

Alex Gonzalez  
Bossolo, MD ECNU

*Diplomate of the  
American board of  
Internal Medicine and  
Endocrinology, Diabetes  
and Metabolism*

December 13, 2019

SPED/AACE Meeting

# Pancreatic Neuroendocrine Tumors: Endocrinologist Role



San Juan City Hospital  
Endocrinology, Diabetes &  
Metabolism

# Disclosure



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- No conflicts of interests to disclose.

# Outline

## Pancreatic Neuroendocrine Tumors (PNETs)

- Background
- Clinical Features
- Imaging and Localization
- Staging
- Biochemical Markers

## Functional PNETs

## Non-Functional PNETs

# Background

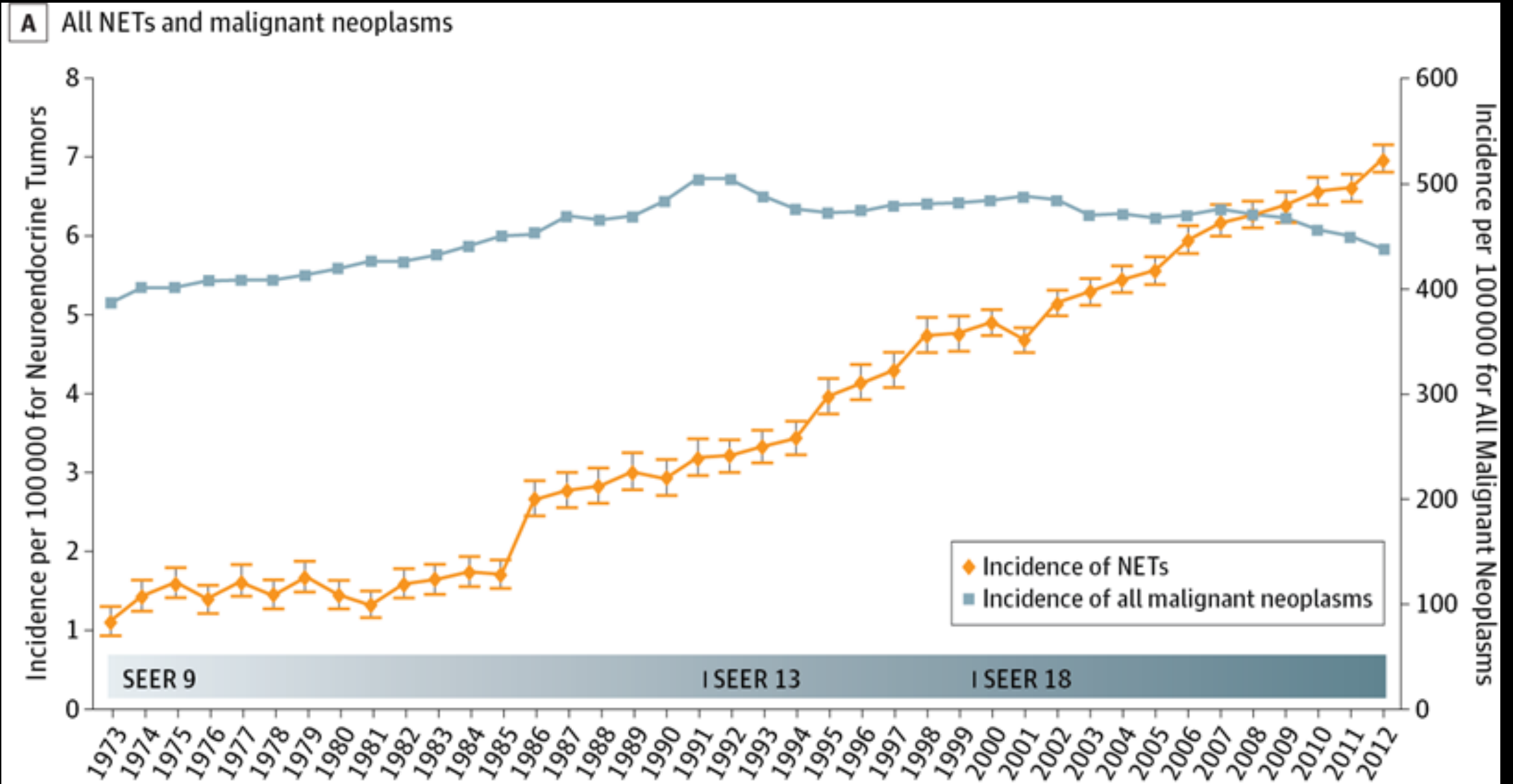
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Neuroendocrine neoplasms (NENs), defined as epithelial neoplasms with predominant neuroendocrine differentiation, can arise in most organs.

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While some clinical and pathologic features of these tumors are unique to the site of origin, other characteristics are shared regardless of site.

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The annual age-adjusted incidence of NETs was 1.09 per 100 000 persons in 1973 and increased to 6.98 per 100 000 persons by 2012

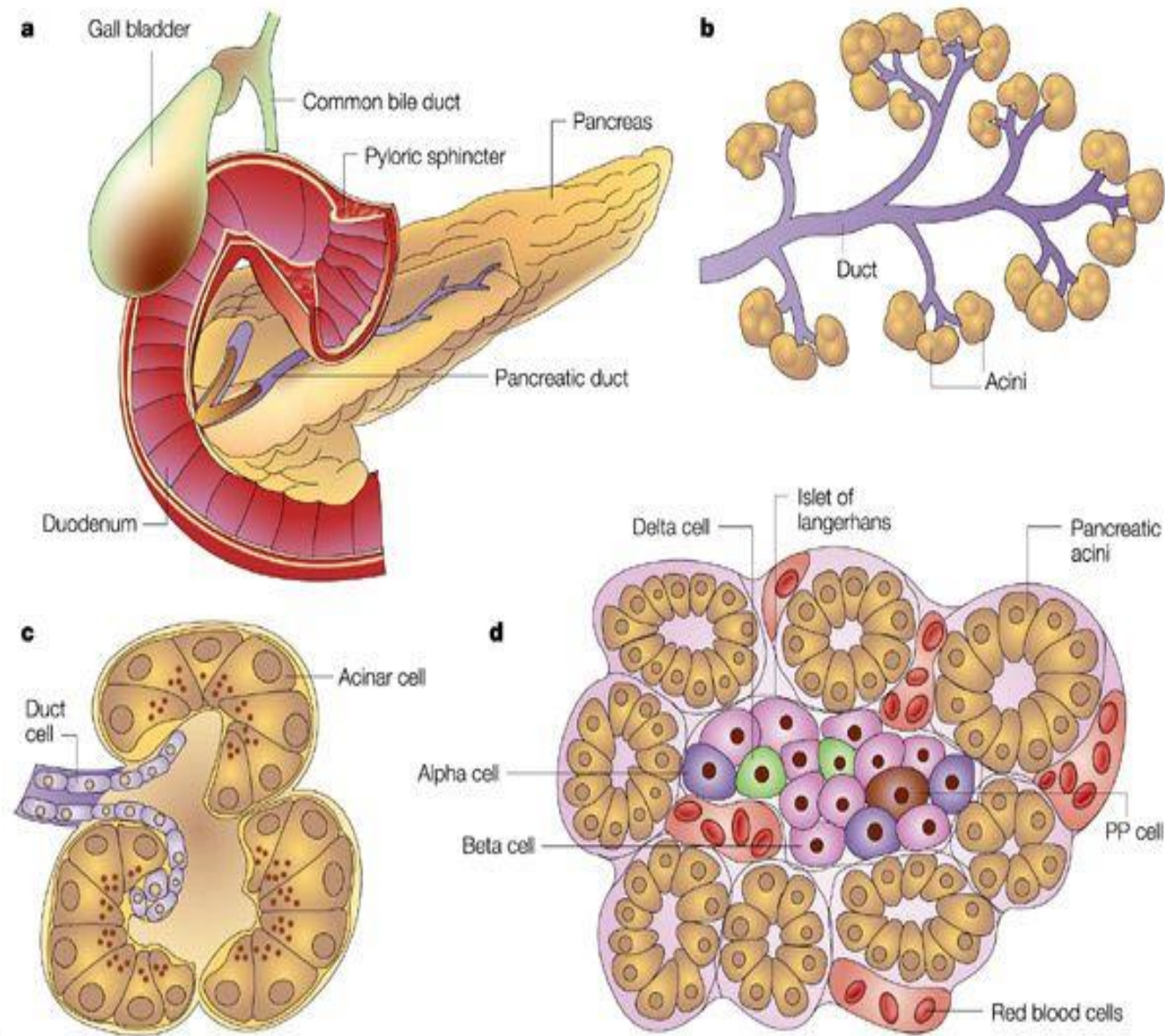
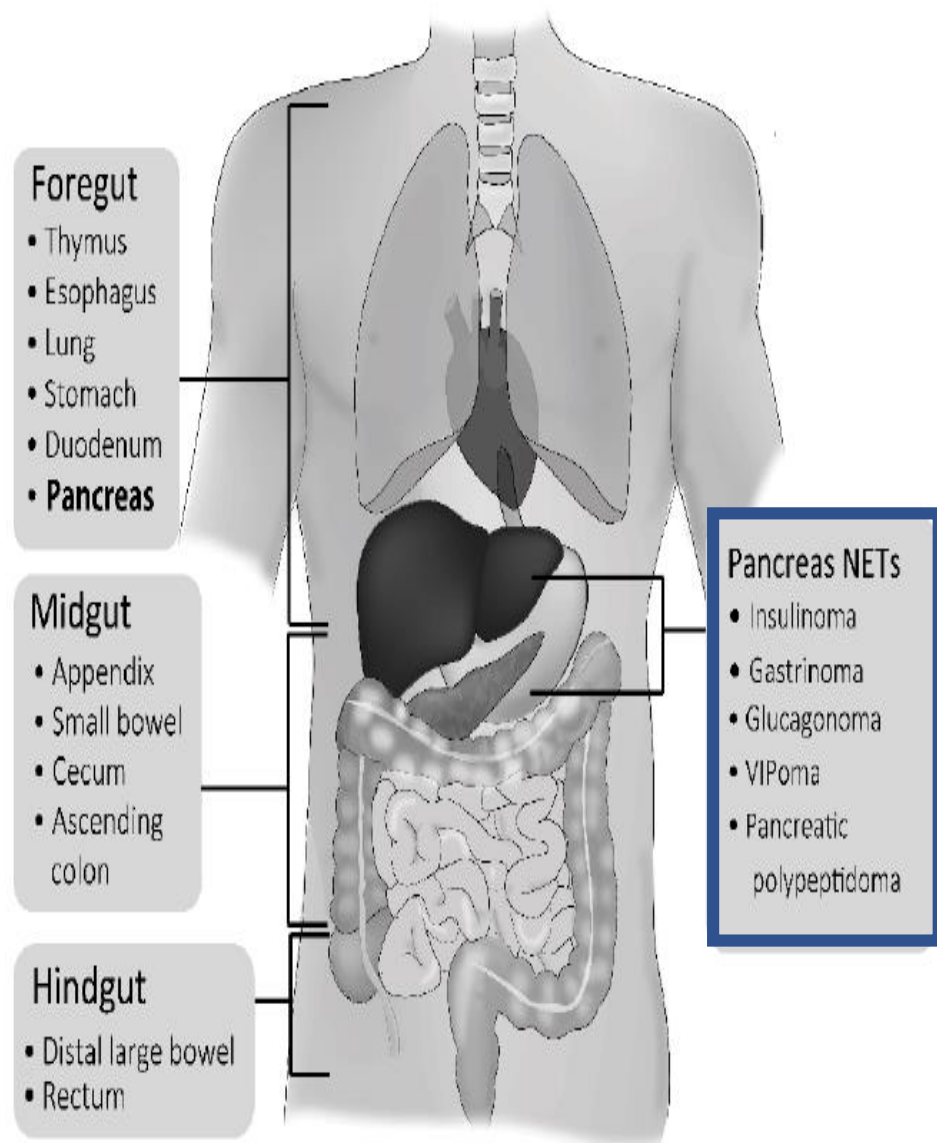
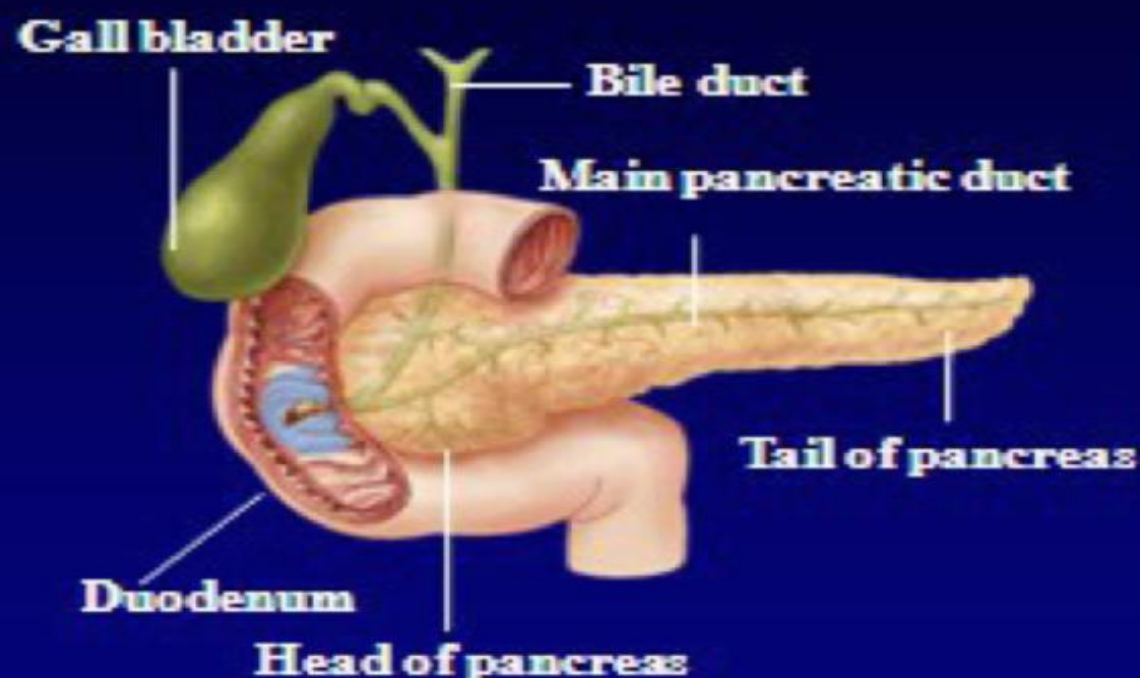


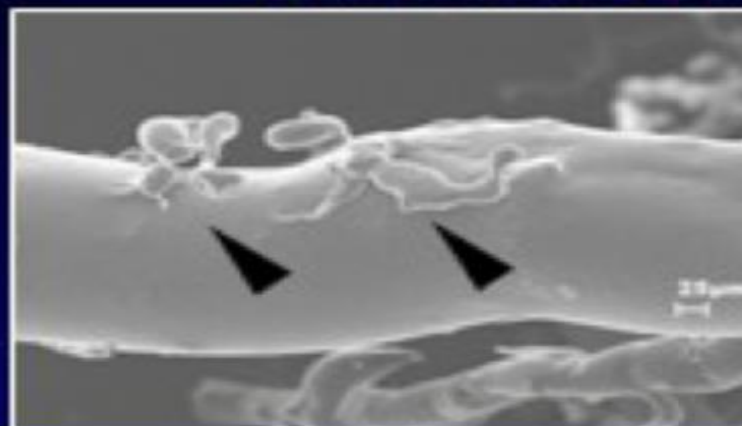
Figure 1. Neuroendocrine tumors are generally classified as foregut, midgut, or hindgut depending on their embryonic origin, at least 5 different types of functional tumors.



# Proliferation of Pancreatic Ductal Cells



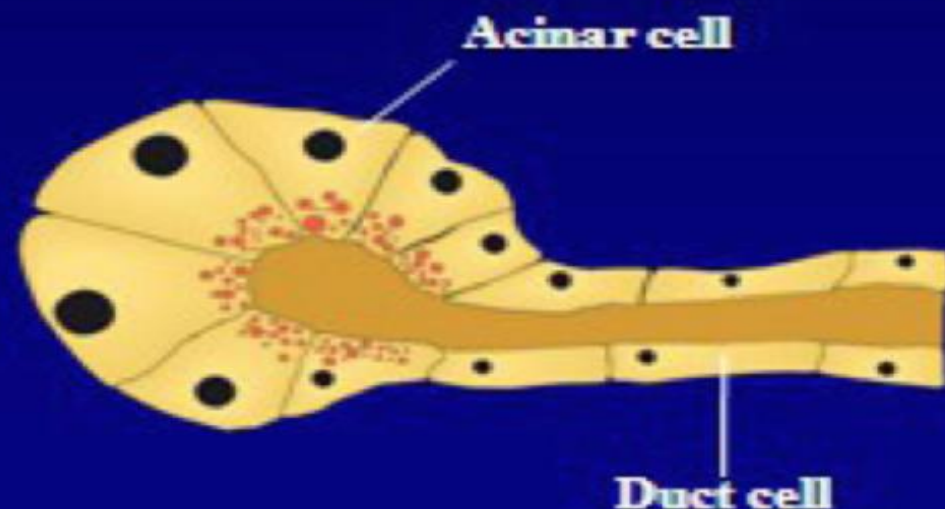
## Pancreatic duct glands (PDGs)



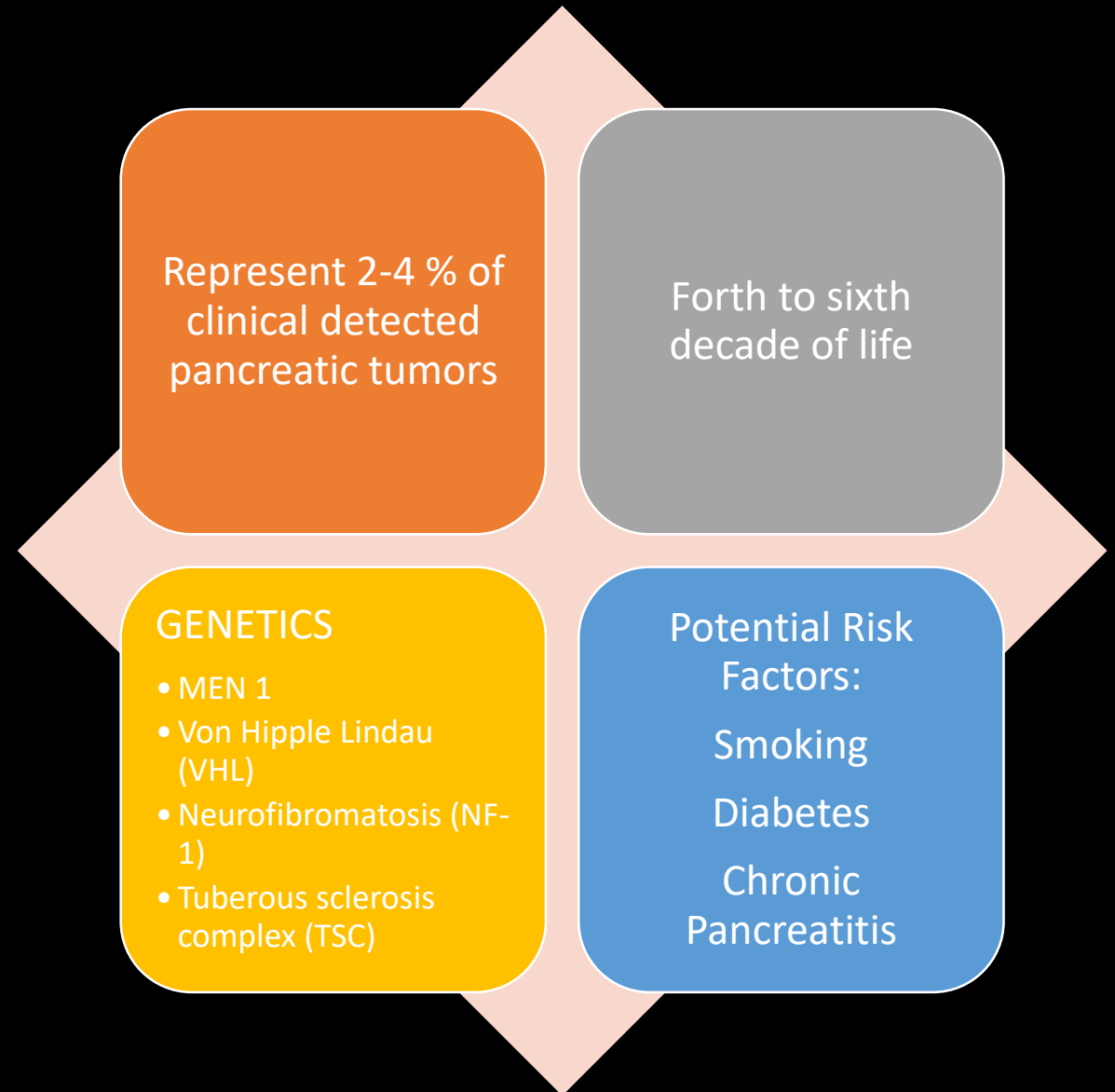
Main duct with PDGs  
Strobel et al.,  
*Gastroenterology* (2010)



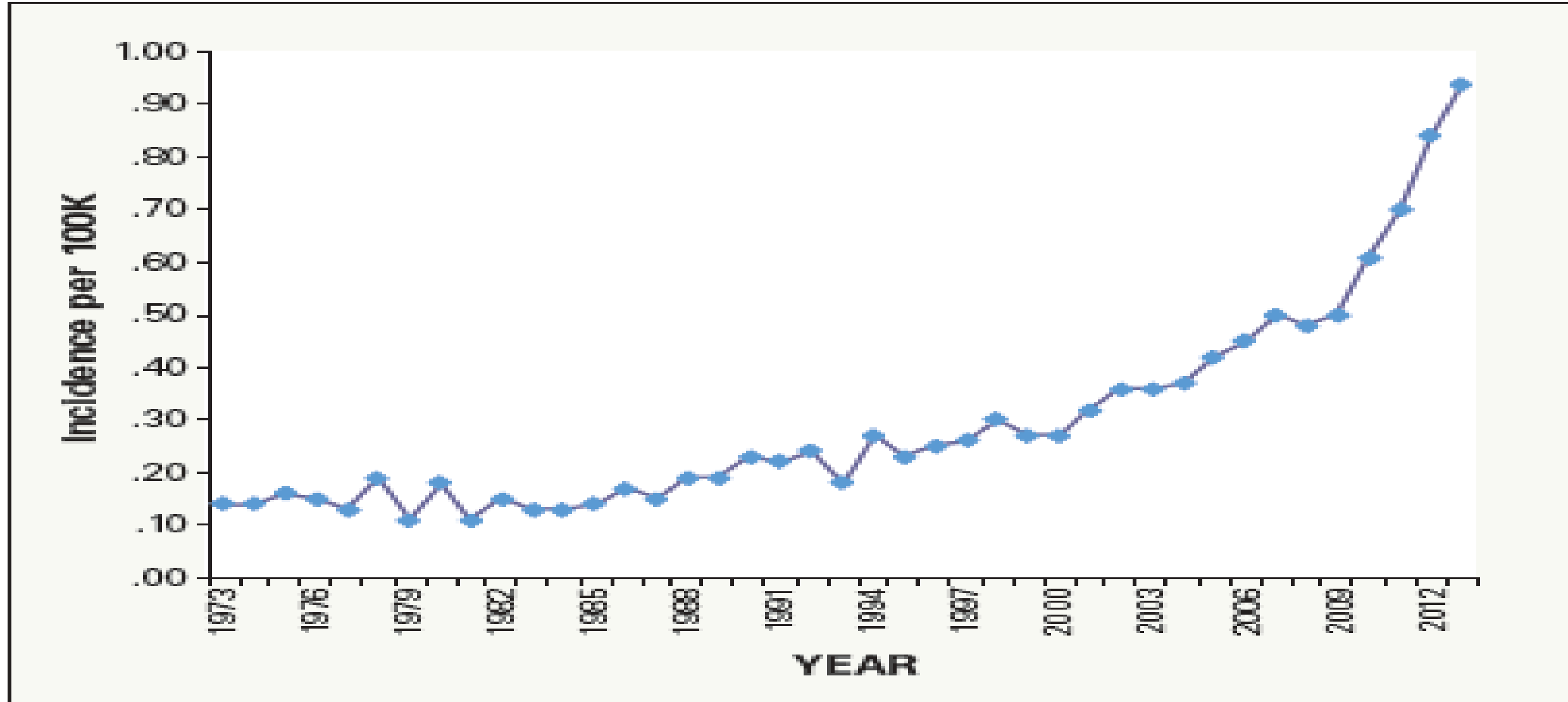
Cross-section of  
a PDG  
(H&E stain)



# Epidemiology



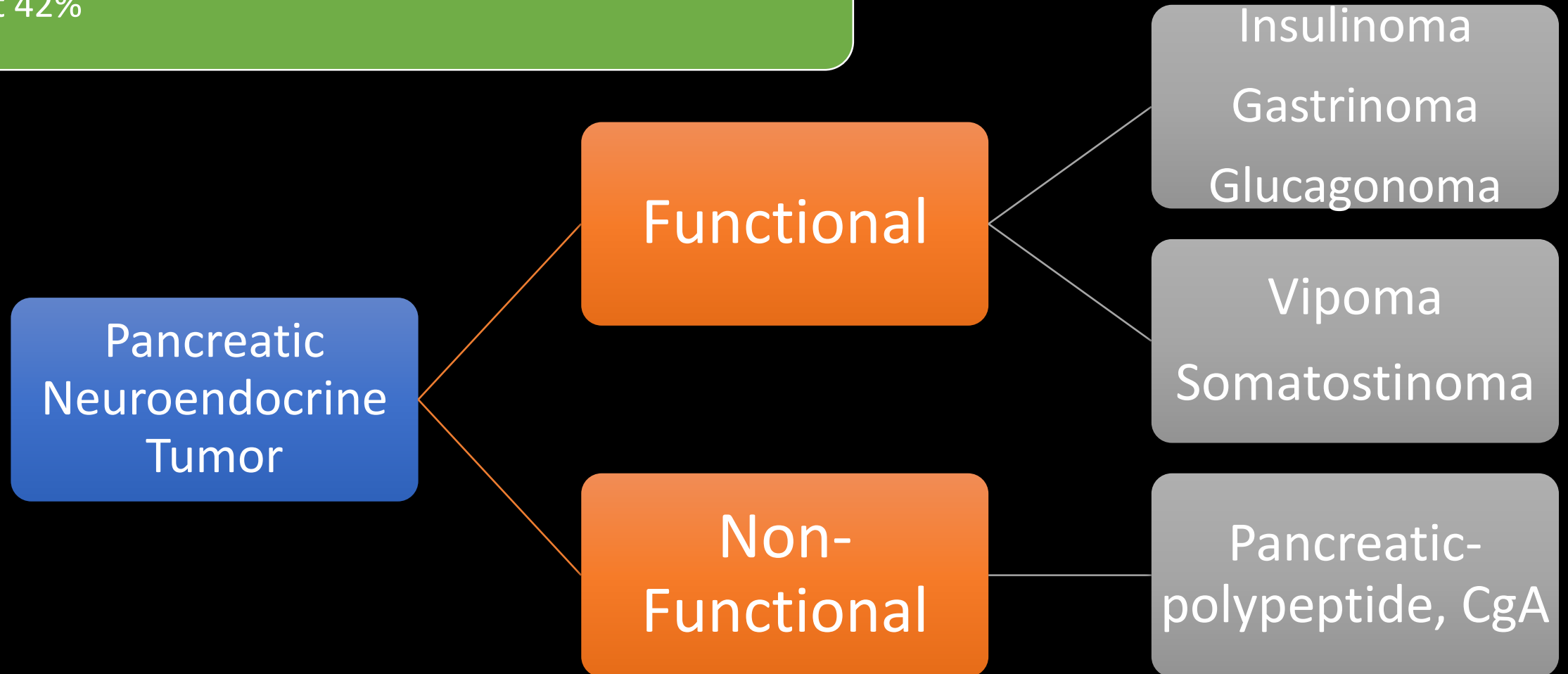




**Figure 1.** SEER Age-Adjusted Incidence of PNETs by Year of Diagnosis (1973–2013). Data from SEER Database.

GEP = gastroenteropancreatic; NET = neuroendocrine tumor; PNET = pancreatic neuroendocrine tumor; SEER = Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results.

The 5-year survival rate for people with a pancreas NET is about 42%



# Clinical Presentation

Will depend upon  
hormonal  
secretion

Insulinoma

- Hypoglycemia: confusion, visual change, unusual behavior, palpitations, diaphoresis, and tremulousness.

Gastrinoma

- Peptic Ulcer Disease

Glucagonoma

- Necrolytic Migratory erythema, diabetes, anemia, weight loss

Vasoactive  
Intestinal Peptide

- Watery Diarrhea, hypokalemia, hypochloridria

# ENETS Consensus Guidelines for the Standards of Care in Neuroendocrine Tumors: Radiological, Nuclear Medicine & Hybrid Imaging

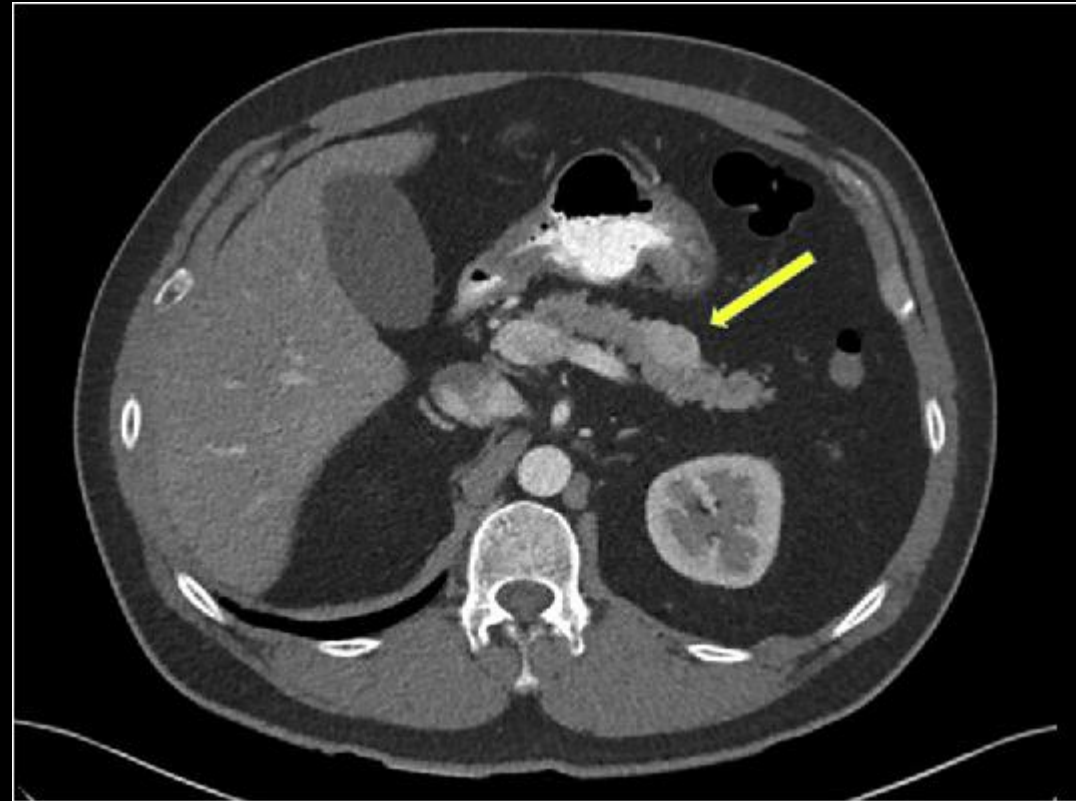
Anders Sundin<sup>1</sup>, Rudolf Arnold<sup>2</sup>, Eric Baudin<sup>3</sup>, Jaroslaw B Cwikla<sup>4</sup>, Barbro Eriksson<sup>5</sup>, Stefano Fanti<sup>6</sup>, Nicola Fazio<sup>7</sup>, Francesco Giammarile<sup>8</sup>, Rodney J. Hicks<sup>9</sup>, Andreas Kjaer<sup>10</sup>, Eric Krenning<sup>11</sup>, Dik Kwekkeboom<sup>12</sup>, Catherine Lombard-Bohas<sup>13</sup>, Juan M O'Connor<sup>14</sup>, Dermot O'Toole<sup>15</sup>, Andrea Rockall<sup>16</sup>, Bertram Wiedenmann<sup>17</sup>, Juan W Valle<sup>18</sup>, Marie-Pierre Vullierme<sup>19</sup>, all other Antibes Consensus

Conference participants

	CT	MRI	US/EUS	68-GaDOTATATE
Sensitivity % (mean)	82%	79%	86%	92%
Specificity % (mean)	96%	100%	92%	85%

# Computed Tomography (CT)

- CT scans are noninvasive and readily available.
- More than 80 % sensitivity for tumors more than 2 cm.
- Symptomatic but nonfunctioning tumors, are usually large (>3 cm) at the time of diagnosis.
- The sensitivity of contrast-enhanced CT for these tumors approaches 100 percent, and it is considered the imaging study of choice





# Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)

- Second Line
- Hypointensity on T1
- Hyperintensity on T2
- High specificity

**T1-weighted MRI image of a neuroendocrine tumor of the pancreas**



Malignant neuroendocrine tumor of the pancreas. T1-weighted gradient echo image of abdomen demonstrates mass (arrow) near junction of pancreatic body and tail. Note that mass (arrow) is lower in signal intensity than adjacent normal pancreatic parenchyma (arrowhead).

# Nuclear Imaging

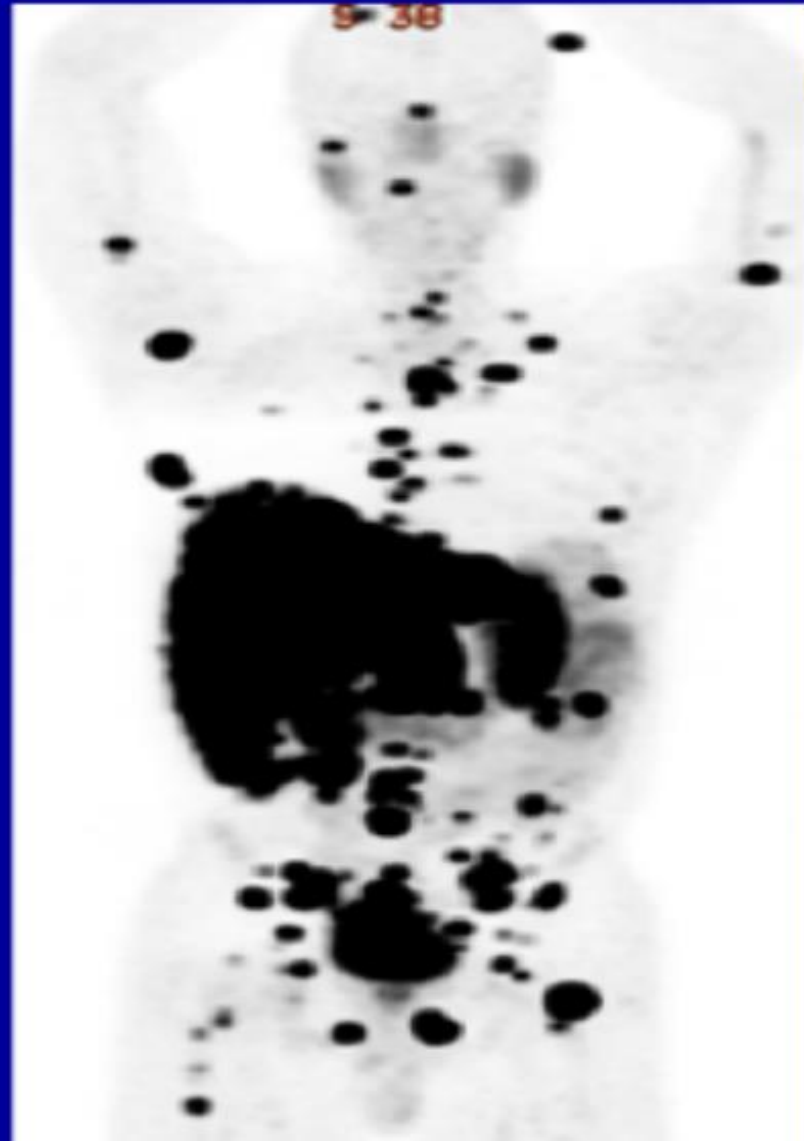
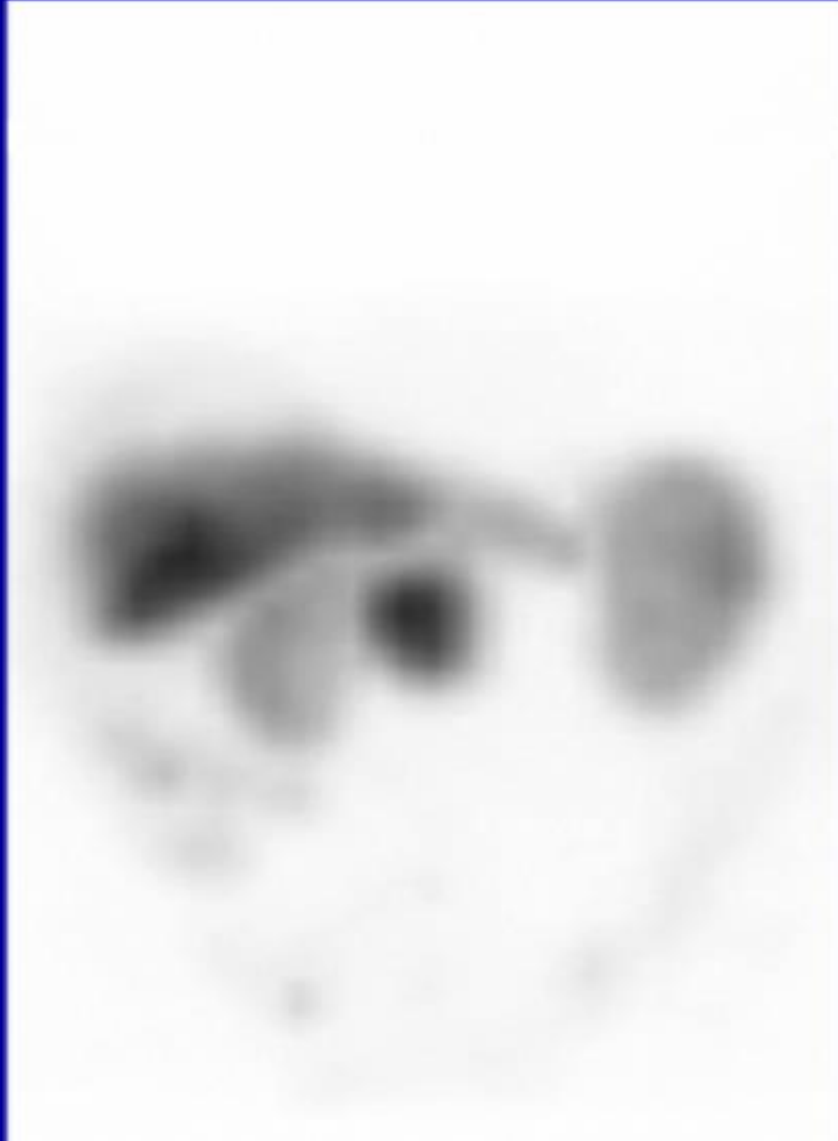
## **Somatostatin receptor scintigraphy (SRS) (Octreoscan)**

- Most well-differentiated NETs express high levels of somatostatin receptors and can therefore be imaged with radiolabeled somatostatin analogs.

## **$^{68}\text{Ga}$ -PETCT/DOTATATE**

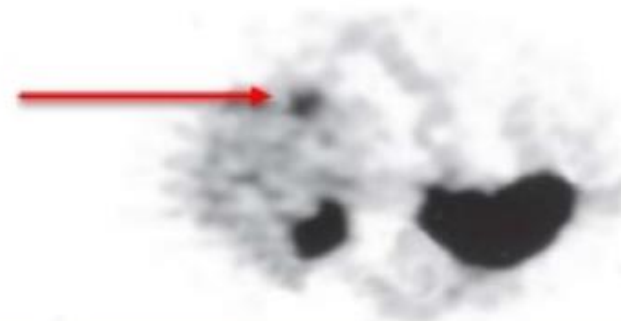
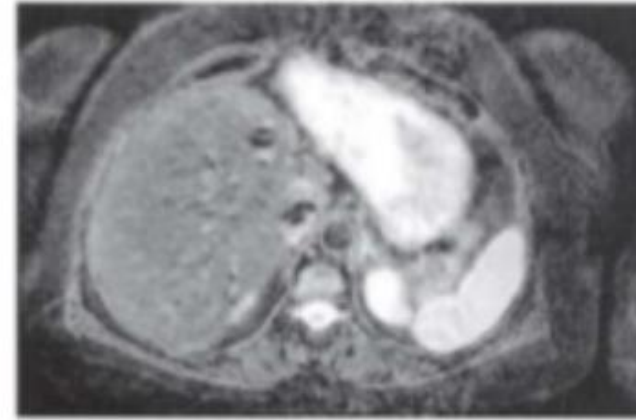
- These novel PET modalities offer higher spatial resolution than conventional SRS scanning and are associated with improved sensitivity for detection of small lesions.

# Octreoscan vs. PET/CT with $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -DOTA-Octreotide



J Nucl Med 2007;  
48(4):508-518.

- Comparison of a CT (Top), MRI (Middle) and a SRS scan (Bottom).
- Neither the CT scan or the MRI showed the lesion of the liver in a patient with a Zollinger Ellison syndrome



# Neuroendocrine tumors of the pancreas TNM staging AJCC UICC 8th edition

## Primary tumor (T)

### T category

### T criteria

TX

Tumor cannot be assessed

T1

Tumor limited to the pancreas,\* <2 cm

T2

Tumor limited to the pancreas,\* 2 to 4 cm

## Regional lymph nodes (N)

### N category

### N criteria

NX

Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed

N0

No regional lymph node involvement

N1

Regional lymph node involvement

## Distant metastasis (M)

### M category

### M criteria

M0

No distant metastasis

M1

Distant metastases

M1a

Metastasis confined to liver

M1b

Metastases in at least one extrahepatic site (eg, lung, ovary, nonregional lymph node, peritoneum, bone)

M1c

Both hepatic and extrahepatic metastases

## Prognostic stage groups

When T is...	And N is...	And M is...	Then the stage group is...
T1	N0	M0	I
T2	N0	M0	II
T3	N0	M0	II
T4	N0	M0	III
Any T	N1	M0	III
Any T	Any N	M1	IV

TNM: tumor, node, metastasis; AJCC: American Joint Committee on Cancer; UICC: Union for International Cancer control.

Used with permission of the American College of Surgeons, Chicago, Illinois. The original source for this information is the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual, Eighth Edition (2017) published by Springer International Publishing. Corrected at 4th printing, 2018.



**Table 2.** Histologic Grading System for Gastroenteropancreatic NETS Adopted by ENETS (2006), AJCC (2009), and WHO (2010)

Grade	Mitotic Rate	KI-67 Index	Differentiation
Low (G1)	< 2/10 HPF	≤ 2%	Well-differentiated NET
Intermediate (G2)	2–20/10 HPF	3% to 20%	Well-differentiated NET
High (G3)	> 20/10 HPF	> 20%	Poorly differentiated NEC

AJCC = American Joint Committee on Cancer; ENETS = European Neuroendocrine Tumor Society; HPF = high-power field; NEC = neuroendocrine carcinoma; NET = neuroendocrine tumor; WHO = World Health Organization.

# Improvement of NET Grading System using Mitoses and Ki-67

## Well differentiated NENs

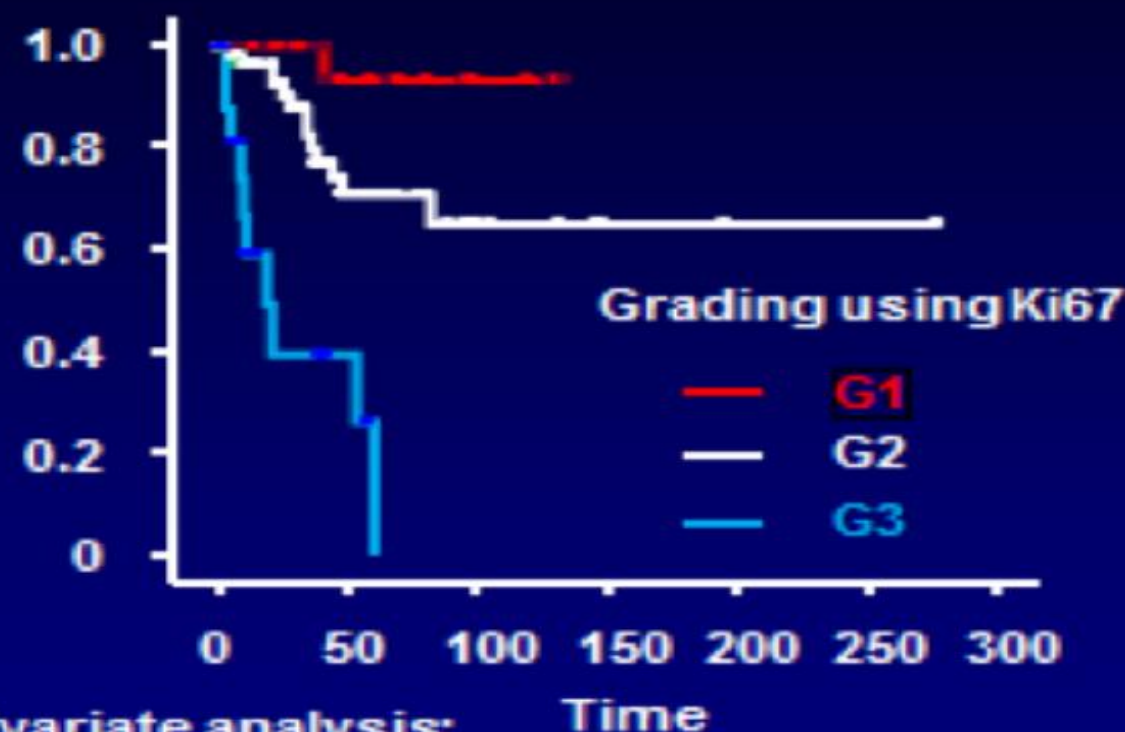
Grade	Ki-67 index (%)	Mitotic count (10 HPF)
NET G1	< 3	< 2
NET G2	3–20	2–20
NET G3	> 20	> 20

## Poorly differentiated NENs

NEC G3	>20	
Small cell type		
Large cell type		
Mixed neuroendocrine-nonneuroendocrine neoplasm(MiNEN)		

WHO classification 2017

Cumulative survival



Univariate analysis:

G1 vs. G2:  $p = 0.040$

G1 vs. G3:  $p < 0.0001$

G2 vs. G3:  $p < 0.0001$

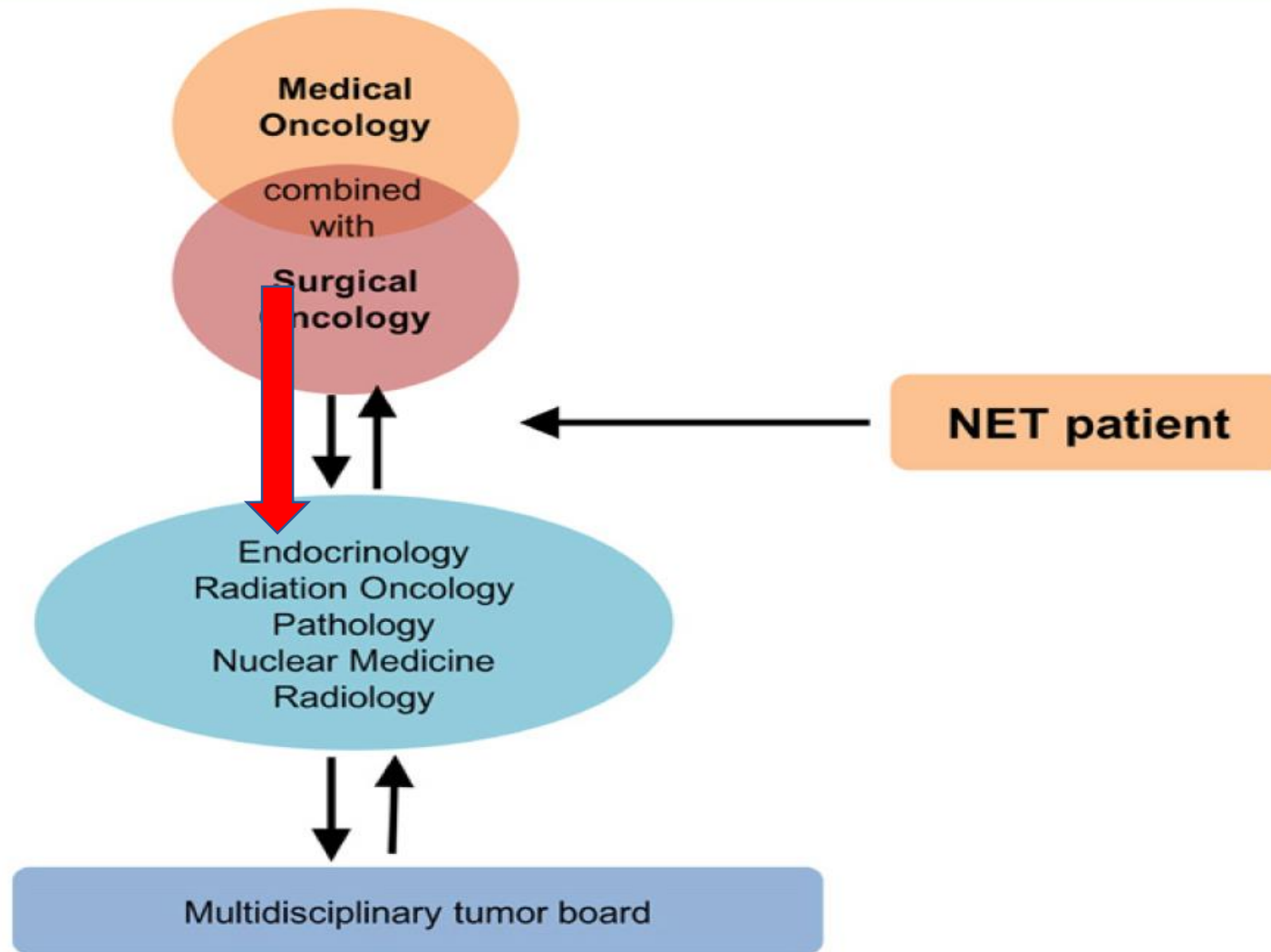
# Circulating Biomarkers

## **Chromogranin A (CgA)**

- Elevated CgA levels are noted in 50 to 100% of patients with PNETs .
- Levels depend upon tumor mass, burden or progression and malignant nature of the tumor.
- False elevations
  - Renal insufficiency
  - Essential HTN
  - Use of PPIs
  - Not seen with CgB levels

## **Pancreatic Polypeptide (PP)**

- It has a sensitivity of 63% in PNETs.
- Combined with CgA
  - sensitivity increases to 94% in PNETs



**Figure 2.** Neuroendocrine multidisciplinary team.

A dark blue, irregular ink splatter shape centered on a white background. The splatter has a textured, painterly appearance with various shades of blue and some white highlights. The text "FUNCTIONAL PNETS" is written in white, uppercase, sans-serif font, centered within the blue shape.

# FUNCTIONAL PNETS



# Insulinoma



0.4 cases per 100,000 person years



Most appears in the fifth decade



Most common Pancreatic Neuroendocrine Tumor

# Symptoms

## Neuroglycopenic

- Confusion
- Visual changes
- Unusual behavior

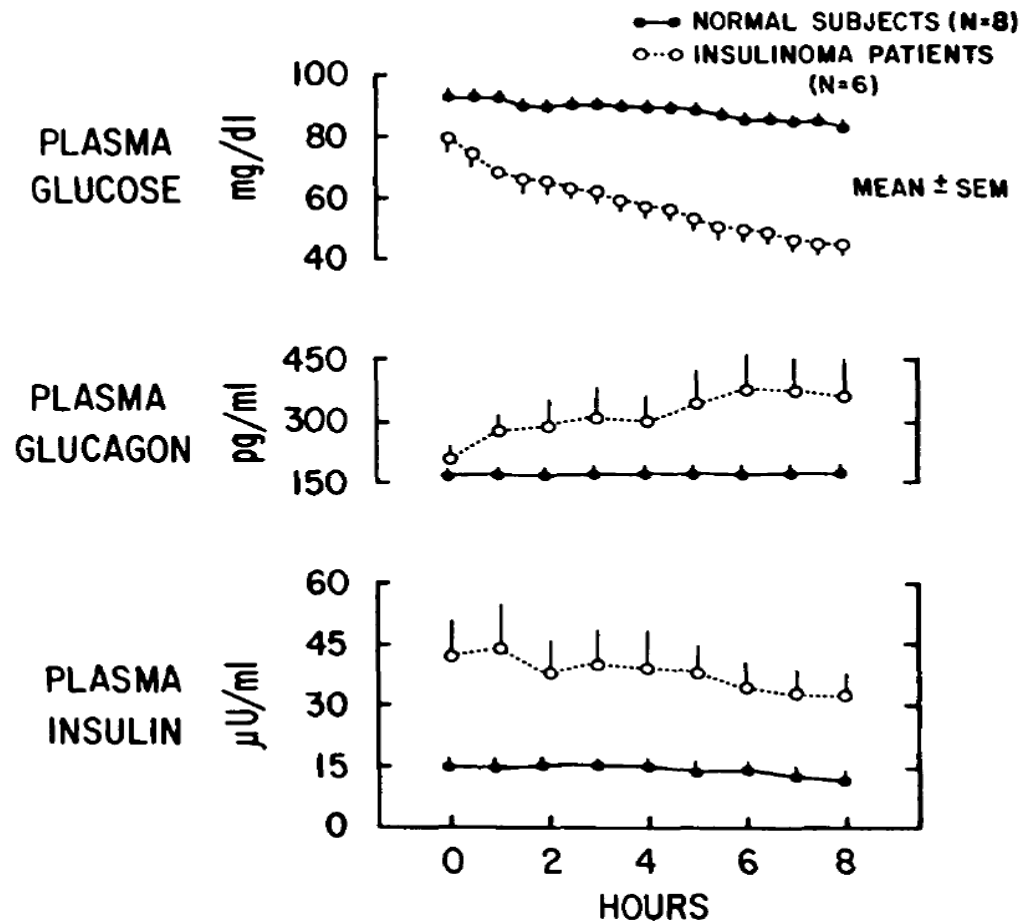
## Sympathoadrenal

- Palpitations
- Diaphoresis
- Tremulousness

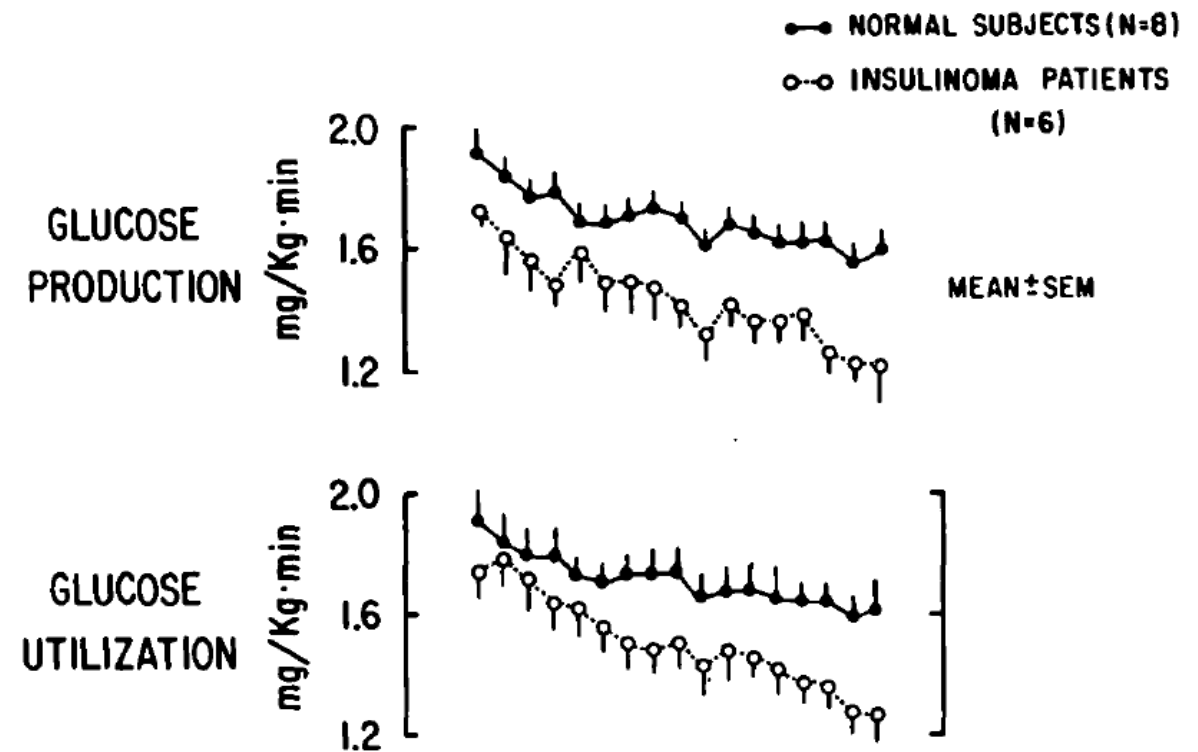
As many as 20 percent of patients had been misdiagnosed with a neurologic or psychiatric disorder before the insulinoma was recognized

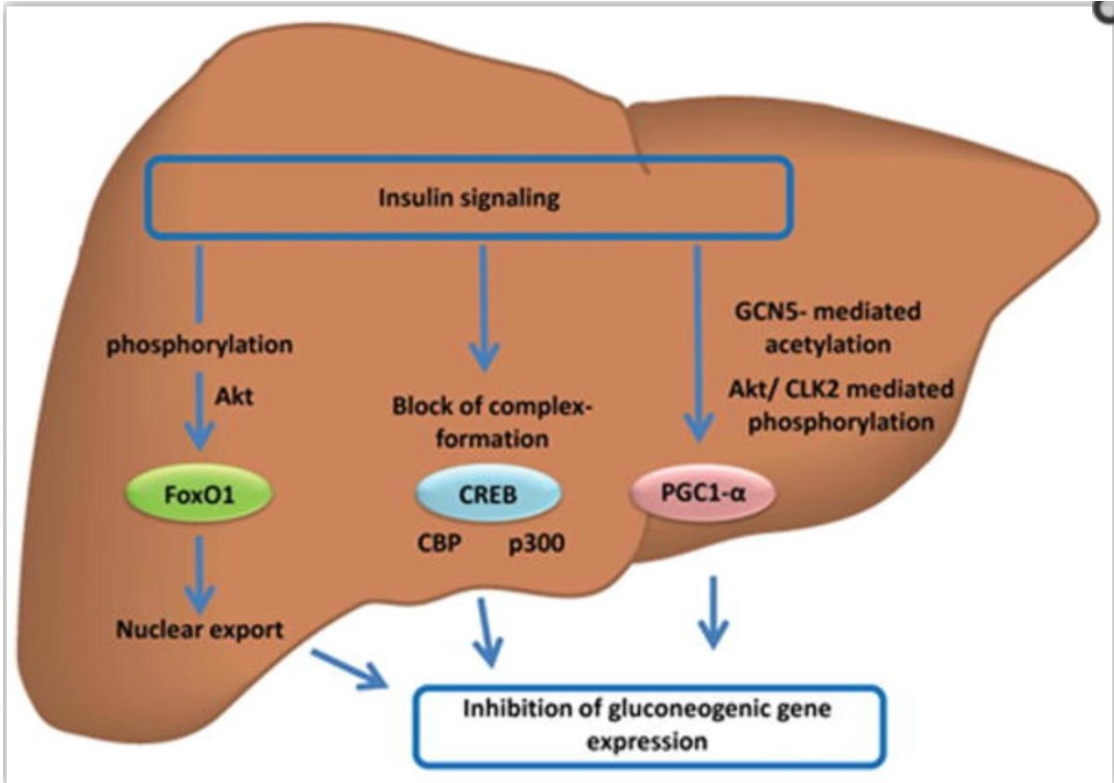
# Pathogenesis of Hypoglycemia in Insulinoma Patients

**FIGURE 1.** Plasma glucose, glucagon, and insulin concentrations in insulinoma patients and normal subjects during an 8-h fast.



**FIGURE 2.** Rates of glucose production, utilization, and clearance and the cumulative glucose balance in insulinoma patients and normal subjects during an 8-h fast.





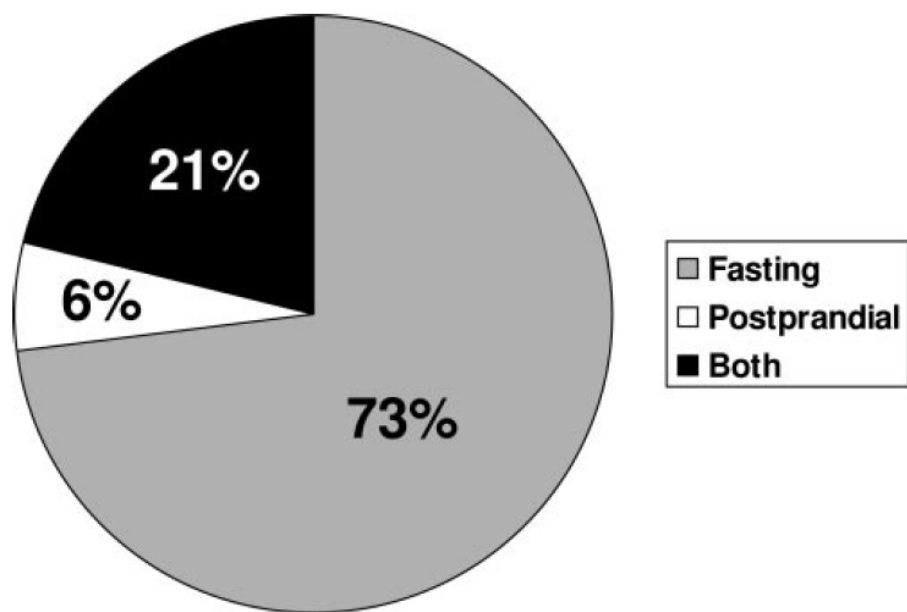
Extrahepatic effects of insulin that regulate hepatic gluconeogenesis.

Organ/tissue	Action	Effect on liver	Reference
Pancreatic alpha cells	Secretion of glucagon ↓	Transcriptional regulation of gluconeogenic genes	12–14, 16
White adipose tissue	Lipolysis ↓	Reduction of free fatty acid delivery to the liver	10,14,17
Skeletal muscle	Proteolysis ↓	Reduction of amino acid flux to the liver	10,14
Central nervous system	Pleiotropic manner	Multiple effects	18

# Secular Trends in the Presentation and Management of Functioning Insulinoma at the Mayo Clinic, 1987–2007

Kimberly A. Placzkowski, Adrian Vella, Geoffrey B. Thompson, Clive S. Grant, Carl C. Reading, J. William Charboneau, James C. Andrews, Ricardo V. Lloyd, and F. John Service

J Clin Endocrinol Metab, April 2009, 94(4):1069–1073



**FIG. 1.** Distribution of the timing of hypoglycemia symptoms in 214 patients with functioning insulinoma.

**TABLE 1.** Inpatient vs. outpatient evaluation by quartile of study period

Quartile	1987–1992, n (%)	1993–1997, n (%)	1998–2002, n (%)	2003–2007, n (%)
n	54	52	62	69
Inpatient	33 (61)	32 (62)	15 (24)	10 (15)
Outpatient	18 (33)	15 (28)	40 (65)	50 (72)
Outside data	3 (6)	5 (10)	7 (11)	9 (13)

J Clin Endocrinol Metab, April 2009, 94(4):1069–1073. Downloaded by guest on 11 November 2019

## Tumor Distribution

87 percent presents as single benign tumors.

7 percent presents as multiple

6 percent are malignant, defined as the presence of metastases

# Management



DIAGNOSIS



TUMOR LOCALIZATION



TREATMENT



# Diagnosis

- Documentation of Whipple's triad is essential to the diagnosis of a hypoglycemic disorder.

Glucose (mg/dL)/(mmol/L)	Insulin (microU/mL)/(pmol/L)	C-peptide (nmol/L)/(ng/mL)	Proinsulin (pmol/L)	Beta- hydroxybutyrate (mmol/L)	Glucose increase after glucagon (mg/dL)/(mmol/L)	Circulating oral hypoglycemic agent	Antibody to insulin	Diagnostic interpretation
<55/3	<3/20.8	<0.2/0.6	<5	>2.7	<25/1.4	No	No	Normal
<55	>>3	<0.2	<5	≤2.7	>25	No	Neg (Pos)	Exogenous insulin
<55	≥3	≥0.2	≥5	≤2.7	>25	No	Neg	Insulinoma, NIPHS, PGBH
<55	≥3	≥0.2	≥5	≤2.7	>25	Yes	Neg	Oral hypoglycemic agent
<55	>>3	>>0.2¶	>>5¶	≤2.7	>25	No	Pos	Insulin autoimmune
<55	<3	<0.2	<5	≤2.7	>25	No	Neg	IGF <sup>Δ</sup>
<55	<3	<0.2	<5	>2.7	<25	No	Neg	Not insulin (or IGF)-mediated

**TABLE 2.** Localization procedures

Quartile	1987–1992	1993–1997	1998–2002	2003–2007
Noninvasive localization studies				
n	54	52	62	69
Percent done	100	100	100	100
Percent positive	74	71	77	80
Invasive localization studies				
n	0	11	24	26
Percent done	0	21	39	38
Percent additional positive	0	8	21	20
Percent blind pancreatic exploration	26	21	2	0

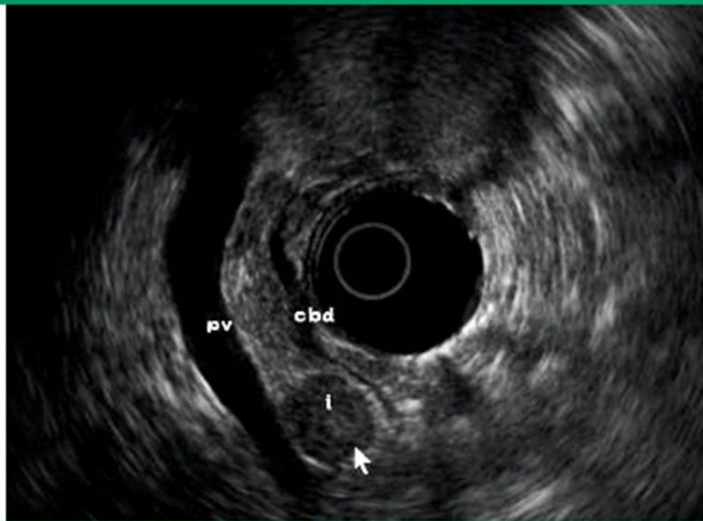
## Localization

- Considering all quartiles of study, CT scan had an accuracy rate of 55%, US of 61%, and MRI of 42% for the detection of functioning insulinomas.

# Unable To localize

## Endoscopy Ultrasound

Endosonographic image of an insulinoma



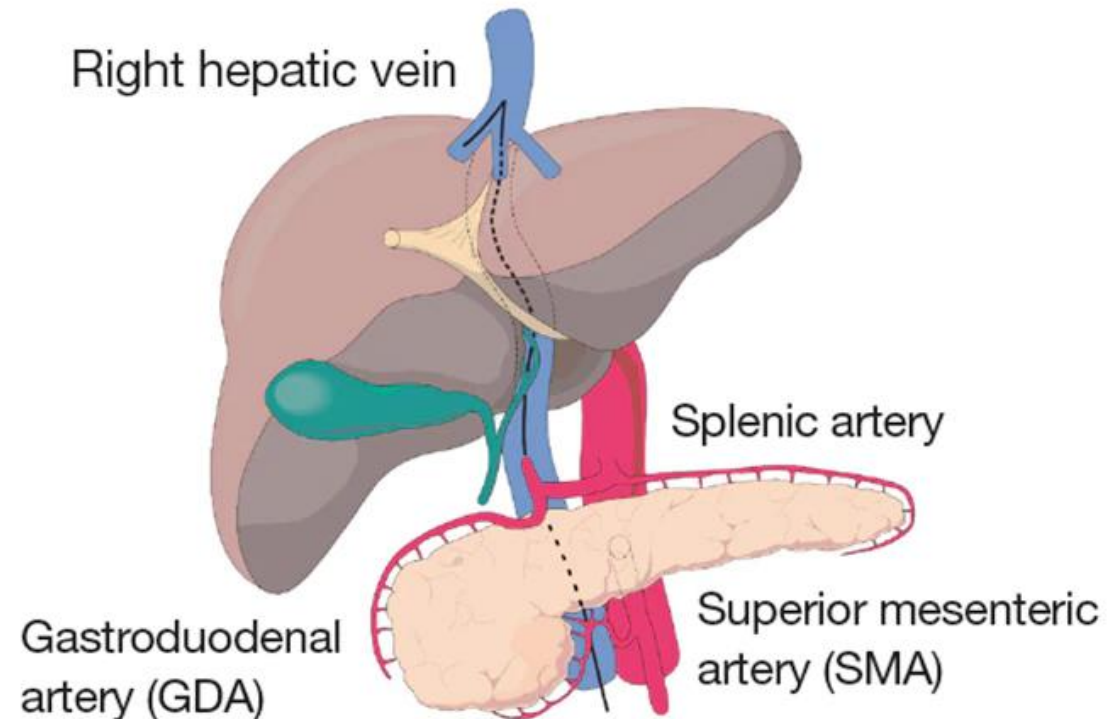
Endosonographic image of an insulinoma detected in a woman with recurrent episodes of hypoglycemia showing a well demarcated, homogenous hypoechoic mass lesion in the head of the pancreas adjacent to the common bile duct (CBD, above) and portal vein (PV, below) without invasion of these structures. The lesion had not been detected with other imaging modalities.

Courtesy of Maryam Moini, MD, and Seyed Alireza Taghavi, MD.

UpToDate®

## Selective Arterial Calcium Stimulation Test (SACST)

### Selective Arterial Calcium Stimulation Test



© MAYO CLINIC

# Unable To Localize

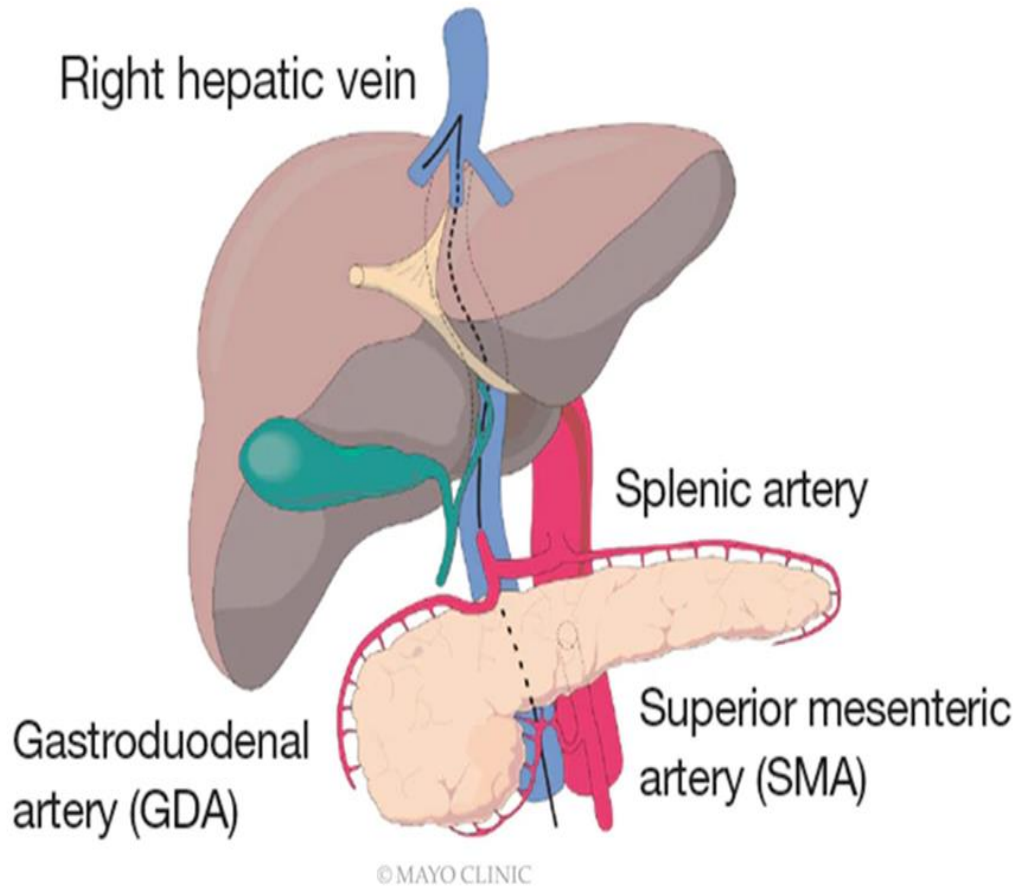
## Endoscopic Ultrasound

- In small case series, the sensitivity of endoscopic ultrasound for the detection of insulinoma confirmed by surgery ranged from 82 to 85 percent.

## SACST

- In the Mayo Clinic series of 237 patients with insulinoma, the sensitivity of SACST for localization of insulinoma was 93 percent.

## Selective Arterial Calcium Stimulation Test



Artery	Time, seconds	Serum hepatic vein insulin, microU/ mL
Superior mesenteric	0	41
	20	65
	40	333
	60	441
Gastroduodenal	0	30
	20	35
	40	38
	60	36
Splenic	0	31
	20	26
	40	26
	60	31

Calcium stimulates the release of insulin from hyperfunctional beta cells but not normal beta cells

# Treatment

## Resection of primary tumor

- First Choice of treatment

## Medical Therapy

- Unable to surgery
- Metastatic disease
- Multiple Comorbid Conditions



# Medical therapy

## Diazoxide

- Diminishes insulin secretion in doses of 120mg/day.
- Marked adverse events of edema and hirsutism

## Octreotide

- At high doses inhibits the secretion of insulin, glucagon and thyroid stimulating hormone
- Use only for patient with hypoglycemia refractory to diazoxide
- Lanreotide can also be used

## Verapamil and Phenytoin

- Last choice
- Scarce data

# Types of Surgery

- Enucleation of the insulinoma
- Partial distal pancreatectomy
- Enucleation of the insulinoma and partial pancreatectomy
- A Whipple procedure (removal of the head of the pancreas, gastrectomy, duodenectomy, and splenectomy)
- Total pancreatectomy

# Recurrence and Survival

The cumulative incidence of recurrence was 6 percent at 10 years and 8 percent at 20 years.

The overall survival rate of patients with insulinoma did not differ from that expected in the general population.

# Liver Directed Metastatic Disease

## Resection

- Considered only for patients with a very limited number of metastases.

## Hepatic artery embolization

- Since the blood supply from liver metastases differs from healthy hepatocytes, embolization will produce minimal damage to the normal liver parenchyma

## Liver transplantation

- No long-term data

## Chemotherapy

- Streptozocin/doxorubicin

# Case # 1

A 42-year-old woman has been evaluated on multiple occasions for frequent symptoms of tachycardia, sweating, tremor, and anxiety that are relieved by food intake. The spells are disruptive and have become noticeable over the past 6 months.

Recently, at the time of a routine blood draw and after a 8-hour fast, the patient was found to have a venous glucose concentration of 48 mg/dL (2.7 mmol/L).

The patient has no notable medical history and is not taking any medication. She has never had surgery. She exercises regularly, and over the past 2 years she has participated in 4 half-marathons.

# Case # 1


- On physical examination, her resting heart rate is 65 beats/min and blood pressure is 120/60 mm Hg. Her height is 63 in (160 cm), and weight is 118 lb (53.6 kg) (BMI = 20.9 kg/m<sup>2</sup>).
- An outpatient fast is undertaken. The patient last ate at 6:00 PM the preceding day and presents to the endocrine testing center at 8:00 AM.
- Symptoms occur at 9:45 AM. A point-of-care glucose value is 49 mg/dL.

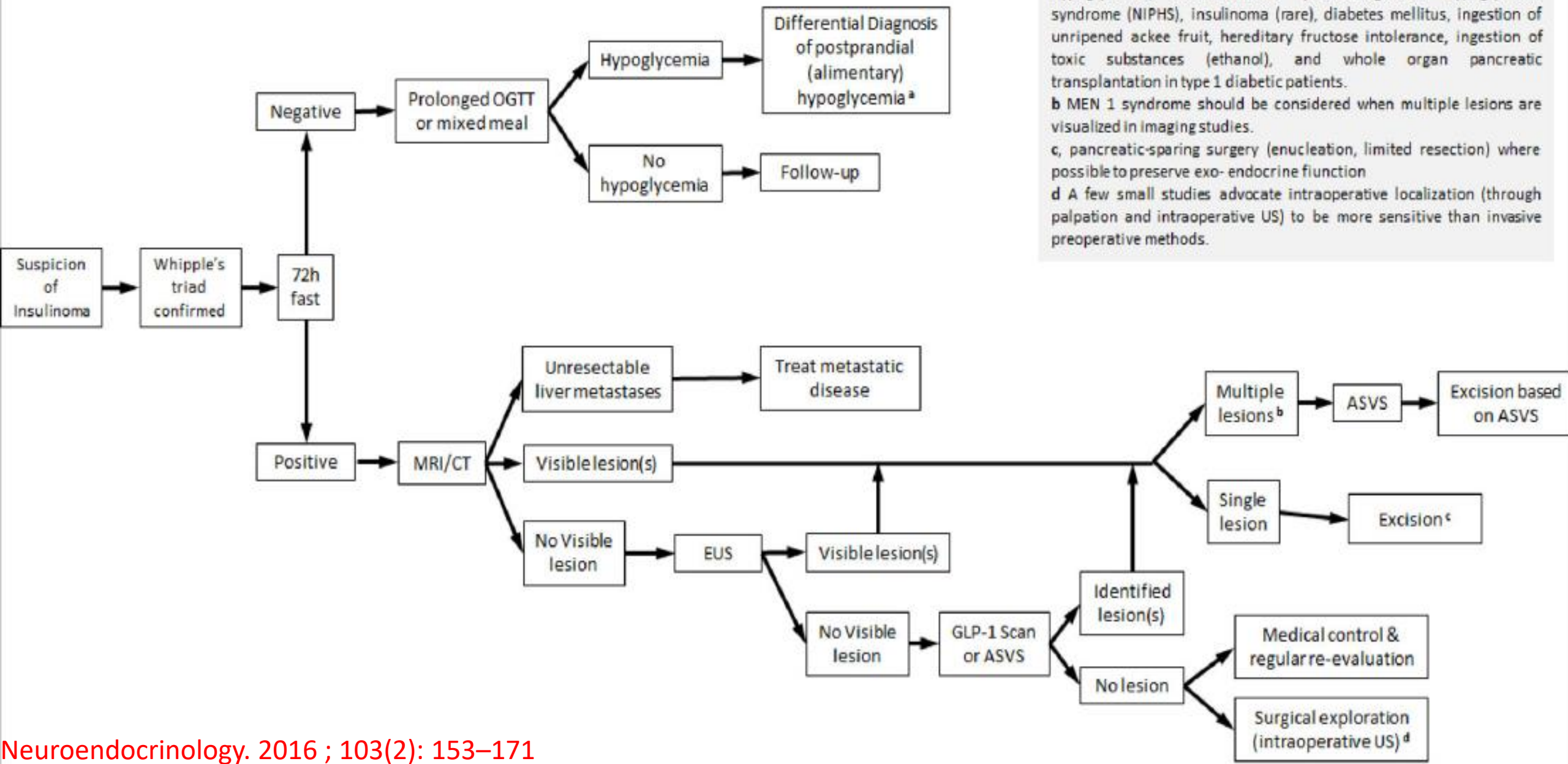
**The patient's glucose concentration is 49 mg/dL . Imaging studies of the pancreas would be indicated on the basis of which of the following sets of laboratory values?**

<b>Answer</b>	<b>Insulin</b>	<b>C-Peptide</b>	<b>Proinsulin</b>	<b>Glucose Rise after Glucagon (D)</b>	<b>Insulin Antibodies</b>	<b>Sulfonylurea Screen</b>
A.	3.2mIU/mL (22.2 pmol/L)	4.0 ng/mL (1.3 nmol/L)	16 pg/mL (1.8 pmol/L)	31 mg/dL (1.7 mmol/L)	Negative	Negative
B.	15.0mIU/mL (101.2 pmol/L)	4.5 ng/mL (1.5 nmol/L)	32 pg/mL (3.6 pmol/L)	31 mg/dL (1.7 mmol/L)	Negative	Positive
C.	112.0mIU/mL (777.8 pmol/L)	<2.0 ng/mL (<0.7 nmol/L)	<5 pg/mL (<0.6 pmol/L)	38 mg/dL (2.1 mmol/L)	Negative	Negative
D.	212.0mIU/mL (1472.3 mmol/L)	10.3 ng/mL (3.4 nmol/L)	230 pg/mL (26.1 pmol/L)	45 mg/dL (2.5 mmol/L)	Positive	Negative
E.	5.0mIU/mL (34.7 pmol/L)	<2.0 ng/mL (0.7 nmol/L)	<5 pg/mL (<0.6 pmol/L)	5 mg/dL (0.3 mmol/L)	Negative	Negative



**The patient's glucose concentration is 49 mg/dL . Imaging studies of the pancreas would be indicated on the basis of which of the following sets of laboratory values?**

Answer	Insulin	C-Peptide	Proinsulin	Glucose Rise after Glucagon (D)	Insulin Antibodies	Sulfonylurea Screen
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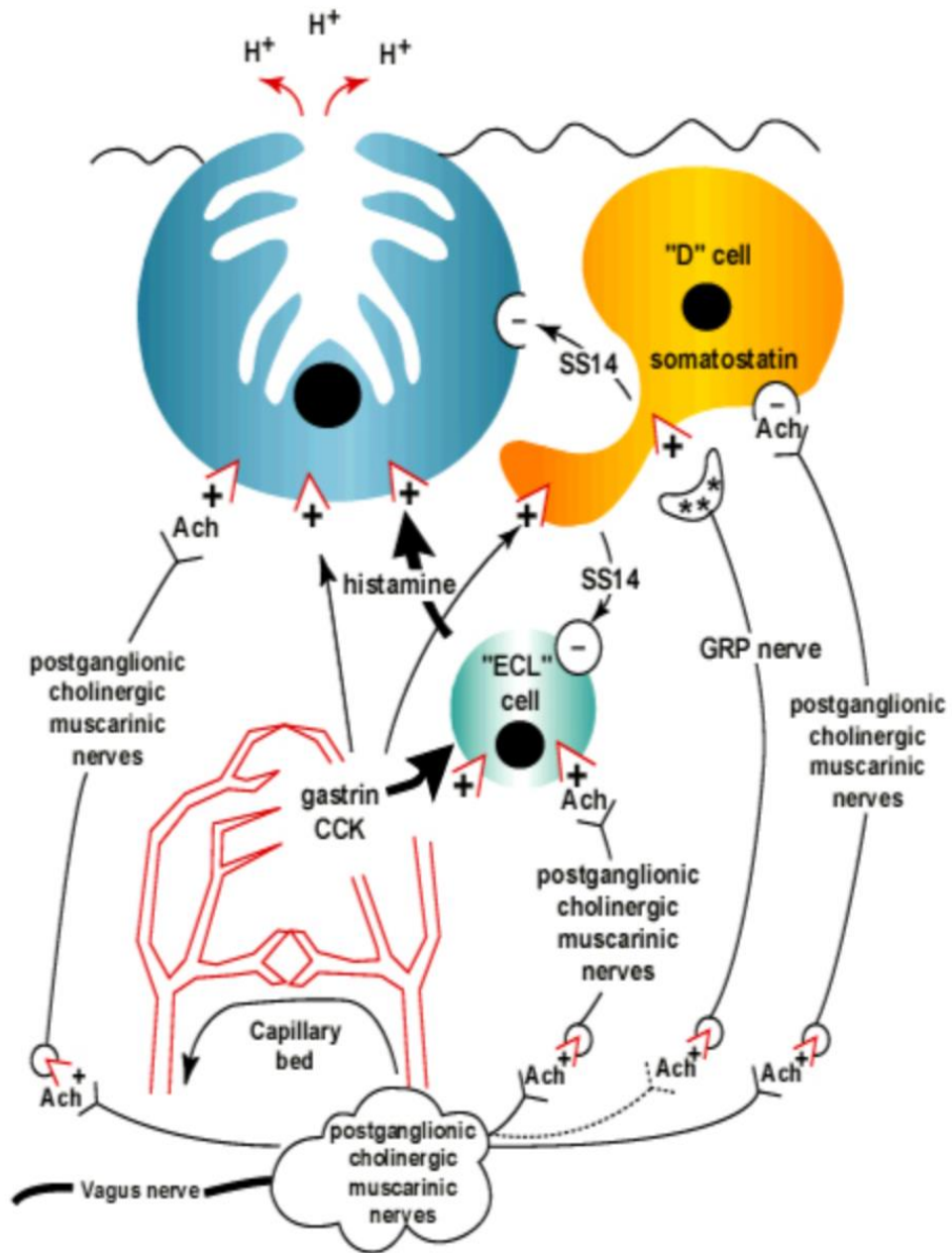
# Gastrinoma (Zollinger- Ellison Syndrome)

Annual incidence 0.5 to 2 per million population.

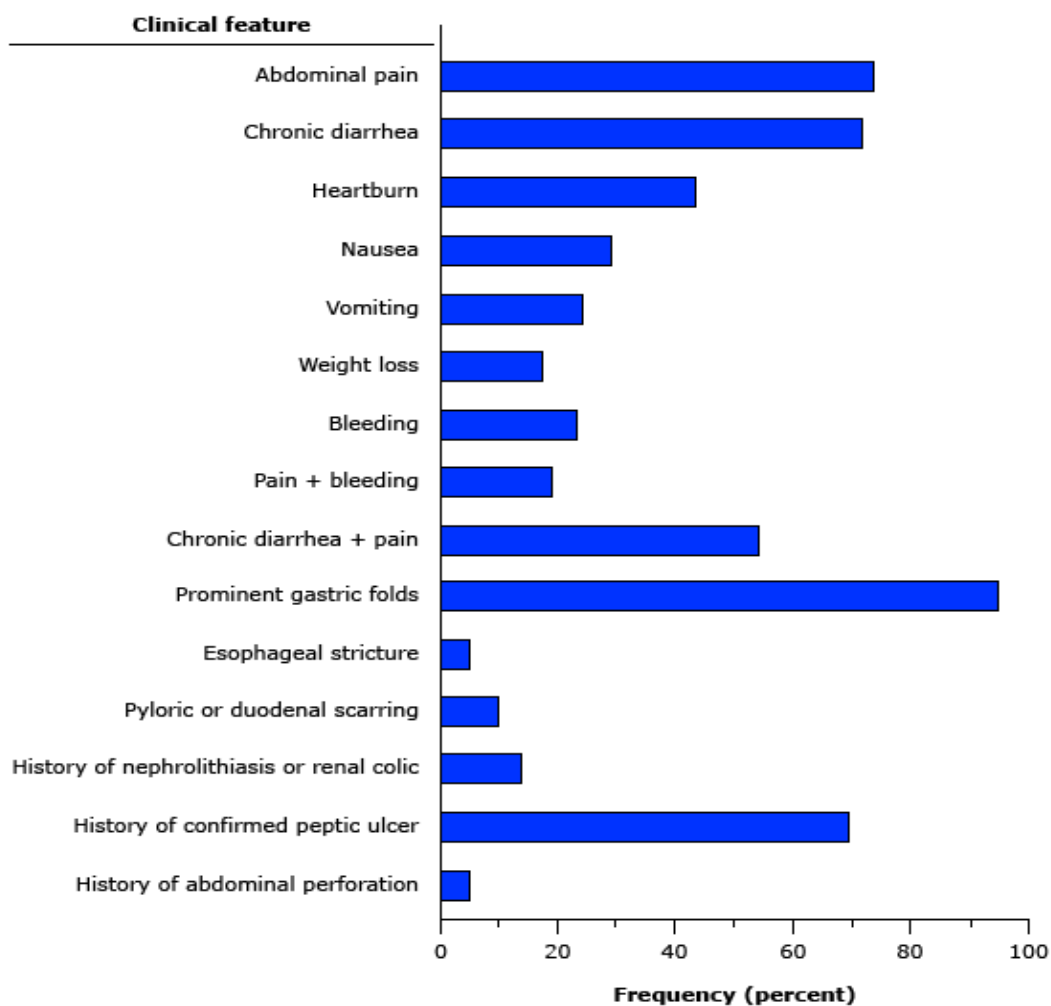
80 percent are sporadic, 20 percent occurs in MEN1 patients.

Only 25 percent of gastrinomas occurs in the pancreas.

# Regulation of acid secretion



# Presenting symptoms and signs in patients with Zollinger-Ellison syndrome



The presence or absence of clinical symptoms or signs at the initial assessment in 261 patients with Zollinger-Ellison syndrome (ZES). Prominent gastric body folds, esophageal stricture, and pyloric or duodenal scarring were determined by upper gastrointestinal endoscopy; a confirmed peptic ulcer was assessed by upper gastrointestinal endoscopy or radiographic studies.

# Diagnosis

Gastrin level 10 times upper normal limit (1000 pg/mL) with a low gastric pH (<2).

If gastric PH > 2, rule out secondary causes of hypergastrinemia

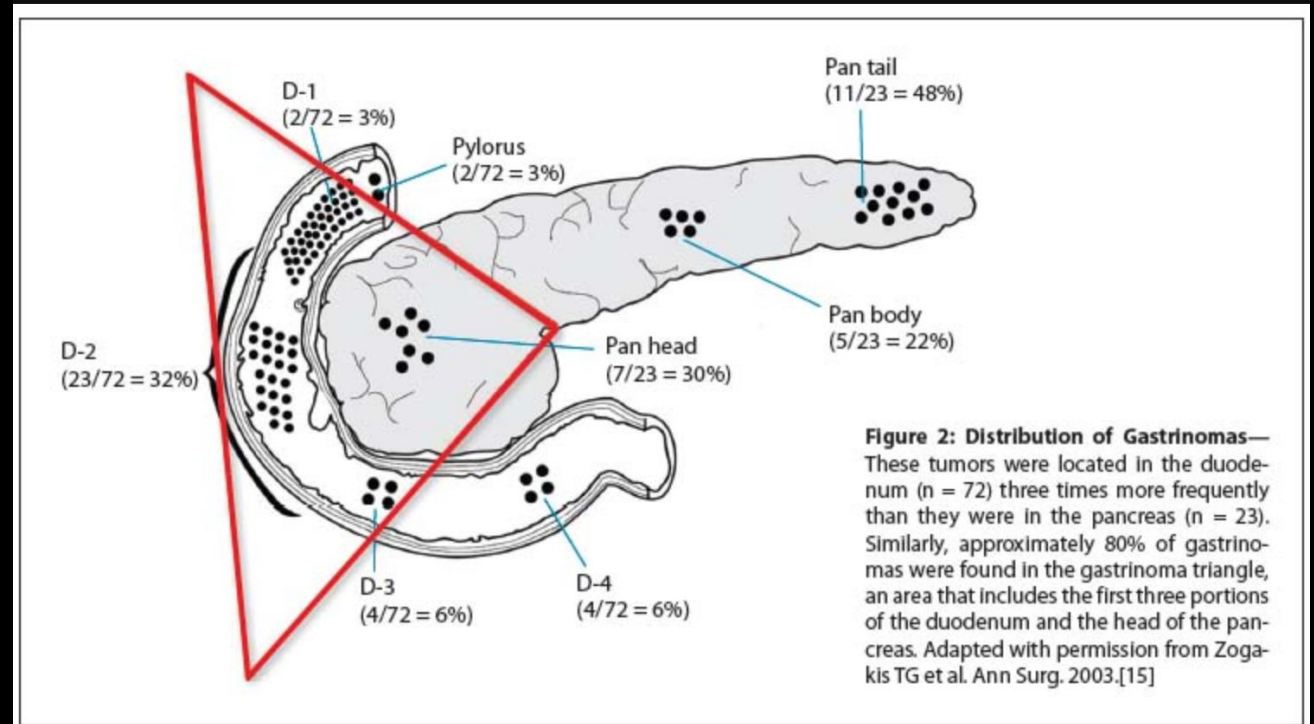
Secretin stimulation test: (inconclusive gastrin levels)

Secretin stimulates gastrin from gastrinoma cells

Secretin inhibits gastrin from normal parietal cells

## Surgical Management

- Gastrinomas located in the head of the pancreas can generally be enucleated.
- Those in the body and tail are removed through a distal pancreatectomy.



# Post-Treatment Surveillance



Three to 12 months post-resection:  
History and PE, serum gastrin level, CT  
or MRI.



1 > year post-resection to a maximum  
of 10 years: History and PE with serum  
gastrin level every 6 to 12 months.  
Imaging studies as clinically indicated.

National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Clinical  
Practice Guidelines in Oncology.  
[https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician\\_gls/pdf/aml.pdf](https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/aml.pdf)  
(Accessed on November 16, 2019).



## Case # 2

A 71-year-old man with a history of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and benign prostatic hypertrophy developed new-onset diabetes mellitus and presents with fatigue, 20-lb weight loss, diarrhea and nocturia.

His fasting blood glucose level is 256 mg/dL. One year ago his fasting blood glucose was 102 mg/dL.

On physical examination, he is a cachetic elderly man with a violaceous skin rash across his shins and mouth (see image)

Which of the following  
will likely reveal the  
etiology of his  
diabetes?

- Elevated Gastrin levels
- Elevated somatostatin levels
- Elevated Glucagon levels
- Elevated free cortisol levels



# Glucagonoma

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Annual incidence of 0.01 to 0.1 new cases per 100,000.

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Mostly presents in the distal pancreas

---

Most of them are sporadic, about 20 percent presents with Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia 1 [MEN 1]

---

50-80% are metastatic at diagnosis.

# Clinical Features “Glucagonoma Syndrome”

## Weight loss

- 80 percent
- Catabolic action of glucagon and through glucagon-like peptides such as GLP-1.

## Hyperglycemia

- Up to 95 percent of patients
- However, only 40 percent develops diabetes mellitus

## Necrolytic Migratory Erythema (NEM)

- Is the presenting feature in 70 percent of the patients
- Not specific for glucagonoma syndrome
- Biopsy is needed for diagnosis.

# Diagnosis

- Glucagon Levels
  - Requires a plasma glucagon level over 500 pg/mL ( $< 50$  pg/mL).
  - Rule out conditions that cause moderate hyperglucagonemia
    - hypoglycemia, fasting, trauma, sepsis
    - acute pancreatitis, abdominal surgery.
    - Cushing's syndrome, renal and hepatic failure .

# Tumor Localization

Computed Tomography (CT)

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)

Somatostatin receptor Scintigraphy

Functional PET imaging with Ga-68  
DOTATATE and Ga-68 DOTATOC

Endoscopic Ultrasound

# Management

- Preoperative
  - Supportive care and management of hyperglycemia
  - If malnutrition : Total Parenteral Nutrition
  - Octreotide
    - Inhibits the catabolism effects of glucagon
    - Improves the malnutrition, Necrolytic Migratory erythema, hyperglycemia and neurologic symptoms.

# Management

- Pancreatic Resection
  - The type of pancreatic resection is dictated by the site and extent of the tumor at the time of laparotomy.
  - Resection results in a cure rate of only about 30 percent.



# Liver Directed Metastatic Disease

## Resection

- Considered only for patients with a very limited number of metastases.

## Hepatic artery embolization

- Since the blood supply from liver metastases differs from healthy hepatocytes, embolization will produce minimal damage to the normal liver parenchyma

## Liver transplantation

- No long-term data

## Molecular target oral therapy

- Everolimus/Sunitinib

# Post-Treatment Surveillance



Three to 12 months post-resection:  
History and PE, serum glucagon level,  
CT or MRI.



1 > year post-resection to a maximum  
of 10 years: History and PE with serum  
glucagon level every 6 to 12 months.  
Imaging studies as clinically indicated.

National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Clinical  
Practice Guidelines in Oncology.  
[https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician\\_gls/pdf/aml.pdf](https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/aml.pdf)  
(Accessed on November 16, 2019).

# Vasoactive intestinal polypeptide (VIPoma)

1 in a million people per year

Bimodal epidemiology

- Age 2-4 and third to fifth decade

60 to 80 percent have metastasized upon diagnosis

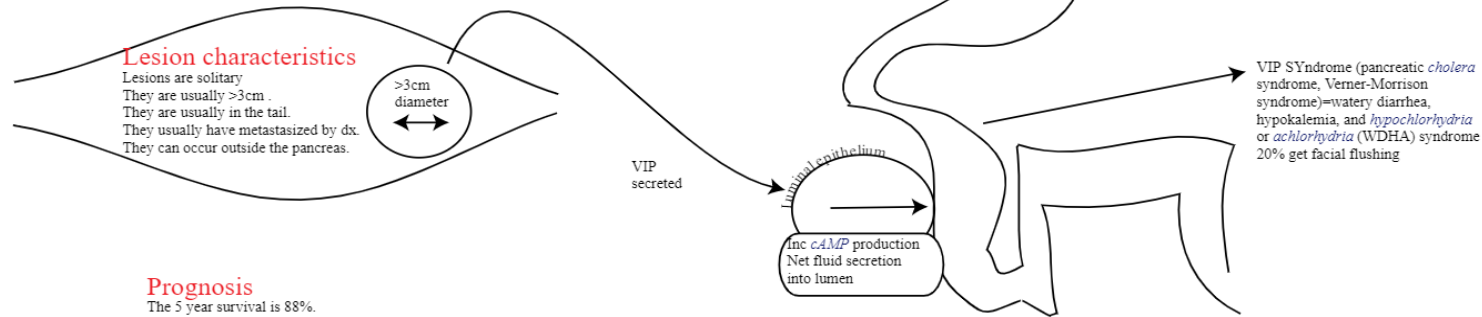
Mostly are sporadic

- 5 percent related to Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia Type 1

# Pathophysiology

## VIPoma

Incidence of 1/10,000,000



### Prognosis

The 5 year survival is 88%.

### Diagnosis

[Serum VIP] > 75 pg/mL (measured by radioimmunoassay); repeat if elevated.  
 CT/ Octreotide scan/ EUS can help locate the lesion.

## Pathophysiology of clinical manifestations of the VIPoma syndrome

Biologic action of VIP	Clinical signs
Stimulates secretion and inhibits absorption of sodium, chloride, and water in the bowel	Secretory diarrhea
	Dehydration
	Weight loss
Stimulates potassium secretion in the large bowel	Hypokalemia
Inhibits gastric acid secretion	Hypochlorhydria
Induces vasodilation	Flushing
Stimulates bone resorption	Hypercalcemia
Enhances glycogenolysis	Hyperglycemia

VIP: vasoactive intestinal polypeptide.

# Clinical features

- VIPoma syndrome
  - Watery diarrhea
    - Persists with fasting
  - Hypokalemia
  - Hypochlorhydria
- Laboratory Features
  - Low Osmotic Gap ( $< 50$  mOsm/kg)
  - Hypochlorhydria
  - Hyperglycemia
  - Hypercalcemia
    - Co-existence of Hyperparathyroidism
    - Hyperalbuminemia
- Diagnosis
  - Elevated vasoactive intestinal polypeptide (VIP) concentration  $>75$  pg/mL

# Treatment

## Electrolyte replacement

- Many patients require more than 5 L of fluid and 350 mEq of potassium daily.

## Somatostatin analogs

- inhibit the secretion of vasoactive intestinal polypeptide (VIP) and are the treatment of choice to control diarrhea in patients with VIPoma

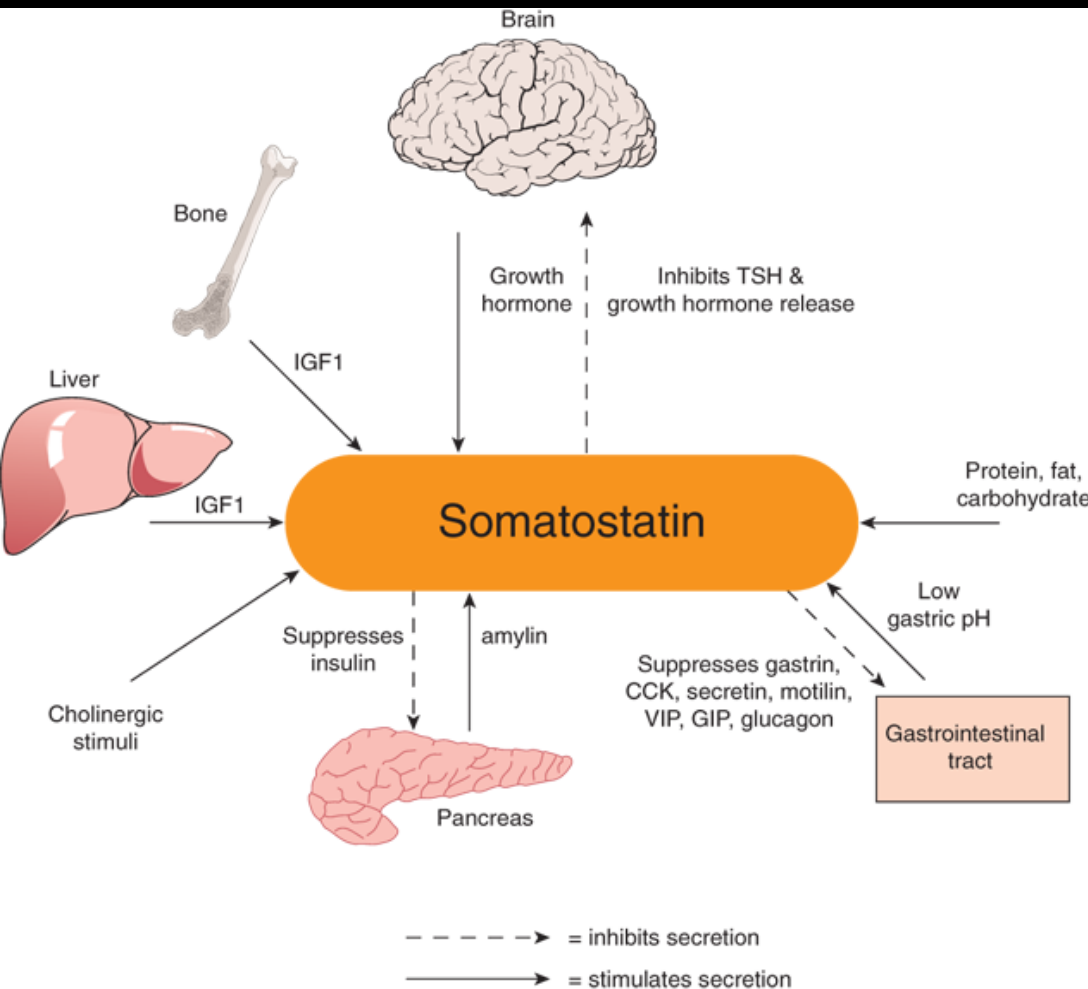
## Pancreatic Resection

- 60 percent already metastasized to bone, lymph nodes, liver and kidney

## Somatostatinoma

- Neuroendocrine tumor from D- cell origin that secretes excessive amounts of somatostatin
- Annual incidence of 1 in 40 million
- 55 percent are in the pancreas
- 35-45 percent of somatostatinoma occurs in the MEN-1 patients

Somatostatin is a tetradecapeptide that normally acts in a paracrine manner to inhibit secretion of many hormones, including insulin, glucagon, gastrin, and growth hormone.



## Somatostatinoma syndrome

Cholelithiasis

Glucose  
Intolerance

Diarrhea,  
steatorrhea



# Management

## Pancreatic Resection

- Surgical Treatment of choice

## Advance Disease

- Octreotide/Lanreotide

## Molecular Target therapy

- everolimus, sunitinib

# Post-Treatment Surveillance



Three to 12 months post-resection:  
History and PE, serum somatostatin level,  
CT or MRI.



1 > year post-resection to a maximum of  
10 years: History and PE with serum  
somatostatin level every 6 to 12 months.  
Imaging studies as clinically indicated.

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(Accessed on November 16, 2019).

# Non- Functioning PNETs



Nonfunctional PNETs (NF-PNETs) represent 30 to 50% of all PNETs.



Characteristically, NF-PNETs are large, and 60 to 85% of patients have liver metastases at the time of diagnosis .



Most of them are found incidentally on abdominal imaging studies.

## Clinical Features

Abdominal Pain

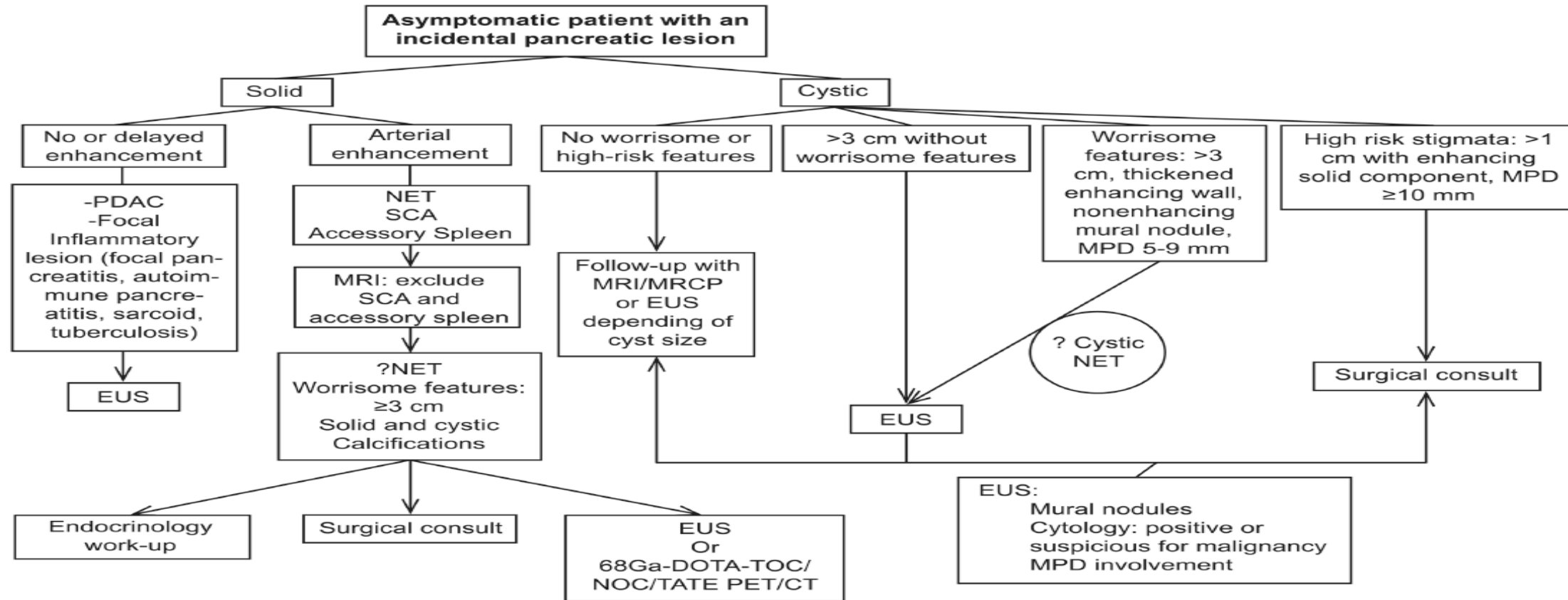
Weight Loss

Nausea

Vomiting

Published in final edited form as:

Endocr Pract. 2015 May ; 21(5): 546–553. doi:10.4158/EP14465.DSC.



**Fig. 1.**

Flow-chart for imaging work-up of incidental pancreatic lesions. *CT*= computed tomography; *MPD*= main pancreatic duct; *MRI*= magnetic resonance imaging; *NET*= neuroendocrine tumor; *PDAC*= pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma; *PET*= positron emission tomography; *SCA* = serous cystadenoma.

# Biochemical Diagnosis

## Chromogranin A (CgA)

- Related to tumor burden and metastasis
- Clinical marker for therapeutic response
- Very sensitive, not specific

## Pancreatic Polypeptide (PP).

- Produced F cells of the pancreas
- Useful when CgA is negative

## Neuron-specific enolase (NSE)

## CLINICAL EVALUATION & DIAGNOSTICS

### - CLINICAL PRESENTATION

### - BIOLOGY

- Chromogranin A, PP

### - IMAGING

- CT / MRI

- EUS (+/- EUS-guided biopsy)

### - SOMATOSTATIN RECEPTOR IMAGING

- Somatostatin receptor scintigraphy (e.g., Octreoscan<sup>®</sup>) or Gallium-68-Pet/CT



RESECTABLE  
NO DISTANT METASTASES

UNRESECTABLE (or  
resectable DISTANT  
METASTASES)



**Tumor = 2 cm**

**Option 1. Surveillance:**

G1, low G2, Asymptomatic, mainly in the head, no radiological signs suspicious for malignancy, patient factors (personal wishes, age, co-morbidities ...);

**Option 2. Surgery**

G2, symptoms, patient wishes

**Tumor > 2 cm**

**Surgery<sup>b</sup>**

Limited resection only if conditions favorable to preserve organ function (otherwise, oncological resection)



## FOLLOW-UP

- EUS, MRI (or CT) every 6 to 12<sup>a</sup> months
  - No change, surveillance
  - Increase in size (>0.5 cm) or final  $\phi$ >2cm, surgery

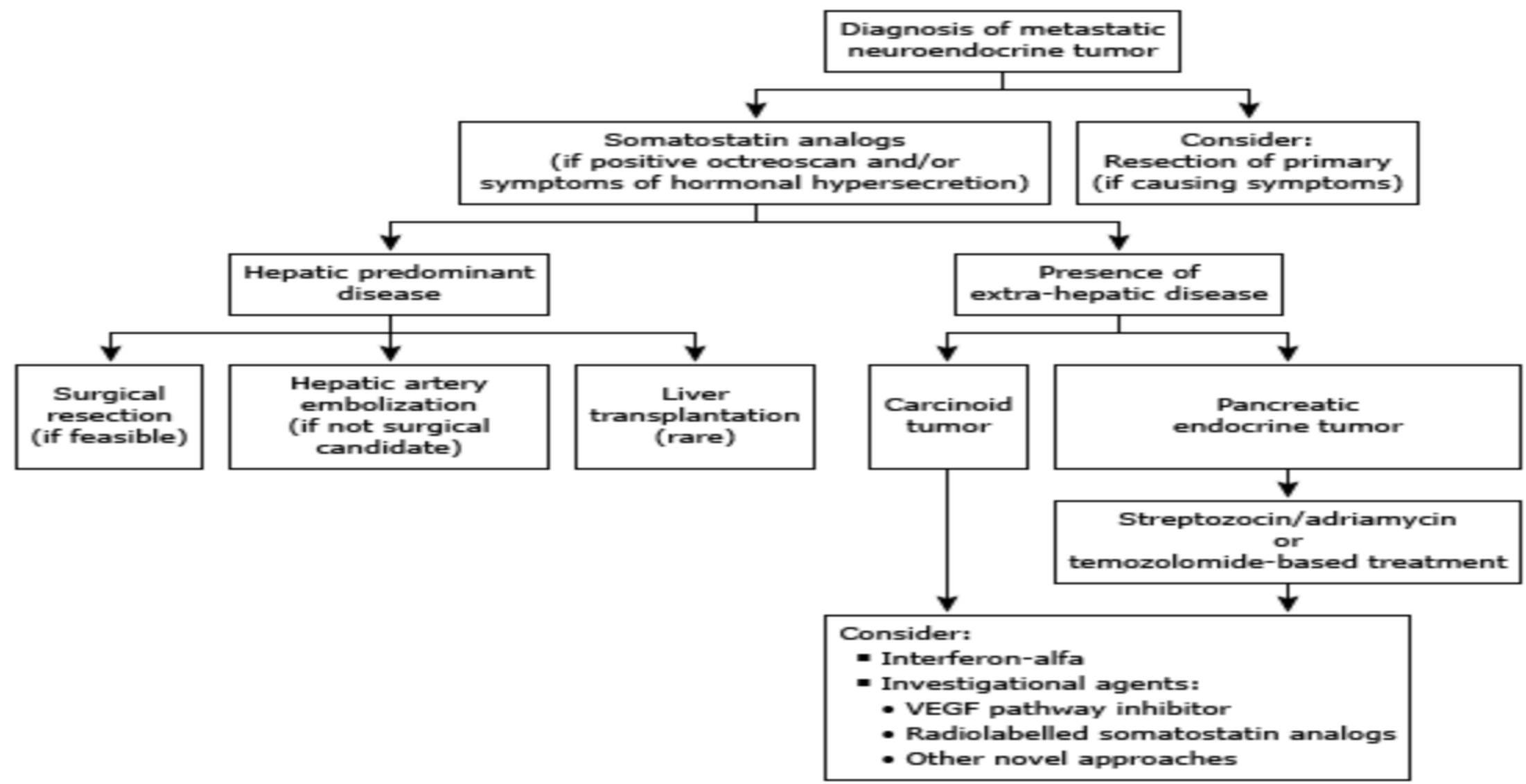
- Surveillance depending on final pathology

- See section on treatment for advanced disease

Neuroendocrinology.  
2016 ; 103(2): 153–171

a, If low Ki-67 and stability after initial 6 monthly evaluations; b, specific additional tests may be required to accurately stage the tumour (e.g., intra-operative US, intraoperative frozen section)


# Algorithm for treatment of metastatic neuroendocrine tumors



VEGF: vascular endothelial growth factor.



**Table 1. Functional PNETs: Symptoms and Laboratory Findings**

<b>Tumor</b>	<b>Symptoms</b>	<b>Laboratory Findings Useful for Diagnosis</b>
<b>Insulinoma</b>	Whipple triad (symptoms of hypoglycemia, low plasma glucose level, relief of symptoms with glucose administration), dizziness, irritability, sweating, fits, coma	Elevated serum insulin level, proinsulin level, and/or C-peptide level
<b>Gastrinoma</b>	GERD, duodenal ulcers with bleeding or perforation, diarrhea, weight loss, response to PPIs	Fasting gastrin level 10× normal, low gastric pH
<b>Glucagonoma</b>	Diabetes, necrolytic migratory erythema, diarrhea, stomatitis	Fasting glucagon level 10× to 20× normal
<b>VIPoma</b>	Severe diarrhea, weight loss, hypokalemia	VIP levels > 75 pg/mL
<b>Somatostatinoma</b>	Gallstones, weight loss, diarrhea, steatorrhea, diabetes	Somatostatin > 30 pg/mL
<b>PPoma</b> 	No specific symptoms; weight gain, constipation; elevated pancreatic polypeptide level (although this is not a very accurate criterion for diagnosis)	Elevated pancreatic polypeptide level in response to secretin

GERD = gastroesophageal reflux disease; PNET = pancreatic neuroendocrine tumor; PPIs = proton pump inhibitors; VIP = vasoactive intestinal polypeptide.



NORTH AMERICAN  
NEUROENDOCRINE  
TUMOR SOCIETY



pheopara  
ALLIANCE



NEUROENDOCRINE TUMOR  
RESEARCH FOUNDATION



International  
Neuroendocrine  
Cancer Alliance



# THINK ZEBRA

If you don't suspect it,  
you can't detect it.



# Questions

