

Management of functional neuroendocrine tumors

Functional neuroendocrine neoplasms (NENs) are those associated with specific symptoms related to the hormonal secretion of the NENs. Although less than 25 % of NENs are functional at diagnosis,¹ the associated syndromes significantly increase the patient burden of disease. Management of hormonal NEN symptoms may involve tumor resection or other reduction strategies (e.g., chemotherapy, embolotherapy, etc), but also specific therapies directed at decreasing hormonal synthesis, secretion, or end-organ effects. In this review, we focus on specific symptomatic management of many of the NEN syndromes, which may be pursued in addition to management primarily directed at tumor bulk and growth. A continued focus on symptom management related to the hormonal secretions of NENs, in the context of other efforts to reduce tumor bulk and growth, could significantly improve patient wellbeing.

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