FACTS ABOUT NET

Neuroendocrine Cancer is often referred to as NET (neuroendocrine tumor).
Other terms commonly used refer to the primary tumor site (e.g. PNET or pancreatic NET) or the hormone that the tumor secretes (e.g. Insulinoma or VIPoma)
The terms “carcinoid” or “carcinoid cancer” is generally considered obsolete.
Neuroendocrine neoplasm (NEN) is another term sometimes seen in medical literature such as the World Health Organization (WHO) classification of NEN.

Did you know?

NET is not cancer-like; it is cancer. Though some are benign, most are malignant.

NET is a rare cancer that affects about 6.98 in 100,000 people in the U.S.

NET affects neuroendocrine tumor cells, which are hormone-producing cells most commonly found in the gastrointestinal system (stomach, small intestine, large intestine, rectum, the lung, and pancreas. It often spreads to the lymph nodes, liver, and bones.

Patients diagnosed with NET should be seen by a multidisciplinary team which includes a NET specialist.

LACNETS

Symptoms

Less than half of all NET patients will be symptomatic, which hinders diagnosis. When symptoms are present, they are typically caused by functional (hormone-producing) tumors. These symptoms include:

- Flushing
- Diarrhea
- Nausea
- Abdominal cramping
- Bloating/gas
- Shortness of breath
- Low blood pressure
- Hypertension.

Carcinoid Syndrome

When not caused by functional pheochromocytoma/paraganglioma, this constellation of symptoms is referred to as “carcinoid syndrome.” More information about carcinoid syndrome may be found at www.carcinoidsyndrome.org.

Genetic Link

Although some NETs have a genetic link, most have no known cause. Pheochromocytoma and paraganglioma are two types of NETs which are strongly associated with inherited genetic mutations.

Sources: LACNETS & NET Cancer Awareness