

# What Have We Learned from Recent Major Clinical Trials for the Management of GEP-NET?

**Dr. Christos G. Toumpanakis MD PhD FRCP**

Consultant in Gastroenterology/Neuroendocrine Tumours

Hon. Senior Lecturer University College of London

*Neuroendocrine Tumour Unit - ENETS Centre of Excellence*

ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL, London, UK



## **IPSEN**

Honoraria for lectures  
Educational Grants for RFH NET Unit  
Advisory Board

## **NOVARTIS**

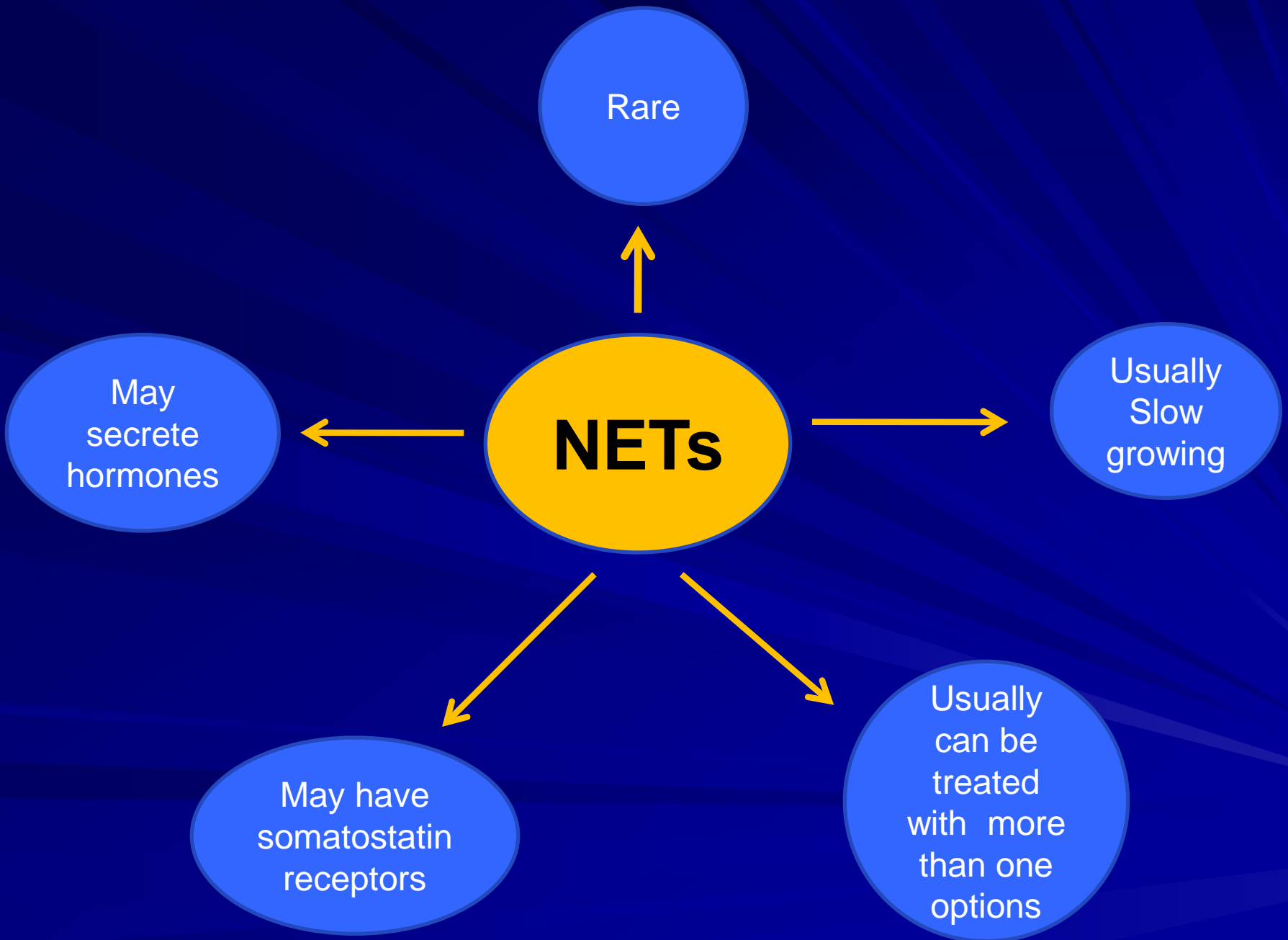
Honoraria for lectures  
Educational Grants for RFH NET Unit  
Advisory Board

## **LEXICON**

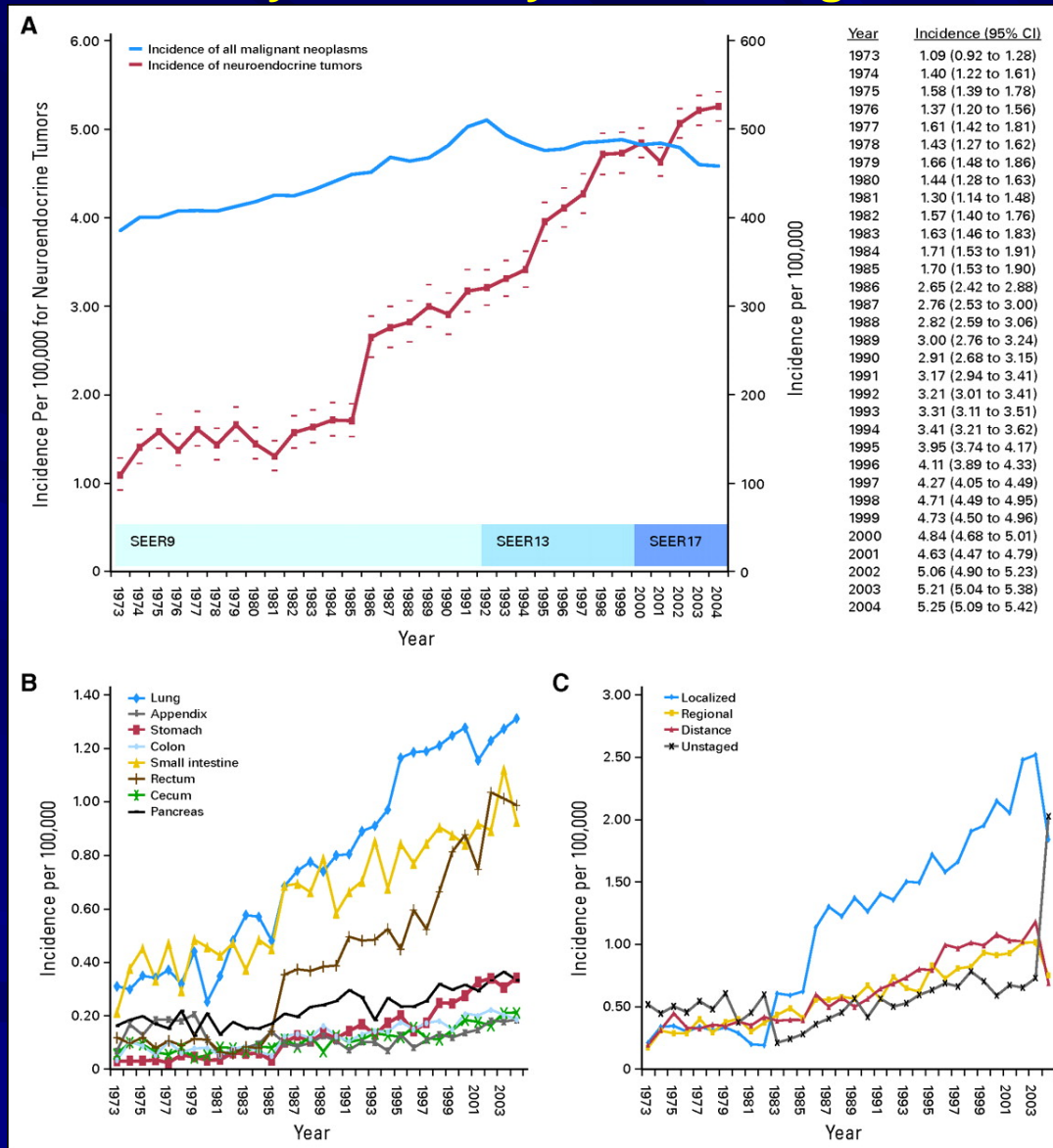
Advisory Board

# Contents

- Treatment targets in GEP NETs
- Large clinical trials in GEP-NETs for symptom control and control of tumour growth which resulted in approval of certain treatments
- New data for those treatments
- Position of those treatments in “Guidelines”



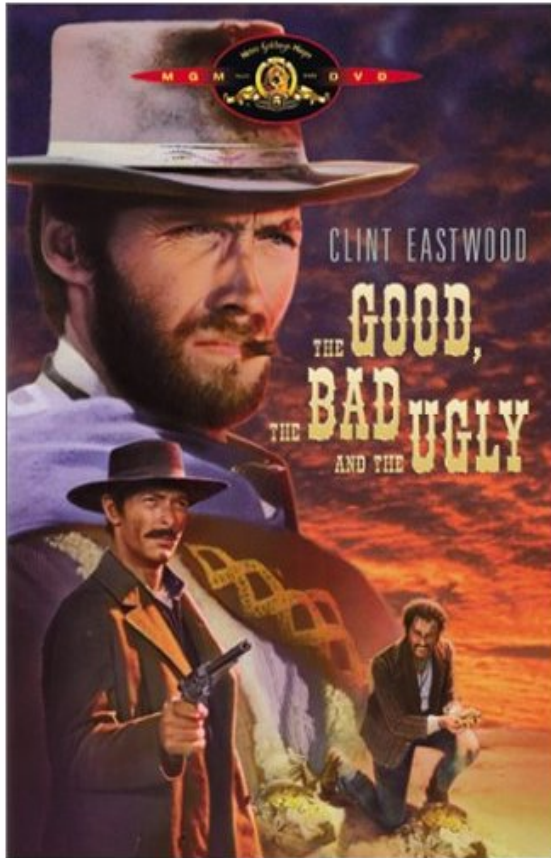
# Incidence of neuroendocrine tumors (NETs) over time, by site and by disease stage





# Classification of NETS

## WHO 2010 classification



- (a) well-differentiated neuroendocrine tumours of G1-grade (Ki67  $\leq$  2%)
- (b) well-differentiated neuroendocrine tumours of G2-grade (Ki67 3-20%)
- (c) poorly differentiated neuroendocrine carcinomas with high grade (G3, Ki67  $>$  20%) malignant behaviour.

# Treatment of GEP - NETs

- A) Medical control of patient's hormonal symptoms.
- B) Resection of tumor primary and if possible, metastatic lesions.
- C) Control of tumor growth in cases of advanced disease.
- D) Improvement and maintenance of patient's quality of life.





# Carcinoid Syndrome

- **Associated with :**

Serotonin, kallikrein and other tachykinins and bradykinins

- **In which NETs ?**

In 20-40% of advanced small bowel NET, in 5% of bronchial and 1% of pancreatic NETs

- **Consists of:**

*Flushing, diarrhoea, bronchospasm, Carcinoid Heart Disease*

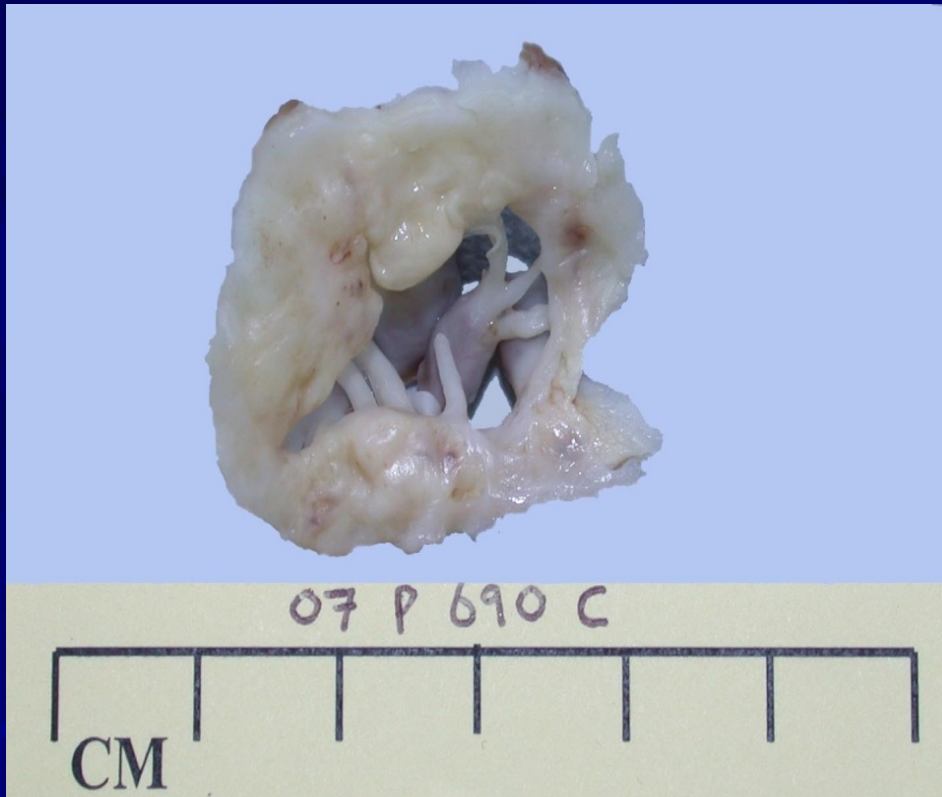
- 20 – 30 % of patients with liver metastases
- 5% of patients with carcinoid syndrome do not have liver metastases

- **“Carcinoid crisis”**

*Severe symptoms of carcinoid syndrome + hypotension during procedures that involve GA, as well as in TAE, and when the patient is on inotropes*



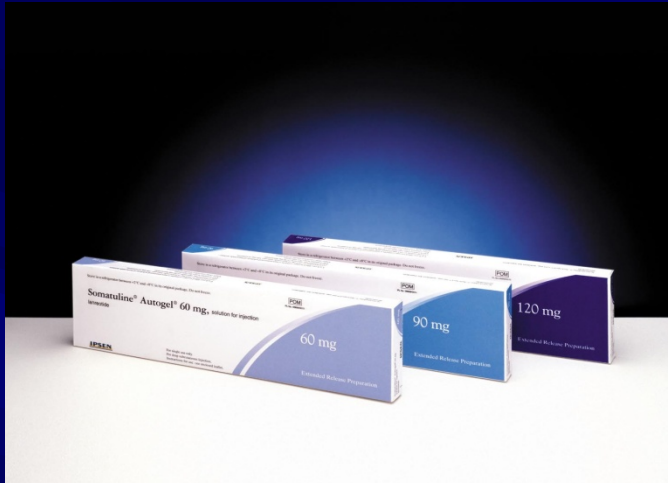
# Carcinoid Heart Disease



- May develop in 20 % of patients, with carcinoid syndrome.
- Main cause of death in 40-50% of patients.
- Involves mainly the right valves of the heart.
- May be present even in asymptomatic patients.
- Valve replacement in a selected group of patients.

# Somatostatin Analogues

## Lanreotide Autogel



## Octreotide LAR

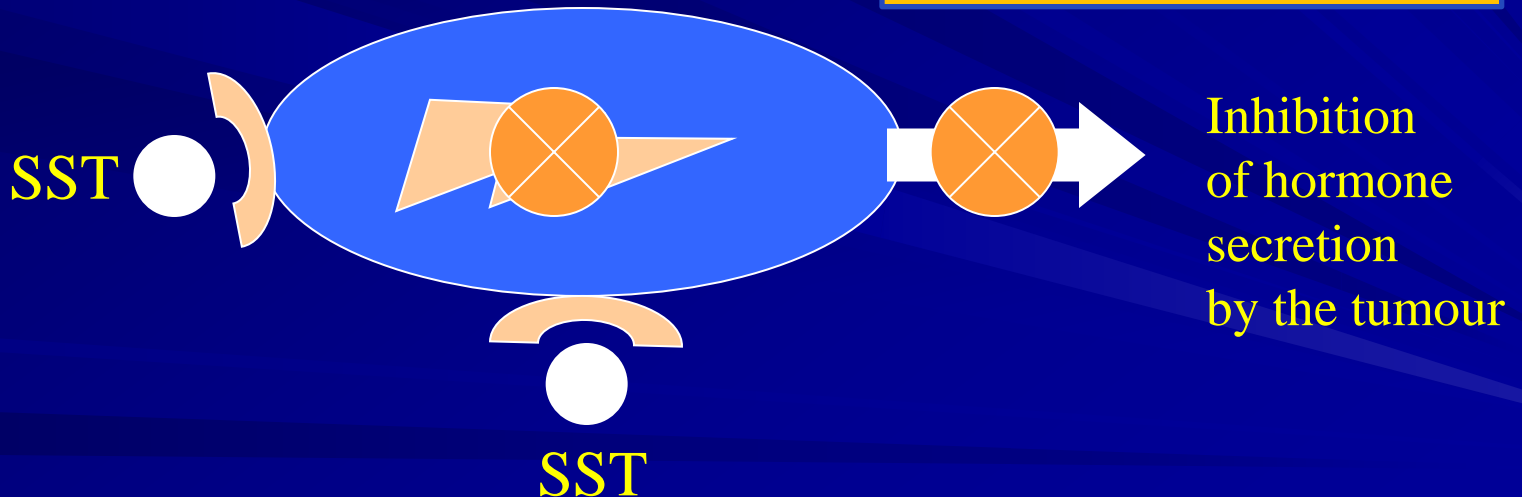


# Somatostatin analogues in “carcinoid syndrome”

- First & best choice medications
- Reduce flushing > 70%
- Reduce diarrhoea > 60%
- Biochemical response ~ 50%

- Prospective cross over analysis of 33 patients
- No differences between octreotide and lanreotide in symptom control or biochemical response

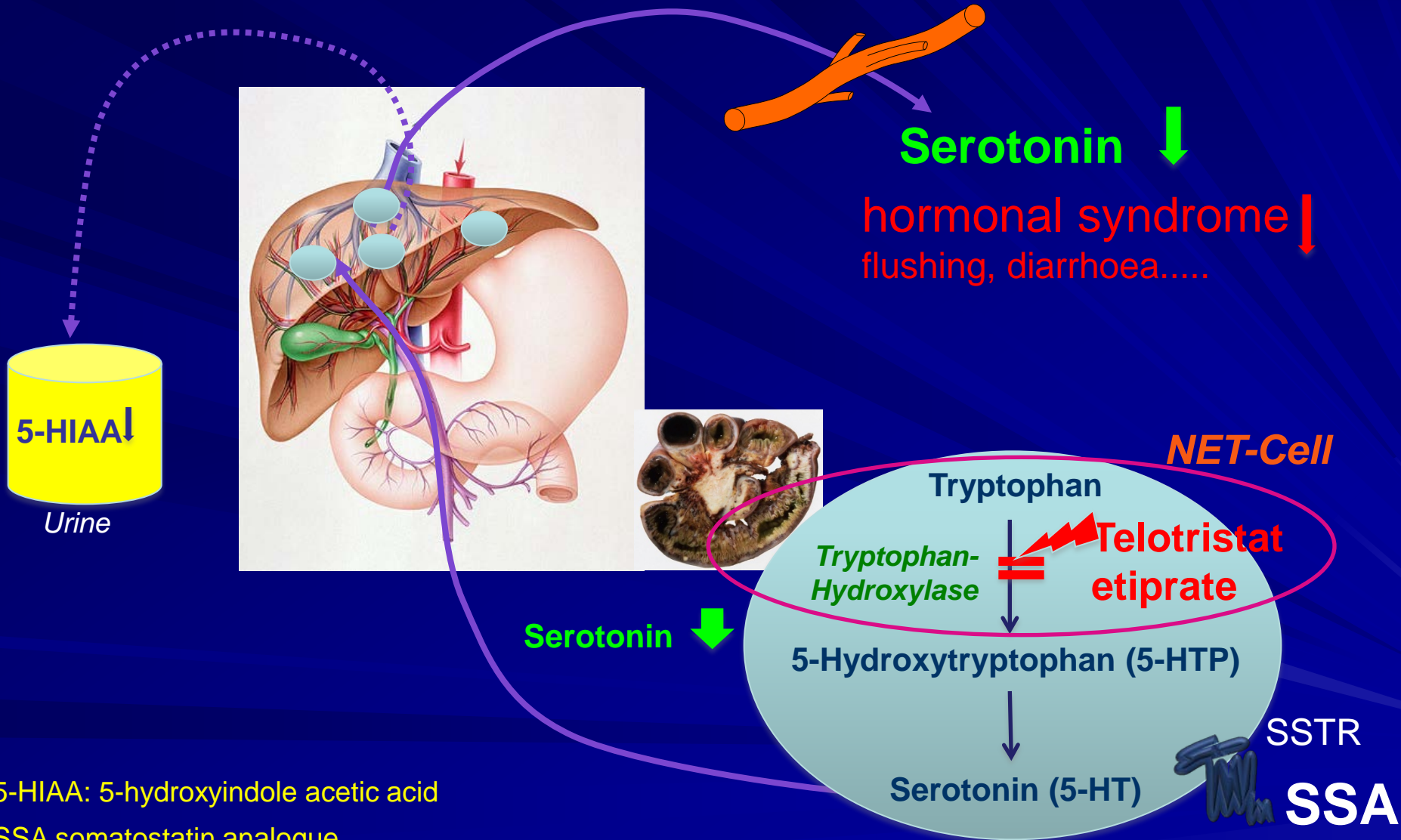
*O'Toole et al, Cancer 2000*



*Shah T & Caplin M, Best Pract Res Clin Gastroenterol. 2005*

*Plockinger U & Wiedenmann B, Best Pract Res Clin End Metab 2007*

# In addition to SSA, telotristat etiprate inhibits serotonin production and alleviates symptoms



5-HIAA: 5-hydroxyindole acetic acid

SSA somatostatin analogue

SSTR somatostatin receptor



# TELESTAR

Phase 3 Study – Refractory diarrhoea due to carcinoid syndrome (> 4 bowel movements / day)



## Evaluation of primary endpoint:

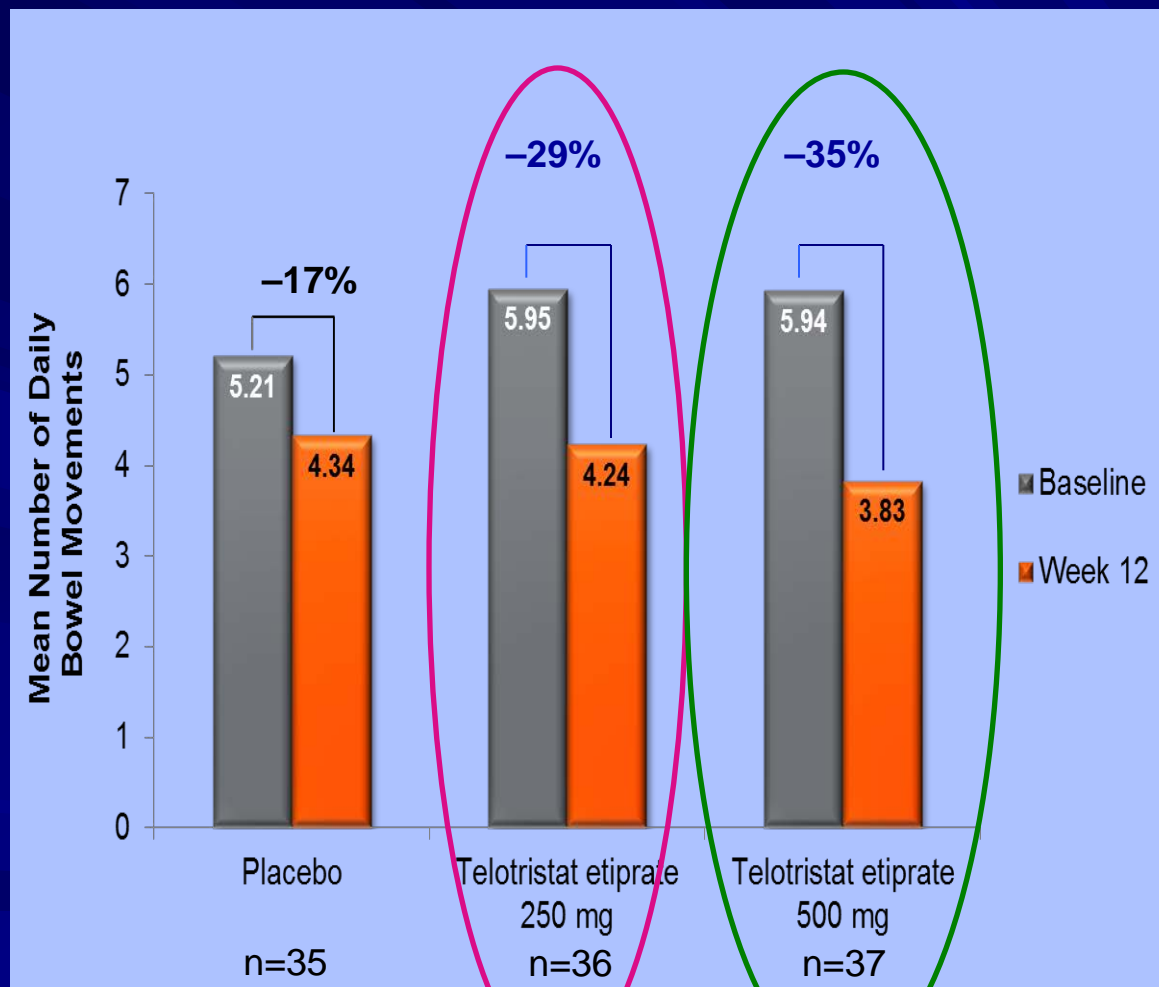
Reduction in number of daily BMs from baseline (averaged over 12-week double-blind treatment phase)

All patients required to be on SSA at enrollment and continue SSA therapy throughout study period



# TELESTAR results :

## Reduction in Mean Daily Bowel Movement Frequency at Baseline and Week 12



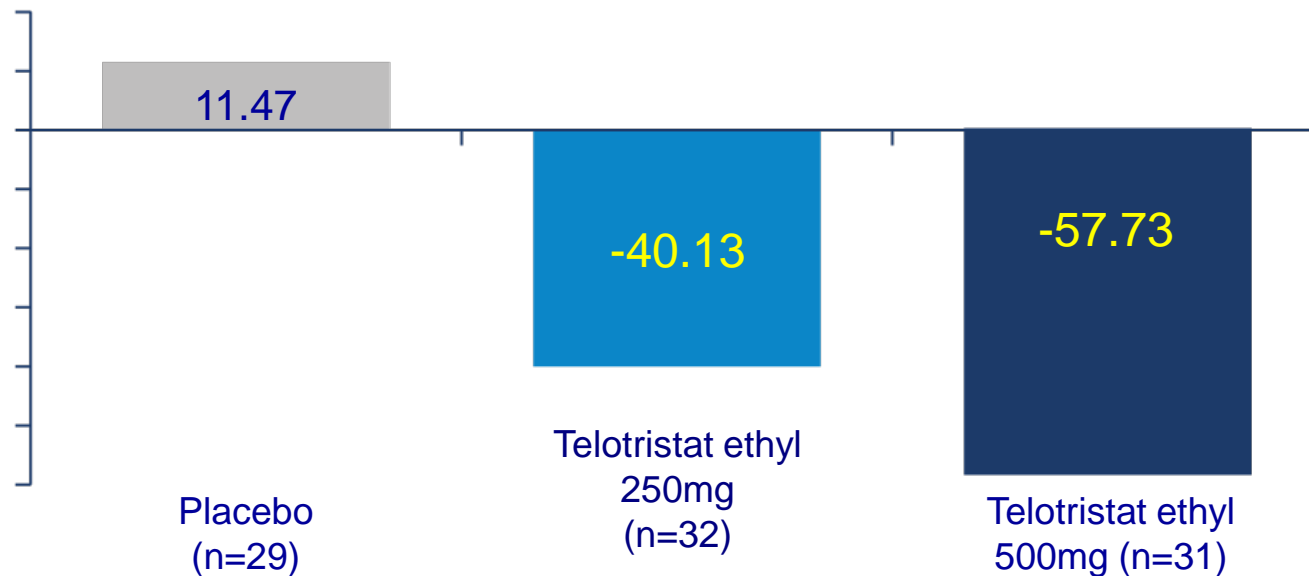
Mild nausea: 15%

Mild depression: 15-20 %

# Phase III TELESTAR



Mean change in u5-HIAA (mg/24 hours) from baseline to week 12<sup>1</sup>



All patients continued SSA therapy throughout the study period.

Data include only patients for whom both baseline and week 12 assessments were available.

- *Wilcoxon rank-sum test showed significant differences for each telotristat ethyl dose vs placebo ( $P < 0.001$ )*
- *Baseline 5-HIAA levels across treatment arms ranged from 80.96-92.65 mg/24 h*

# Phase III TELESTAR:



*Telotristat ethyl significantly reduced BM frequency in patients with carcinoid syndrome inadequately controlled with SSA therapy<sup>1</sup>*



*Patients receiving telotristat ethyl demonstrated more durable responses compared with placebo and the difference was statistically significant<sup>1</sup>*



*Telotristat ethyl significantly decreased 24-hour u5-HIAA in a dose-dependent manner in patients with inadequately controlled carcinoid syndrome<sup>1</sup>*



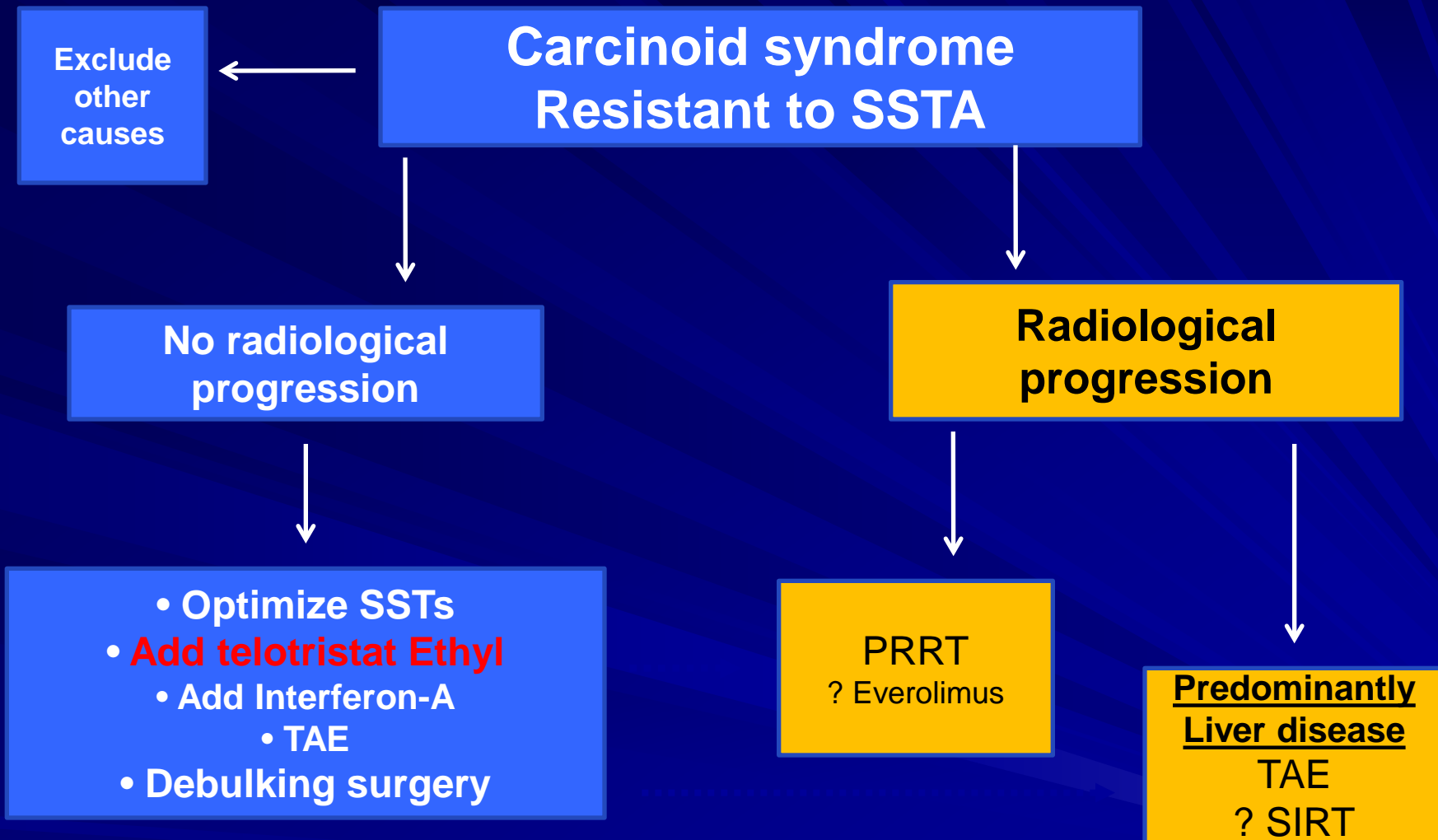
*Inhibition of u-5HIAA is consistent with the proposed mechanism of action of telotristat ethyl*



*Reductions in flushing and abdominal pain were greater on treatment with telotristat ethyl (not statistically significant)<sup>1</sup>*



*Telotristat ethyl was well tolerated in the TELESTAR study<sup>1</sup>*



# Control of tumour growth for advanced GEP-NET

## Medical therapy

- Somatostatin analogs (SSAs)
- Interferon- $\alpha$
- Molecular Targeted therapies
  - mTOR inhibitors
  - VEGFR inhibitors
  - other TKIs
- Systemic Chemotherapy

MIBG, meta iodobenzylguanidine; mTOR, mammalian target of rapamycin; PRRT, peptide-receptor radiotherapy; TKI, tyrosine kinase inhibitor; VEGFR, vascular endothelial growth factor receptor.

## Locoregional therapy

- Radiofrequency ablation (RFA)
- Embolization / chemoembolization / radioembolization

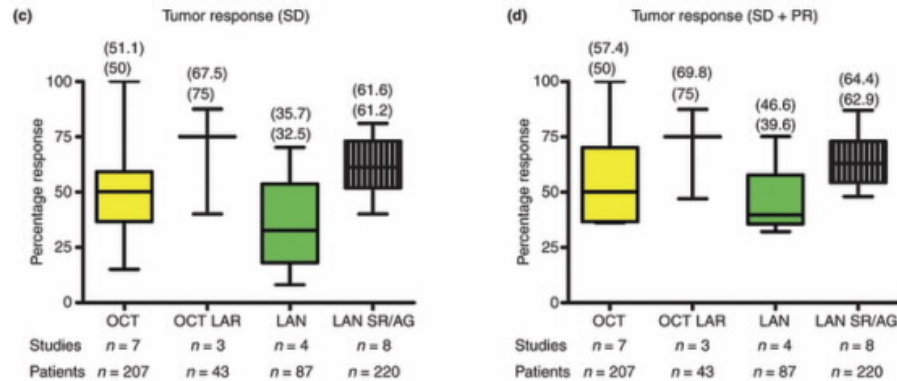
## Nuclear medicine and Radiation

- Tumor-targeted, radioactive therapy: PRRT using e.g.
  - MIBG
  - $^{90}\text{Y}$ -DOTATOC
  - $^{177}\text{Lu}$  -DOTATATE
- External Radiation (for bone, brain-metastases)
- Brachytherapy (for liver metastases)



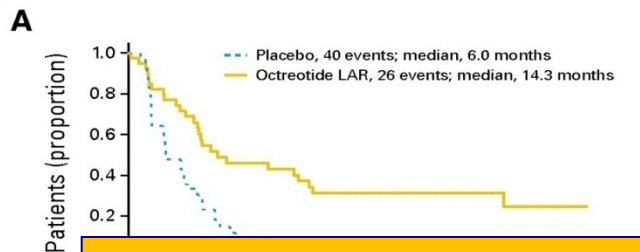
# Somatostatin analogues in the treatment of gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine (carcinoid) tumours

- Number of studies : 7
- Number of patients : 207
- Tumour shrinkage: 3 – 8 %
- Overall tumour responses : 60 – 70%

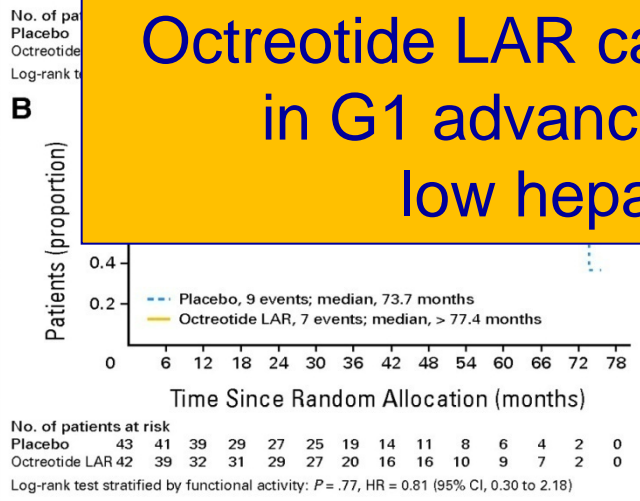


## Placebo-Controlled, Double-Blind, Prospective, Randomized Study on the Effect of Octreotide LAR in the Control of Tumor Growth in Patients With Metastatic Neuroendocrine Midgut Tumors: A Report From the PROMID Study Group

Anja Rinke, Hans-Helge Müller, Carmen Schade-Brittinger, Klaus-Jochen Klose, Peter Barth, Matthias Wied, Christina Mayer, Behnaz Aminossadati, Ulrich-Frank Pape, Michael Bläker, Jan Harder, Christian Arnold, Thomas Gress, and Rudolf Arnold



• Median time to progression in LAR group:  
*14.3 m vs 6 months in placebo*

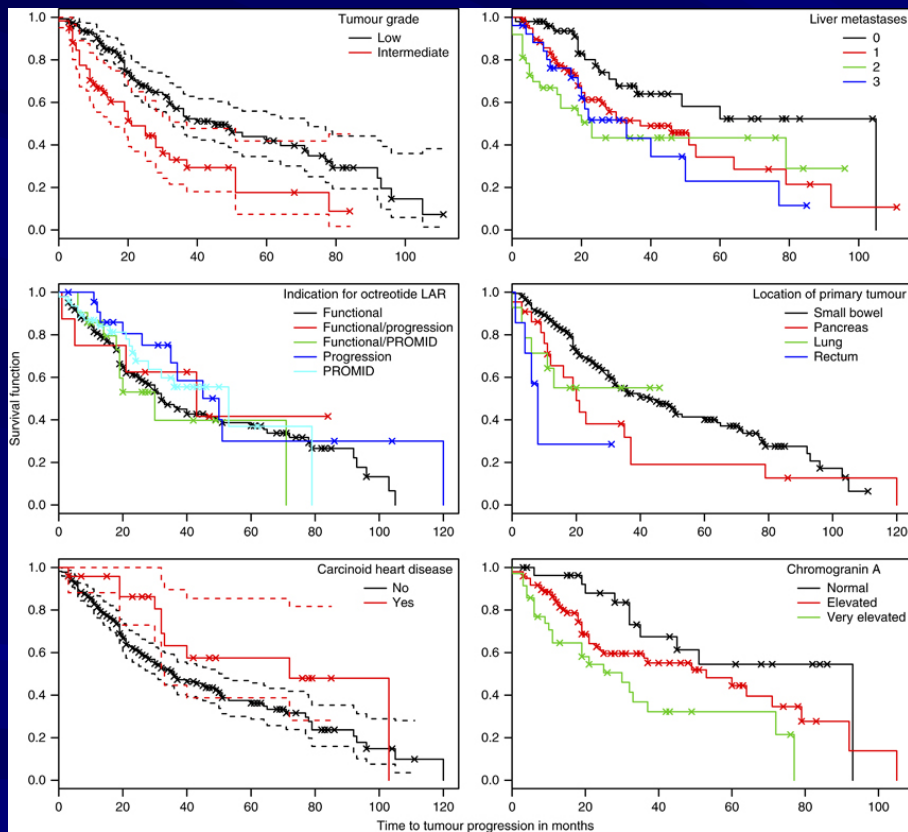


**Learning point from PROMID trial**  
**Octreotide LAR can control tumour growth in G1 advanced midgut NETs and low hepatic tumour load**

of LAR patients with low-hepatic tumour load and resected primary tumour

# Predictive factors of antiproliferative activity of octreotide LAR as first-line therapy for advanced neuroendocrine tumours

Laskaratos et al, British J Cancer 2016



- **204 patients**
- **5% Objective Response**
- **Median TTRP was 37 months** (95% confidence interval, CI: 32–52 months).
- There was a statistically significant shorter TTRP in patients with pancreatic tumours, liver metastases and intermediate grade tumours.
- Extremely raised (>10 times the upper limit of normal) baseline Chromogranin A levels were associated with an unfavourable outcome.
- Male sex, carcinoid heart disease and **initiation of treatment in the presence of stable disease** were predictive of a better response.

## CLARINET

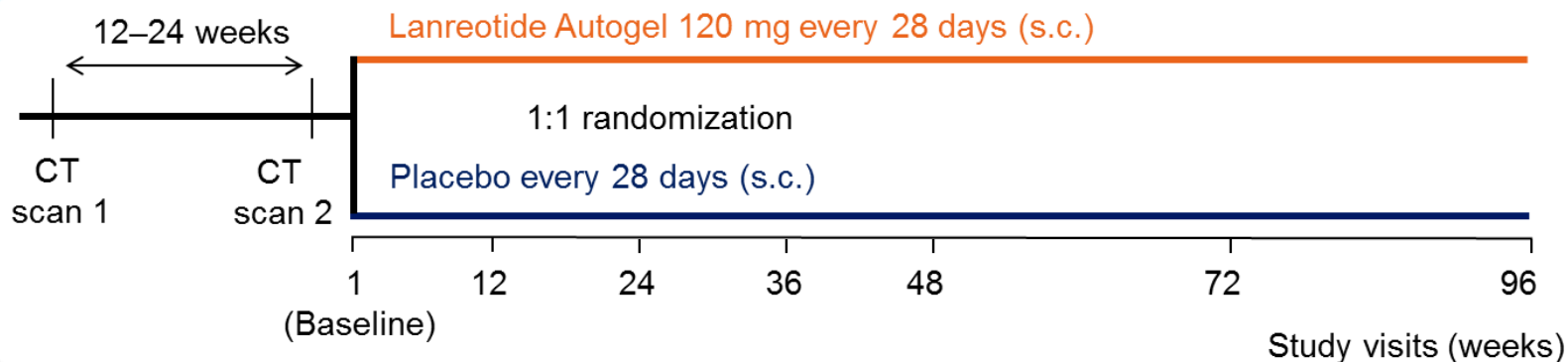
### (Controlled study of Lanreotide Antiproliferative Response In NET)

#### Aim

- To compare effect of lanreotide Autogel 120 mg vs. placebo on PFS in well-/moderately differentiated non-functioning enteropancreatic NETs

#### Design

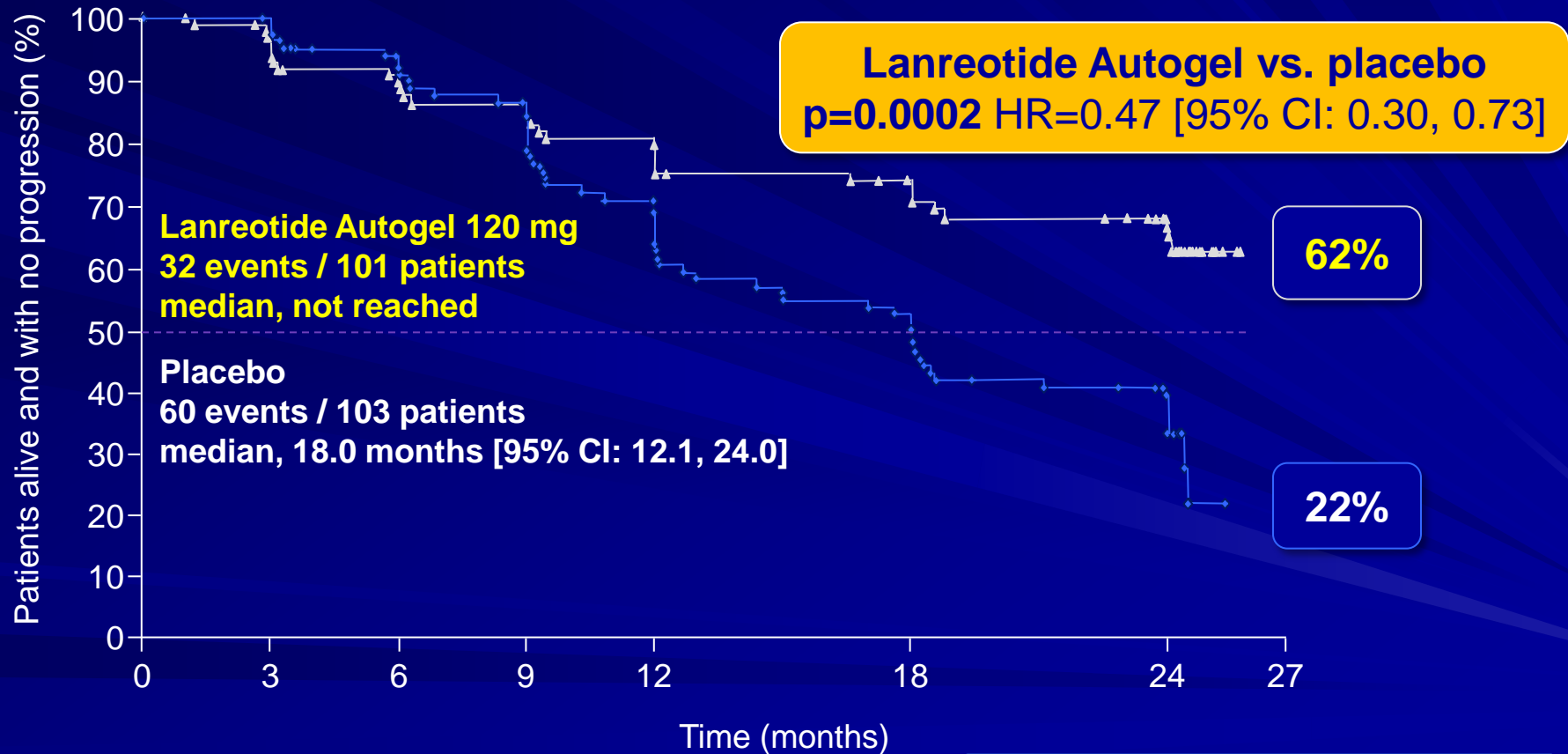
- International multicentre randomized double-blind placebo-controlled phase 3 study



- **Ki-67 <10%**
- **Tumours measurable according to RECIST 1.0 (centrally assessed)**
- **96% had NO progression before randomization**
- **33% had hepatic tumour volumes > 25%**

Progression-free survival and tumor growth with Lanreotide Autogel  
in patients with enteropancreatic NETs:  
*Results from CLARINET, a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study*

Primary endpoint: PFS (ITT, N=204)

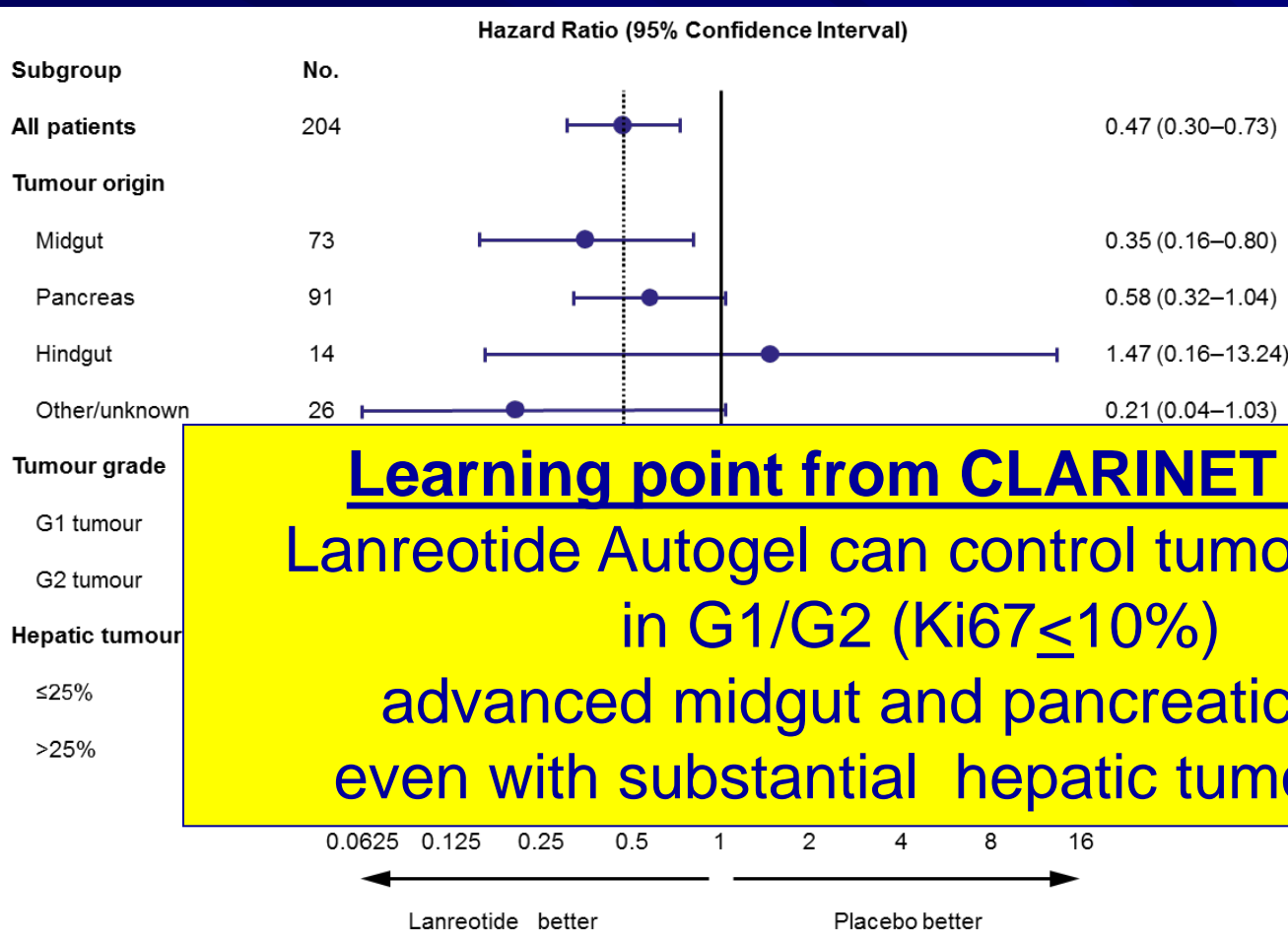


Caplin et al, NEJM 2014

P-value derived from stratified log-rank test; HR derived from Cox proportional hazard model.  
HR, hazard ratio; ITT, intention-to-treat.



# PFS: therapeutic effect in pre-defined subgroups generally consistent with overall population



**PFS in p NETs**  
 Lanreotide : not reached  
 Placebo: 12.1 months

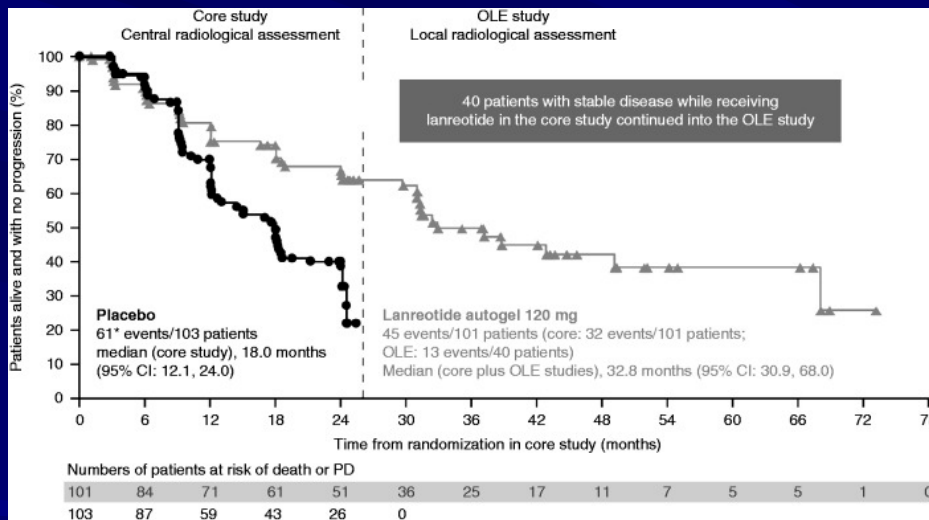
**Learning point from CLARINET trial**  
 Lanreotide Autogel can control tumour growth in G1/G2 (Ki67 ≤ 10%) advanced midgut and pancreatic NETs even with substantial hepatic tumour load

NETs  
 reached  
 months

# Anti-tumour effects of lanreotide for pancreatic and intestinal neuroendocrine tumours: the CLARINET open-label extension study

Caplin et al, *Endocr Rel Cancer* 2016

- Patients with stable disease (SD) at core study end (lanreotide/placebo) or PD (placebo only) continued or switched to lanreotide in the OLE.
- In total, **88 patients** (previously: lanreotide,  $n=41$ ; placebo,  $n=47$ ) participated: 38% had pancreatic, 39% midgut and 23% other/unknown primary tumours.
- Median time to further PD after placebo-to-lanreotide switch ( $n=32$ ) was **14.0 months**.



# Tumour Growth Rate as an indicator of antitumour activity with lanreotide Autogel/Depot vs placebo in intestinal/pancreatic NET: post hoc analysis of CLARINET data

Caplin M et al, Abstract in 13th Annual ENETS Conference, 2016

- **Tumour Growth Rate (TGR)** : % variation of tumour volume per month

- Mean pre-treatment TGR
  - Lanreotide group: 4.1%
  - Placebo group: 3.3%

- At 12 weeks' treatment
  - Mean TGR Lanreotide : 1.2%
  - Mean TGR Placebo : 4.1%

- *ROC analysis : TGR > 4% resulted in 4-fold higher risk of progression than TGR ≤ 4%*
- *Regardless of pretreatment TGR, Lanreotide is more effective than Placebo in delaying progressive disease*

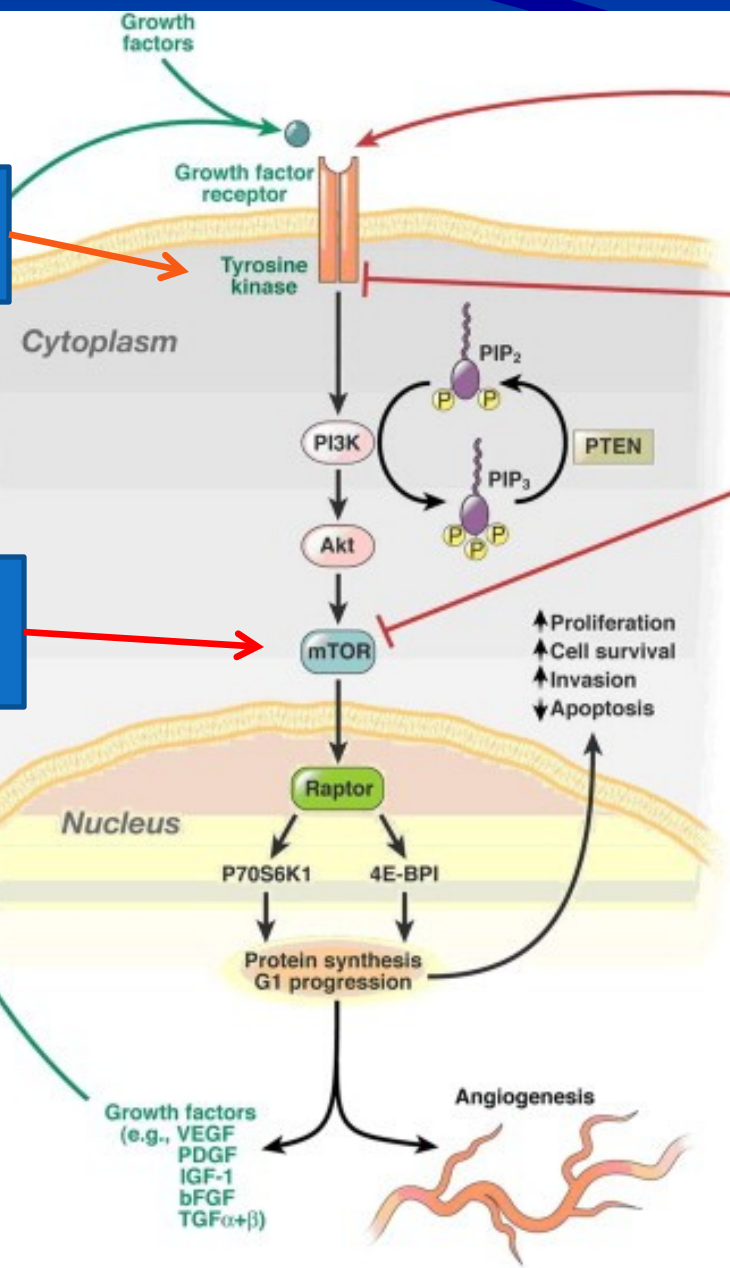
# Prognostic factors for progression-free survival (PFS) in CLARINET study of lanreotide depot/autogel (LAN) vs placebo (PBO) in neuroendocrine tumors (NETs)

Wolin EM, et al. *J Clin Oncol* 2015; 33 (suppl.): e15180.

- **Risk of Progressive Disease (PD) /death** was increased in patients with:
  - *Hepatic tumor load (HTL) >25%*
  - *Primary tumor in pancreas*
  - *Below-median BMI*
- Effect of previous treatments was not significant.
- Adjusted for covariates, treatment with LAN vs PBO reduced the risk of PD/death by 60%.

**Sunitinib**

**Everolimus**



- |   |
|---|
| <b>Monoclonal antibodies</b>            |
| Cetuximab (EGFR)                        |
| Erbbitux (EGFR)                         |
| Panitumab (EGFR)                        |
| Matuzumab (VEGFR)                       |
| Bevacizumab (VEGFR)                     |
| <b>Tyrosine kinase inhibitors</b>       |
| Sunitinib (VEGFR, PDGFR, c-Kit, FLT-3)  |
| Sorafenib (VEGFR, PDGFR, Raf-1 protein) |
| Vatalinib (VEGFR, PDGFR, c-Kit)         |
| Imatinib (Abl, PDGFR, c-Kit)            |
| Gefitinib (EGFR, Her2)                  |
| Erlotinib (EGFR, Her2)                  |
| <b>mTOR inhibitors</b>                  |
| Sirolimus (Rapamycin)                   |
| Everolimus (RAD 001)                    |
| Temsirolimus (CCI-779)                  |
| AP 23573                                |



# Sunitinib Malate for the Treatment of Pancreatic Neuroendocrine Tumors

Eric Raymond, M.D et al, *N ENGL J MED* 2011; 364:501-513

- Double blind randomized study
- 171 patients
- Progression within 12 months
- Ki67  $\leq 2$
- 69% had
- Sunitinib

	PFS	OR	Deaths
Sunitinib	11.4	9.3%	9 (10%)
Placebo	5.5	15.5%	15 (15%)

## Learning point from Sunitinib trial

Oral Sunitinib can control tumour growth in G1/G2 advanced & progressive pancreatic NETs with potential favorable implications to OS

30% : diarrhoea, nausea, vomiting, fatigue  
10-20% : Hypertension, neutropenia

global HRQoL

Vinik A et al, *Target Oncol* 2016

Five years after study closure, **median OS was 38.6** (25.6-56.4) months for sunitinib and 29.1 (16.4-36.8) months for placebo (P = 0.094), with 69% of placebo patients having crossed over to sunitinib

Faivre et al, *Ann Oncol* 2016

# Everolimus for Advanced Pancreatic Neuroendocrine Tumours (RADIANT-3)

James C. Yao et al, *N ENGL J MED* 2011; 364:514-523

- Double blind randomized trial
- 410 patients – 50% chemo-naive
- Ki-67
- Pr
- Ev

	PFS	OR
		9%
		9%

## Learning point from RADIANT-3 trial

Oral Everolimus can control tumour growth in G1/G2 advanced & progressive pancreatic NETs

- 10 – 30% : lower respiratory infections, interstitial pneumonitis
- < 10% : cytopenias, hyperglycaemia

Everolimus prolonged PFS regardless of prior chemotherapy

*Lombard-Bohas C et al, Pancreas 2015*

# RADIANT-4 Study Design

**Patients with well-differentiated (G1/G2), advanced, progressive, nonfunctional NET of lung or GI origin (N = 302)**

- Absence of active or any history of carcinoid syndrome
- Pathologically confirmed advanced disease
- Enrolled **within 6 months from radiologic progression**

R  
A  
N  
D  
O  
M  
I  
Z  
E

2:1

**Everolimus 10 mg/day**  
N = 205

**Placebo**  
N = 97

Treated until PD, intolerable AE, or consent withdrawal

## Endpoints:

- **Primary:** PFS (central)
- **Key Secondary:** OS
- **Secondary:** ORR, DCR, safety, HRQoL (FACT-G), WHO PS, NSE/CgA, PK

## Stratified by:

- Prior SSA treatment (yes vs. no)
- Tumor origin (stratum A vs. B)\*
- WHO PS (0 vs. 1)

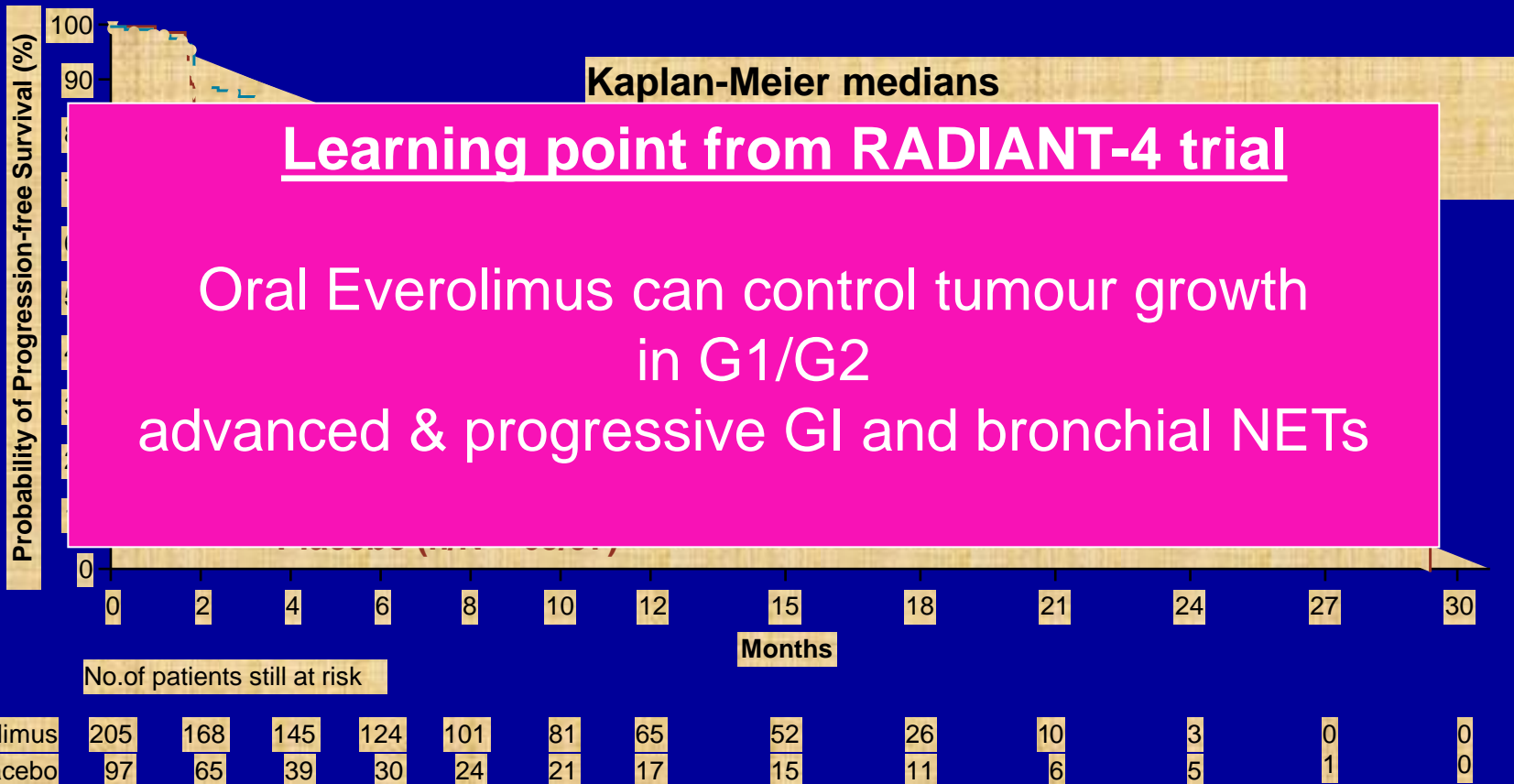
\*Based on prognostic level, grouped as: **Stratum A (better prognosis)** – appendix, caecum, jejunum, ileum, duodenum, and NET of unknown primary. **Stratum B (worse prognosis)** – lung, stomach, rectum, and colon except caecum.

Crossover to open label everolimus after progression in the placebo arm was not allowed prior to the primary analysis.

# Primary Endpoint: PFS by Central Review

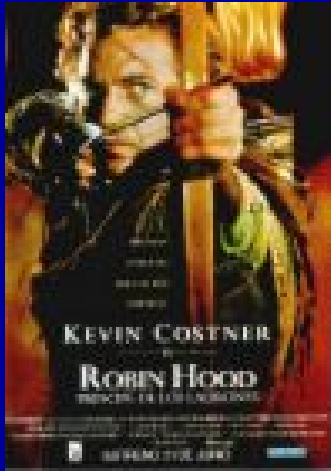
52% reduction in the relative risk of progression or death with everolimus vs placebo

HR = 0.48 (95% CI, 0.35-0.67);  $P < 0.00001$

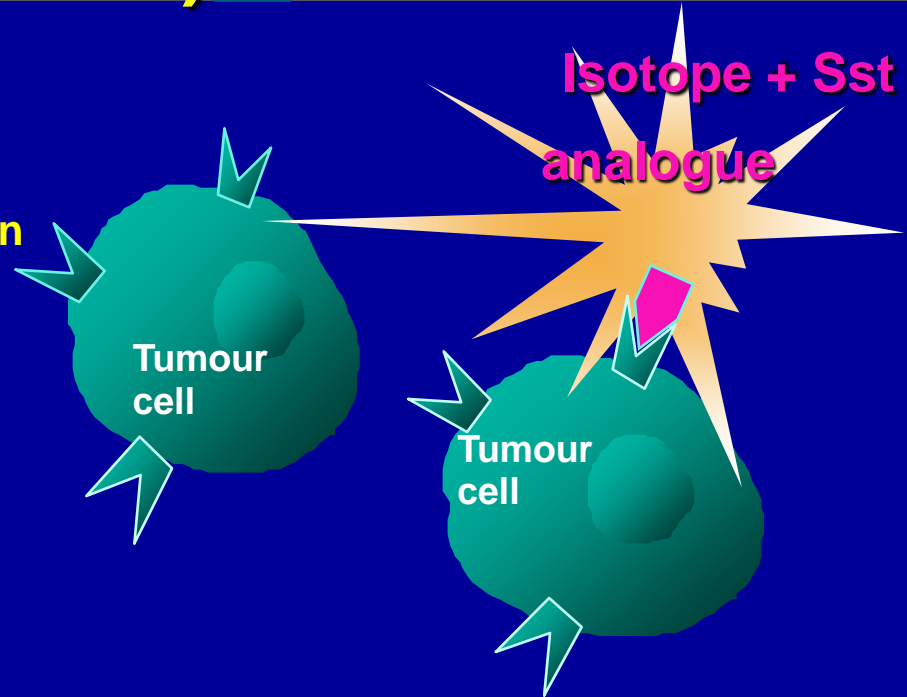


# Peptide Receptor Radionuclide Therapy (PRRT) □

## Mechanism of Action



Somatostatin  
receptor



The  $\beta$ -emitter labelled somatostatin analogue delivers a lethal radiation dose to the tumour cell.

# NETTER-1 trial (phase III trial)

- In progressive (over a maximum period of 3 years) advanced midgut NETs, despite the patients been on Octreotide LAR 30mg / 28 days :
- **Arm 1: PRRT with Lu-177 DOTATATE** + Octreotide LAR 30 mg / 28 days
- **Arm 2:** Octreotide LAR 60mg/28 days

**Primary end point** : progression-free-survival or death from any cause

**Secondary end points** : objective response rate, overall survival and safety profile



# Progression-Free Survival in NETTER-1

N = 229 (ITT)

Number of events: 90

•  $^{177}\text{Lu}$ -Dotatate: 23

• Oct 60 mg LAR: 67

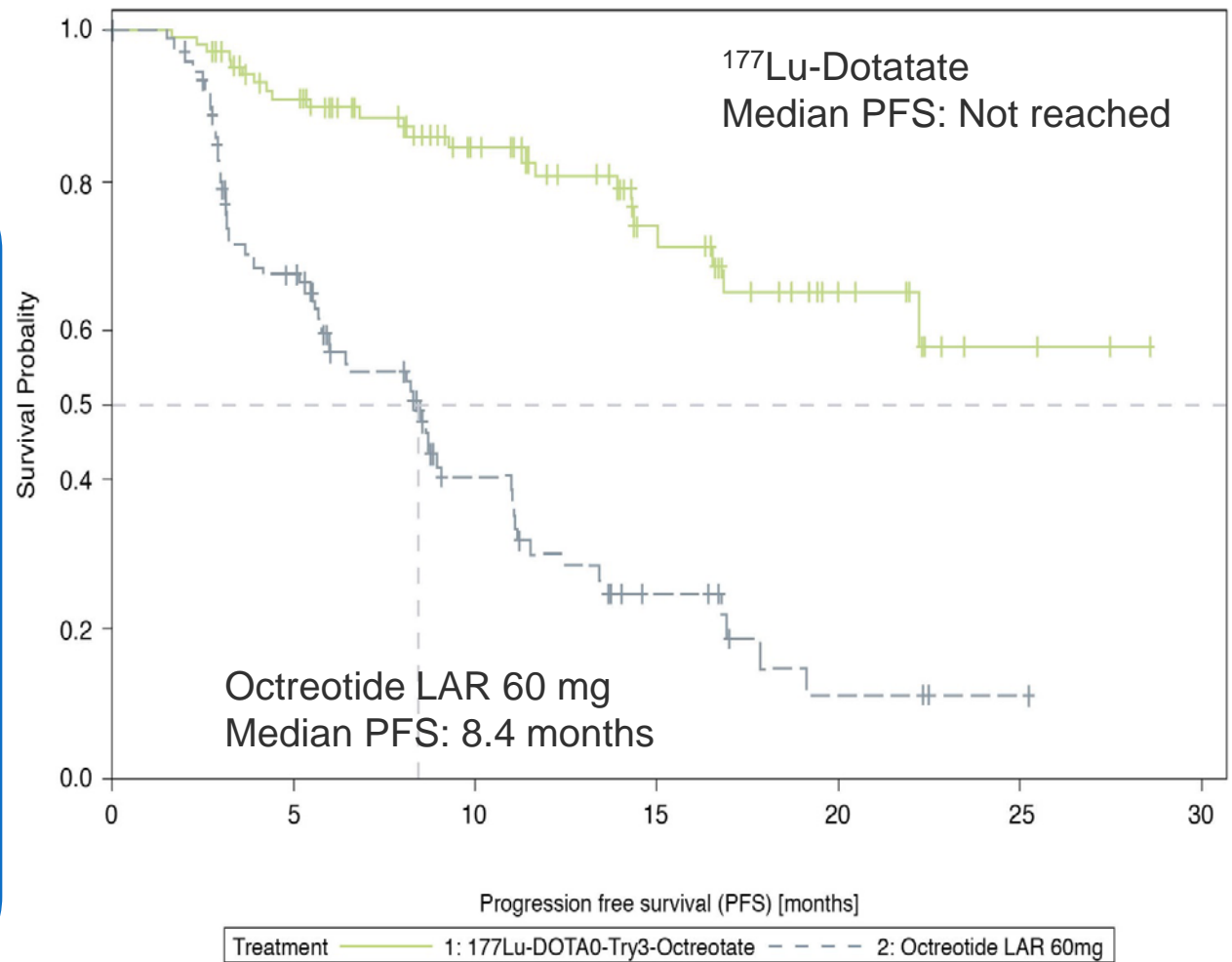
Hazard ratio : **0.21** [0.129 – 0.338] **p < 0.0001**



**79% reduction** in the risk of disease progression/death

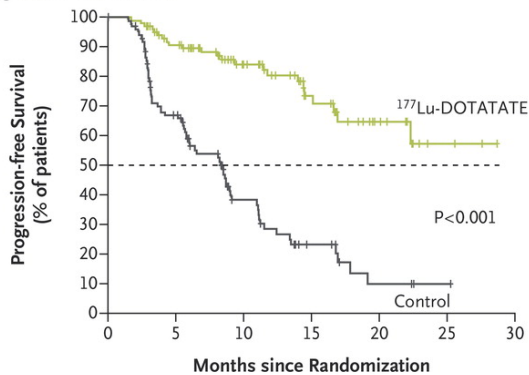


Estimated Median PFS in the  $^{177}\text{Lu}$ -Dotatate arm **≈ 40 months**



All progressions centrally confirmed and independently reviewed for eligibility (SAP)

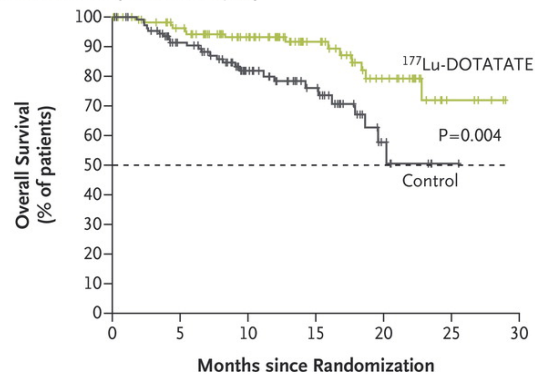
### A Progression-free Survival



No. at Risk

<sup>177</sup> Lu-DOTATATE group	116	97	76	59	42	28	19	12	3	2	0
Control group	113	80	47	28	17	10	4	3	1	0	0

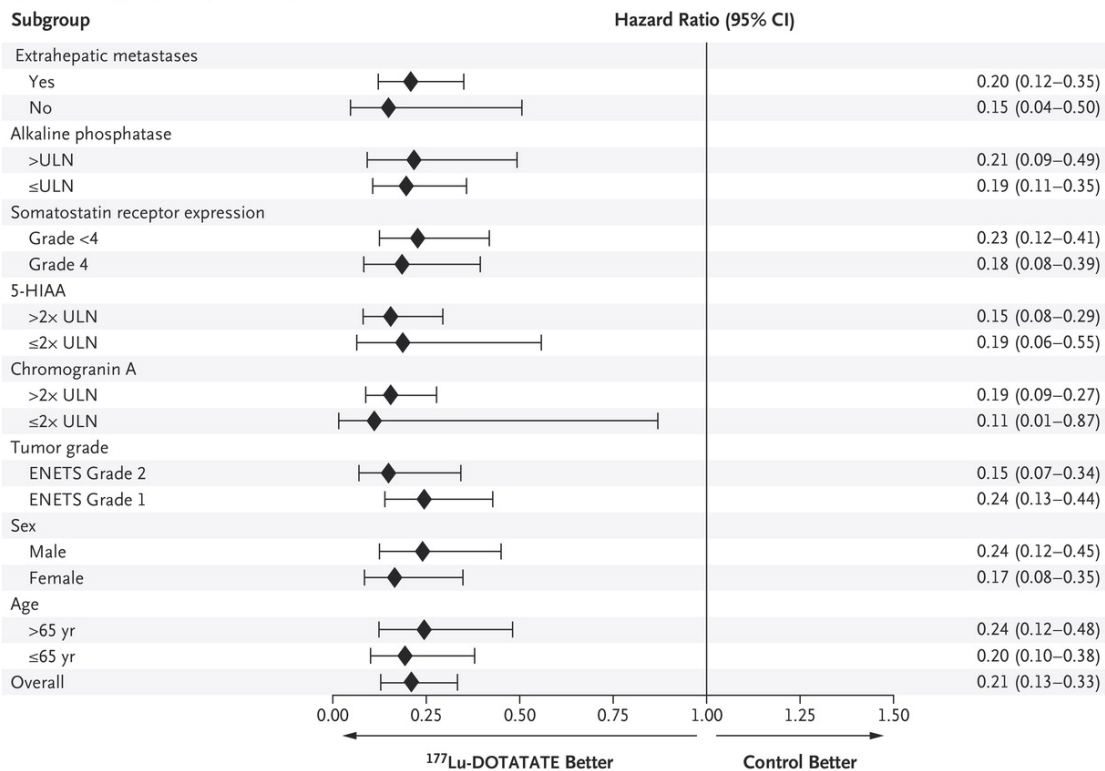
### B Overall Survival (Interim Analysis)



No. at Risk

<sup>177</sup> Lu-DOTATATE group	116	108	96	79	64	47	31	21	8	3	0
Control group	113	103	83	64	41	32	17	5	1	0	0

### C Prespecified Subgroup Analysis of Progression-free Survival



# PFS, OS and subgroup analysis in NETTER - 1

## Adverse effects

Nausea: 59%  
 Vomiting: 47%  
 Anemia: 14%  
 Neutropenia: 6%  
 Thrombocytopenia: 25%  
**NO RENAL TOXICITY**

# Objective Response in NETTER-1

**Table 2.** Objective Tumor Response.\*

Response Category	<sup>177</sup> Lu-Dotatate Group (N=101)	Control Group (N=100)	P Value†
-------------------	---	--------------------------	----------

Complete response — no. (%)	1 (1)	0	
-----------------------------	-------	---	--

Partial response			
------------------	--	--	--

Objective response			
--------------------	--	--	--

No. with			
----------	--	--	--

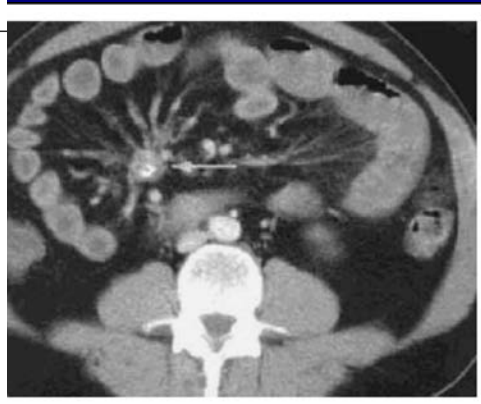
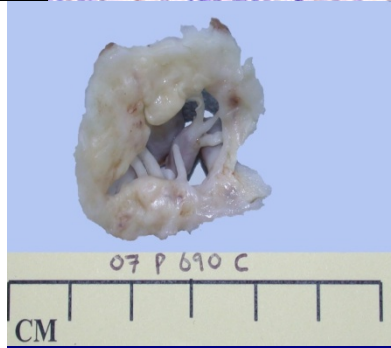
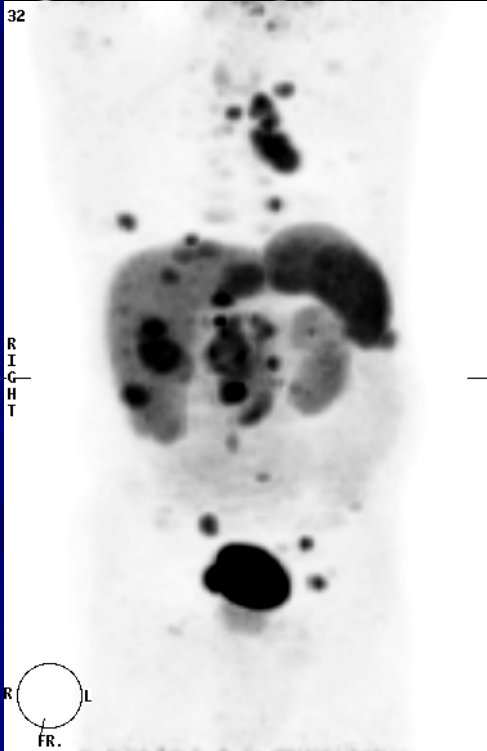
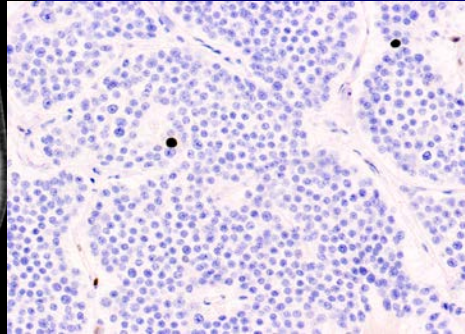
Rate — %			
----------	--	--	--

**Learning point from NETTER-1 trial**  
**PRRT with Lu-177 DOTATATE**  
**can control tumour growth in G1/G2**  
**advanced & progressive midgut NETs**  
**with quite good objective response rates**

\* The objective response rates were based on the number of patients who had undergone post-baseline evaluation. (15 patients in the <sup>177</sup>Lu-Dotatate group and 13 patients in the control group) were excluded from this analysis (trial is still ongoing).

† The P value was calculated with the use of Fisher's exact test.

# Which treatment and for Whom



- Patient's clinical status, comorbidities and preferences
- Tumour Histology
- Location of primary
- Positive uptake in Octreoscan or Ga-68 PET
- Tumour burden
- Tumour status
- Presence of carcinoid heart disease and/or mesenteric fibrosis
- Predictive molecular markers ?
- Cost??

# Control of tumour growth in G1/G2 small bowel NETs

Asymptomatic patient  
with stable disease  
and low-grade tumour



**Octreotide LAR or  
Lanreotide  
Autogel  
(*PROMID*  
*CLARINET*)**



Active  
surveillance



Disease progression



**Octreotide LAR  
or  
Lanreotide  
Autogel**

Progression on somatostatin analogues



**PRRT**

**Lu-177 DOTATATE  
(*NETTER-1*)**



**TAE**

Portal vein patent  
Good Performance  
status  
No severe CHD



**Combination  
with :**

- **EVEROLIMUS  
(*RADIANT-4*)**
- Interferon-A

Assessment of Symptoms + PS

CT/MR Stage  
SSR imaging  
Histology – Ki67 and MI

NET MDT

PS 3-4

SA or supportive care

Grade 3  
PS 0-2

Grade 1-2  
PS 0-2

Chemotherapy

Resectable disease

Non-resectable

Predominantly  
Hepatic  
Disease  
TACE  
RFA

HPB Surgery  
(primary +/- hepatic metastases)

Adjuvant therapy in G3

Grade 1

Grade 2

asymptomatic

symptomatic or PD

Lanreotide Autogel  
**(CLARINET)**

PD

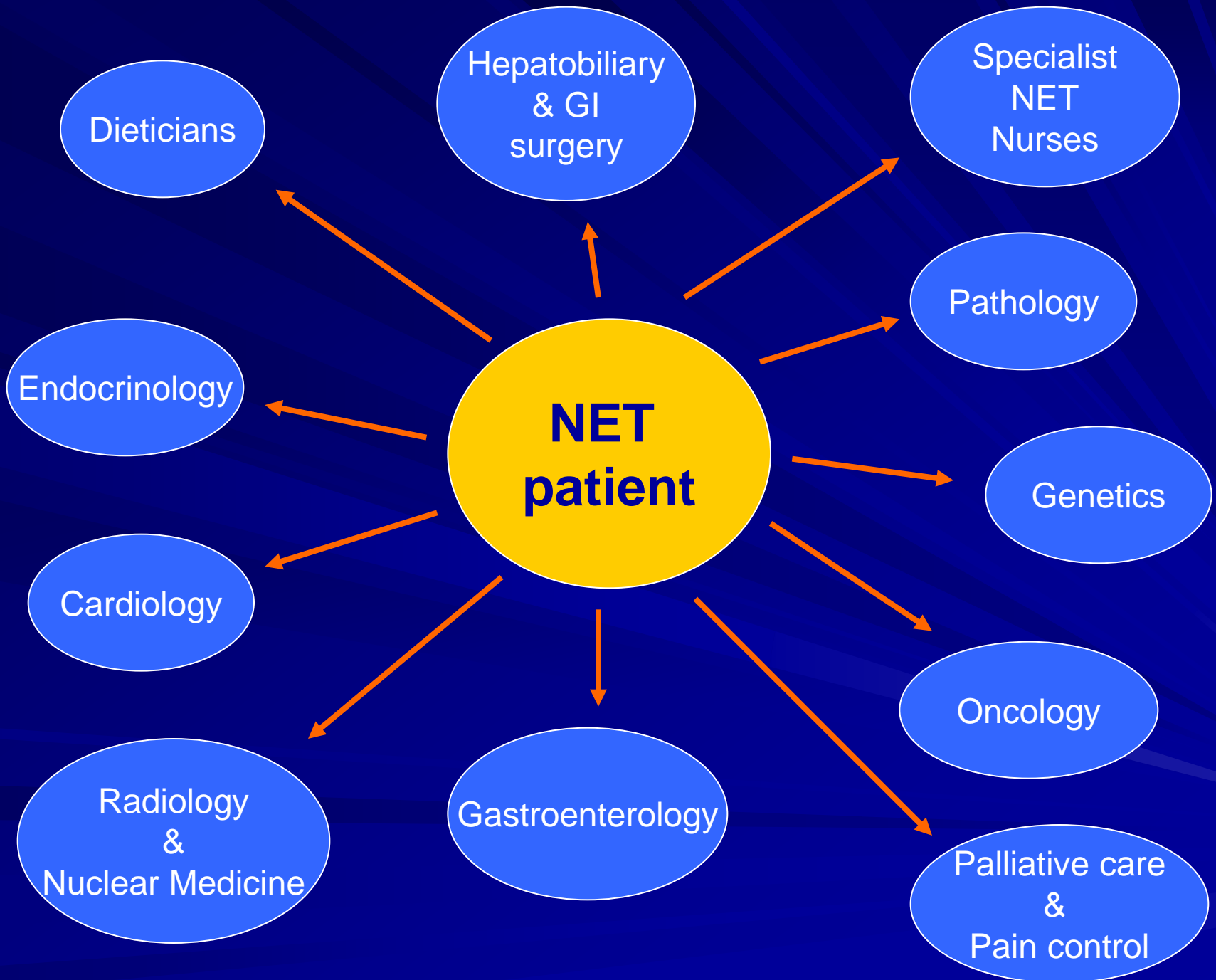
Systemic chemotherapy  
or  
Everolimus / Sunitinib  
**(RADIANT-3  
Sunitinib trial)**

PD

PRRT

**Algorithm for pancreatic NETs**  
  
*PS : performance status  
PD : progressive disease*





# Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) approach for NETs



- Accurate diagnosis & staging
- Evaluation of performance status & quality of life
- Consensus agreement on treatment plan
- Continuous reassessment, discussion and peer review of the individualized treatment plan

# Take Home messages

- Somatostatin analogues are first line, established treatment for carcinoid syndrome.
- Telotristat ethyl is a promising new treatment for refractory diarrhoea, associated with carcinoid syndrome.
- Somatostatin analogues can also control tumour growth in advanced well-differentiated small bowel and pancreatic NETs.
- Everolimus can control tumour growth in progressing well-differentiated / non-functioning small bowel and pancreatic NETs.
- Sunitinib can control tumour growth in progressing well-differentiated pancreatic NETs.
- Peptide Receptor Radionuclide Treatment with Lu-177 DOTATATE can control tumour growth in progressing well-differentiated small bowel NETs.



**Thank you**