

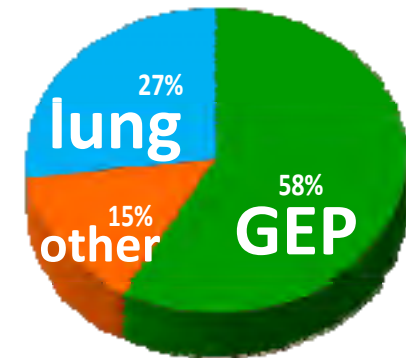
15 nov 11

rolo oncologica

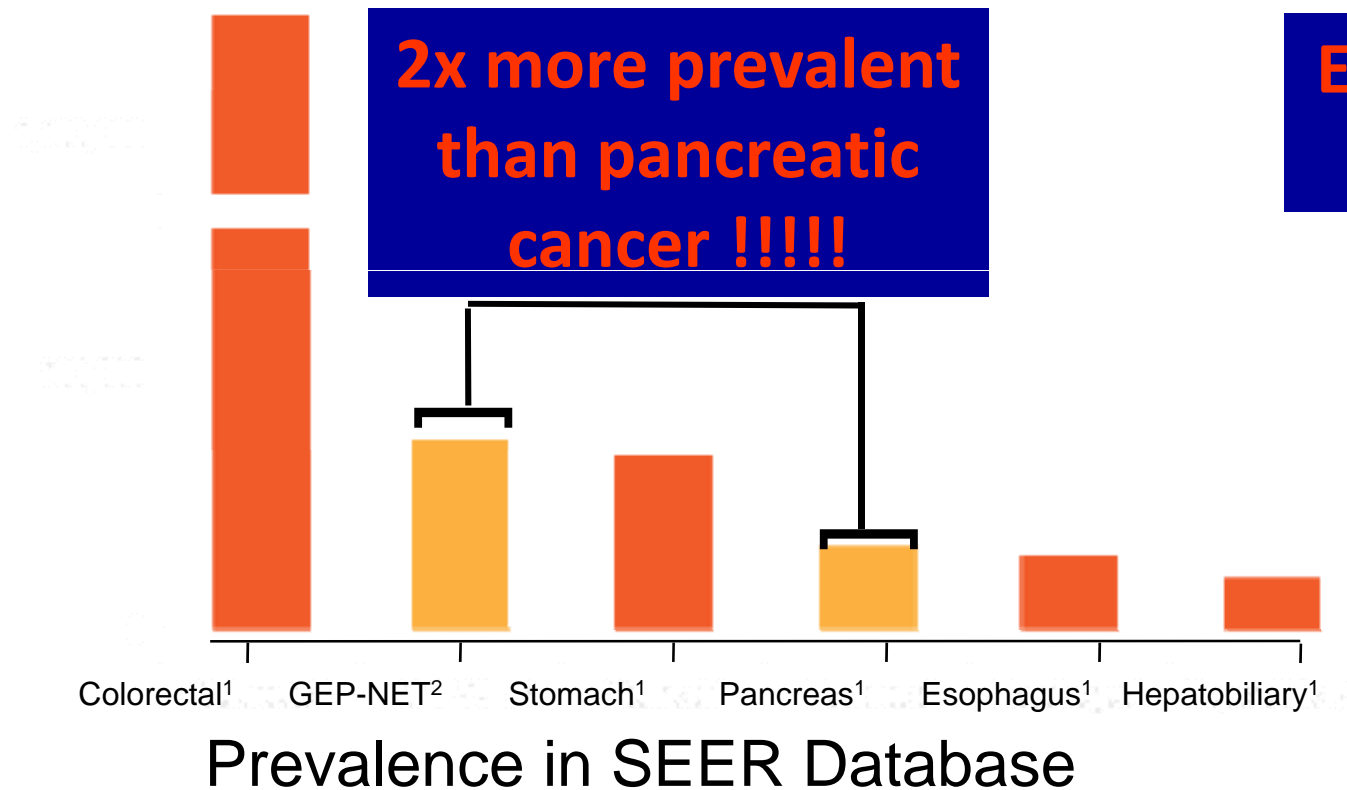
GIC tumori rari: GIST & NET

Novità in patologia dei NET

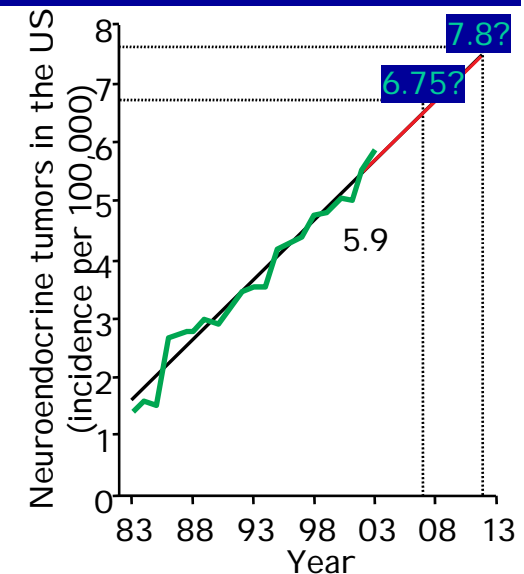
M Papotti, M Volante
Università di Torino



NET: RARE TUMORS, but not so much



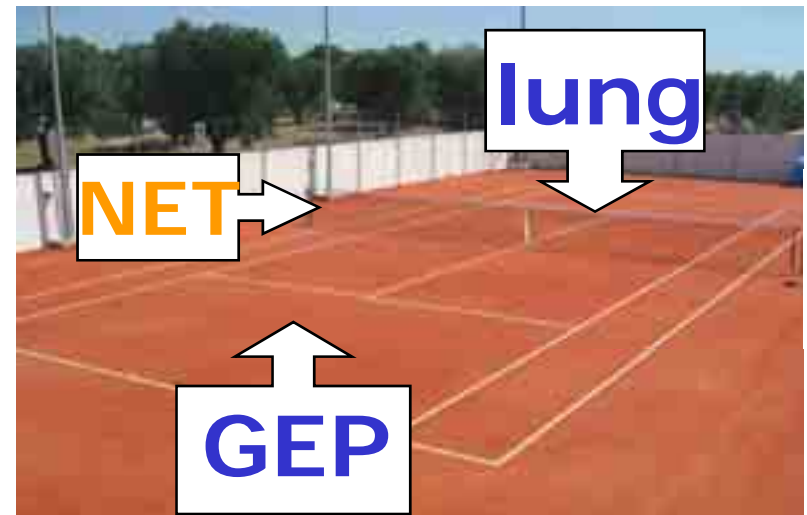
Expected increase !!!!!



Primordial concept of NET for the pathologist.....

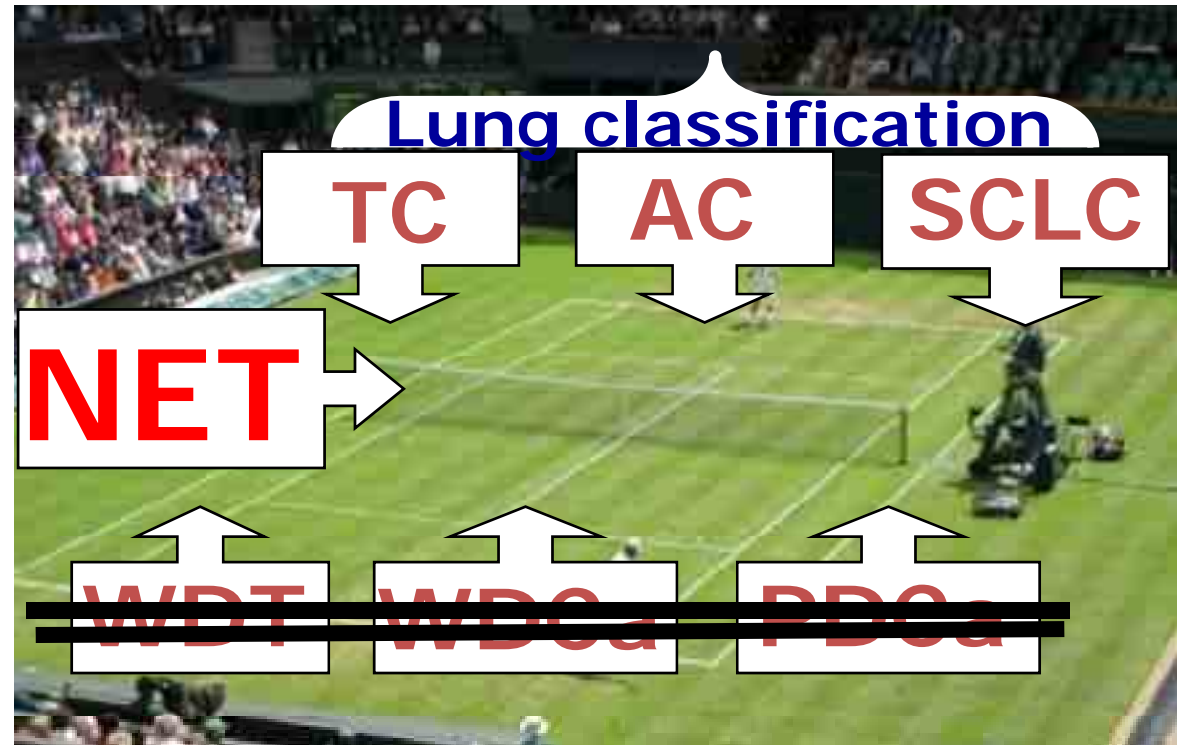
then evolved into
Neuro-Endocrine
Tumors
(now NEN
according to WHO
GI 2010)

Singolo o doppio?



Now in **GEP-
NETs** only:

- NEN vs NET
- grade & TNM
- ➡ 2 groups
- ➡ 3 grades
- ➡ 4 stages



Singolo o doppio? **TRIPLO**





GEP NET



Confusion: which criteria for diagnosis vs grading vs staging? → needed an ordered approach, stepwise



**Big house:
two stairs,
three floors,
four flats**



NET pathology

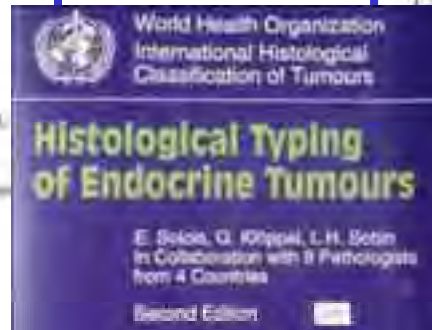
- Pathological classification, grading and TNM staging guidelines
- Diagnostic markers
- Prognostic & predictive markers
- Conclusion

WHO classification 2000: GI NETs

Table 11. Clinicopathological correlations of endocrine tumours of the stomach

| | |
|-------|--|
| 1 | Well-differentiated endocrine tumour - carcinoid |
| 1.1 | Benign behaviour: confined to mucosa-submucosa, noninfiltrative, ≤ 1 cm in size, nonfunctioning |
| 1.1.1 | ECL cell tumour of corpus-fundus associated with typical autoimmune and chronic atrophic gastritis (FAPs or MEN1 syndrome) |
| 1.1.2 | Serotonin-producing tumour |
| 1.1.3 | Gastrin-producing tumour |
| 1.2 | Uncertain behaviour: confined to mucosa, >1 cm in size, no lymphovascular invasion |
| 1.2.1 | ECL cell tumour with CAG or MEN1 syndrome or sporadic |
| 1.2.2 | Serotonin-producing tumour |
| 1.2.3 | Gastrin-producing tumour |
| 2 | Well-differentiated endocrine carcinoma - malignant carcinoid |
| 2.1 | Low grade malignant: deeply invasive muscularis propria or beyond, or with metastasis |
| 2.2 | Nonfunctioning |
| 2.2.1 | ECL cell tumour, usually sporadic, rarely in CAG or MEN1 syndrome |
| 2.2.2 | Serotonin-producing carcinoma |
| 2.2.3 | Gastrin-producing carcinoma |
| 2.3 | Functioning |
| 2.3.1 | ECL cell tumour with typical carcinoid syndrome |
| 2.3.2 | Serotonin-producing carcinoma with carcinoid syndrome |
| 2.3.3 | Gastrin-producing carcinoma - malignant gastrinoma |
| 2.3.4 | ACTH-producing carcinoma with Cushing syndrome |
| 3 | Poorly differentiated endocrine carcinoma - small cell carcinoma, high grade malignant, usually nonfunctioning, occasionally with Cushing syndrome |

stomach



2000

Table 12. Clinicopathological correlations of endocrine tumours of the duodenum and upper jejunum

| | |
|-------|--|
| 1 | Well-differentiated endocrine tumour - carcinoid |
| 1.1 | Benign behaviour: nonfunctioning, confined to mucosa-submucosa, ≤ 1 cm in size, noninfiltrative |
| 1.1.1 | Gastrin-producing tumour (periampullary duodenum) |
| 1.1.2 | Serotonin-producing tumour |
| 1.1.3 | Gangliocytic paraganglioma, usually in the ampullary region |
| 1.2 | Uncertain behaviour: confined to mucosa, >1 cm in size or angioinvasive |
| 1.2.1 | Gastrin-producing tumour (periampullary duodenum) or nonfunctioning, sporadic |
| 1.2.2 | Serotonin-producing tumour (ampullary region) |
| 1.2.3 | Gangliocytic paraganglioma |
| 2 | Well-differentiated endocrine carcinoma - malignant carcinoid |
| 2.1 | Low grade malignant: extending beyond submucosa or with metastasis |
| 2.2 | Gastrin-producing carcinoma, functioning (gastrinoma) or nonfunctioning, sporadic, or MEN-1 associated |
| 2.3 | Serotonin-producing carcinoma (ampullary region) with or without Zollinger-Ellison disease |

duodenum

Table 14. Clinicopathological correlations of endocrine tumours of the appendix

| | |
|-------|--|
| 1 | Well-differentiated endocrine tumour - carcinoid, benign behaviour, nonfunctioning, confined to appendiceal wall, noninfiltrative, ≤ 2 cm in size |
| 1.1.1 | Serotonin-producing tumour |
| 1.1.2 | Enteroglucagon-producing tumour |
| 2 | Well-differentiated endocrine carcinoma - malignant carcinoid |
| 2.1 | Low grade malignant: extending beyond muscularis propria and/or with metastasis |
| 2.2 | Serotonin-producing carcinoma |
| 3 | Mixed exocrine-endocrine carcinoma |
| 3.1 | Low grade malignant |

appendix



Table 13. Clinicopathological correlations of endocrine tumours of the ileum, caecum, colon, and rectum

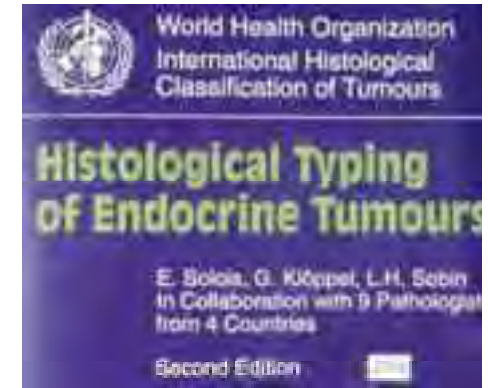
| | |
|-------|--|
| 1 | Well-differentiated endocrine tumour - carcinoid |
| 1.1 | Benign behaviour: nonfunctioning, confined to mucosa-submucosa, noninfiltrative, ≤ 1 (small int.) or ≤ 2 cm (large int.) in size, or angioinvasive |
| 1.1.1 | Serotonin-producing tumour |
| 1.1.2 | Enteroglucagon-producing tumour |
| 1.2 | Uncertain behaviour: nonfunctioning, confined to mucosa-submucosa, >1 cm (small int.) or >2 cm (large int.) in size, or angioinvasive |
| 1.2.1 | Serotonin-producing tumour |
| 1.2.2 | Enteroglucagon-producing tumour |
| 2 | Well-differentiated endocrine carcinoma - malignant carcinoid |
| 2.1 | Low grade malignant: extending beyond submucosa or with metastasis |
| 2.2 | Serotonin-producing carcinoma with or without carcinoid syndrome |
| 2.3 | Enteroglucagon-producing carcinoma |
| 3 | Poorly differentiated endocrine carcinoma - small cell carcinoma, high grade malignant |
| 4 | Mixed exocrine-endocrine carcinoma - moderate to high grade malignant |

ileum/rectum



2000 WHO classification

3-TIER SYSTEM for NETs of the GI tract pancreas



**Well-differentiated
endocrine tumor
– Carcinoid**

**Well-differentiated
endocrine tumor
- Confined to pancreas**

**Well-differentiated endocrine carcinoma
(malignant carcinoid) - Low grade malignant**

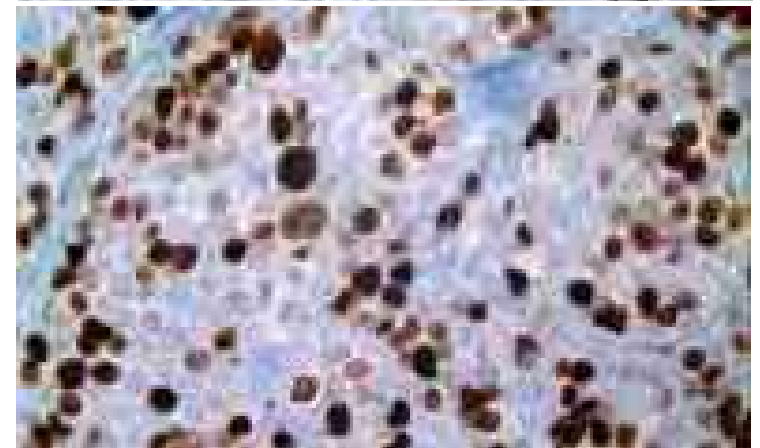
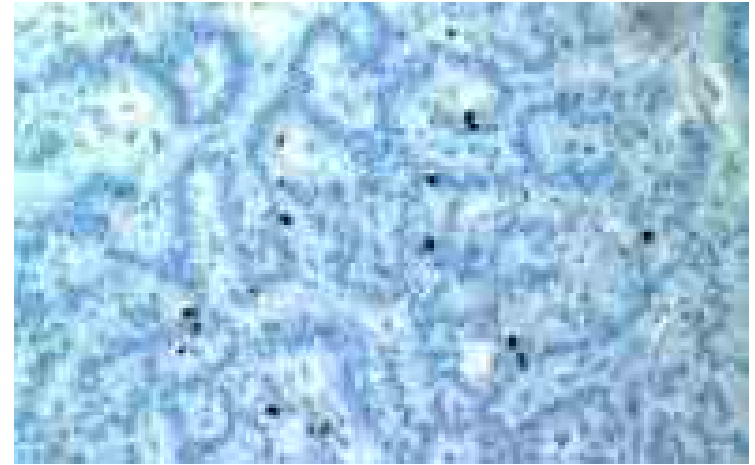
**Poorly differentiated endocrine carcinoma
- High grade malignant**

NET GRADING

Improvement of grading system using mitoses + Ki-67

| | Grading proposal for foregut NET | |
|-------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Grade | Mitotic count (10 HPF) | Ki-67 index (%) |
| G1 | <2 | ≤ 2 |
| G2 | 2-20 | 3-20 |
| G3 | >20 | >20 |

Rindi et al Virchows Arch
2006;449:395



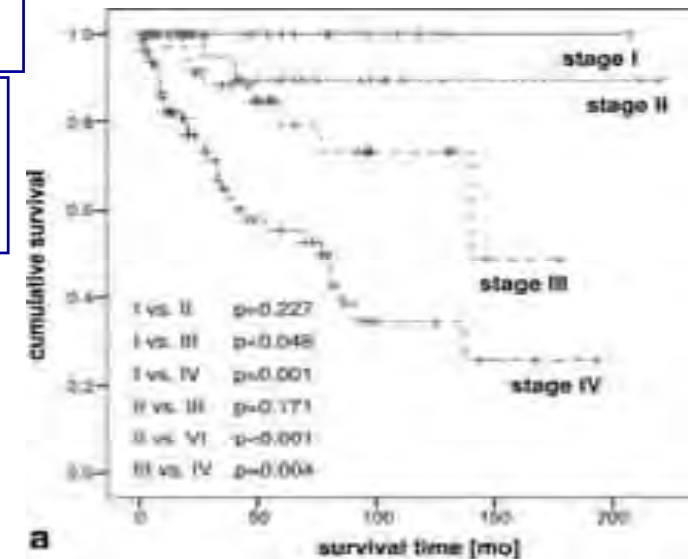
Staging system for GEP NETs and

Rindi G, et al. TNM staging of midgut and hindgut NETs: a consensus proposal including a grading system. *Virchows Arch* 2007;451:757

Couvelard A, Scoazec JY. A TNM classification for digestive NETs of midgut and hindgut: proposals from the ENETS. *Ann Pathol* 2007;27:426

Prognostic Relevance of a Novel TNM Classification System for Upper Gastroenteropancreatic Neuroendocrine Tumors

CANCER July 15, 2008 / Volume 113



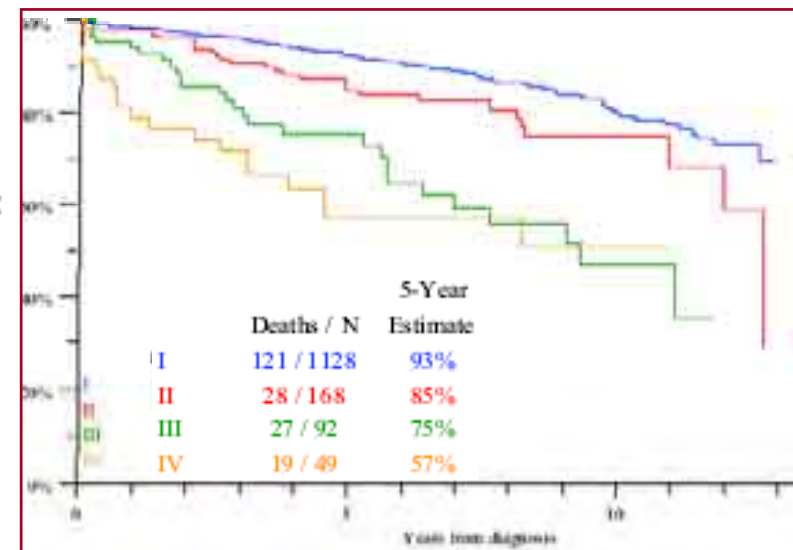
.... also for lung NETs

The IASLC Lung Cancer Staging Project

Proposals for the Inclusion of Broncho-Pulmonary Carcinoid Tumors in the Forthcoming (Seventh) Edition of the TNM Classification for Lung Cancer

William D. Travis, MD,* Dorothy J. Giroux, MS,† Kari Chansky, MS,† John Crowley, PhD,† Hisao Asamura, MD,‡ Elisabeth Brambilla, MD, PhD,§ James Jett, MD|| Catherine Kennedy,¶ Ramon Rami-Porta, MD,# Valerie W. Rusch, MD,** and Peter Goldstraw, MB, FRCS,†† on behalf of the International Staging Committee and Participating Institutions

J Thorac Oncol. 2008;3: 1213-



GEP-NET grading & staging

Neuroendocrine Tumors of Midgut and Hindgut Origin: Tumor-Node-Metastasis Classification Determines Clinical Outcome

Henning Jann, MD¹; Stephanie Roll, PhD²; Anne Couvelard, MD³; Olivia Hentic, MD⁴; Marianne Pavel, MD¹; Jacqueline Müller-Nordhorn, MD²; Martin Koch, MD⁵; Christoph Röcken, MD^{5,6}; Guido Rindi, MD⁷; Philippe Ruszniewski, MD⁴; Bertram Wiedenmann, MD¹; and Ulrich-Frank Pape, MD, MD¹

BACKGROUND: Prognostic classification of neuroendocrine tumor (NET) patients is difficult due to the complexity of current classification systems. A recent proposal for a tumor-node-metastasis (TNM) classification and a grading system based on the proliferative fraction proved valid in NETs of foregut origin. The purpose of this study was to test the efficacy of a proposal for TNM staging and grading for midgut and hindgut NETs. **METHODS:** Two hundred seventy patients with histologically proven midgut and hindgut NETs were investigated. Epidemiological, clinicopathological, and tumor-specific data at initial diagnosis were recorded. Tumors were classified according to the World Health Organization (WHO) and the recent European Neuroendocrine Tumor Society-TNM staging and grading proposal. Survival analysis and statistical testing for independent prognostic factors were performed using log-rank tests and Cox regression. **RESULTS:** Of 270 NETs originating in the midgut or hindgut, 7% (5-year survival rate [YSR], 100%) were stage I, 6% (5-YSR, 100%) were stage II, 19% (5-YSR, 89.5%) were stage III, and 66% (5-YSR, 83.3%) were stage IV NETs. 62% (5-YSR, 95.2%) were grade 1, 32% (5-YSR, 82.0%) were grade 2, and 6% (5-YSR, 51.4%) were grade 3 NETs. WHO classification significantly separated poorly from well-differentiated NETs but did not discriminate TNM staging significantly separated stages I, II from stages III, IV. Multivariate analysis confirmed the prognostic value of the TNM staging system and demonstrated the applicability of these classifications for therapeutic stratification and comparison of data from different studies. **CONCLUSIONS:** The acquired data confirmed the prognostic value of the TNM staging system and demonstrated the applicability of these classifications for therapeutic stratification and comparison of data from different studies.

Cancer August 1, 2011

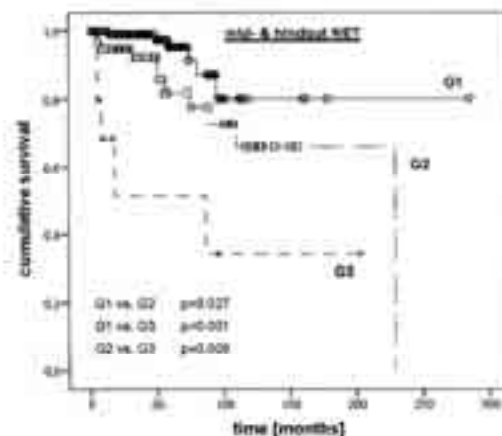


Figure 3. Cumulative neuroendocrine tumor-related survival of midgut and hindgut neuroendocrine tumors according to grading²⁸ (grade 1, n = 17; grade 2, n = 6; grade 3, n = 10).

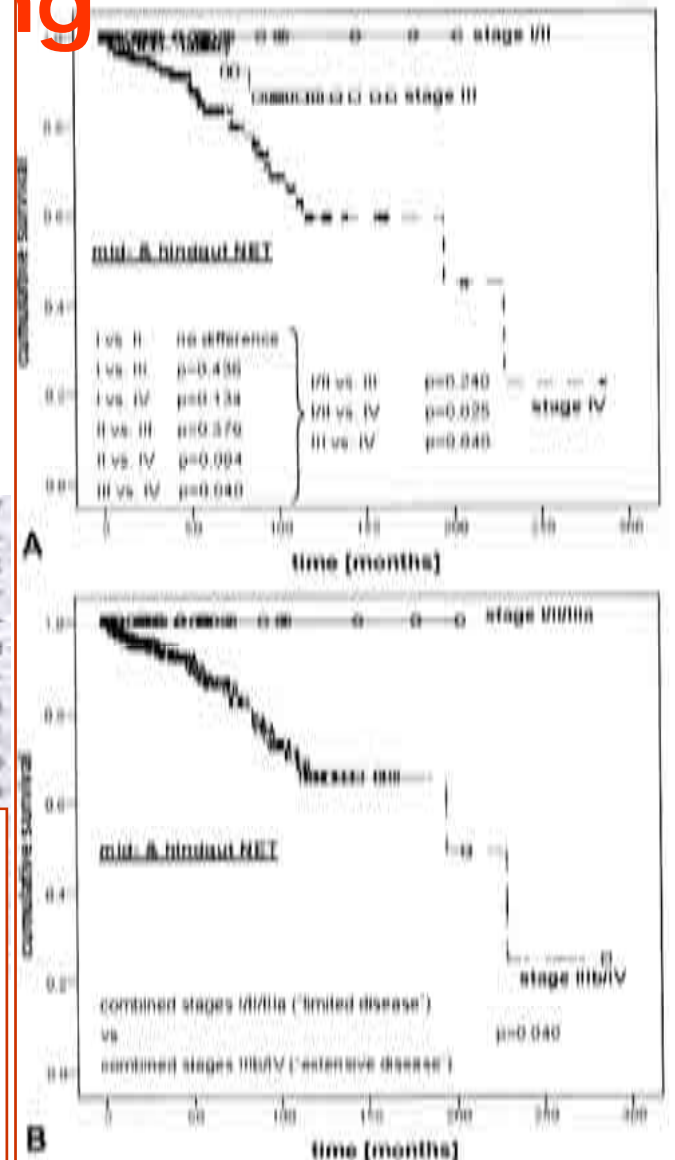
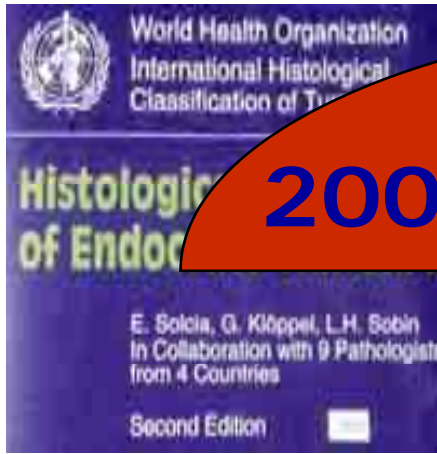


Figure 2. (A) Cumulative neuroendocrine tumor-related survival is shown for midgut and hindgut neuroendocrine tumors according to TNM staging.²⁸ (A) Stage I, n = 18; stage II, n = 2; stage III, n = 50; stage IV, n = 173. (B) Combined stages I/II/IIIa ("limited disease") versus combined stages IIIb/IV ("extensive disease") is shown.



2000

2010

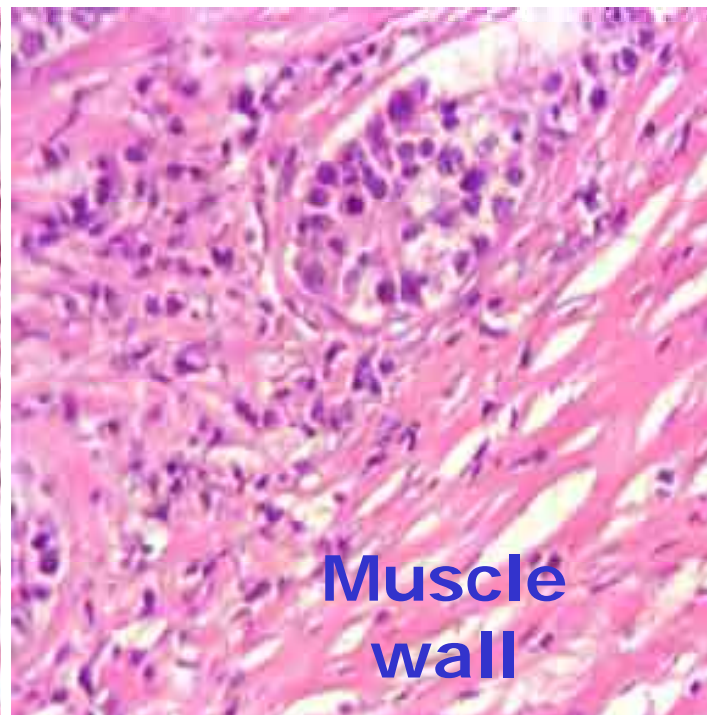


Same parameters

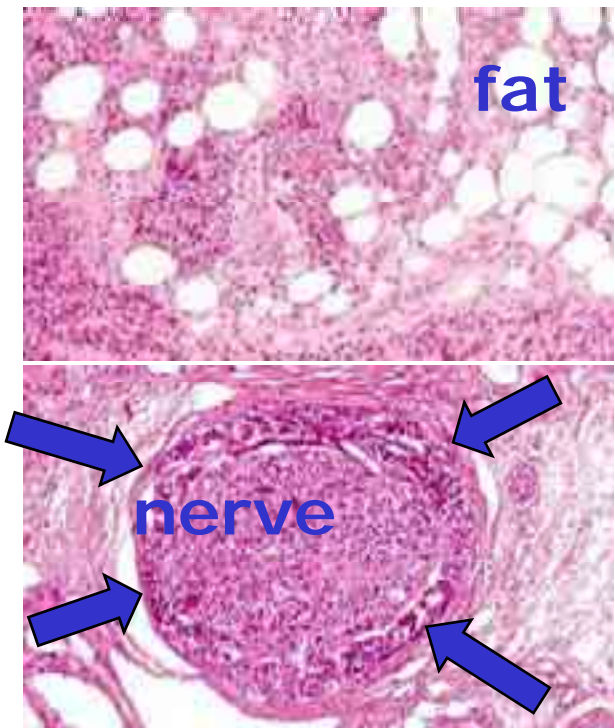
**used for histotype (NET, WD/PDNEC)
now used for TNM stage**



Mucosa



**Muscle
wall**



fat

nerve

Neuroendocrine Neoplasms

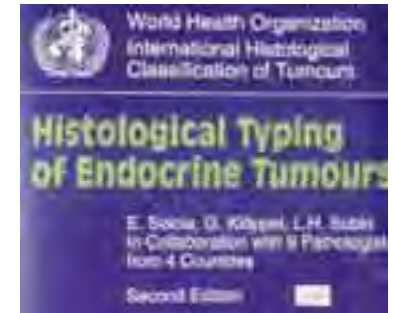
2010 WHO Classification of the digestive System



- **Working principles**
 - “Neuroendocrine” defines peptide hormone-producing cells/tumours, sharing neural-endocrine markers
 - “Neuroendocrine neoplasm” includes well and poorly differentiated tumours [NEN= NET + NEC]
- **Basic concept: All NENs have a malignant potential**
 - Initially, NENs that were regarded as benign were not considered in the incidence data (eg, SEERS data).
 - Now, all NENs have to be included because they are known to have malignant potential

~~OLD~~

3-TIER SYSTEM for NETs of the



GI tract

pancreas

**Well-differentiated
endocrine tumor
– Carcinoid**

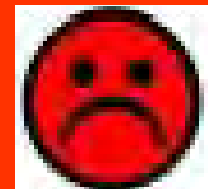


**Well-differentiated
endocrine tumor
- Confined to pancreas**

**Well-differentiated endocrine carcinoma
(malignant carcinoid) - Low grade malignant**



**Poorly differentiated endocrine carcinoma
- High grade malignant**



Mixed Exocrine-Endocrine carcinoma / MEEC

NEW

2-TIER SYSTEM for GEP- NENs [3 grades & 4 stages]



Neuroendocrine neoplasm (NEN) =
NE tumor + NE carcinoma + mixed tumors



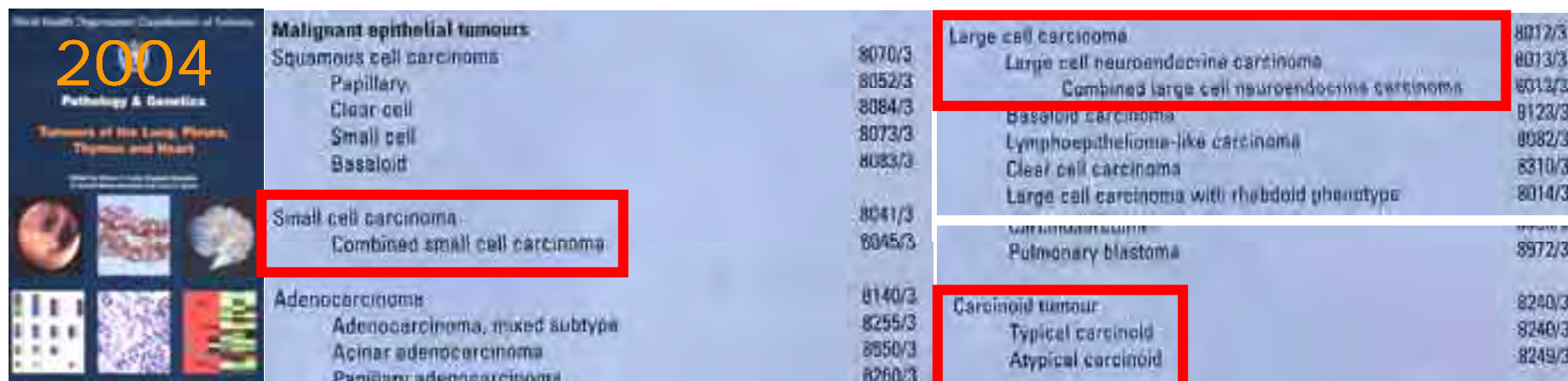
Neuroendocrine tumor/NET (Carcinoid)
G1 or G2
TNM stage....



Neuroendocrine carcinoma / NEC (poorly
differentiated, high grade malignant)
G3
TNM stage....



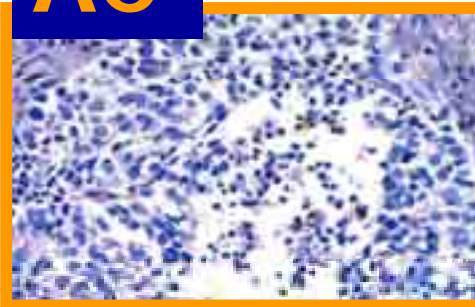
Mixed Adeno-Neuroendocrine carcinoma
/ MANEC



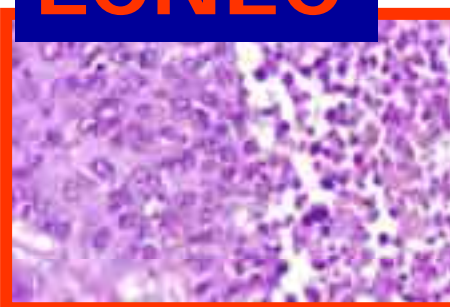
TC



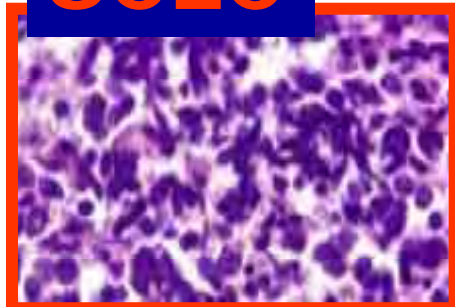
AC



LCNEC



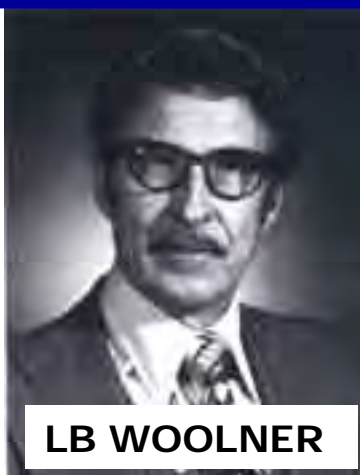
SCLC



- Different & separate subtypes in the WHO
- Different epidemiology and pathology
- Different therapy & clinical behavior
- Different Authors.....



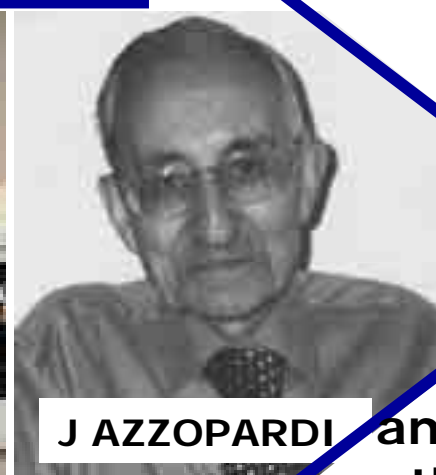
TC



AC



LCNEC

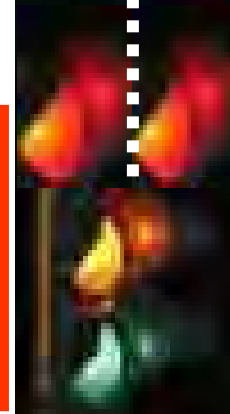
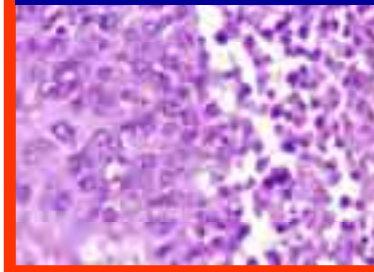


SCLC

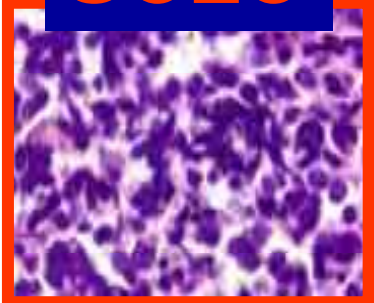
among others



LCNEC

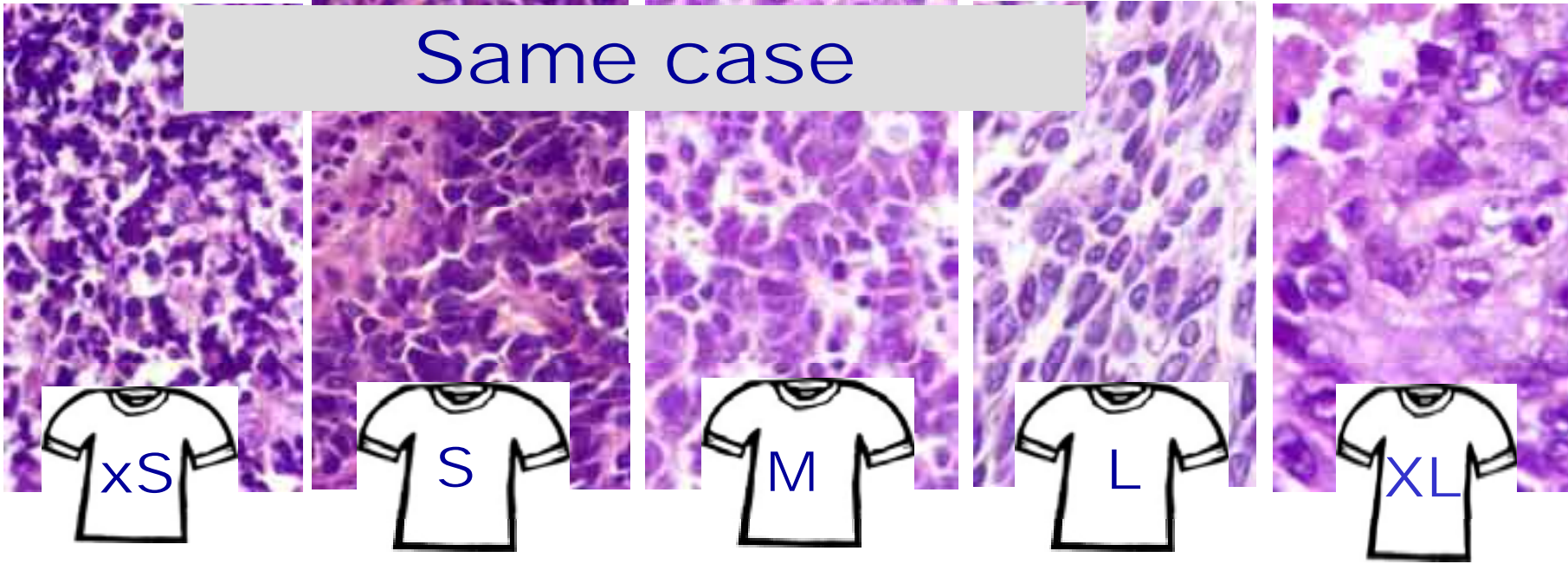


SCLC



Small cell carcinoma
Combined small cell carcinoma

Same case

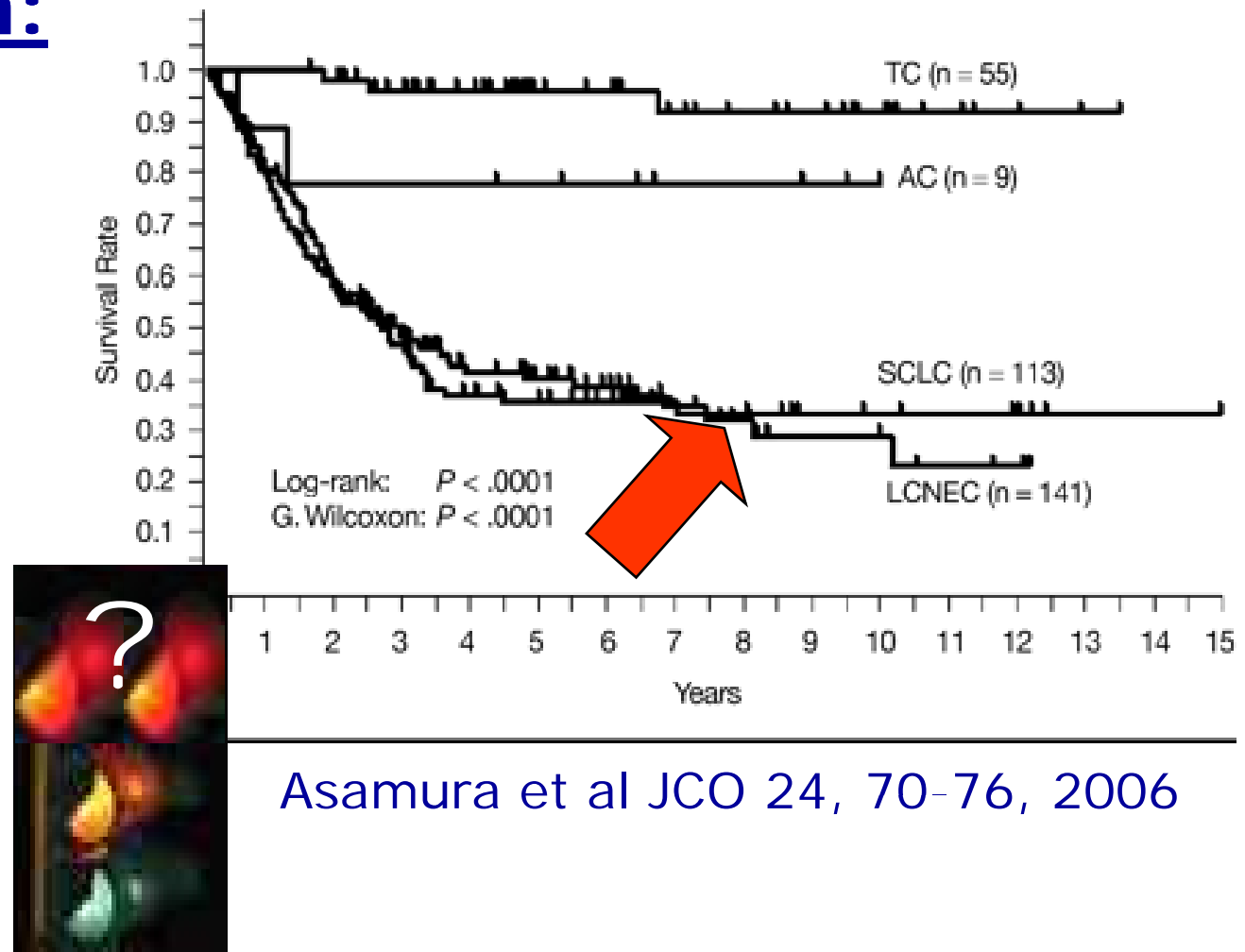


**MIXED SMALL AND LARGE CELL CAs:
does it matter?**

DISTINGUISHING SCLC FROM LCNEC: does it matter? NO !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

In addition:

- Similar behavior & survival.
- Similar therapy of LCNEC and SCLC



NEW 2010 WHO CLASSIFICATION

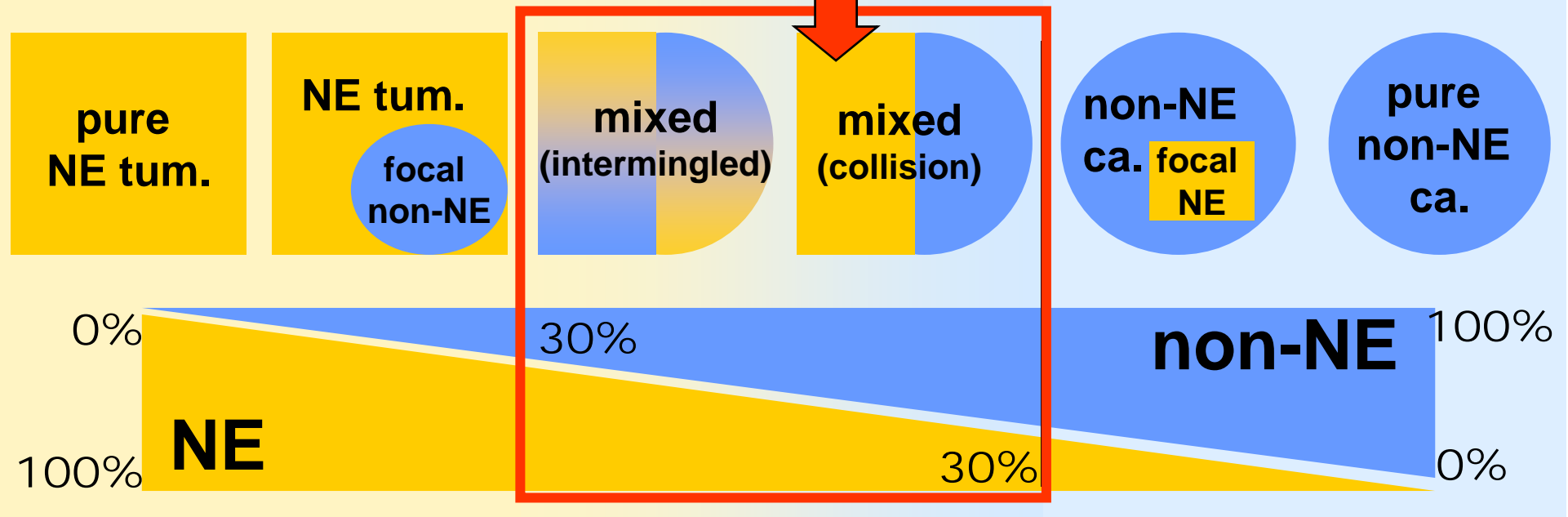
GEP-NENs

CATEGORIES RECOGNIZED

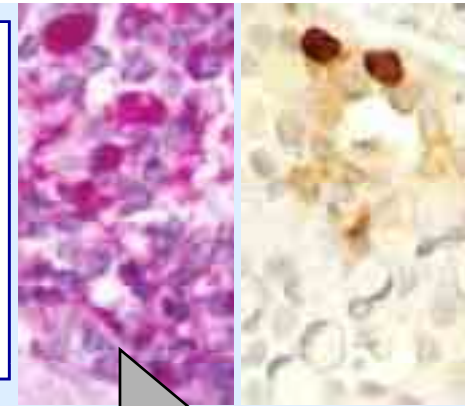
1 NET G1-G2

2 NEC (G3)

3 mixed adeno-neuroendocrine carcinoma (MANEC)



Evolution of the concept of goblet cell carcinoid in the spectrum of mixed exocrine / NE carcinomas (MANEC)



1974 GCC:
carcinoid with
mucin
production

<2010 GCC:
Mixed
exocrine / NE
carcinoma

>2010 GCC:
mucinous
adenocarcino-
ma (focal NE)

pure
NE tum.

NE tum.

focal
non-NE

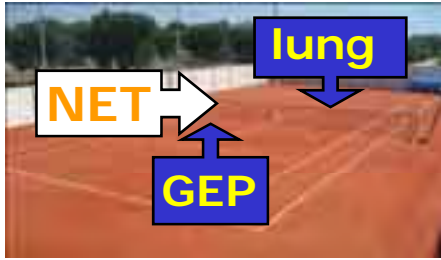
mixed
(intermingled)

mixed
(collision)

non-NE
ca. focal
NE

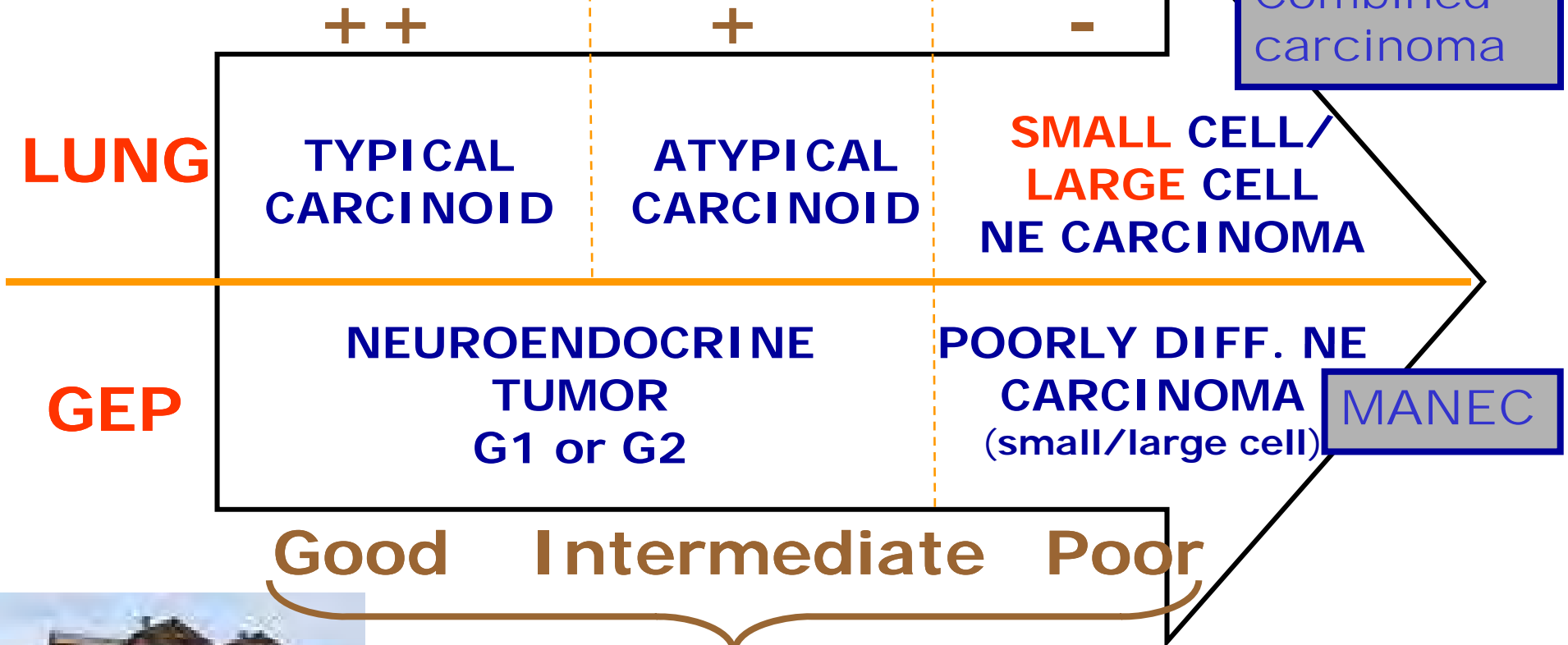
pure
non-NE
ca.





SUMMARY

Differentiation



MANEC

Prognosis

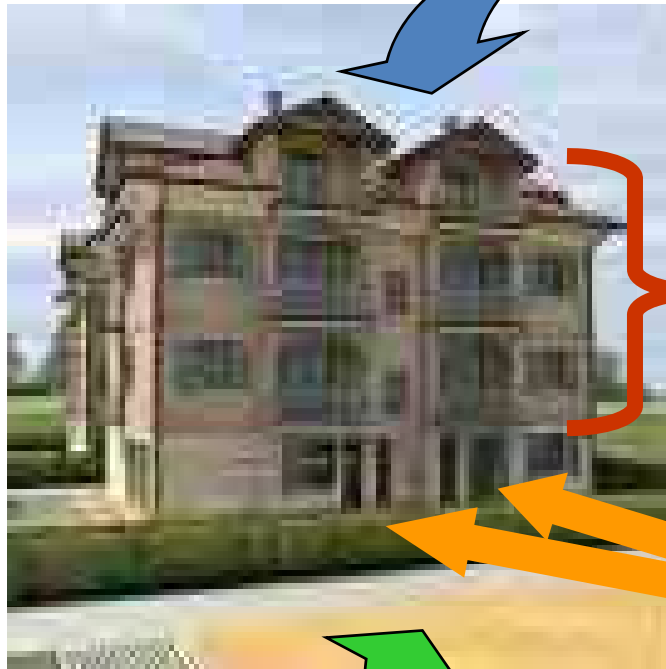
Big NEN house
built step by step

4 Stages
3 Grades
2 Dx



GEP NENs

The model of a big “neuroendocrine” house



4 flats = Stage I-II-III-IV
→ TNM: size & invasion

3 floors = Grade 1-2-3 →
mitoses & Ki67

2 stairs = NET vs NEC →
structure + grade

1 court = NEN vs nonNEN
→ morphology & NE markers

NET pathology

- Pathological classification, grading and TNM staging guidelines
- Diagnostic markers
- Prognostic & predictive markers
- Conclusion

BIO-MARKERS

CgA

HMWCK

Chromogranins

Synaptophysin

CD56

NSE, VMAT

PGP9.5

Neurofilaments

HMW Cytokeratin

**NO RELEVANT
NEWS**

Hormones: calcitonin,
bombesin, insulin, glucagon,
somatostatin, gastrin, PP,
VIP, ACTH, serotonin,
*ghrelin, cortistatin,
obestatin, secretagogin,...*

NET pathology

- Pathological classification, grading and TNM staging guidelines
- Diagnostic markers
- Prognostic & predictive markers
- Conclusion

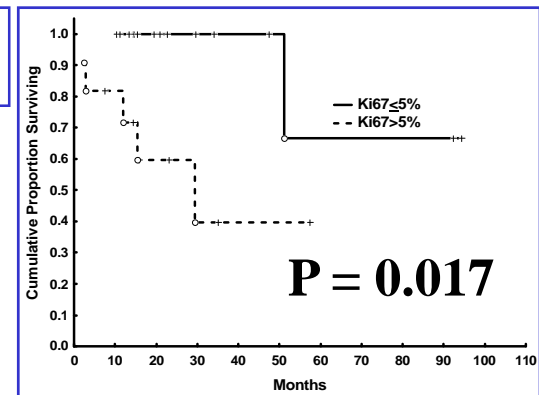
Ki-67 proliferation index

DIAGNOSTIC USE
→ Grading of GEP-NET

G1 $\leq 2\%$
G2 3-20%
G3 $> 20\%$

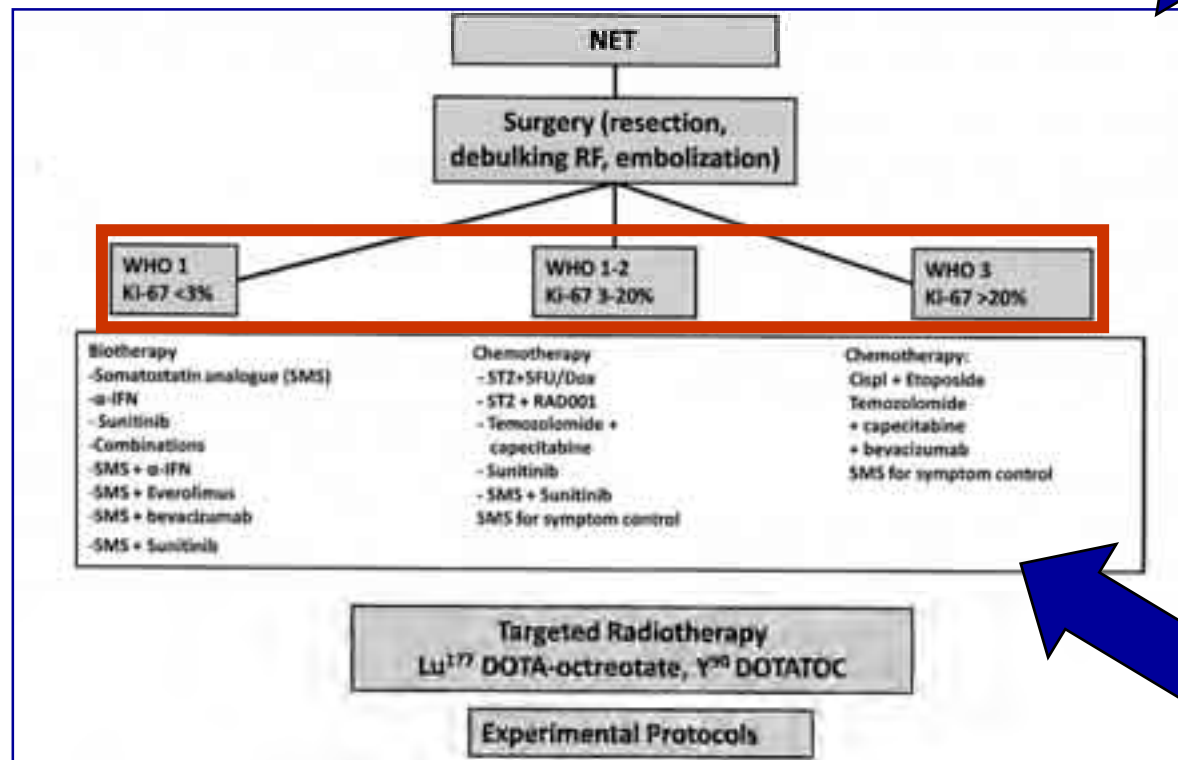
PROGNOSTIC USE

OS



Brizzi et al 2009

**THERAPEUTIC
ALGORITHM**



EXAMPLES OF PREDICTIVE MARKERS IN NETS

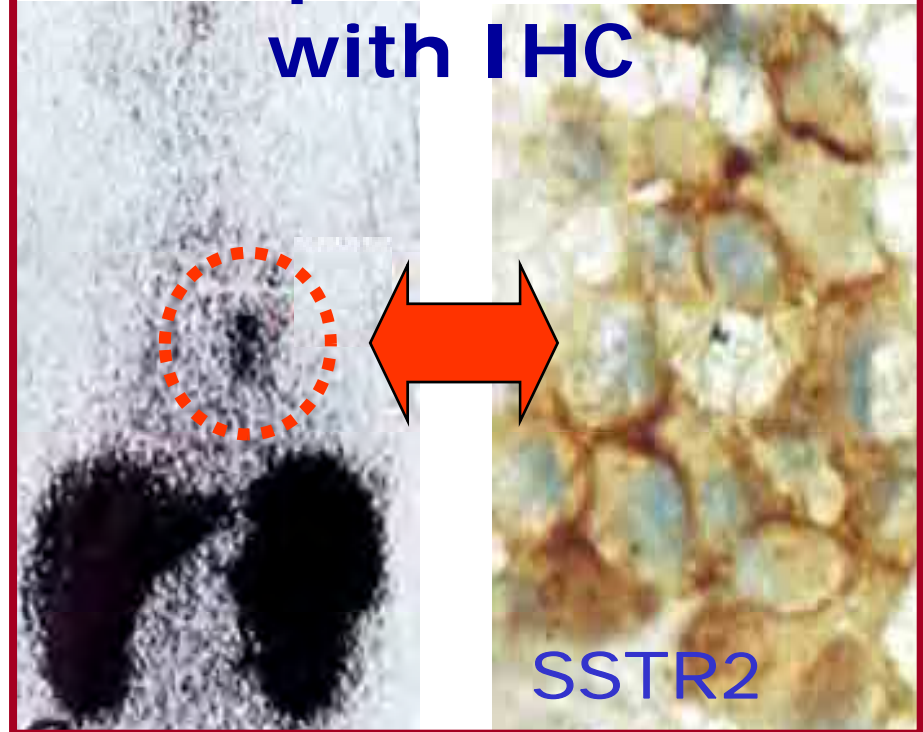
1

**SOMATOSTATIN
RECEPTORS**

2

**mTOR
PATHWAY
MOLECULES**

**Correlate Octreoscan
& response to SSA
with IHC**



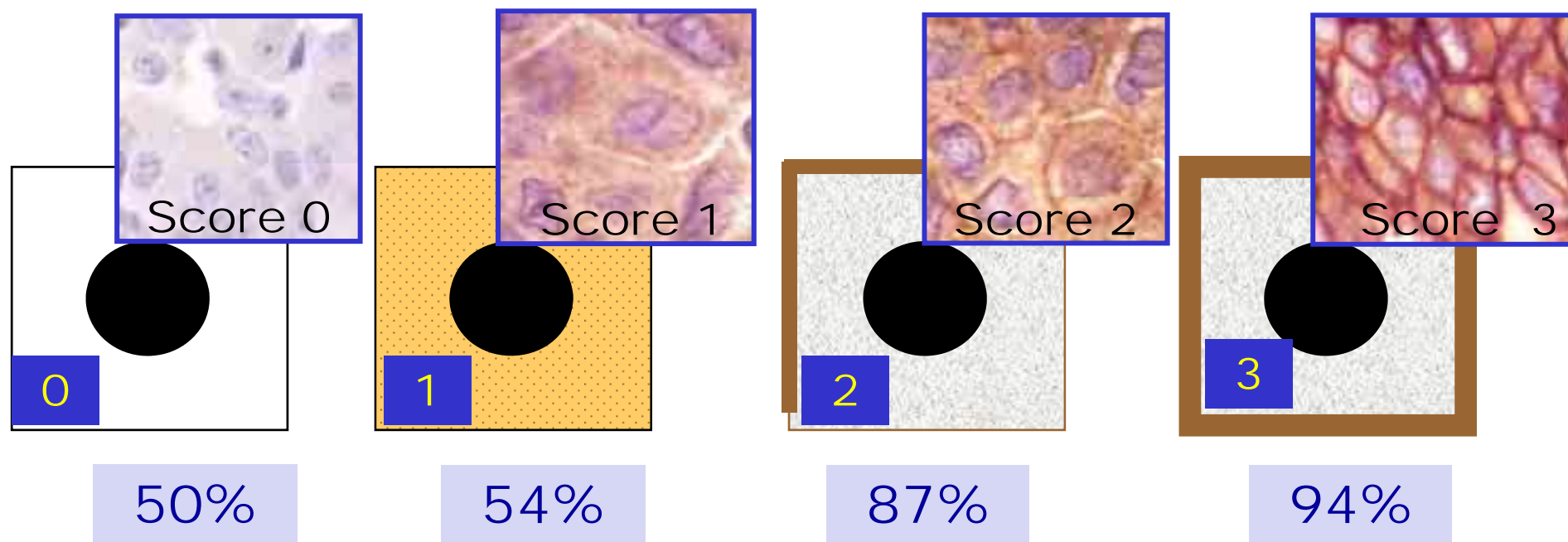
1

Proposed score for SSTR2 IHC interpretation

**Somatostatin receptor type 2A
immunohistochemistry in neuroendocrine
tumors: a proposal of scoring system
correlated with somatostatin receptor
scintigraphy**

Marcia Volante¹, Maria Pia Brizzi¹, Antonangelo Paggiaro², Stefano La Rosa³, Ihs Kapte⁴,
Anna Ferraro⁵, Giovanna Mancuso⁶, Lubaello Righi⁷, Silvana Garavito⁸, Carlo Capella⁹,
Giovanna De Rosa¹⁰, Luigi Dogliotti¹¹, Annamaria Colan¹² and Mauro Papotti¹

Mod Pathol 2007;20:1172-82

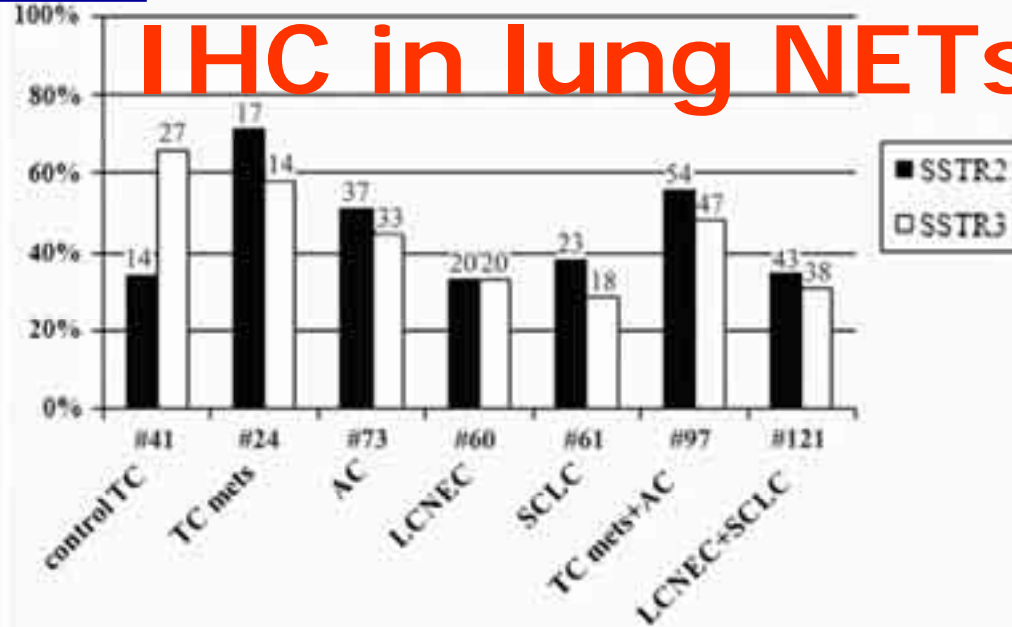


**CONCORDANCE WITH
OCTREOSCAN DATA**

1

REPORTED NEW GOOD ANTIBODIES

IHC in lung NETs



original article

Ann Oncol 2010;21:548-55.

Somatostatin receptor tissue distribution in lung neuroendocrine tumours: a clinicopathologic and immunohistochemical study of 218 'clinically aggressive' cases

L. Ficht¹*, M. Vignati², V. Tassone³, A. Bile⁴, L. Derosa⁵, T. Anzilli⁶, F. Hsiao⁷, G. Perini⁸, G. Perini⁹ & M. Papotti¹



| | SSTR2A | SSTR3 | 2A + 3 |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Concordance | 64% (18/28) | 50% (14/28) | 71% (20/28) |
| "sensitivity" | 70% | 48% | 80% |
| "specificity" | 71% | 57% | 42% |

2

Targeting mTOR

Clinical
data

Octreotide and the mTOR Inhibitor RAD001 (Everolimus) Block Proliferation and Interact with the Akt-mTOR-p70S6K Pathway in a Neuro-Endocrine Tumour Cell Line

Neuroendocrinology 2008;87:168–181

Simona Grigoriu, Chrysanthia A. Leontiou^a, António Ribeiro de Oliveira Jr.^{a,*}, Paolo Dalino^a, Nabila Salahuddin^a, Márta Korbonits^a, Ashley B. Grossman^a

Efficacy of RAD001 (Everolimus) and Octreotide LAR in Advanced Low- to Intermediate-Grade Neuroendocrine Tumors: Results of a Phase II Study

James C. Yao, Alexandria T. Phan, David Z. Chang, Robert A. Wolff, Kenneth Hess, Sanjay Gupta, Carmen Jacobs, Jeannette E. Mares, Andrea N. Landgraf, Asif Rashid, and Funda Meric-Bernstam

VOLUME 26 · NUMBER 26 · SEPTEMBER 10, 2008

JOURNAL OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY

Everolimus for Advanced Pancreatic Neuroendocrine Tumors

James C. Yao, M.D., Manisha H. Shah, M.D., Tetsuhiko Ito, M.D., Ph.D., Catherine Lombard-Roberts, M.D., Edward M. Whittle, M.D.,

N ENGL J MED 364:6 NEJM.ORG FEBRUARY 10, 2011

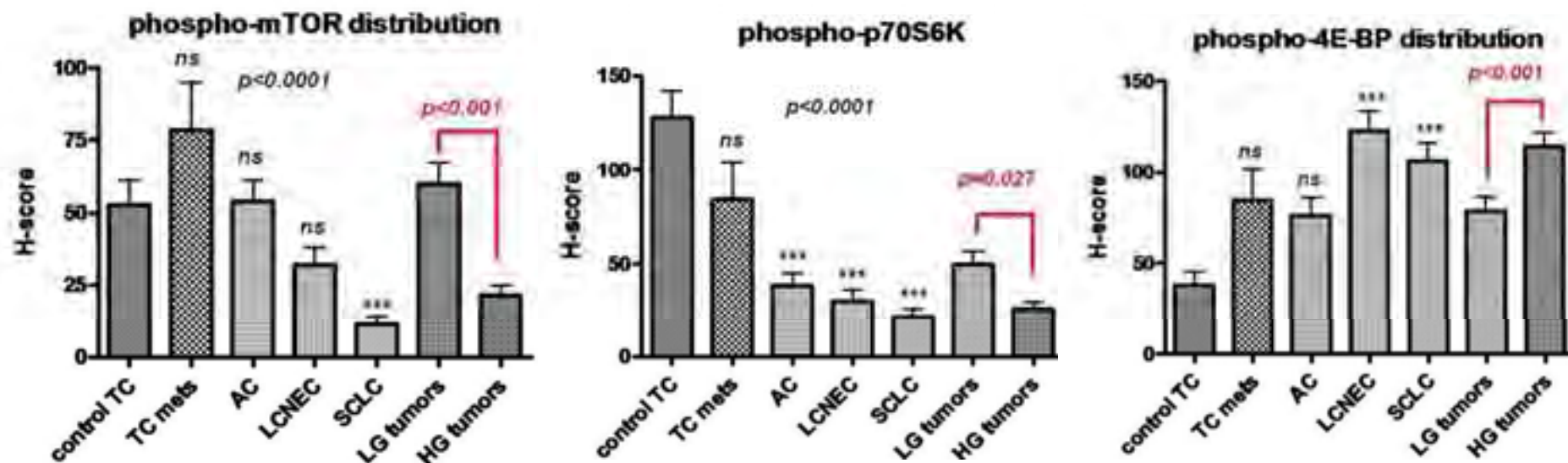
Thomas Haas, Ph.D., Jennifer Lim, M.Sc., David Lubwinski, M.D., and Kjell Oberg, M.D., Ph.D., for the RAD001 in Advanced Neuroendocrine Tumors, Third Trial (RADANT-3) Study Group

Everolimus 10 mg increases median PFS from 4.6 to 11 mos in advanced PanNET

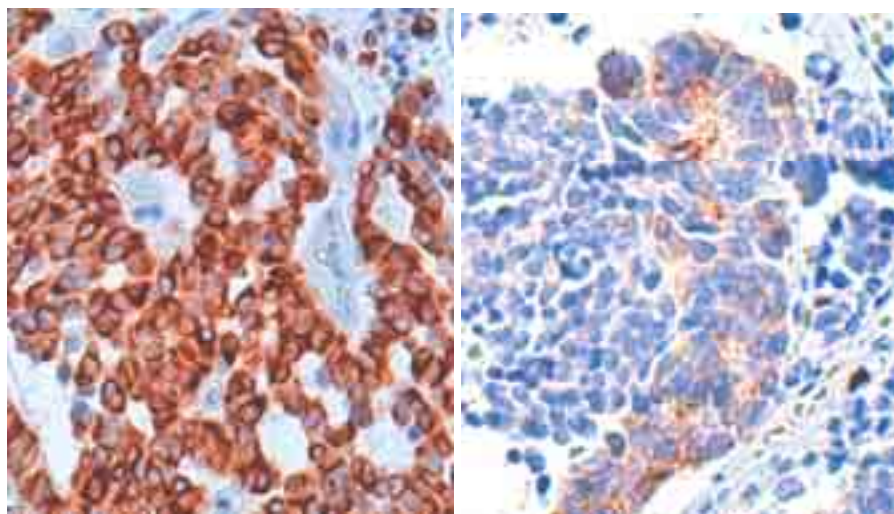
QUESTION 1: which profiles of mTor pathway activation in NETs (eg lung)?

2

IHC expression of phospho-mTOR and of p70S6K & 4EBP-1 in 258 resected lung NETs (40 control TC, 24 TC with mets, 73 AC, 60 LCNEC & 61 SCLC).



*** = $p < 0.0001$



Mammalian target of rapamycin signaling activation patterns in neuroendocrine tumors of the lung

Luisella Righi, Marco Volante, Ida Rapa, Veronica Tavaglione, Frediano Inzani¹, Giuseppe Pelosi² and Mauro Papotti

Endocrine-Related Cancer (2010) 17 977–987

NET pathology

- Pathological classification, grading and TNM staging guidelines
- Diagnostic markers
- Prognostic & predictive markers
- Conclusion

Pathology report of NETs

When assessing individual NENs / NETs:

- Define **malignancy** based on a 2 (or 4) tier system
- Define differentiation **grade** (including Ki-67 proliferative index)
- Assess the TNM **stage**
- Define the **hormonal** production, if any
- Identify pathological parameters of aggressiveness or **prognostic factors, if relevant**
- **Upon request**, assess **predictive factors** useful for target therapy (e.g. somatostatin receptors, mTor pathway molecules, thymidilate synthase, other target enzymes, ...)

Open issues

- Get used to the new 2010 classification and terminology of WD GEP-NETs
 - Mixed endocrine – exocrine tumors (MANEC)
 - Apply tumor grade (mitoses & Ki-67)
 - Controversial staging for appendiceal NETs
 - Use of predictive markers of response to therapy
- Classification of other NETs (pheochromocytoma, medullary thyroid carcinoma, parathyroid, Merkel cell carcinoma)



*Non cerco casa
ma consulto
l'immobiliare
“per motivi di
servizio”*

T1,T2,T3,T4

**G1
G2
G3**

NET / NEC

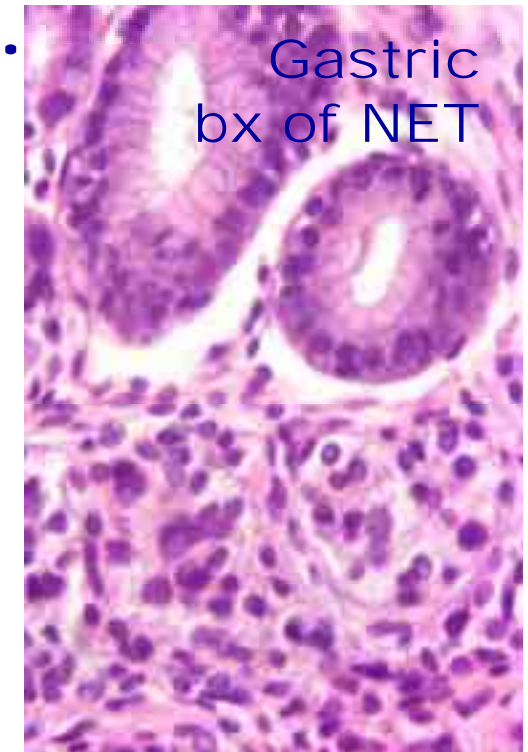
Thank you!!!



University of Turin
Medical School at
San Luigi Hospital,
Orbassano, Torino

Is a “preoperative” diagnosis possible?

- Yes: definition of NE phenotype.
- Often possible to distinguish WD from PD NE carcinoma.
- Pathological stage not defined.
- Difficult to define primary tumor in the presence of metastases, only.
- Prognostic factors identifiable but not 100% reliable.
- Problems on scant material.
Which tissue?



Mitotic index evaluation

- Count mitoses in 50 fields
- Express mitotic rate as number per 10 high power fields (2 mm²)

Options to quantify Ki67 index

- Manual** count of a 500-2000 tumors cells and calculate the percentage of positive nuclei
- Digital** image analysis system to measure the percentage of positive nuclei
- Approximate “**eyeballed**” **estimate** of the percentage of positive nuclei
- The result should be reported as a single percentage reflecting the ***average of the regions counted*** (not a range of values).

TNM staging of GEP-NENs

- **SITE-specific**
- **Based on depth of invasion and size**

ENETS: 2006/2007

Rindi, Klöppel, Ahlman, Wiedenmann. **TNM staging of foregut, midgut and hindgut (neuro)endocrine tumours: A consensus proposal including a grading system.**

Virchows Archiv. 2006;449:395-401, and 2007;451:757-762.

UICC/AJCC: 2009

Sobin, Gospodarowicz, Wittekind. ***TNM Classification of Malignant Tumours.*** Wiley-Blackwell. 7th Edition; 2009.

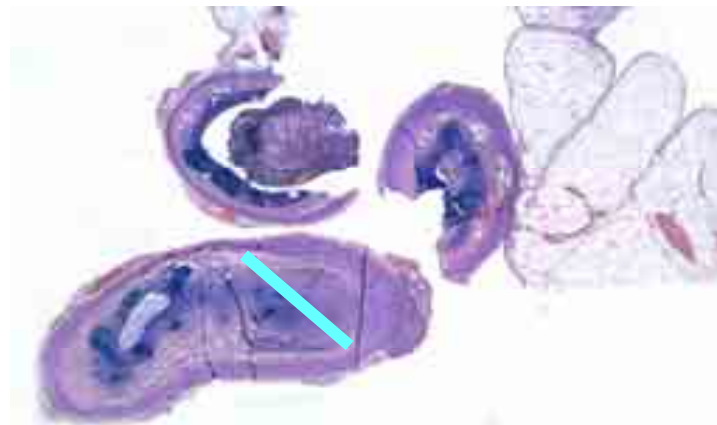
• *Similar TNM classifications:*

- Stomach
- Duodenum
- Jejunum/ileum
- Colon/rectum

• *Different TNM classification*

- Appendix
- Pancreas

Staging of appendiceal NETs



| ENETS TNM | | UICC/AJCC TNM |
|-----------|--|--------------------------------------|
| T1 | <1 cm; invasion of muscularis propria | T1a: ≤ 1 cm T1b: >1–2 cm |
| T2 | ≤ 2 cm; and <3 mm invasion of subserosa/ mesoappendix | >2–4 cm; or invasion of cecum |
| T3 | >2 cm; or >3 mm invasion of subserosa/ mesoappendix | >4 cm; or invasion of ileum |
| T4 | invasion of peritoneum/ other organs | invasion of peritoneum/ other organs |

Grading & staging of PanNETs

Pancreatic endocrine tumors: improved TNM staging and histopathological grading permit a clinically efficient prognostic stratification of patients

Aldo Scarpa^{1,2}, William Mantovani², Paola Capelli¹, Stefania Beghelli^{1,2}, Letizia Boninsegna², Rossella Bettini¹, Francesco Panzuto², Paolo Pederzoli¹, Gianfranco delle Fave³ and Massimo Falconi⁴

MODERN PATHOLOGY (2010), 1–10

© 2010 USCAP, Inc. All rights reserved 0893-3952/10 \$32.00

Pancreatic endocrine tumors are rare diseases and devising a clinically effective prognostic stratification of patients is a major clinical challenge. This study aimed at assessing whether the tumor-node-metastasis (TNM)-based staging and proliferative activity-based grading recently proposed by the European NeuroEndocrine Tumors Society (ENETS) have clinical value. TNM was applied to 274 patients with histologically diagnosed pancreatic endocrine tumors operated from 1991 to 2005, with last follow-up at December 2007. According to World Health Organization (WHO) classification, 246 were well-differentiated neoplasms (51 benign, 56 uncertain behavior, 139 carcinomas) and 28 poorly differentiated carcinomas. Grading was based on Ki67 immunohistochemistry. Survival analysis not only ascertained the prognostic value of the TNM system but also highlighted that in the absence of nodal and distant metastasis, infiltration and tumor dimensions over 4 cm had prognostic significance. T parameters were then appropriately modified to reflect this weakness. The 5-year survival for modified TNM stages I, II, III and IV were 100, 93, 65 and 35%, respectively. Multivariate analysis identified TNM stages as independent predictors of death, in which stages II, III and IV showed a risk of death of 7, 29 and 58 times higher than stage I tumors ($P < 0.0001$). Ki67-based grading resulted an independent predictor of survival with cut-offs at 5 and 20%. In conclusion, WHO classification assigns clinically significant diagnostic categories to pancreatic endocrine tumors that need prognostic stratification by applying a staging system. The ENETS–TNM provides the best option, but it requires some modifications to be fully functional. The modified TNM described in this study ameliorates the clinical applicability and prediction of outcome of the ENETS–TNM; it (i) assigns a risk of death proportional to the stage at the time of diagnosis, and (ii) allows a clinically based staging of patients, as the T parameters as modified permit their clinical-radiological recognition. Ki67-based grading discerns prognosis of patients with same stage diseases.

NEN house

