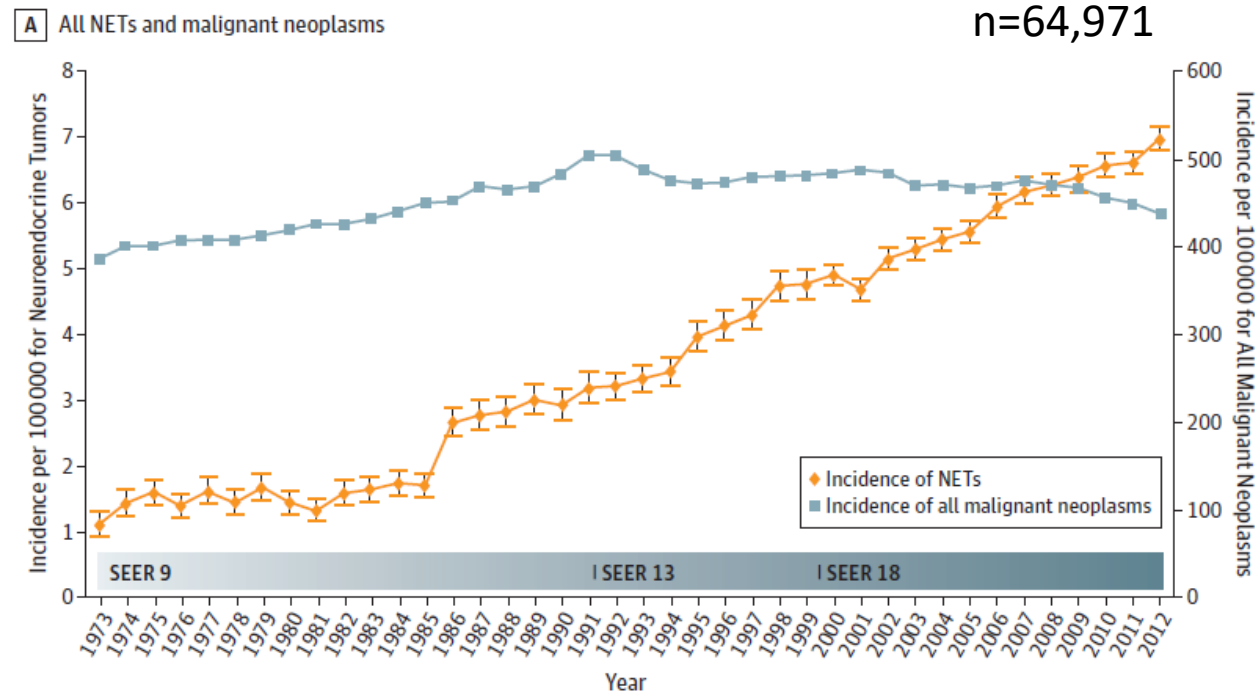


- Neuroendocrine cells found at various sites of the body
- Produce hormones and peptides with biological activity
- NETs can arise in different organs
- GI tract and pancreas are common sites of origin for NETs
 - Some cases of unknown primary
- Heterogeneous group of tumors with different biology and behavior

Epidemiology – SEER data

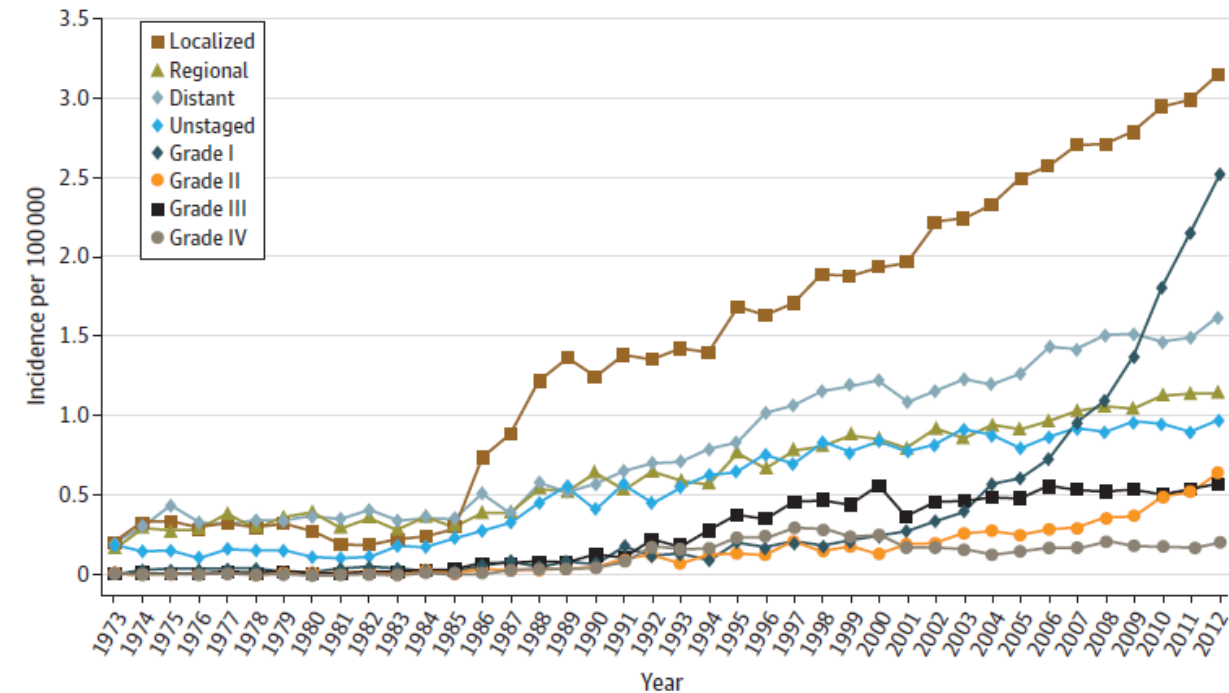
6.4-fold increase in incidence of all NETs from 1973 to 2012

Figure 1. Incidence Trends of Neuroendocrine Tumors (NETs) From 1973 to 2012



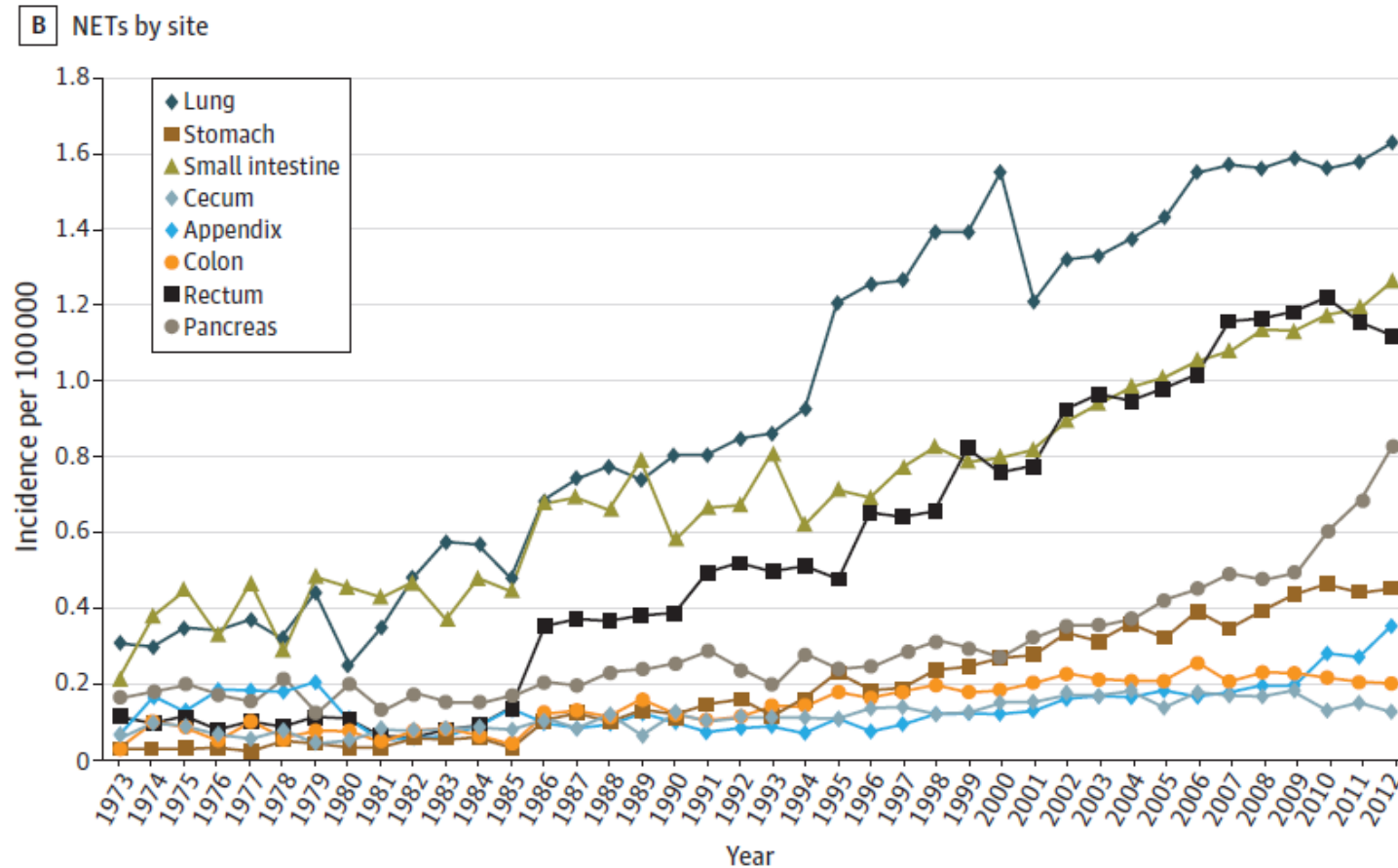
Increased incidence of earlier stage disease

C NETs by stage and grade



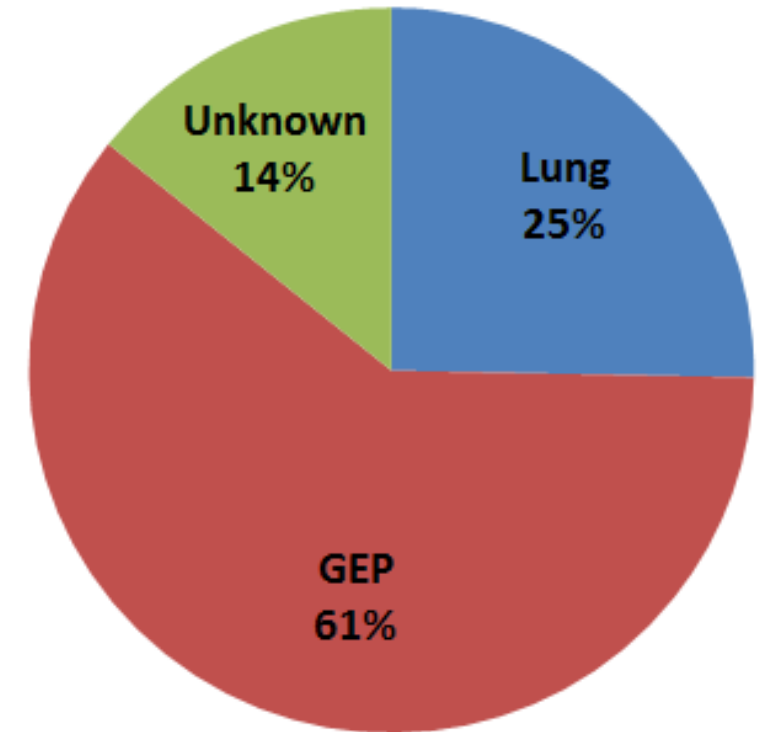
Trends may be related to improved diagnostic tests and more awareness of disease

Incidence of NETs by anatomic site



Incidence per 100,000 persons (SEER 18, 2000-2012 data):

- Lung: 1.49
- GEP NETs: 3.56
- Unknown primary: 0.48



Among GEP NETs:
 Small intestine: 29%
 Rectum: 29%
 Pancreas: 13%

Pathologic classification

- GEP NETs are characterized by strong immunohistochemical staining of synaptophysin and chromogranin
- 2019 WHO classification integrates both morphology (histologic differentiation) and proliferation (grade)

	Morphologic differentiation	Mitotic count/2mm ²	Ki67 index
NET G1	Well-differentiated	<2	<3%
NET G2	Well-differentiated	2-20	3-20%
NET G3	Well-differentiated	>20	>20%
NEC	Poorly differentiated	>20	>20%
MiNEN	Well or poorly differentiated	variable	variable

NET: neuroendocrine tumor; NEC: neuroendocrine carcinoma; MiNEN: mixed neuroendocrine/non-neuroendocrine neoplasm

Distinction between NET G3 and NEC

- Change from prior classification
- Compared to NECs, the NET G3 are more likely to:
 - Be diagnosed at earlier age and be functional
 - Have lower Ki67 (typically 21-55%)
 - Have +ve somatostatin receptor imaging
 - Carry mutations associated with low/intermediate grade NETs (i.e. mutations in DAXX, ATRX, MEN1)
 - Have longer overall survival (i.e. median OS 98.7 months for NET G3 vs. 17.0 months for NEC, $p < 0.001$)

Prognosis

- Wide range of prognosis based on:
 - Stage at diagnosis (localized > regional > distant)
 - Grade (well diff > poor diff)
 - Age at diagnosis (younger > older)
 - Primary site
 - Time of diagnosis (2000-2004 < 2005-2008 < 2008-2012)
 - Greater improvement in survival for advanced GEP NETs (especially carcinoids) due to better therapies

Functionality

- GEP NETs may produce and secrete bioactive amines and peptides (hormones, neuromodulators) causing clinical symptoms
- Classified as functional vs. non-functional tumors
- Symptoms do not correlate with tumor burden
- Treatment of clinical syndromes of hormone excess: somatostatin analogue (SSA), except insulinoma

Carcinoids (8-35% functional)	PNETs (10-40% functional)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Carcinoid syndrome → flushing, diarrhea, right sided valvular fibrosis, bronchoconstriction- Typically associated with serotonin and midgut NETs in the setting of liver metastases	<p>Secretion of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- *Insulin (insulinoma) → hypoglycemia- *Gastrin (gastrinoma) → PUD- Vasoactive intestinal peptide (VIPoma) → diarrhea, hypok- Glucagon (glucagonoma) → flushing, diarrhea, hyperglycemia

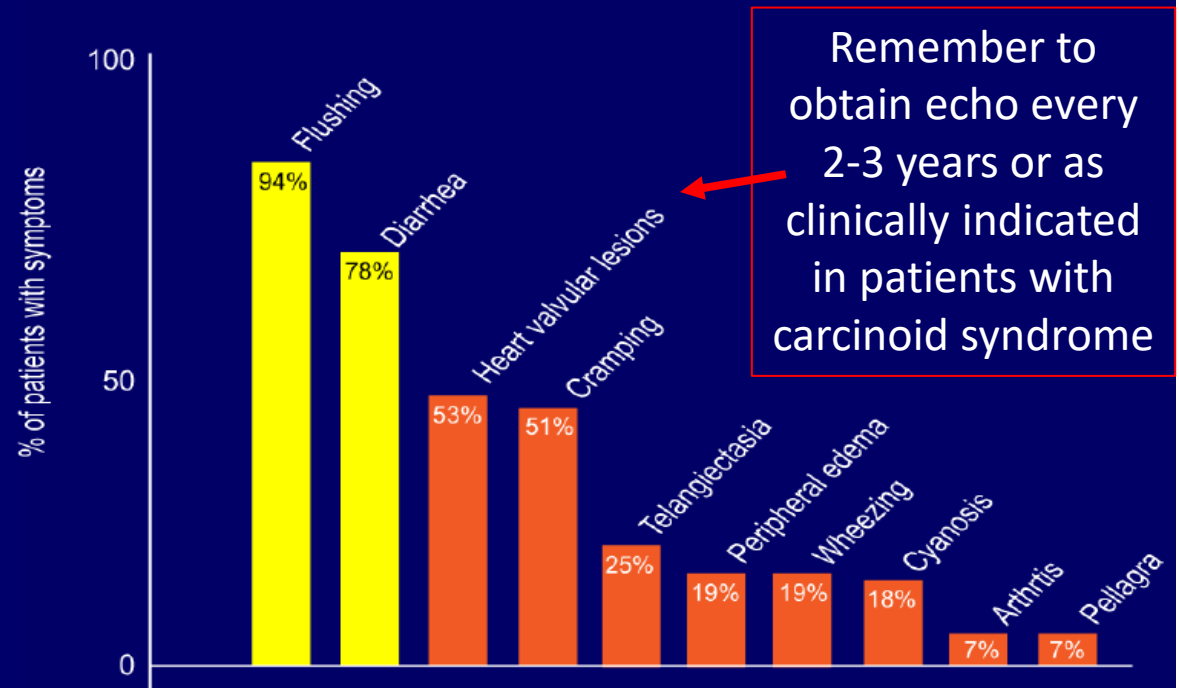
Characteristics of carcinoid tumors by location

	Foregut	Midgut	Hindgut
Localization	Stomach, duodenum, bronchus, thymus	Jejunum, ileum, appendix, ascending colon	Transverse, descending, and sigmoid colon, rectum, genitourinary
Secretory products	5-hydroxytryptophan, histamine, multiple polypeptides	Serotonin, prostaglandins, polypeptides	Variable
Carcinoid syndrome	Rare, and atypical when it happens (angioedema, hive-like pink flushing, rash)	Classic (flushing, diarrhea, wheezing due to bronchoconstriction, R valvular involvement)	Rare (usually found on lower GI endoscopy, patients may present with obstructive symptoms)

Carcinoid syndrome

- Occurs in approximately 8% to 35% of patients with NETs and occurs mostly in cases of patients with hepatic metastases¹
- Consequence of vasoactive peptides such as serotonin, histamine, or tachykinins released into the circulation^{2,3}
- Manifested by episodic flushing, wheezing, diarrhea, and, potentially, the eventual development of carcinoid heart disease^{2,3}

Percentage of patients with symptoms of carcinoid syndrome⁴



1. Rorstad O. *J Surg Oncol*. 2005; 89:151-60.

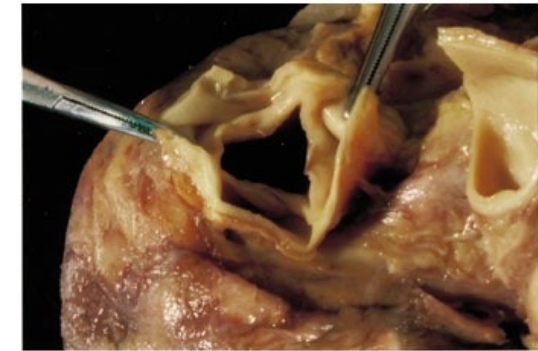
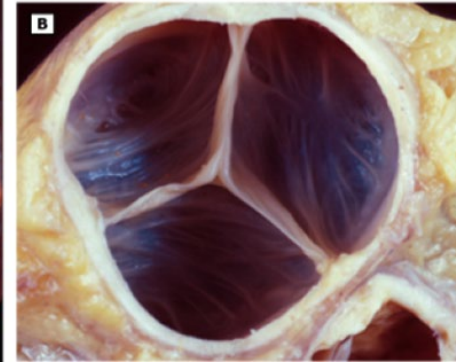
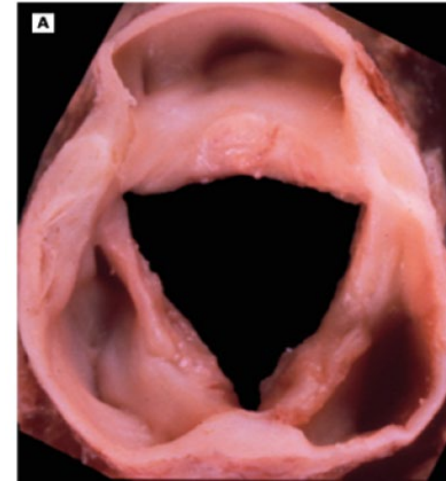
2. Modlin IM, Kidd M, Latich I, Zikusoka MN, Shapiro MD. *Gastroenterology*. 2005;128:1717-1751.

3. Vinik A, Moattari AR. *Dig Dis Sci*. 1989;34(3 Suppl):14S-27S.

4. Creutzfeldt W. *World J Surg*. 1996;20:126-131.

Carcinoid heart disease

- 20-65% of patients with carcinoid syndrome
- Plaque-like fibrous thickening classically involving right heart valves
- Presentation: fatigue, dyspnea, leg edema, ascites, hepatomegaly, high BNP, possible arrhythmias
- Echocardiogram at baseline – repeat q2-3y or if new symptoms
 - May see visible fibrosis, tricuspid regurgitation
- Treatment of carcinoid syndrome and management of heart failure
- Possible valvular replacement if severe

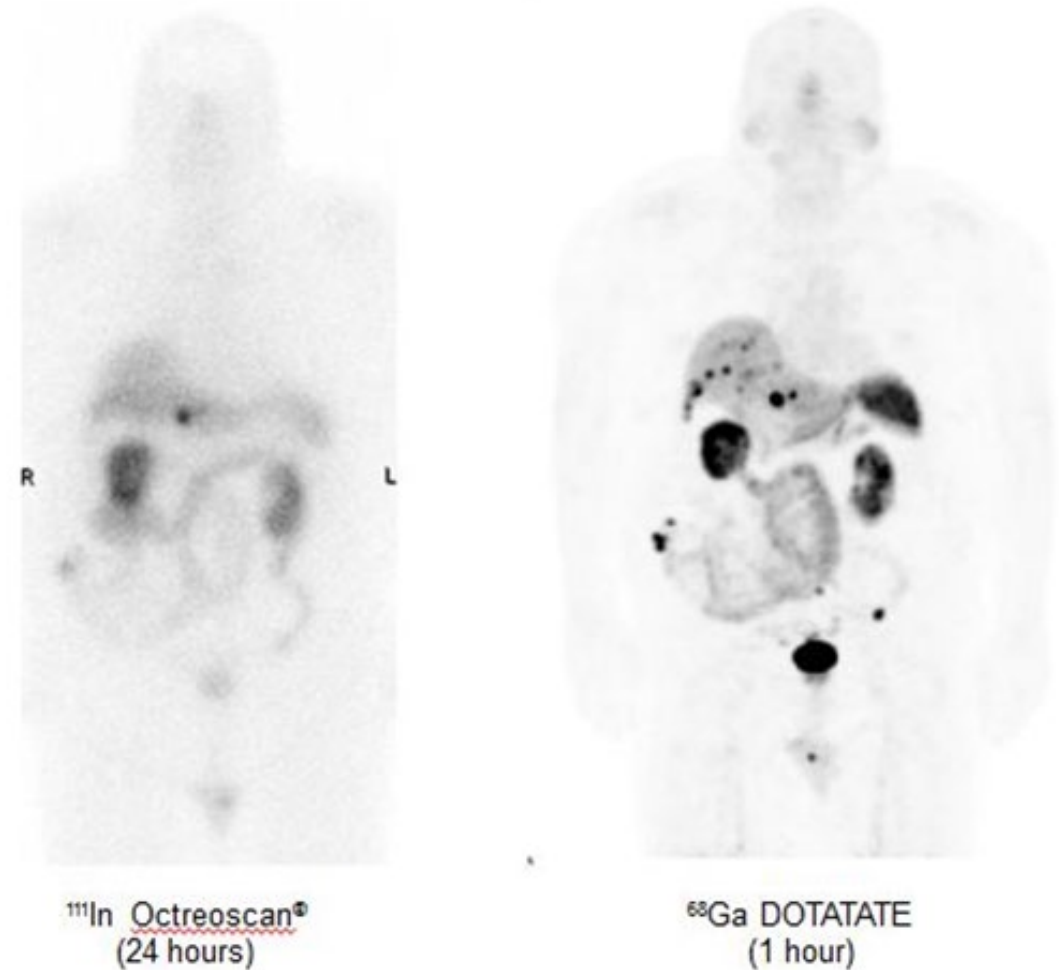


Workup

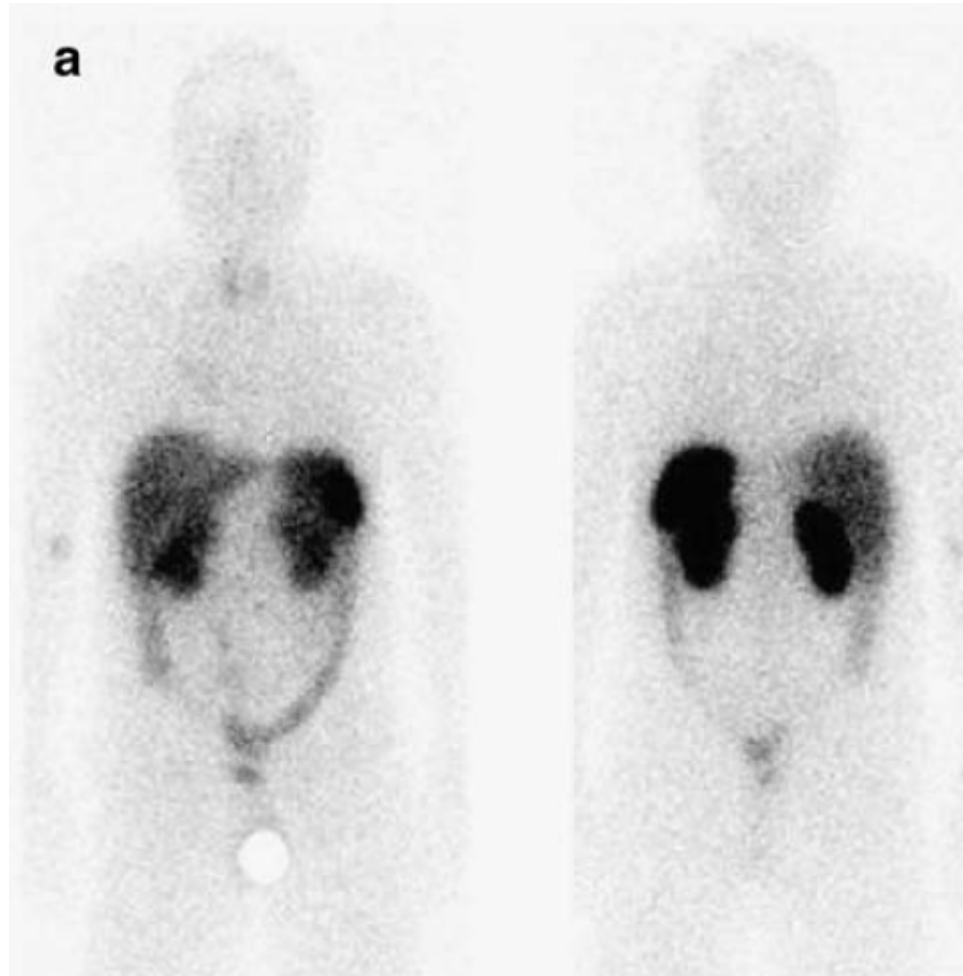
- Goals of workup
 - Assess primary site and stage
 - Pathologic classification (differentiation, grade) – need tissue
 - Establish functionality
- NCCN guidelines (v1.2021)
 - Recommend: multiphasic CT or MRI abdomen/pelvis
 - As appropriate:
 - Somatostatin receptor-based imaging (Ga68 dotatate PET/CT)
 - Endoscopy
 - CT chest with or without contrast
 - Biochemical evaluation as clinically indicated (if suspicious symptoms present)

Somatostatin receptor-based imaging

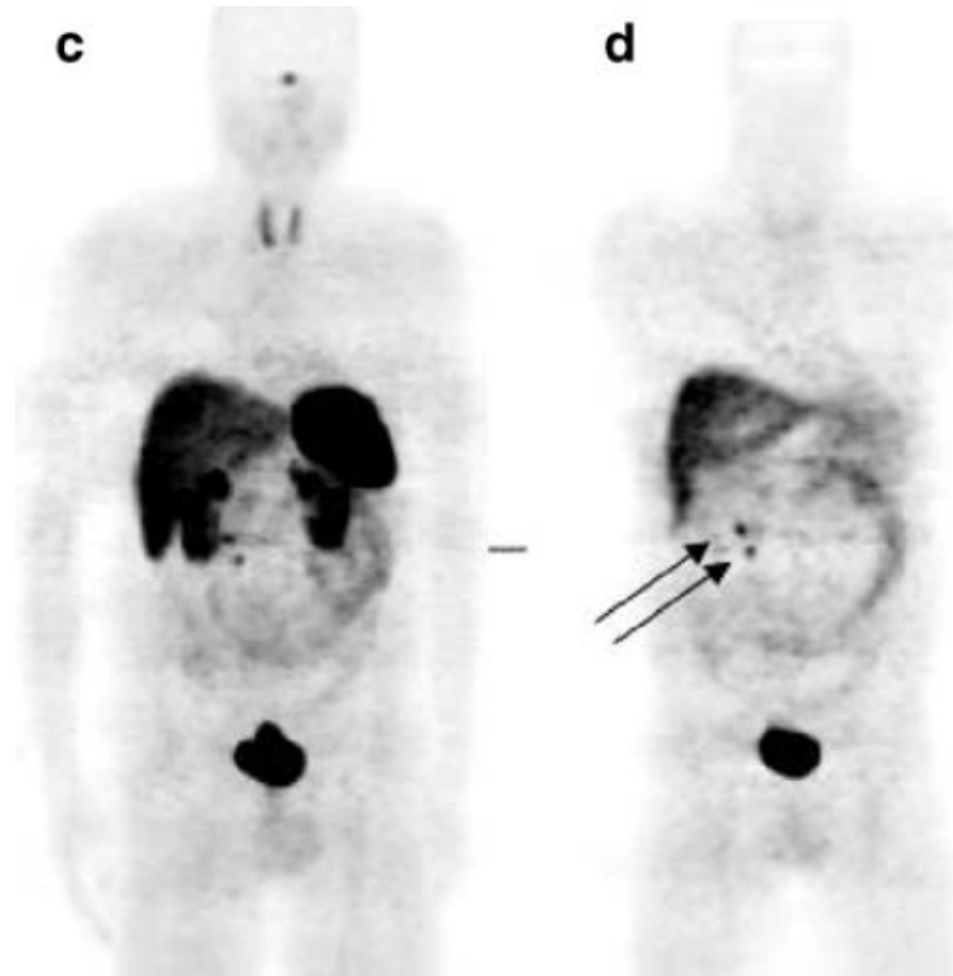
- >90% well-differentiated GEP NETs express variable levels of SSTR
- Imaging using radiolabelled SSAs
 - Bind to SSTR2 and 5 on NET cells
 - Functional PET imaging (^{68}Ga DOTATATE PET/CT) – more sensitive for detecting small lesions, shorter test time (30-60 min) compared to OctreoScan (Indium-111 pentetreotide)
- **Should stop short-acting SSA at least 24 hours and long-acting SSA at least 4 weeks before imaging**
- **NOT recommended for routine surveillance**



<http://www.carcinoid.org/2014/06/30/carcinoid-cancer-foundation-awards-grant-to-stanford-university/>.



111-In-DTPAOC SPECT



68-Ga-DOTATOC PET

Biochemical testing (NCCN v1.2021)

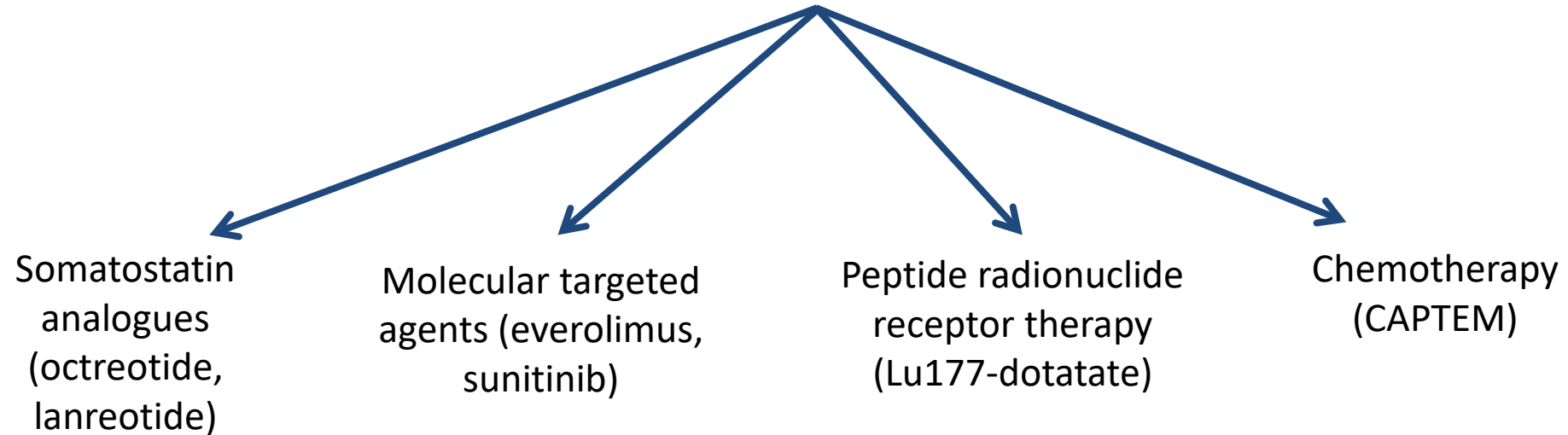
	Location	Clinical Symptoms	Testing
NETs of Gastrointestinal Tract, Lung, and Thymus	Primary tumors in GI tract (ileum, appendix, rectum), lung, or thymus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary tumors in the GI tract usually are not associated with symptoms of hormone secretion unless extensive metastasis. • Symptoms of hormone secretion may include flushing, diarrhea, cardiac valvular fibrosis, and bronchoconstriction. • Bronchial/thymic tumors may be associated with classic carcinoid syndrome as well as Cushing syndrome. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24-hour urine or plasma 5-HIAA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Foods to avoid for 48 hours prior to and during testing: avocados, bananas, cantaloupe, eggplant, pineapples, plums, tomatoes, hickory nuts/pecans, plantains, kiwi, dates, grapefruit, honeydew, or walnuts. • Test for Cushing syndrome (NE-C, 2 of 3)
PanNET: PPoma	Pancreas	Clinically silent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serum pancreatic polypeptide (category 3)
PanNET: Insulinoma	Pancreas	Hypoglycemia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While hypoglycemic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Serum insulin ▸ Pro-insulin ▸ C-peptide • See Workup for insulinoma (PanNET-3)
PanNET: VIPoma	Most common in pancreas, can be extra pancreatic	Diarrhea, hypokalemia	Serum VIP
PanNET: Glucagonoma	Pancreas	Flushing, diarrhea, hyperglycemia, dermatitis, hypercoagulable state	Serum glucagon
PanNET: Gastrinoma	Pancreas or duodenum	Gastric ulcers, duodenal ulcers, diarrhea	Serum gastrin^a

- Chromogranin A
 - Ubiquitous distribution in neuroendocrine tissues, stored in secretory granules and secreted with modified amines
 - Sensitive, but non-specific
 - Trend is more important

False elevations

- Chromogranin A
 - Proton pump inhibitors (should be discontinued at least 2 weeks before)
 - Other disorders: endocrine, GI, cardiac, inflammatory diseases, renal impairment, other non-GI cancers
- 24h urinary 5-HIAA (5-hydroxyindoleacetic acid)
 - Ingestion of tryptophan/serotonin-rich foods
 - Avoid for 48h before measurement: avocado, banana, cantaloupe, eggplant, pineapple, plum, tomato, hickory nut/pecan, plantain, kiwi, date, grapefruit, honeydew, walnut
 - Malabsorption syndromes

Systemic therapy for metastatic GEP NETs

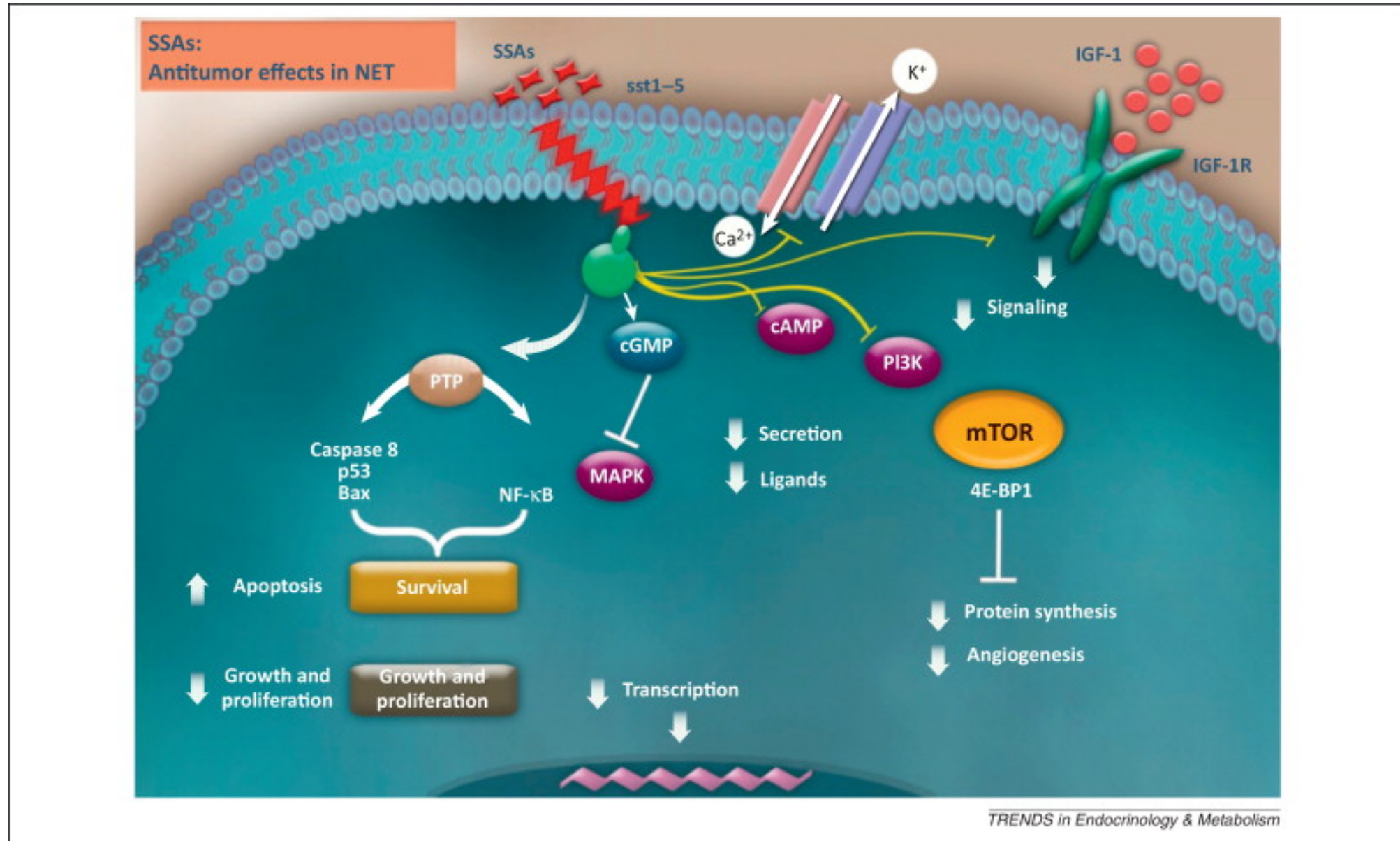


- For symptom (if present) and tumor control
- Multidisciplinary approach
- Therapy selection depends on:
 - Carcinoid vs. PNET, cell differentiation and grade, SSTR expression, symptoms, tumor burden, rate of growth

Systemic therapy for symptoms

- Clinical symptoms associated with excess hormone secretion
- SSA is mainstay of treatment
 - Octreotide
 - Highest affinity for SSTR2
 - Short-acting and long-acting formulations
 - Recommend short-acting for 2-3 weeks until steady levels of octreotide LAR are reached
 - Lanreotide (SSTR2) and pasireotide (SSTR1,2,3,5)
 - Equally effective as octreotide in controlling carcinoid syndrome
- Telotristat – for refractory carcinoid syndrome-related diarrhea
 - Tryptophan hydroxylase inhibitor in serotonin synthesis pathway
- Consider octreotide during surgery to avoid carcinoid crisis

SSAs have anti-tumor activity against GEP NETs and inhibit growth factors



Octreotide

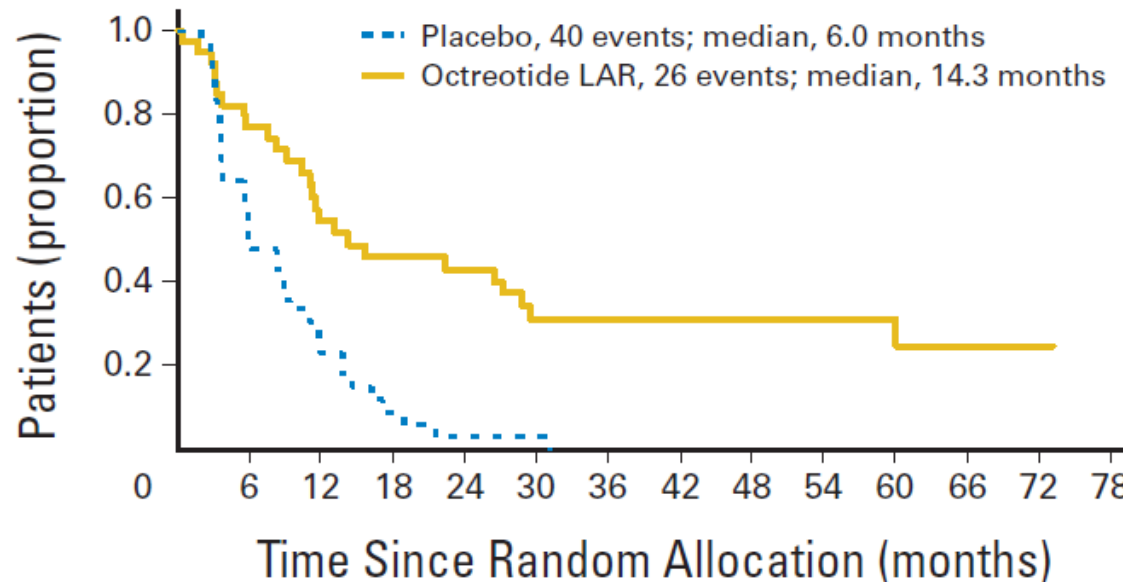
PROMID trial

Patients with metastatic well-differentiated midgut NETs, treatment naïve

Octreotide LAR 30 mg IM every month (n=42)

Placebo (n=43)

A



- Improvement in median time to progression (HR 0.34, 95% CI 0.2-0.59, $p=0.000072$)
- Stable disease: 67% vs. 37% (at 6m)
- No improvement in overall survival
- Both functional and non-functional tumors responded
- Most common adverse events related to GI tract (diarrhea, flatulence)

No. of patients at risk

Placebo	43	21	9	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Octreotide LAR	42	30	19	16	15	10	10	9	9	6	5	3	1

Log-rank test stratified by functional activity: $P = .000072$, HR = 0.34 (95% CI, 0.20 to 0.59)

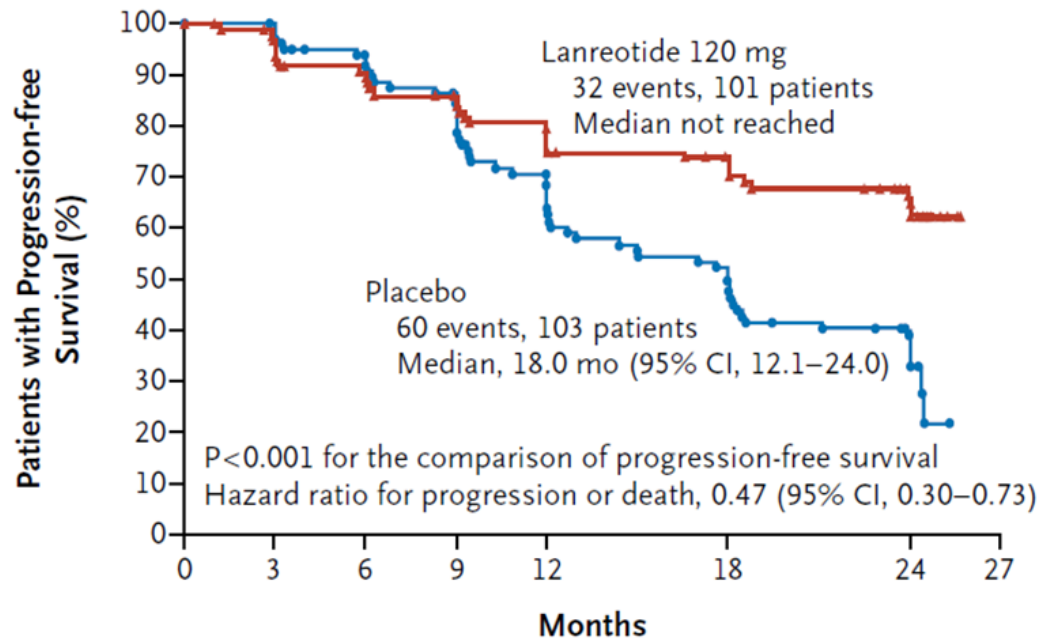
Lanreotide

CLARINET trial

- Patients with metastatic well differentiated NETs
 - PNET, mid/hindgut, unknown origin
 - SSTR positive, non-functioning

Lanreotide 120 mg deep SC every 28 days (n=101)

Placebo (n=103)



- Improvement in median progression-free survival
- PFS (at 24m): 65% vs. 33%
- Greater rate of reduction in chromogranin A by >50%
- No improvement in overall survival or quality of life

No. at Risk

Lanreotide	101	94	84	78	71	61	40	0
Placebo	103	101	87	76	59	43	26	0

Lanreotide side effects

- GI toxicity: diarrhea (26%), abdominal pain (14%), flatulence (8%), nausea (7%), vomiting (7%)
- Cholelithiasis (10%)
 - Consider prophylactic cholecystectomy if anticipate long-term use
 - Assess with ultrasound of gallbladder and bile ducts every 6-12 months
 - Gallstones may be treated with ursodiol
- Injection-site pain (7%)
- Hyperglycemia (5%)
- Headache (5%), lethargy (5%)
- Decreased pancreatic enzymes (5%)

Everolimus

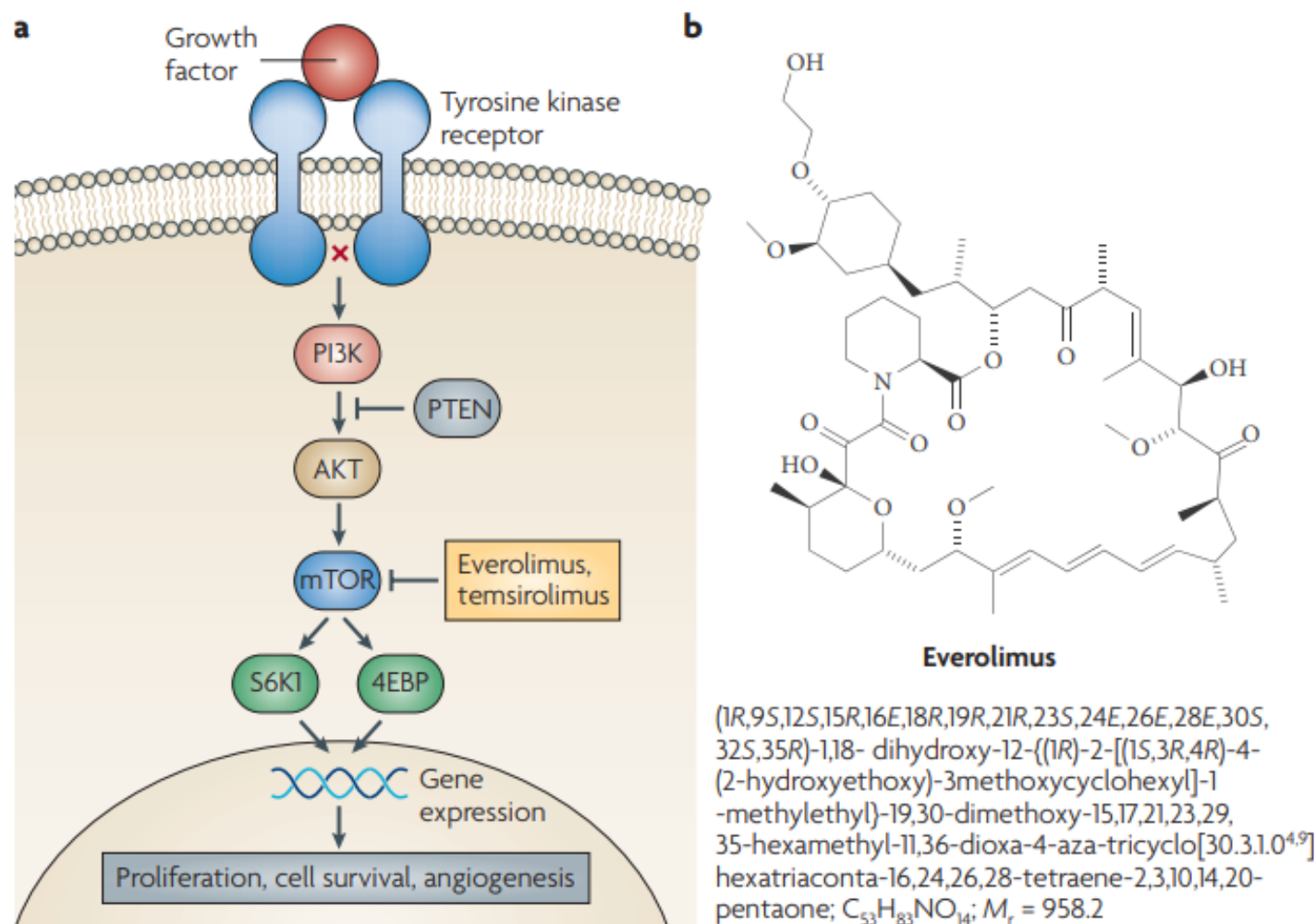


Figure 1 | **Selected signalling pathways and drugs for RCC.** **a** | A simplified overview of the PI3K–AKT–mTOR pathway, together with points of action of drugs for RCC. **b** | Everolimus.

Everolimus – RADIANT3

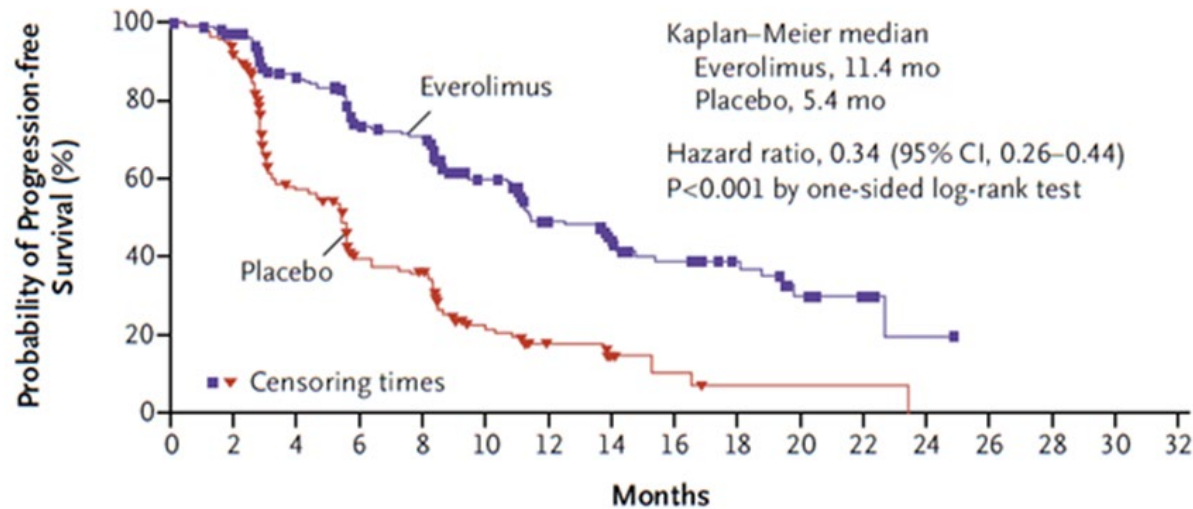
- Patients with metastatic well-differentiated PNETs
- Disease progression in last 12 months
- Any # and type of prior therapy

Everolimus 10 mg daily
(n=207)

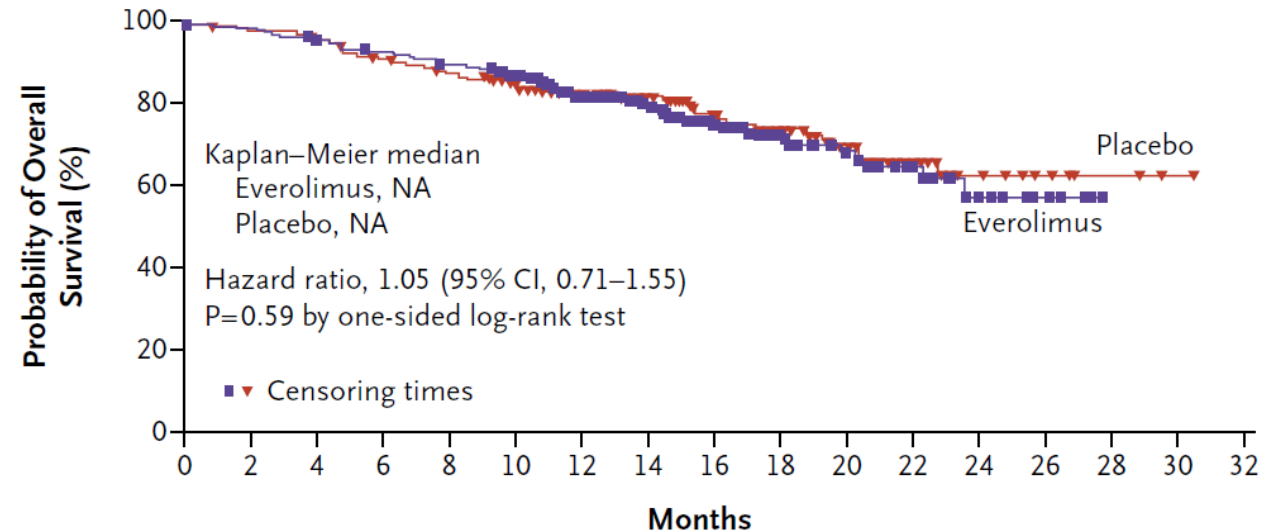
Placebo (n=203)

ORR: 5% vs. 2%

B Progression-free Survival, Adjudicated Central Review



D Overall Survival



Everolimus – RADIANT4

- Patients with metastatic well-differentiated NETs of GI or lung
- Non-functioning

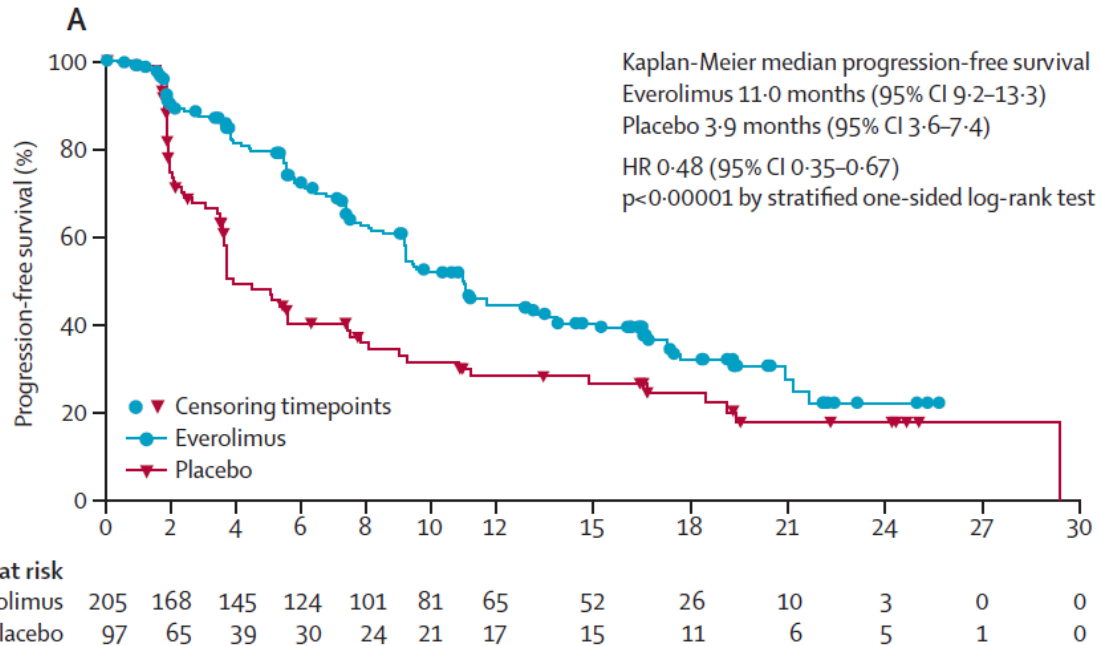
2:1

Everolimus 10 mg daily
(n=205)

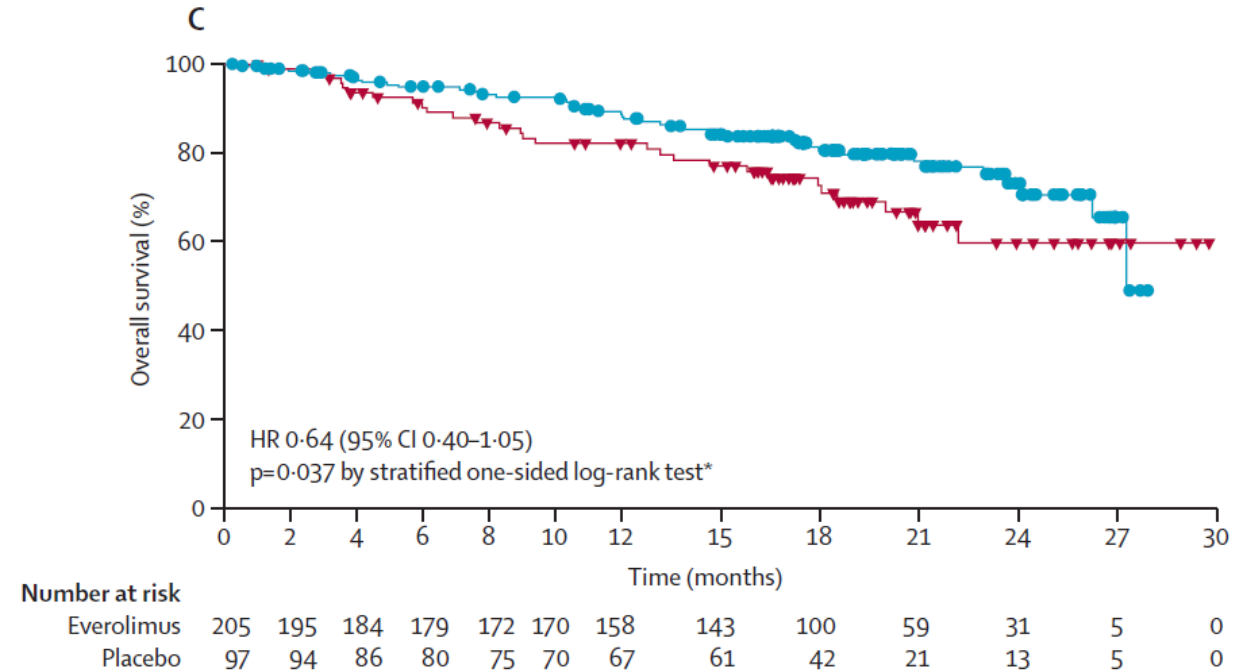
Crossover NOT allowed

Placebo (n=97)

ORR: 2% vs. 1%



PFS by central review



OS

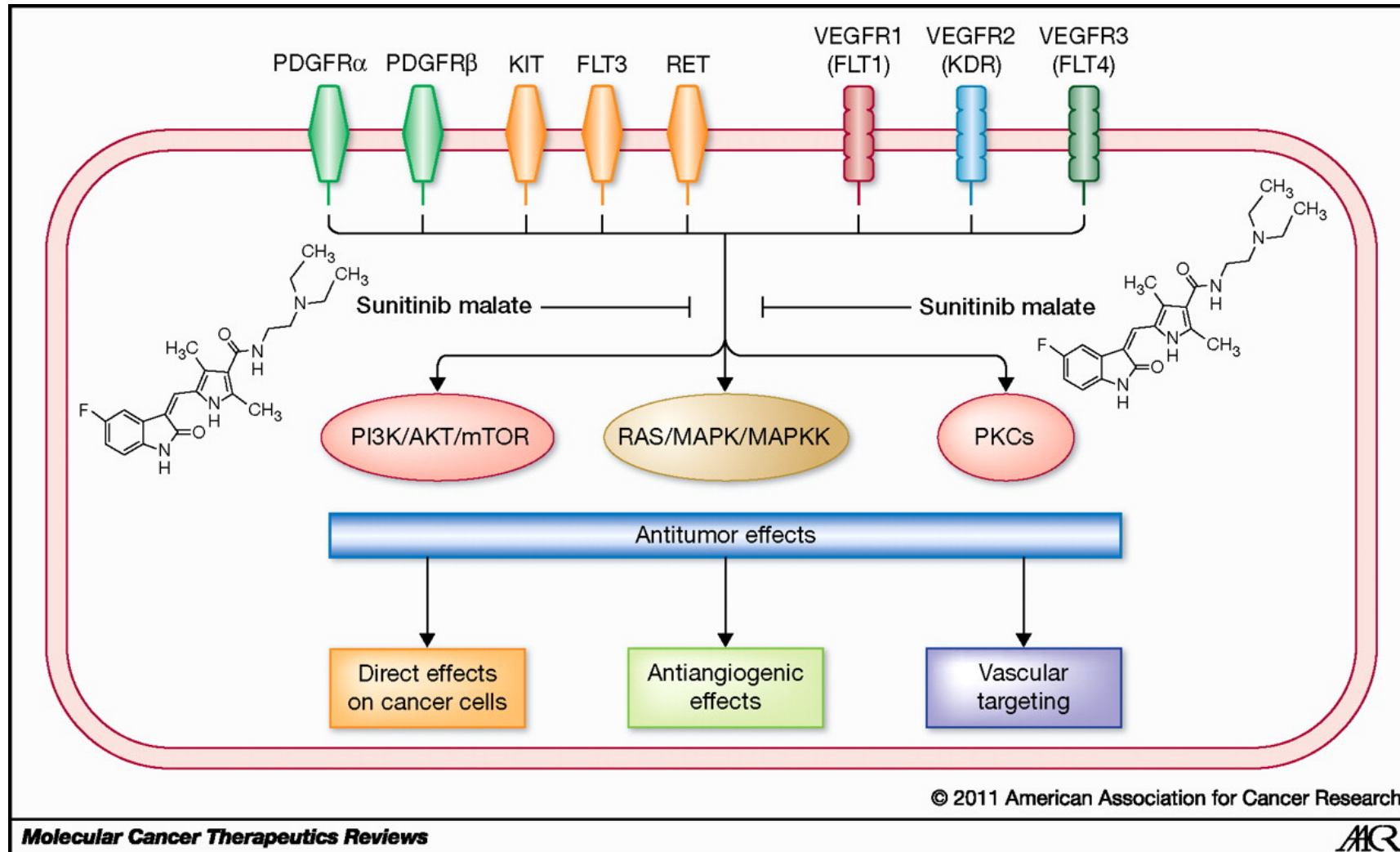
	Everolimus (n=202)					Placebo (n=98)				
	All grades	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	All grades	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Stomatitis*	127 (63%)	72 (36%)	37 (18%)	18 (9%)	0	19 (19%)	17 (17%)	2 (2%)	0	0
Diarrhoea	63 (31%)	30 (15%)	18 (9%)	13 (6%)	2 (1%)	16 (16%)	10 (10%)	4 (4%)	2 (2%)	0
Fatigue	62 (31%)	35 (17%)	20 (10%)	5 (2%)	2 (1%)	24 (24%)	17 (17%)	6 (6%)	1 (1%)	0
Infections†	59 (29%)	12 (6%)	33 (16%)	10 (5%)	4 (2%)	4 (4%)	1 (1%)	3 (3%)	0	0
Rash	55 (27%)	42 (21%)	12 (6%)	1 (<1%)	0	8 (8%)	6 (6%)	2 (2%)	0	0
Peripheral oedema	52 (26%)	30 (15%)	18 (9%)	4 (2%)	0	4 (4%)	2 (2%)	1 (1%)	1 (1%)	0
Nausea	35 (17%)	26 (13%)	6 (3%)	2 (1%)	1 (<1%)	10 (10%)	7 (7%)	3 (3%)	0	0
Asthenia	33 (16%)	8 (4%)	22 (11%)	2 (1%)	1 (<1%)	5 (5%)	4 (4%)	1 (1%)	0	0
Anaemia	33 (16%)	5 (2%)	20 (10%)	8 (4%)	0	2 (2%)	0	1 (1%)	1 (1%)	0
Decreased appetite	32 (16%)	22 (11%)	9 (4%)	1 (<1%)	0	6 (6%)	2 (2%)	4 (4%)	0	0
Non-infectious pneumonitis‡	32 (16%)	5 (2%)	24 (12%)	3 (1%)	0	1 (1%)	0	1 (1%)	0	0
Dysgeusia	30 (15%)	26 (13%)	3 (1%)	1 (<1%)	0	4 (4%)	4 (4%)	0	0	0
Pruritus	26 (13%)	19 (9%)	6 (3%)	1 (<1%)	0	4 (4%)	4 (4%)	0	0	0
Cough	26 (13%)	18 (9%)	8 (4%)	0	0	3 (3%)	3 (3%)	0	0	0
Pyrexia	22 (11%)	14 (7%)	4 (2%)	2 (1%)	2 (1%)	5 (5%)	4 (4%)	1 (1)	0	0
Hyperglycaemia	21 (10%)	5 (2%)	9 (4%)	7 (3%)	0	2 (2%)	2 (2%)	0	0	0
Dyspnoea	21 (10%)	4 (2%)	15 (7%)	2 (1%)	0	4 (4%)	2 (2%)	1 (1)	0	1 (1)

*Included in this category are stomatitis, aphthous stomatitis, mouth ulceration, and tongue ulceration. †All types of infections are included. ‡Included in this category are pneumonitis, interstitial lung disease, lung infiltration, and pulmonary fibrosis.

Table 3: Treatment-related adverse events reported in at least 10% of patients (safety population)

Most significant toxicities: stomatitis, diarrhea, fatigue, infections, rash
Possible hyperglycemia and pneumonitis

Sunitinib



Sunitinib

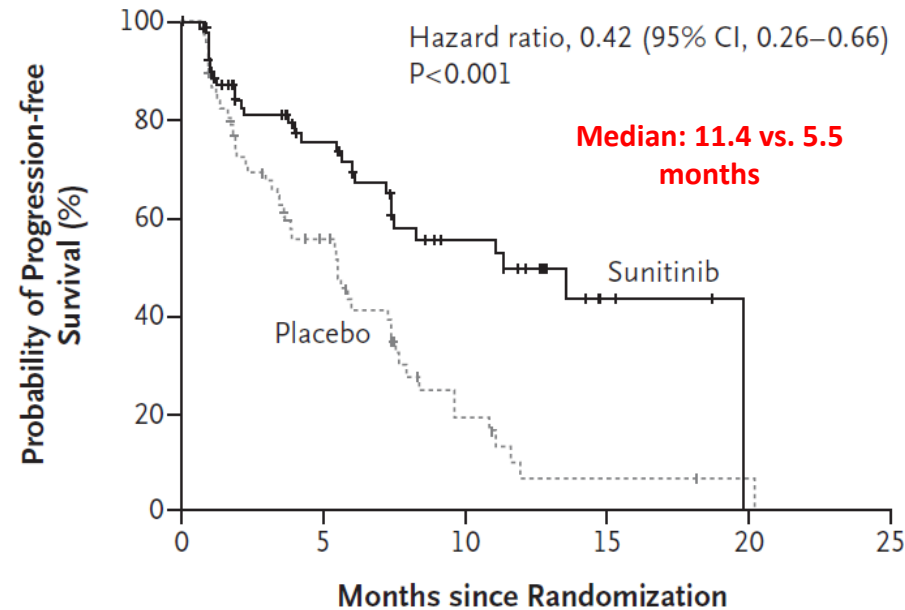
- Patients with metastatic well-differentiated PNET
- Progressed in last 12 months

Sunitinib 37.5 mg daily
(n=86)

Placebo (n=85)

ORR: 9.3% vs. 0%

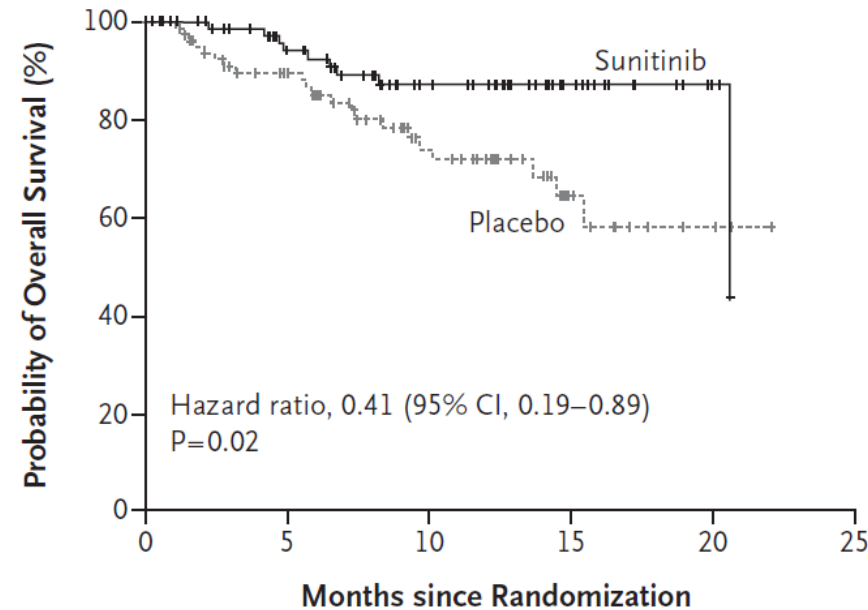
A Progression-free Survival



No. at Risk

Sunitinib	86	39	19	4	0	0
Placebo	85	28	7	2	1	0

B Overall Survival



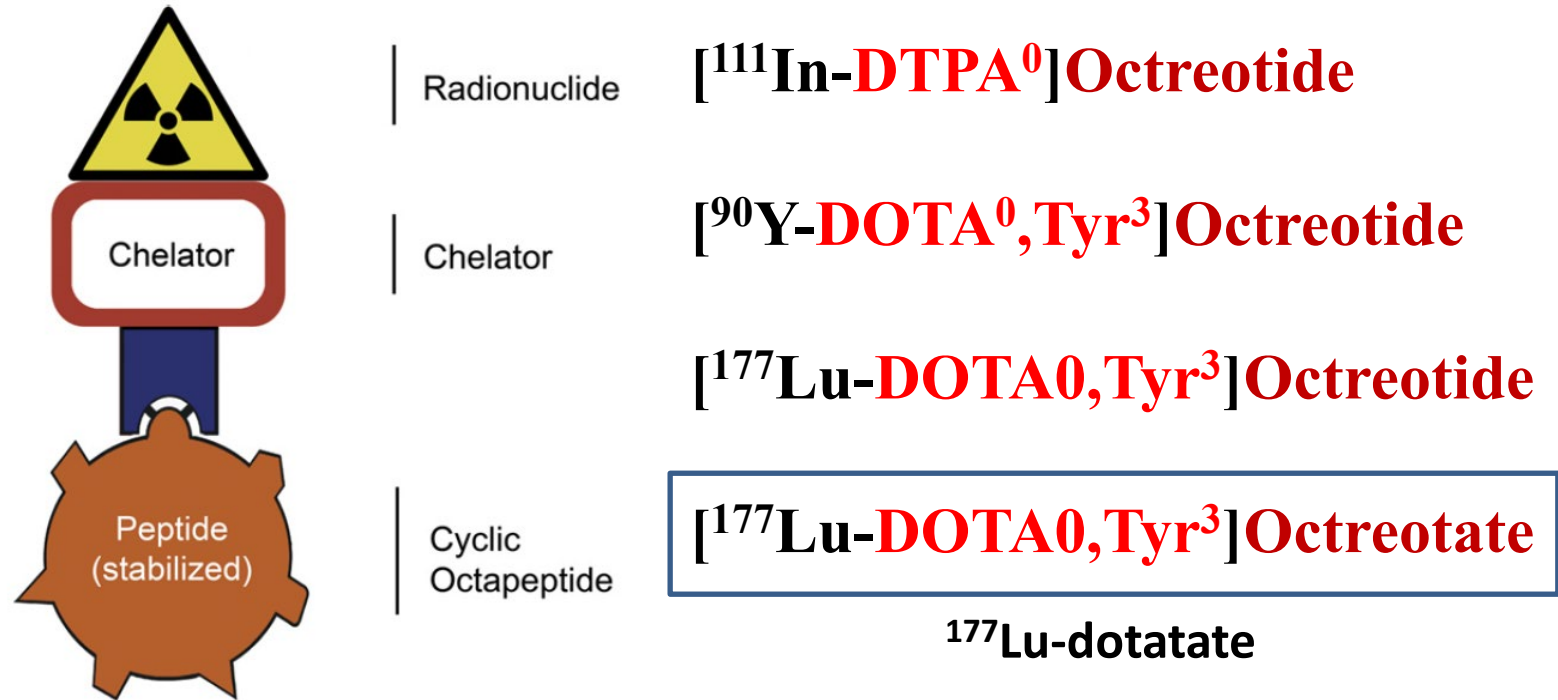
No. at Risk

Sunitinib	86	60	38	16	3	0
Placebo	85	61	33	12	3	0

Benefit observed
across subgroups

Table 3. Common Adverse Events in the Safety Population.*						
Event	Sunitinib (N = 83)			Placebo (N = 82)		
	All Grades	Grade 1 or 2	Grade 3 or 4	All Grades	Grade 1 or 2	Grade 3 or 4
	<i>number of patients (percent)</i>					
Diarrhea	49 (59)	45 (54)	4 (5)	32 (39)	30 (37)	2 (2)
Nausea	37 (45)	36 (43)	1 (1)	24 (29)	23 (28)	1 (1)
Asthenia	28 (34)	24 (29)	4 (5)	22 (27)	19 (23)	3 (4)
Vomiting	28 (34)	28 (34)	0	25 (30)	23 (28)	2 (2)
Fatigue	27 (32)	23 (28)	4 (5)	22 (27)	15 (18)	7 (8)
Hair-color changes	24 (29)	23 (28)	1 (1)	1 (1)	1 (1)	0
Neutropenia	24 (29)	14 (17)	10 (12)	3 (4)	3 (4)	0
Abdominal pain	23 (28)	19 (23)	4 (5)	26 (32)	18 (22)	8 (10)
Hypertension	22 (26)	14 (17)	8 (10)	4 (5)	3 (4)	1 (1)
Palmar–plantar erythro- dysesthesia	19 (23)	14 (17)	5 (6)	2 (2)	2 (2)	0
Anorexia	18 (22)	16 (19)	2 (2)	17 (21)	16 (20)	1 (1)
Stomatitis	18 (22)	15 (18)	3 (4)	2 (2)	2 (2)	0
Dysgeusia	17 (20)	17 (20)	0	4 (5)	4 (5)	0
Epistaxis	17 (20)	16 (19)	1 (1)	4 (5)	4 (5)	0
Headache	15 (18)	15 (18)	0	11 (13)	10 (12)	1 (1)
Insomnia	15 (18)	15 (18)	0	10 (12)	10 (12)	0
Rash	15 (18)	15 (18)	0	4 (5)	4 (5)	0
Thrombocytopenia	14 (17)	11 (13)	3 (4)	4 (5)	4 (5)	0
Mucosal inflammation	13 (16)	12 (14)	1 (1)	6 (7)	6 (7)	0
Weight loss	13 (16)	12 (14)	1 (1)	9 (11)	9 (11)	0
Constipation	12 (14)	12 (14)	0	16 (20)	15 (18)	1 (1)
Back pain	10 (12)	10 (12)	0	14 (17)	10 (12)	4 (5)

Peptide receptor radionuclide therapy (PRRT)



- Delivers radionuclides directly to tumor cells via SSTR
- Used for SSTR-positive metastatic well-differentiated NETs in Europe since 1990s
- Lutetium-177 is a beta and gamma emitting radionuclide

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Phase 3 Trial of ^{177}Lu -Dotatate for Midgut Neuroendocrine Tumors

J. Strosberg, G. El-Haddad, E. Wolin, A. Hendifar, J. Yao, B. Chasen, E. Mittra, P.L. Kunz, M.H. Kulke, H. Jacene, D. Bushnell, T.M. O'Dorisio, R.P. Baum, H.R. Kulkarni, M. Caplin, R. Lebtahi, T. Hobday, E. Delpassand, E. Van Cutsem, A. Benson, R. Srirajaskanthan, M. Pavel, J. Mora, J. Berlin, E. Grande, N. Reed, E. Seregni, K. Öberg, M. Lopera Sierra, P. Santoro, T. Thevenet, J.L. Erion, P. Ruszniewski, D. Kwekkeboom, and E. Krenning, for the NETTER-1 Trial Investigators*

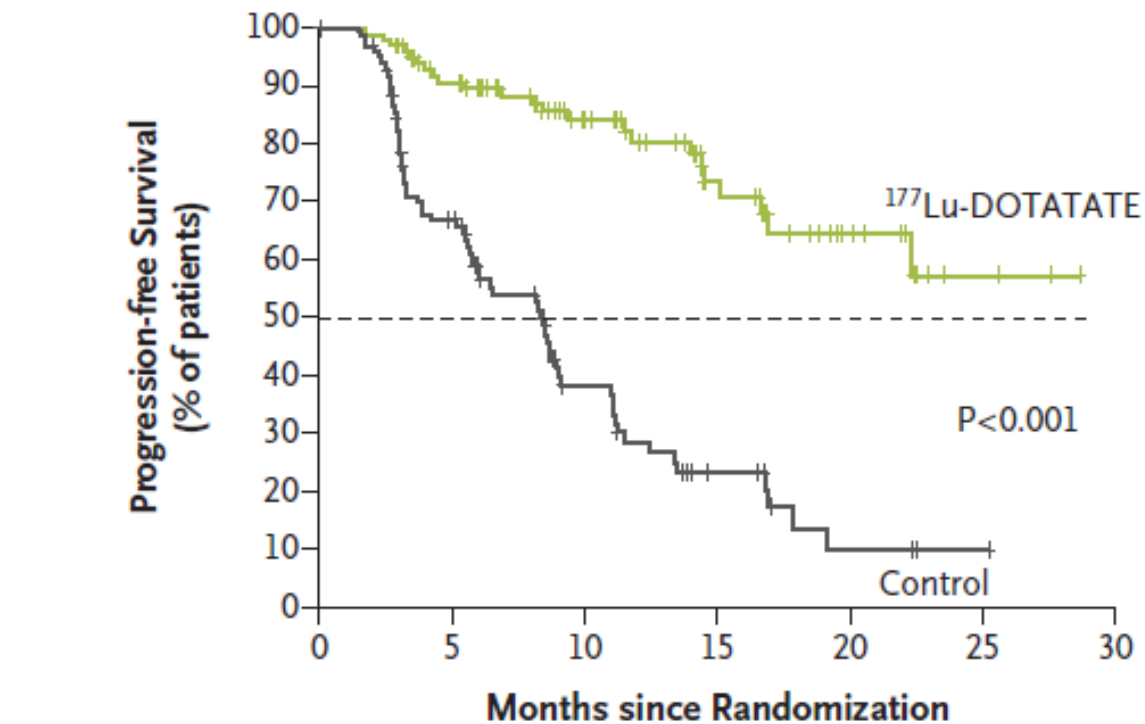
- Patients with metastatic well-differentiated midgut NETs
 - SSTR-positive
- Progressed during treatment with octreotide LAR for at least 12 wks prior to study

^{177}Lu -Dotatate 7.4 GBq/200mCi every 8 weeks x 4 + octreotide LAR 30 mg IM (n=116)

Octreotide LAR 60 mg IM every 4 weeks (n=113)

- For renal protection, IV amino acid solution (lysine, arginine) given concomitantly for at least 4 hours starting 30 min before infusion of ^{177}Lu -Dotatate
- Octreotide LAR given 24 hours after each infusion of ^{177}Lu -Dotatate, then monthly

A Progression-free Survival



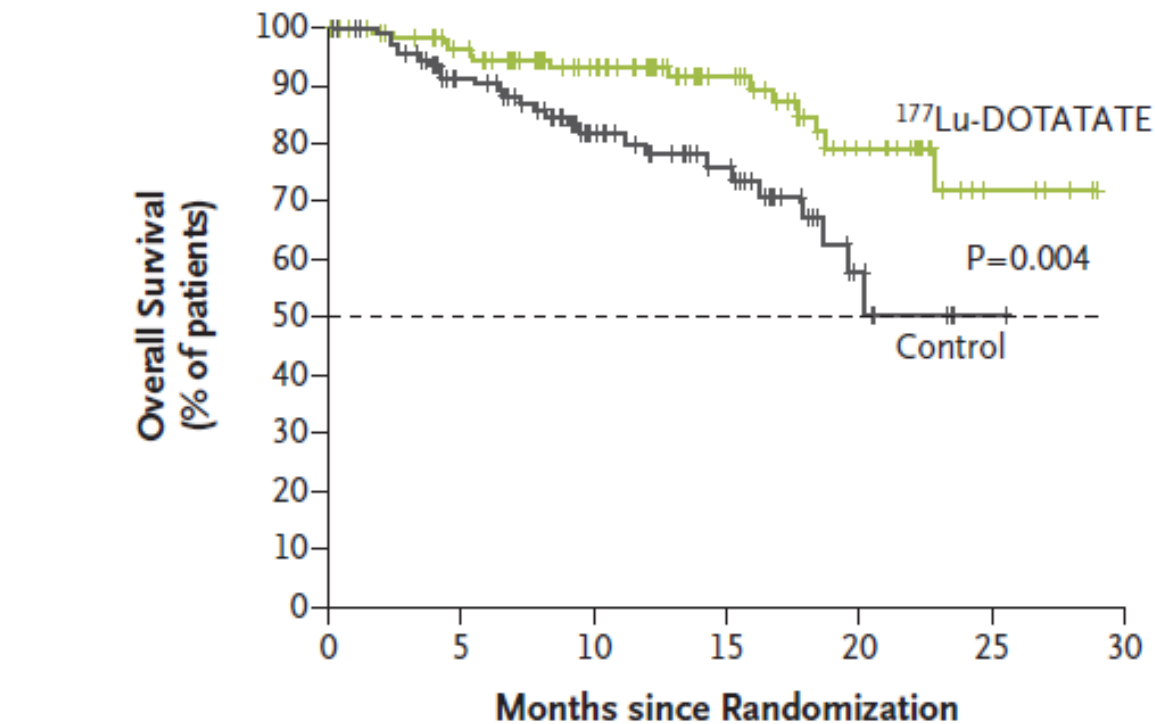
No. at Risk

$^{177}\text{Lu-DOTATATE}$	116	97	76	59	42	28	19	12	3	2	0
group											
Control group	113	80	47	28	17	10	4	3	1	0	0

Rate of progression-free survival at 20 months:
65% vs. 11%

Median PFS: not reached vs. 8.4 months
(HR 0.21, 95% CI 0.13-0.33, $p < 0.001$)

B Overall Survival (Interim Analysis)



No. at Risk

$^{177}\text{Lu-DOTATATE}$	116	108	96	79	64	47	31	21	8	3	0
group											
Control group	113	103	83	64	41	32	17	5	1	0	0

Interim analysis for overall survival:
14 vs. 26 deaths ($p = 0.004$)

Table 2. Objective Tumor Response.*

Response Category	¹⁷⁷ Lu-Dotatate Group (N = 101)	Control Group (N = 100)	P Value†
Complete response — no. (%)	1 (1)	0	
Partial response — no. (%)	17 (17)	3 (3)	
Objective response			
No. with response	18	3	
Rate — % (95% CI)	18 (10–25)	3 (0–6)	<0.001

Table 3. Overview of Adverse Events (Safety Population).*

Event	¹⁷⁷ Lu-Dotatate Group (N = 111) <i>number of patients (percent)</i>	Control Group (N = 110)	P Value†
Adverse event			
Any	106 (95)	95 (86)	0.02
Related to treatment	95 (86)	34 (31)	<0.001
Serious adverse event			
Any	29 (26)	26 (24)	0.76
Related to treatment	10 (9)	1 (1)	0.01
Withdrawal from trial because of adverse event			
Because of any adverse event	7 (6)	10 (9)	0.46
Because of adverse event related to treatment	5 (5)	0	0.06

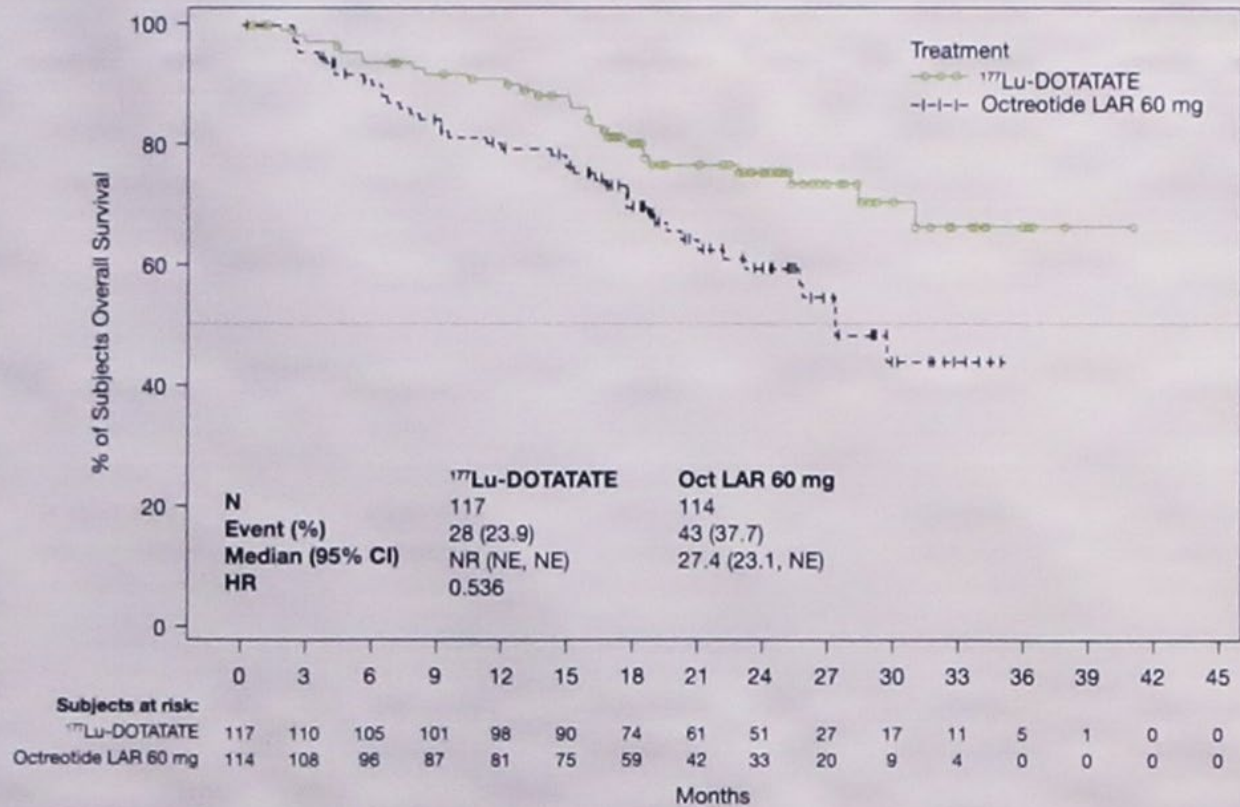
* The safety population included all patients who underwent randomization and received at least one dose of trial treatment.

† P values were calculated with the use of Fisher's exact test.

- **¹⁷⁷Lu-Dotatate group:**
 - Nausea 59%, vomiting 47% (due to amino acid), fatigue/asthenia 40%
 - Grade 3 or 4: neutropenia 1%, thrombocytopenia 2%, lymphopenia 9% (none in control group)
- No renal toxicity observed at median follow-up duration of 14 months
- 1 patient developed myelodysplastic syndrome possibly related to PRRT

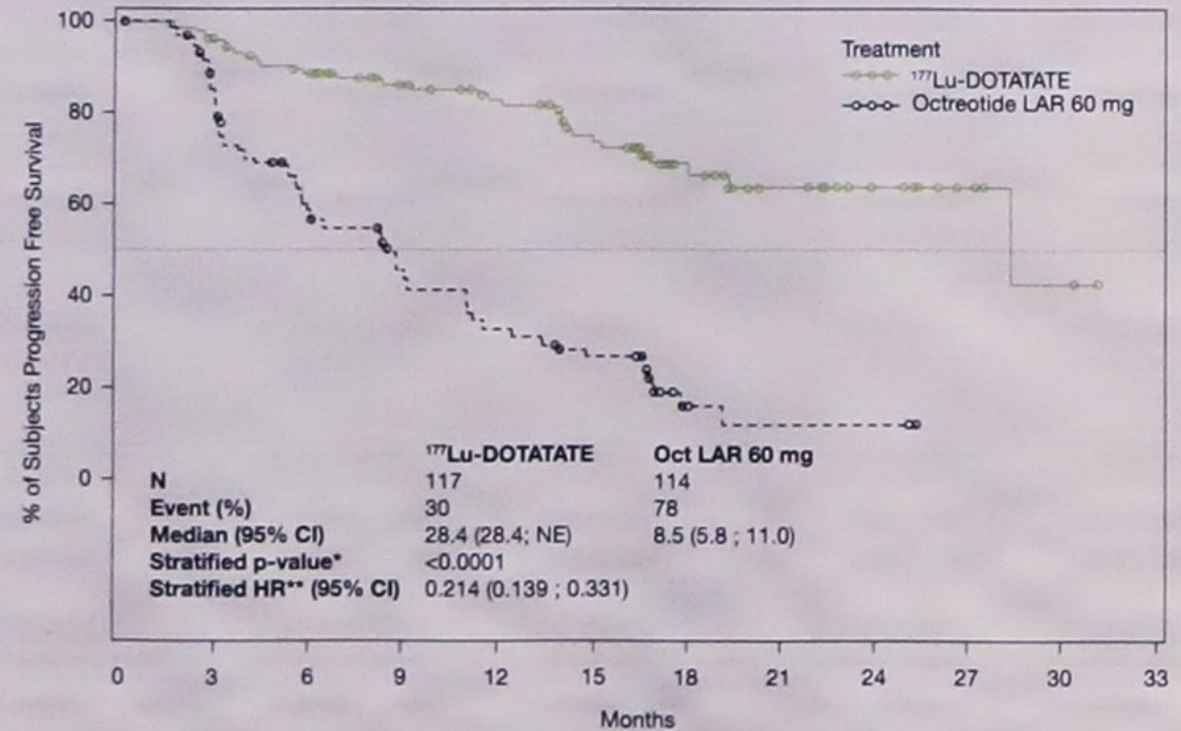
Update of NETTER-1

Overall survival - cut off date 30 June 2016



Median OS: not reached vs. 27.4 months

Progression Free Survival - cut off date 30 June 2016



Median PFS: 28.4 vs. 8.5 months
 (HR 0.214, 95% CI 0.139-0.331, p<0.0001)

News & Events

Home > News & Events > Newsroom > Press Announcements

FDA News Release

FDA approves new treatment for certain digestive tract cancers

SHARE TWEET LINKEDIN PIN IT EMAIL PRINT

For Immediate Release

January 26, 2018

Release

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration today approved Lutathera (lutetium Lu 177 dotatate) for the treatment of a type of cancer that affects the pancreas or gastrointestinal tract called gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine tumors (GEP-NETs). This is the first time a radioactive drug, or radiopharmaceutical, has been approved for the treatment of GEP-NETs. Lutathera is indicated for adult patients with somatostatin receptor-positive GEP-NETs.

"GEP-NETs are a rare group of cancers with limited treatment options after initial therapy fails to keep the cancer from growing," said Richard Pazdur, M.D., director of the FDA's Oncology Center of Excellence and acting director of the Office of Hematology and Oncology Products in the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. "This approval provides another treatment choice for patients with these rare cancers. It also demonstrates how the FDA may consider data from therapies that are used in an [expanded access](#) program to support approval for a new treatment."

PRRT approved for refractory SSTR-expressing well-differentiated GEP NETs



Pharmacokinetics:

- Half-life 6.71 days
- Poorly metabolized and mainly excreted renally as intact compound
 - 60% eliminated in urine within 24h; 65% within 48h

Use in patients with CKD:

- CrCl <30 mL/min: contraindicated
- CrCl <50 mL/min: not recommended
- Mild to moderate CKD with CrCl ≥50 mL/min: use with caution, consider dose reduction

Practical considerations for ^{177}Lu -Dotatate

- Interval between each infusion is 8 (+/-1) weeks, can be extended up to 16 weeks for toxicity
- May use half-dose (3.7 GBq) due to toxicity
- *No long-acting SSA within 4 weeks of treatment
- *No short-acting SSA within 24 hours of treatment
- Concomitant infusion of amino acid solution is required for renal protection (over 4 hours)
 - Composition: lysine 25g, arginine 25g in 1L NS

Chemotherapy

- Carcinoids
 - Generally do not respond well to chemotherapy
 - May be considered for progressive disease with no other standard or trial options
- PNETs
 - Activity has been shown with alkylating agents
 - May be initially considered for bulky, rapidly progressing, and/or symptomatic well-differentiated PNETs
 - Greater response rate
 - Synergistic activity of temozolomide and capecitabine in PNET in preclinical and early studies

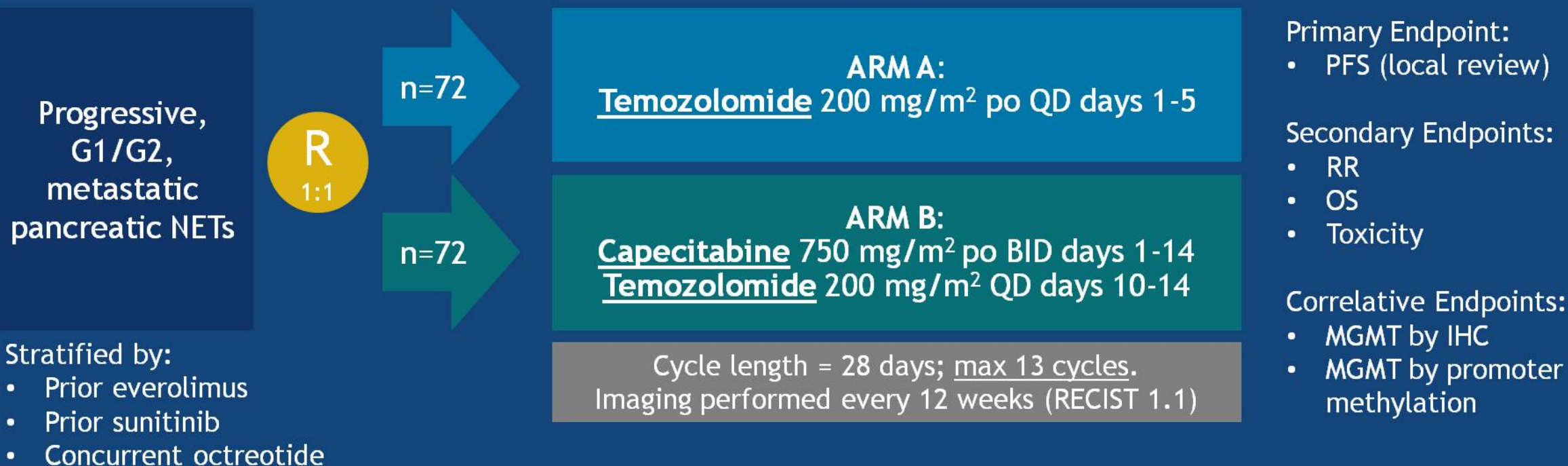
A randomized phase II study of temozolomide or temozolomide and capecitabine in patients with advanced pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors: A trial of the ECOG-ACRIN Cancer Research Group (E2211)

Pamela L. Kunz¹, Paul J. Catalano^{2,3}, Halla S. Nimeiri⁴, George A. Fisher Jr¹, Teri A. Longacre¹, Carlos J. Suarez¹, James C. Yao⁵, Matthew H. Kulke⁶, Andrew E. Hendifar⁷, James C. Shanks⁸, Manisha H. Shah⁹, Mark M. Zalupski¹⁰, Edmond Schmulbach¹¹, Diane L. Reidy-Lagunes¹², Jonathan R. Strosberg¹³, Peter J. O'Dwyer¹⁴, and Al B. Benson III⁴ on behalf of the E2211 Study Team

¹Stanford University, ²Dana Farber Cancer Institute, ³ECOG-ACRIN Biostatistics Center, ⁴Northwestern University, ⁵MD Anderson Cancer Center, ⁶Boston University, ⁷Cedars Sinai Medical Center, ⁸Saint John's Hospital Healtheast, ⁹Ohio State Comprehensive Cancer Center, ¹⁰University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center, ¹¹Kaiser Permanente South San Francisco, ¹²Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, ¹³Moffitt Cancer Center, ¹⁴University of Pennsylvania



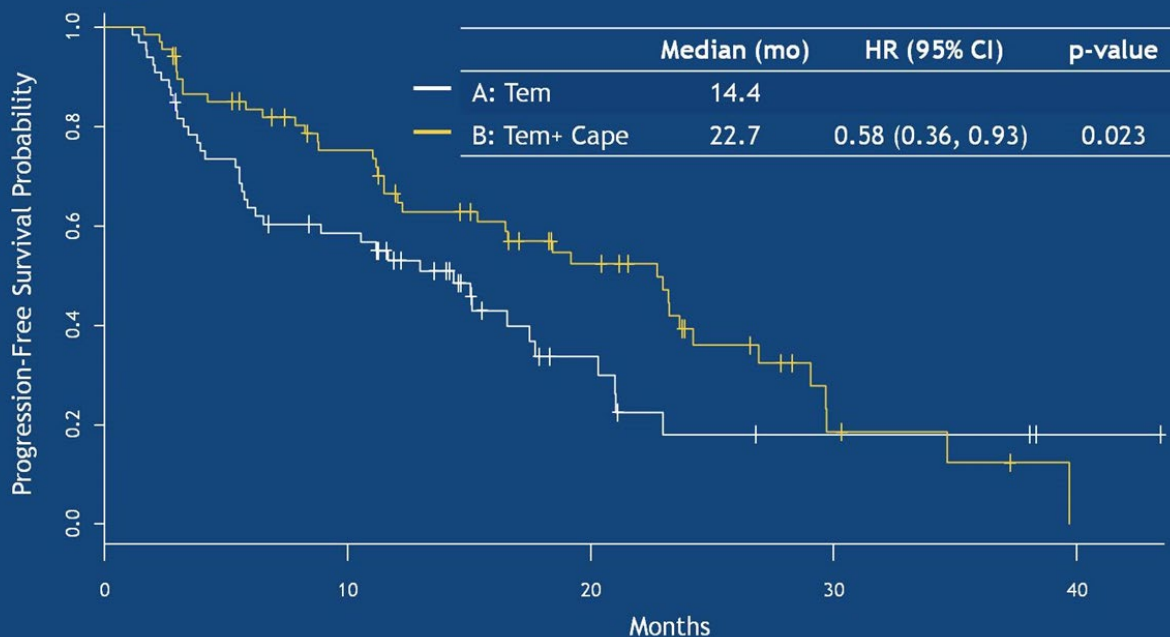
E2211 Study Design



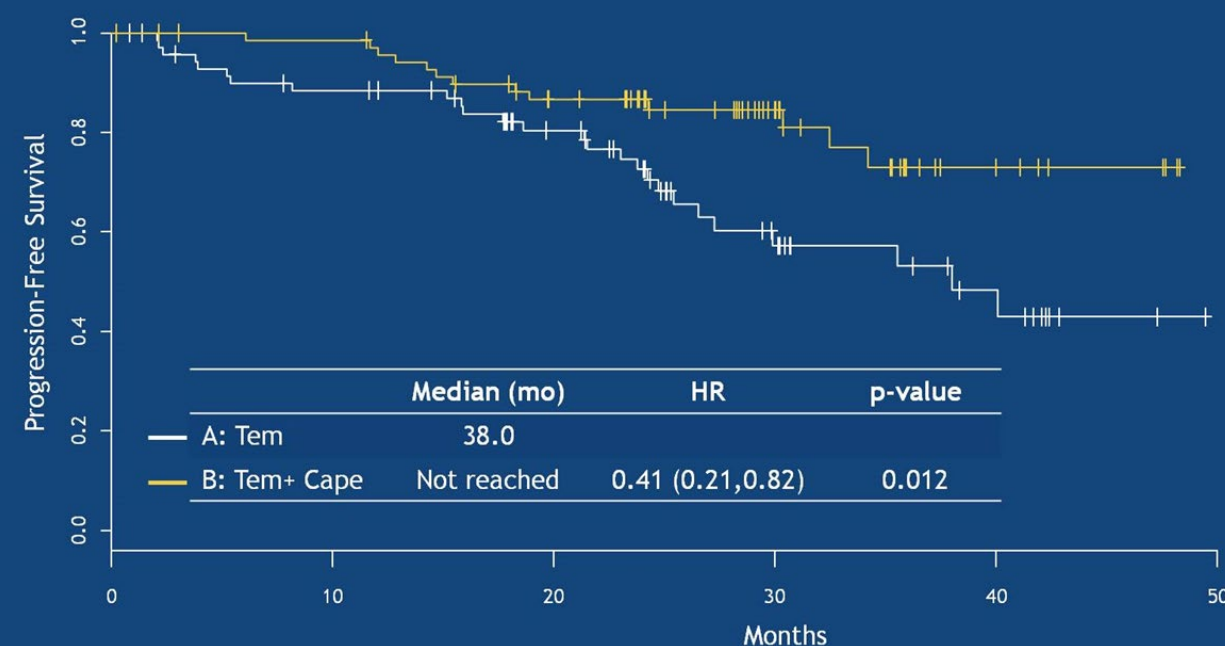
Concurrent SSAs allowed

NCT01824875

Progression Free Survival

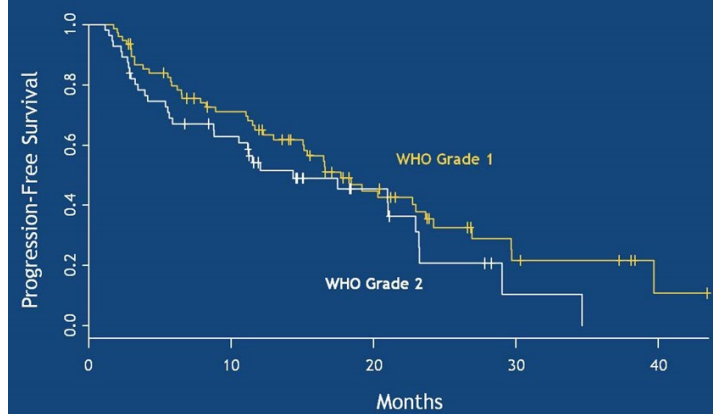


Overall Survival



	Temozolomide (N=72)	Temozolomide + Capecitabine (N=72)
Time from Diagnosis (months)	24.4 mo	34.0 mo
*WHO Grade		
Low (Grade 1)	45.1%	68.1%
Intermediate (Grade 2)	54.9%	31.9%

Survival by Grade



- Grade was not associated with PFS/OS
- PFS/OS benefits were observed after adjusting for grade

Response Rates

	Temozolomide (N=72)	Temozolomide + Capecitabine (N=72)	p-value
Complete response	2.8%	0	
Partial response	25.0%	33.3%	
Stable disease	40.3%	48.6%	
Progressive disease	19.4%	13.9%	
Unevaluable	12.5%	4.2%	
Objective Response Rate (CR+PR)	27.8%	33.3%	0.47
Disease Control Rate (CR+PR+SD)	68.1%	81.9%	
Response Duration (median)	9.7 mo	12.1 mo	

- Safety

- Grade 3/4 treatment-related AEs: 44% vs. 22% (p=0.007)
- Most common grade 3/4 AEs with CAPTEM – neutropenia (13%), thrombocytopenia (8%), nausea/vomiting (8%), diarrhea (8%), lymphopenia (5%), fatigue (5%)

Summary of systemic therapy for unresectable or metastatic well-differentiated GEP NETs

Carcinoid tumor

- SSA (octreotide, lanreotide)
- PRRT
- Everolimus

PNET

- SSA (octreotide, lanreotide)
- PRRT
- Everolimus
- Sunitinib
- CAPTEM

Other cytotoxic chemotherapy regimens may be considered (less preferred)
(for instance, FOLFOX or CAPOX)

No data to support a specific sequence of systemic therapy options
Consider clinical trials

Thank you for your attention!