

# NOT ALL HOOFBEATS ARE HORSES... **THINK ZEBRA!**

Neuroendocrine tumors (NETs) commonly arise within the gastrointestinal tract and pancreas. They are thought of as rare 'ZEBRAS' of the gastroenterology and cancer world, meaning patients are commonly misdiagnosed and often face long diagnostic delays, with a mean time to a correct diagnosis of ~5 years.<sup>1</sup>

However, NETs are not as rare as often thought; they are more prevalent than any other gastrointestinal cancer except colorectal adenocarcinoma.<sup>1-4</sup>

**Download the guide**  
and **THINK ZEBRA**  
in your everyday  
clinical practice



## 5 YEARS

Is the mean time to a correct diagnosis of a NET<sup>1</sup>

(n=2,359 NET patients)

## 44%

of NET patients are initially misdiagnosed<sup>1</sup>

(n=2359)



1. Kolarova T, et al. Presented at IASGO 2021, based on INCA SCAN results. 2. Dureja S. et al. J. Neuroendocrinol. 2023; 35(6):e13310. 3. Khan M.S. et al. Frontline Gastroenterol. 2020; 13(1) 50-56. 4. Eads J.R. et al. Pancreas 2020;49(9):1123-1130.

# WHEN SHOULD YOU THINK ZEBRA?

Symptom <sup>1,2</sup>	Intestinal NET		Pancreatic NET					
	Functioning (carcinoid syndrome)	Non-functioning	Functioning					Non-functioning
			Gastrinoma	Insulinoma	Glucagonoma	VIPoma	Somatostatinoma	
Flushing	✓							
Diarrhea	✓		✓		✓		✓	
Abdominal pain	✓							
Valvular heart disease	✓							
Wheezing	✓							
Pellagra-like skin lesions	✓							
Zollinger-Ellison syndrome Severe peptic ulceration and diarrhea, or diarrhea alone			✓					
Confusion				✓				
Sweating				✓				
Dizziness				✓				
Weakness				✓				
Unconsciousness				✓				
Necrolytic migratory erythema					✓			
Diabetes mellitus					✓		✓	
Weight loss					✓		✓	
Stomatitis					✓			
Watery diarrhea with marked hypokalaemia						✓		
Cholelithiasis							✓	
Steatorrhoea							✓	
Large abdominal masses		✓						
Bleeding from the GI tract		✓						
Intestinal obstruction	✓	✓						
Abdominal discomfort (due to growing tumor)	✓	✓						✓
Pain	✓							✓
Liver enlargement								✓
Jaundice (occasionally)								✓

60-90%  
of pancreatic NETs are  
non-functioning tumors<sup>3</sup>

Functioning NETs  
produce symptoms due to  
the excessive production  
of hormones<sup>1</sup>



NET=neuroendocrine tumor; VIP=vasoactive intestinal peptide.

1. Ramage JK, et al. Gut. 2012;61(1):6-32; 2. Oberg K. Annals of Oncology. 2004;15(Supplement 4):iv293-iv298; 3. Falconi M, et al. Neuroendocrinology. 2016;103(2):153-171.