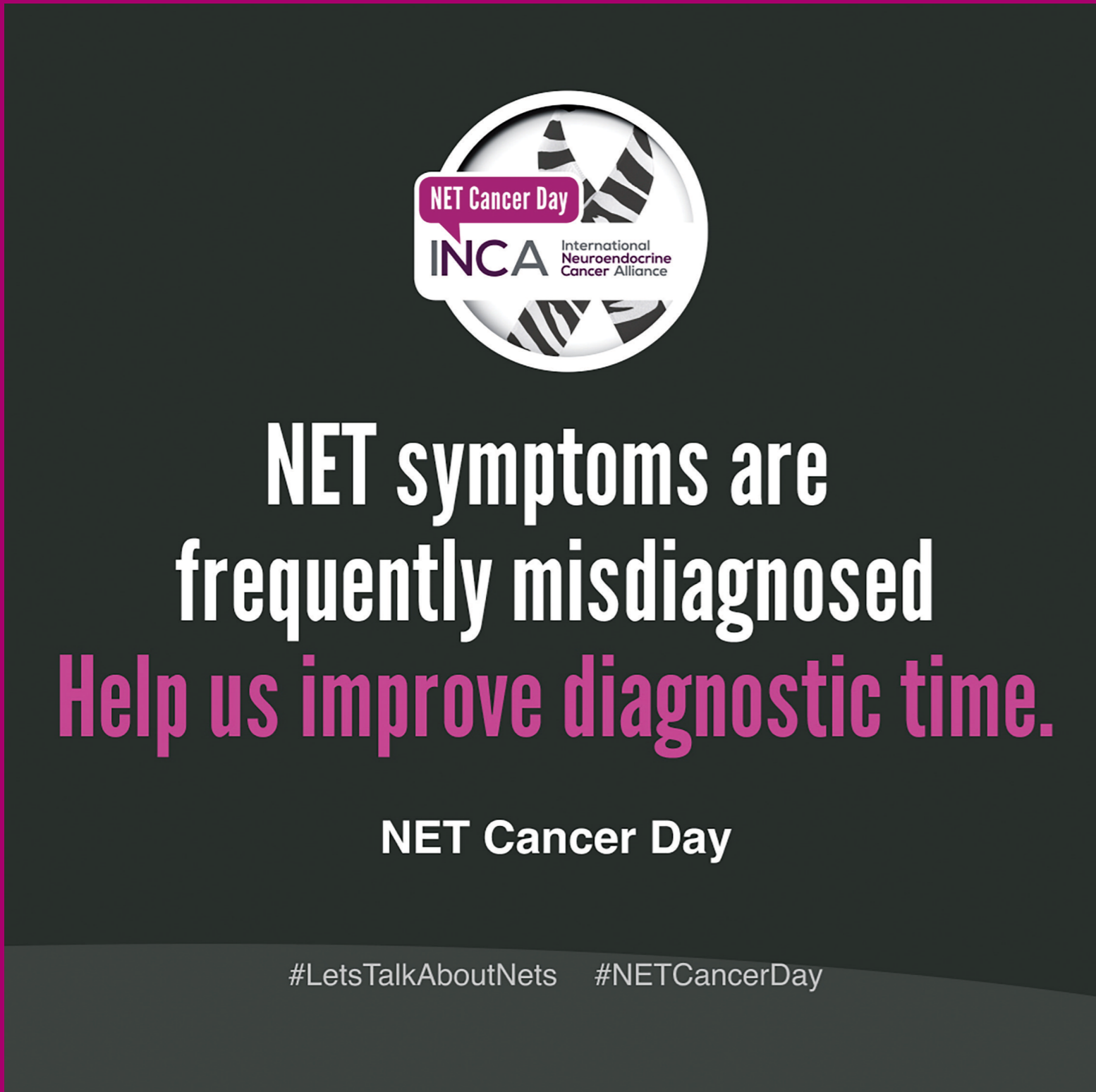


The Role of Family Doctors in Neuroendocrine Tumor Diagnostics in Europe

Authors: Catherine Bouvier¹, Teodora Kolarova², Mark McDonnell³, Christine Rodien-Louw⁴, Marianne Pavel⁵, Harjit Singh⁶, James Howe⁷, Dermot O'Toole⁸, Jie Chen⁹, Dirk Van Genechten¹⁰, Elyse Gellerman¹¹, Sugandha Dureja¹², Simone Leyden¹³, Simron Singh¹⁴

¹Neuroendocrine Cancer UK, Leamington Spa, UK; ²INCA, Boston, US; ³NET Patient Network, Dublin, Ireland; ⁴APTED, Lyon, France; ⁵Department of Endocrinology, Friedrich Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg, Erlangen, Germany; ⁶Prince Court Medical Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; ⁷University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine, Iowa City, US; ⁸National Centre for Neuroendocrine Tumours, St. Vincent's University and Department of Clinical Medicine, St. James Hospital and Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland; ⁹The First Affiliated Hospital, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangdong, China; ¹⁰vzw NET & MEN Kanker Belgium, Kortrijk, Belgium; ¹¹NET Research Foundation, Boston, US; ¹²CNETS India, New Delhi, India; ¹³NeuroEndocrine Cancer Australia, Blairgowrie, Australia; ¹⁴Sunnybrook Odette Cancer Centre, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada.



In 2019, International Neuroendocrine Cancer Alliance (INCA), together with its then 26 member organizations across 6 continents invited NET patients and healthcare professionals to SCAN the challenges in NET diagnostics, treatment and care.

Conclusion:

Family doctors play an important role in NET diagnostics, although underestimated within the healthcare system.

Take Home Message for Practice

Enhanced knowledge about NETs among family doctors and their greater involvement is essential to improve time to correct NET diagnosis.

Background

The **Survey of Challenges in Access to Diagnostics and Treatment for Neuroendocrine Tumor Patients (SCAN)** assessed the delivery of healthcare to NET patients globally. This analysis focused on the role of family doctors (FDs) in NET diagnostics in Europe. Earlier surveys showed delayed diagnosis of NETs to be a global challenge. SCAN explored this issue further.

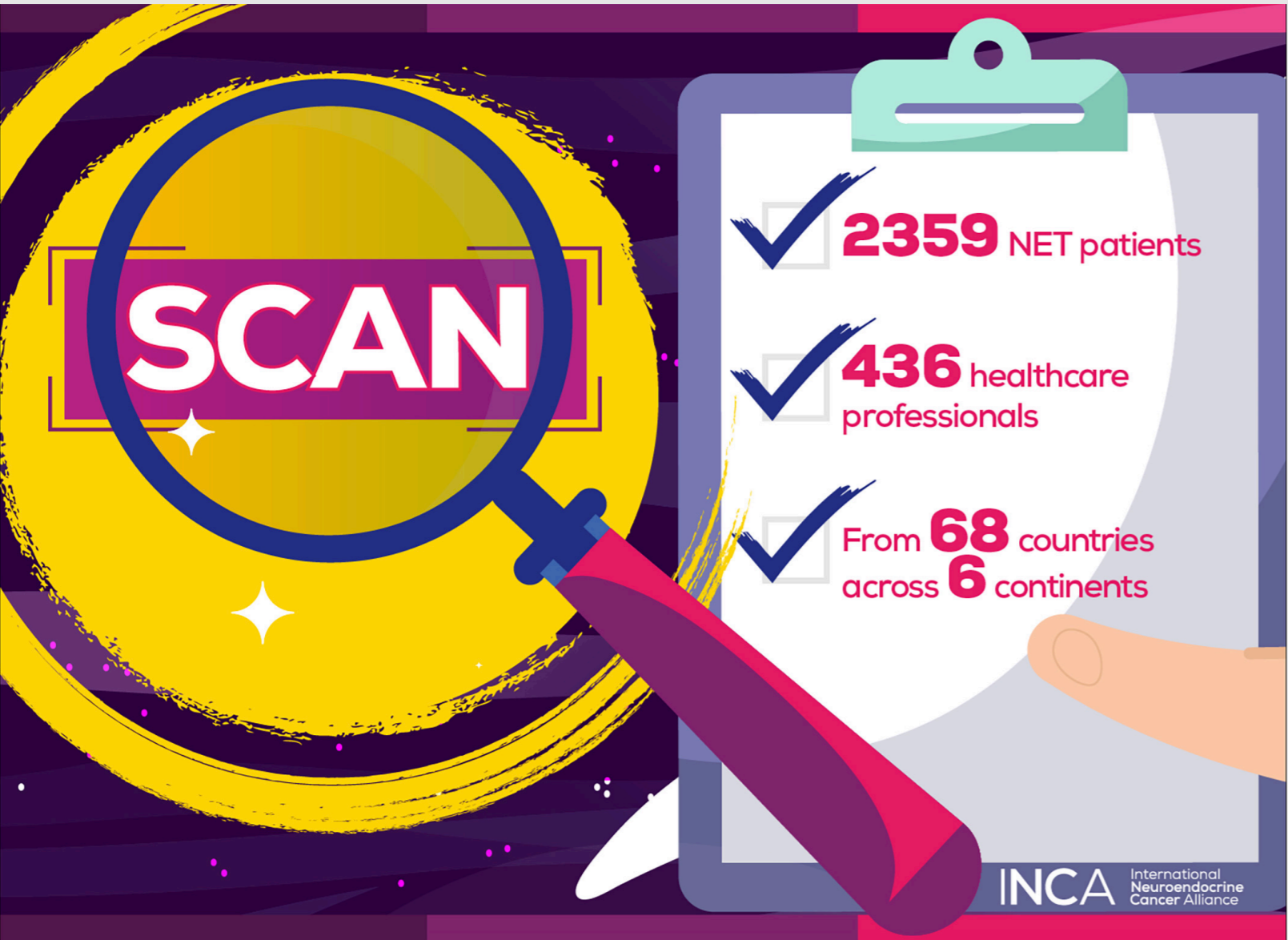
Methods

During Sept-Nov 2019, 2359 NET patients and 436 healthcare professionals (HCPs) completed an online questionnaire, disseminated by INCA and its partner organizations. The survey was available in 14 languages: Arabic, Bulgarian, English, German, Dutch/Flemish, French, Japanese, Hindi, Italian, Mandarin (Chinese), Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swahili.

Respondents from Europe:

- 1102 NET patients;
- 149 HCPs.

Reference: 1. Dasari et al, JAMA Oncol. 2017;3(10):1335-1342. doi:10.1001/jamaoncol.2017.0589

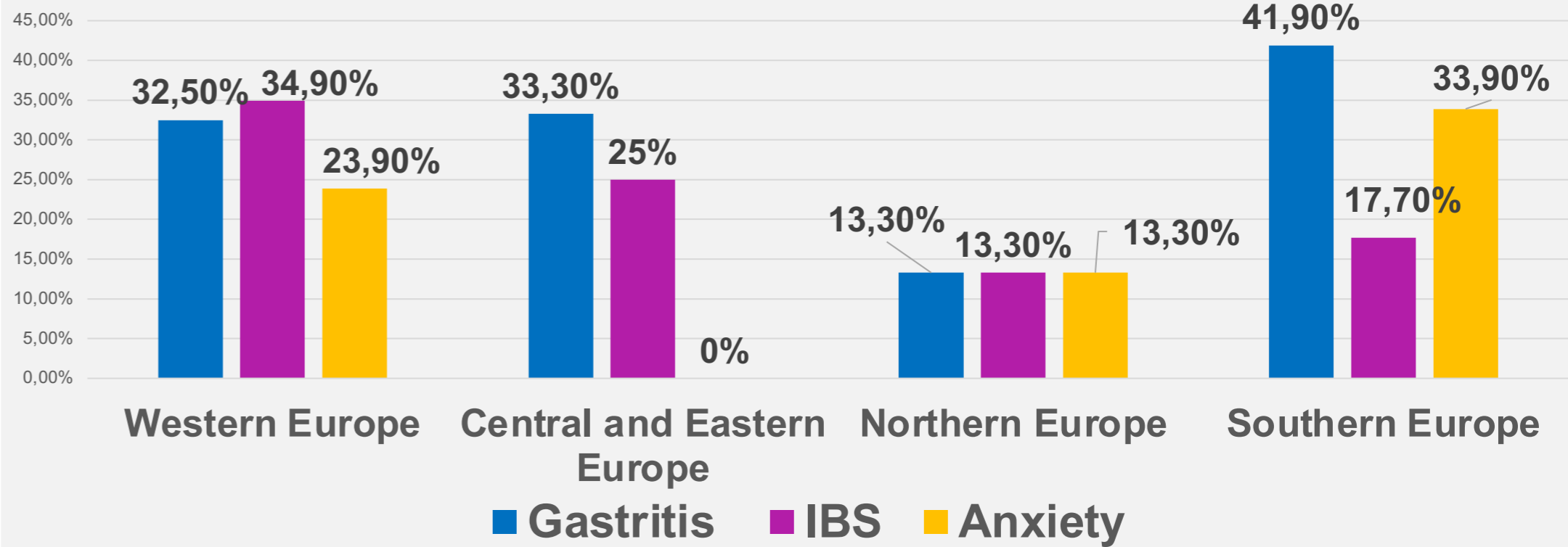


STAY TUNED: THINK NENs E-LEARNING FOR GENERAL PRACTITIONERS (GPs)/FAMILY DOCTORS
INCA is developing an e-learning course on NETs designed to address the needs of primary care specialists.

Outcomes

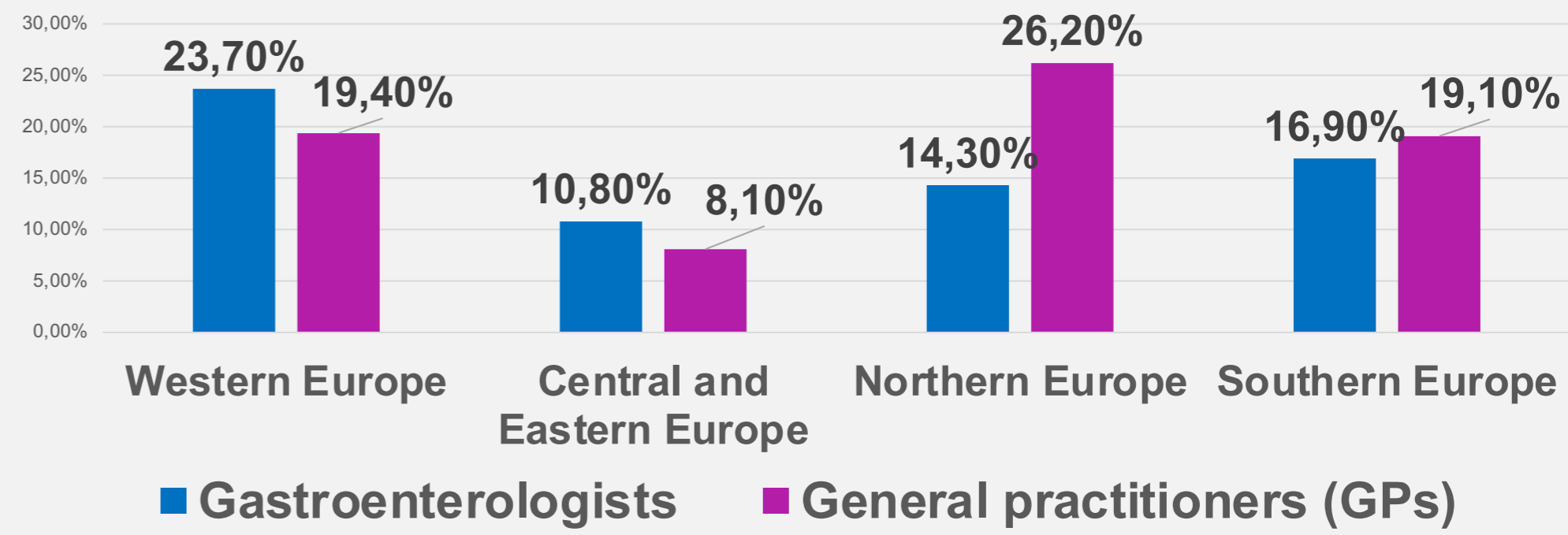
- NETs were most often gastroenteropancreatic (73%, 802/1102). 43% were initially misdiagnosed (470/1102).
- Incorrect diagnoses included gastritis (33%, 155/470); IBS (32%, 150/470), and anxiety (24%, 113/470). Mean time to correct NET diagnosis was 4 years (N=470, SD: 4,76).

Figure 1: Which conditions were you initially diagnosed with prior to receiving a NET diagnosis?



- HCPs who suggested the diagnostic test that led to correct diagnosis were most often gastroenterologists (22%, 242/1102) and FDs (19%, 208/1102).

Figure 2: Who suggested the diagnostic test that led to your initial NET diagnosis?



- For HCPs, pathologists (82%, 122/149), oncologists (82%, 122/149) and endocrinologists (82%, 122/149) were most involved. FDs were ranked low (48%, 71/149) by HCPs, while 79% [15/19***] of FDs declared involvement.
- HCP awareness of NET diagnostic tools was high: biopsy (93%, 139/149), CT scan (91%, 136/149), chromogranin A (86%, 128/149), MRI (83%, 123/149), Gallium 68 DOTANOC PET CT (77%, 115/149), Octreotide scan (77%, 115/149). It was significantly lower among FDs: MRI (63%, 12/19), chromogranin A (42%, 8/19), Gallium 68 DOTANOC PET CT (26%, 5/19), Octreotide scan (32%, 6/19) p<0.0001.

***Too small sample sizes, for illustrative/indicative purposes only

