The Role of Family Doctors in Neuroendocrine Tumor Diagnostics in Europe

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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, 2,359 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:
- 1,102 NET patients;
- 149 HCPs


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).

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.

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.

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

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.

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

Reference: