



# World NEN Lives 2020 Congress

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## THE COMPLEX JOURNEY OF THE NEN PATIENT Carcinoid Syndrome and Carcinoid Heart Disease

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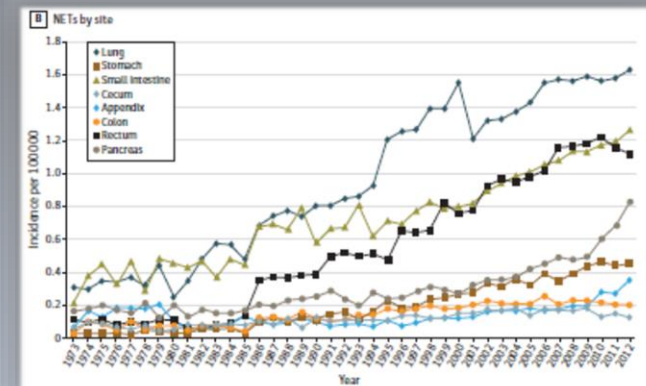
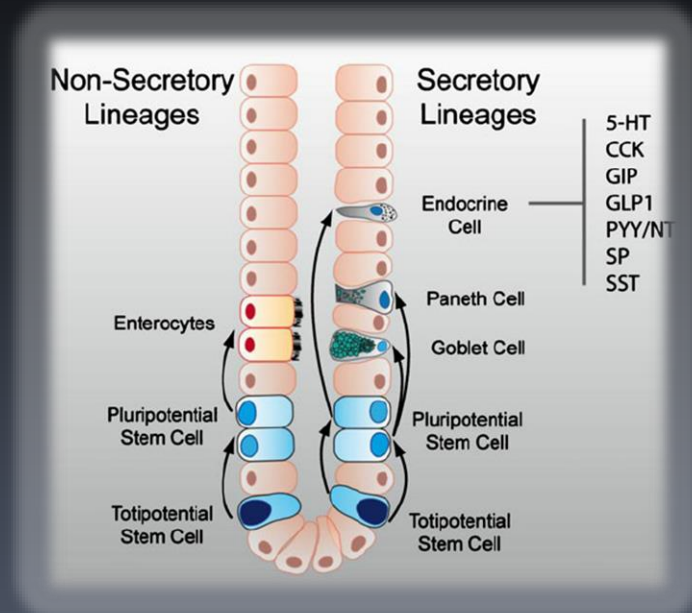
NET Unit



# Introduction: Many Challenges in NENs

- ❑ Heterogeneous
- ❑ Arise from cells throughout the body:
  - NE/EC/ECL cells, migrated from the neural crest (from multipotent stem cells) to the gut endoderm & throughout the body
- ❑ Increasing incidence
- ❑ Sporadic/ Hereditary (MEN/VHL/NF1/TSC)
- ❑ Majority Well Differentiated ENETS G1 & G2
- ❑ Frequently (65%) metastatic at diagnosis
- ❑ Variety of therapeutic options (need for dedicated NET-MDT)

Dasari A. et al., JAMA Oncol, April 2017  
Pavel M. et al, ENETS Guidelines, Neuroendocrinology, 2016





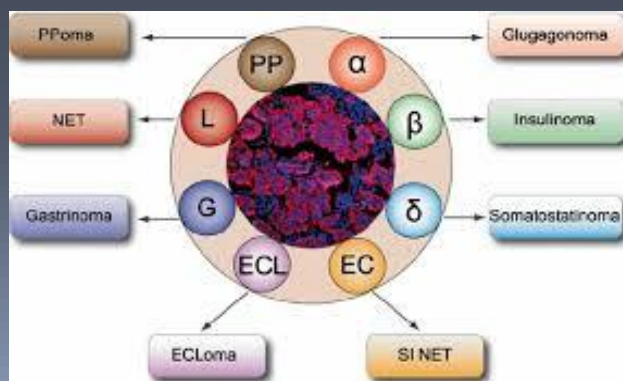
NET Unit



# Introduction: Synthesis of amines & peptides



- A special feature of NE cells
- Usually, more than 20 single „hormonal markers“ described in NET
- Rarely, multiple & secondary hormone secretion develops (ACTH, PTH-RP, Calcitonin, GHRH etc.)



Cell	Amine/ Peptide hormone
$\alpha$	Glucagon
$\beta$	Insulin
CCK	Cholecystokinin
$\delta$	Somatostatin (SS)
EC	Serotonin, Substance P
ECL	Histamine
G	Gastrin
GIP	Gastric inhibitory peptide
L	Glucagon like Peptide (GLP)
PP	Pancreatic Polypeptide
S	Secretin, etc.

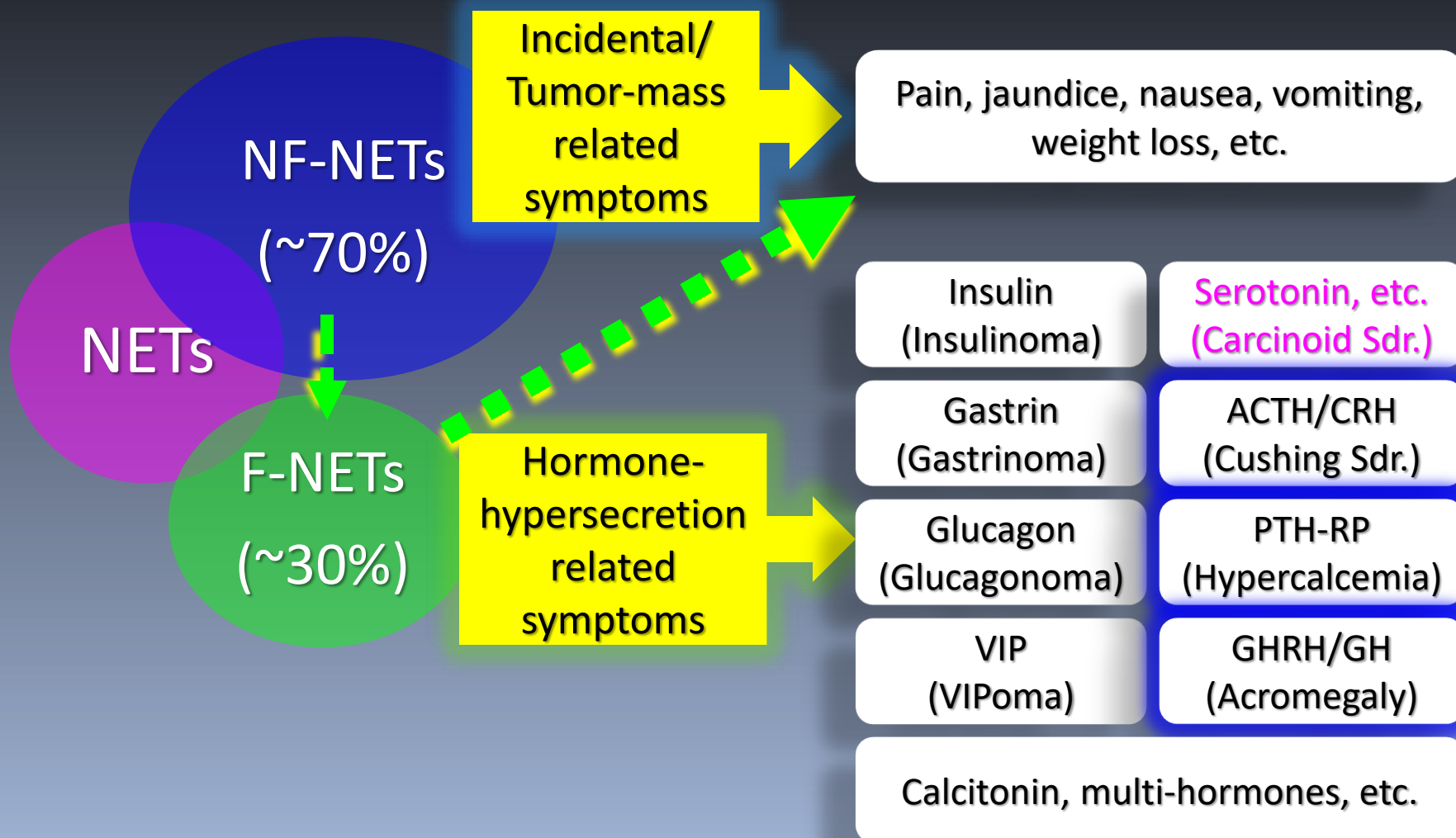




NET Unit



# Introduction: NETs, a Clinical Challenge



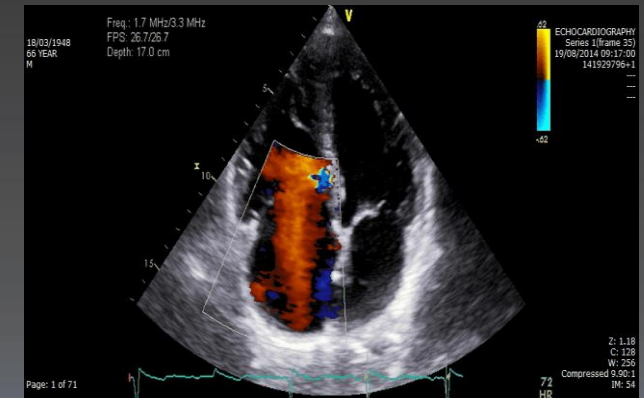
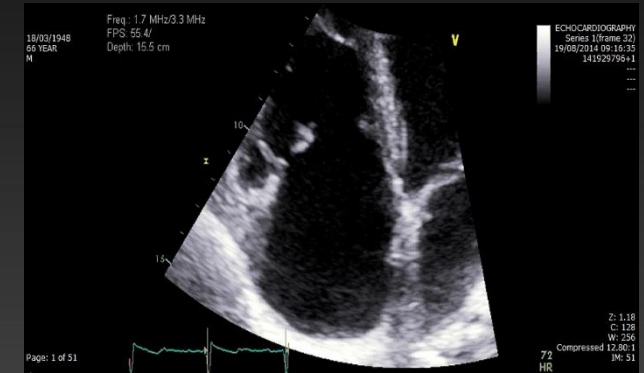


NET Unit



# A “Case”

- ❑ H.B., a 67 yo, geoarchaeological scientist
- ❑ Personal History
  - in his mid-50's: swollen legs, elevated blood pressure.
  - GP prescribed medication, which helped but didn't solve.
  - chronic diarrhea & frequently turned red (flushing).
  - still able to go on with his teaching, research & family life.
- ❑ Physical Exam:
  - flushing (redness) on and off
  - a palpable mass, left supra-clavicular area
  - legs edema
  - increased JVP
  - pansystolic murmur (left lower sternal border)
- ❑ Echocardiography: Severe/free TR, cusps fibrosis & retraction





NET Unit



# A “Case”, cont.

## □ Diagnostic procedures

- LN biopsy: WD NET G2, Ki67=3%
- CGA=492ng/ml (19.4-98.1)
- u5HIAA=235mg/24h (2-8)
- $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -DOTATATE PET/CT: increased uptake

## □ Dg: WD SI NET G2, CS & CHD

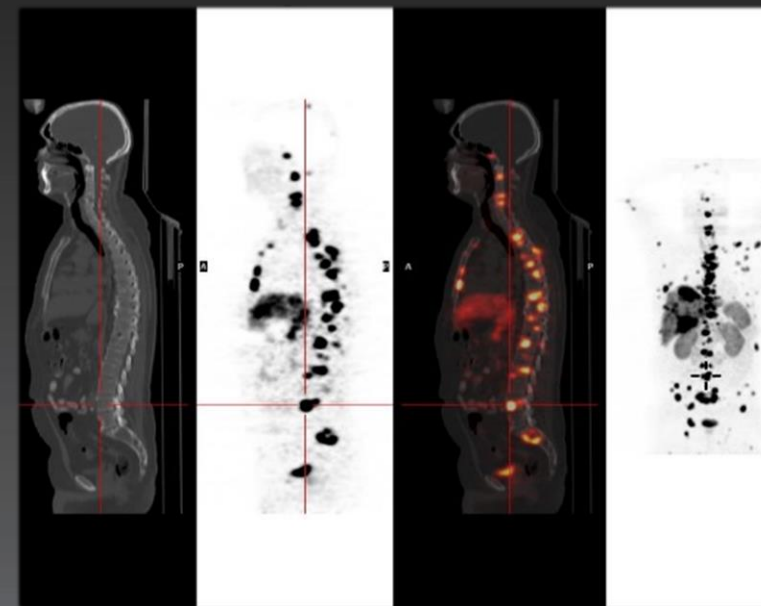
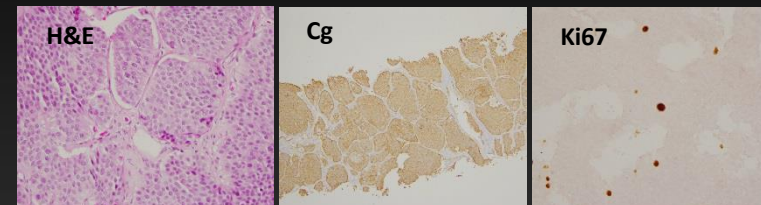
## □ MDT - Initial treatment:

- SSA & zoledronic acid
- diuretics, low salt diet

## □ F/U: CGA=276ng/ml; u5HIAA=49mg/24h

## □ MDT: TVR (mechanical prosthesis)

## □ To date: continued on HD SSA, Xermelo





NET Unit

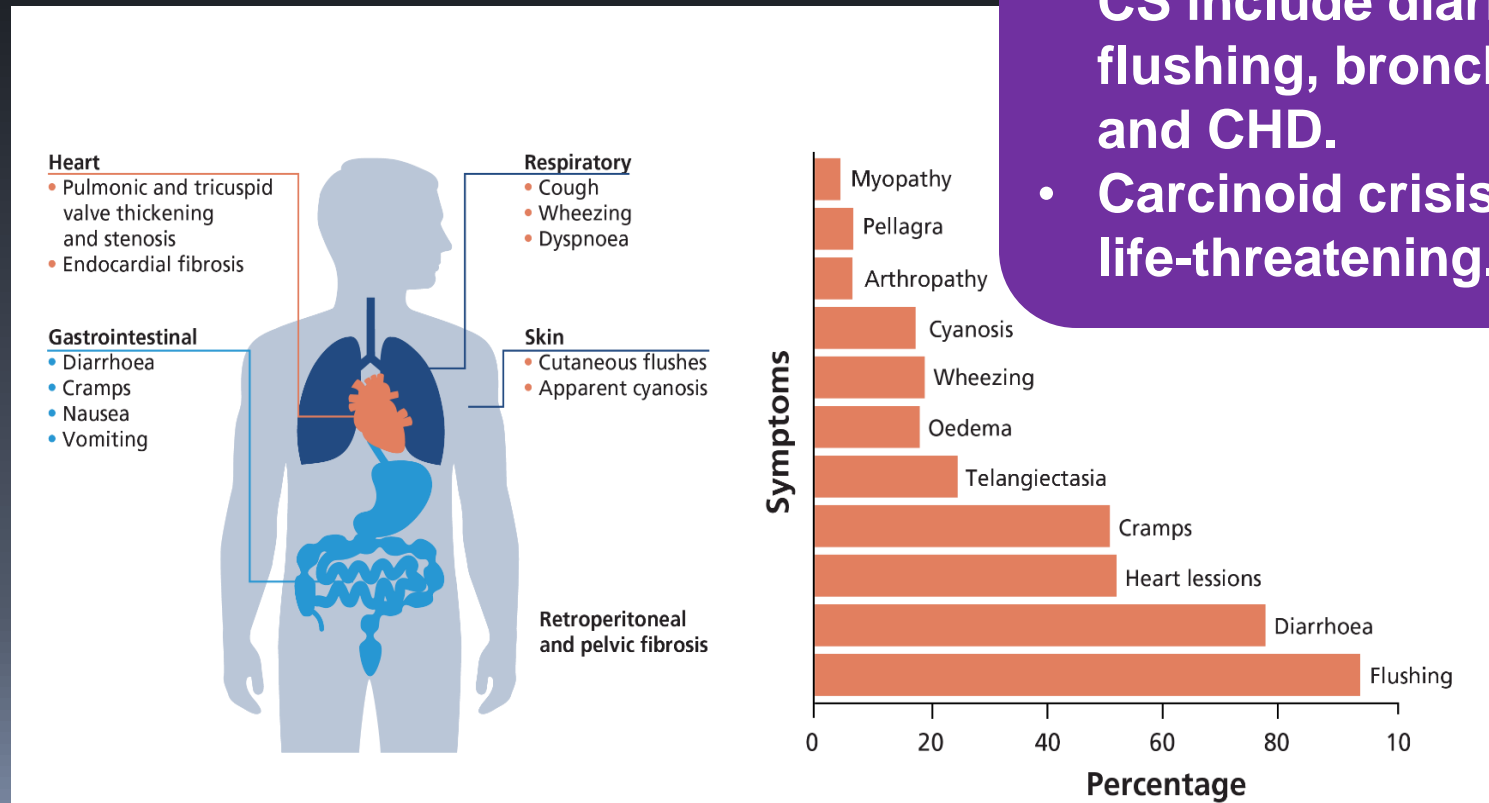


# Carcinoid & Carcinoid Syndrome (CS)

- Carcinoid tumors - a subgroup of F-NENs oversecreting:
  - 5-hydroxytryptamine (5-HT, serotonin; the most prominent)
  - Tachykinins
  - Kallikrein
  - Prostaglandins, etc.
- These tumour products are usually inactivated by the liver.
  - When the hormonally active tumour products exceed the hepatic capacity for degradation, the CS ensues.
  - In ~ 5% of patients, mainly with ovarian or pulmonary NETs, or with retroperitoneal metastases, CS may present in the absence of liver metastases.

# CS has many distinct symptoms

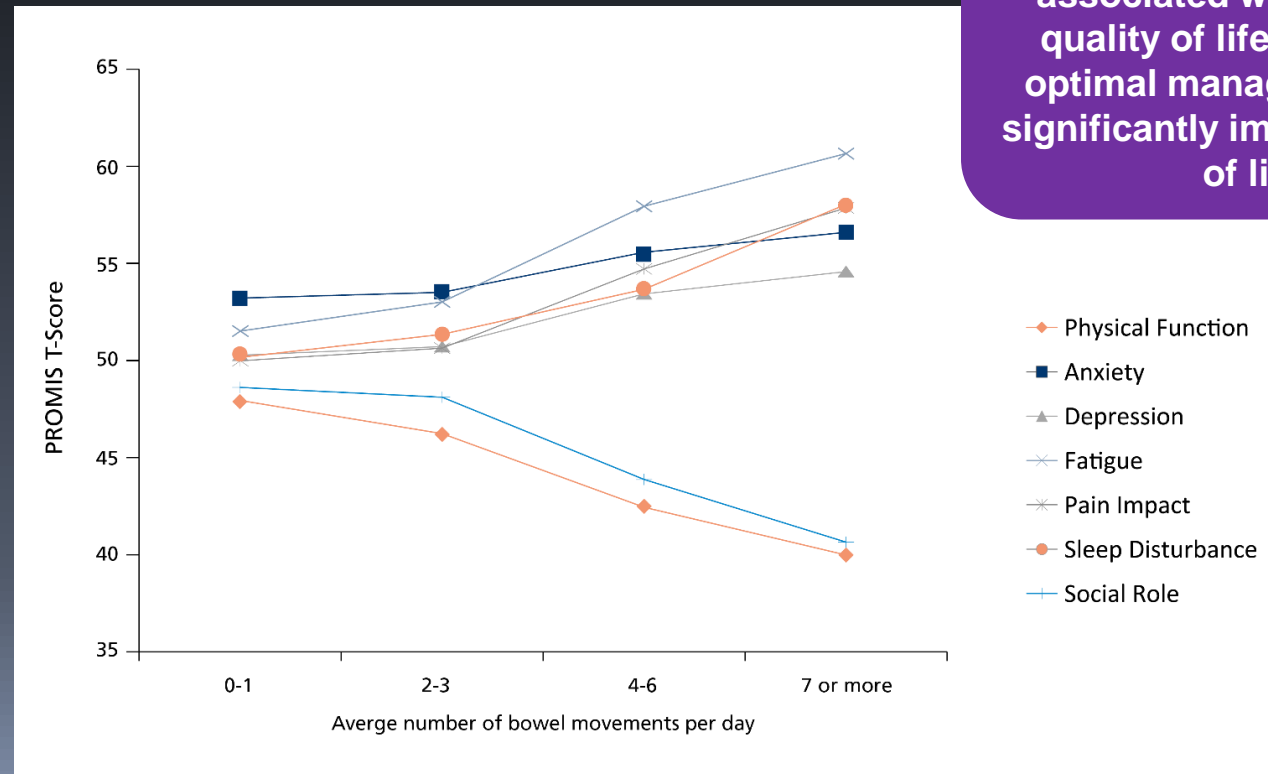
- The main manifestations of CS include diarrhoea, flushing, bronchospasm, and CHD.
- Carcinoid crisis may be life-threatening.



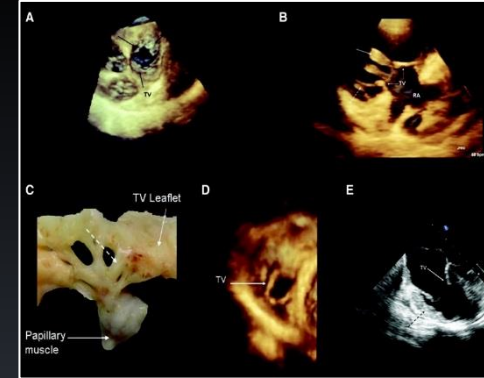


# Symptoms of CS reduce patients' QOL

Symptoms such as diarrhoea and flushing are associated with reduced quality of life; therefore, optimal management may significantly improve quality of life



# Carcinoid Heart Disease (CHD) - in ~30% of CS patients



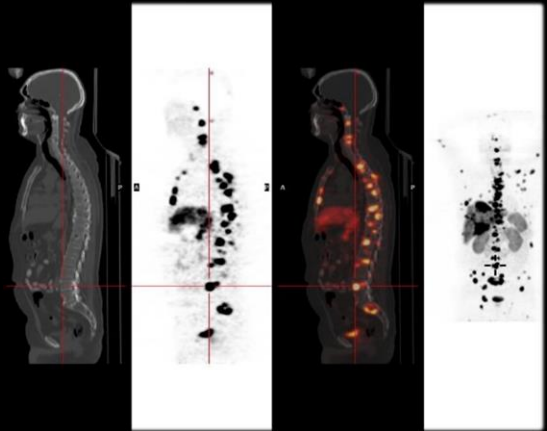
- A major cause of morbidity & mortality.
- Fibrous thickening & dysfunction of the valves (mostly TV & PV) with RHF.
- Without appropriate treatment, poor prognosis (3y survival ~ 31%)
- May progress very fast!
- The management of CHD is complex
  - pharmacotherapy for RHF
  - aggressive lowering of 5-HIAA levels
  - cardiac valve replacement (in selected individuals) - after valve replacement, >40% of new valves are destroyed if serotonin remains high (biological valves)

# Real Life Approach to a Patient with CS & CHD - Principles of Therapy, 1

- ❑ Be Aware of the Diagnosis
- ❑ Understand its Pathophysiology
- ❑ It's a Complex Patient !  
(the need for a multidisciplinary specialized team in a specialized center)

# CS & CHD - A Double-Edged Sword

## ↗ A Metastatic Tumor



## ↗ Symptoms of CS



## ↗ CHD

- ↗ TVR ± PVR
- ↗ Rt. Heart Failure
- ↗ Easily decompensate



# Real Life Approach to a Patient with CS & CHD - Principles of Therapy, 2

## ☐ 1<sup>st</sup> - Decrease Hormonal Levels, *crucial*:

- control the symptoms ( $\pm$ tumor growth)
- control the negative haemodynamic impact of serotonin
- **PREVENT** CHD appearance/progression/recurrence

## ☐ 2<sup>nd</sup> - Identify & Treat RHF

## ☐ 3<sup>rd</sup> - Decide on Valve Replacement (NEN MDT)

# 1<sup>st</sup> - Decrease Hormonal Levels in CHD

- Somatostatin Analogues (SSA, also high dose)
- Serotonin synthesis (TH) inhibitor - Telotristat Ethyl
- (PRRT), OR
- (mTOR inhibitor - Everolimus), OR
- (INF- $\alpha$ ) (rarely used), OR
- (Locoregional (TACE/SIRT), surgical debulking), OR



- ❑ SSAs ALWAYS ( $\pm$  Telotristat)
- ❑ All Other Options Sequence (before/after cardiac surgery)  
should be Considered Individually, Depending on CHD Severity
- ❑ Most patients receive a combination of treatment modalities.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> - Identify & Treat CHD-related RHF

- ❑ Initially, relieve the symptoms of right heart failure with:
  - loop diuretics
  - fluid & salt restriction
  - compression stockings
- ❑ *Cautious* ... in advanced right ventricular failure, these measures become deleterious due to the depletion of intravascular volume, further reducing of the cardiac output.

# 3<sup>rd</sup> - NET MDT - Individualized Approach

## *“Choosing the Right Valve at the Right Time”*

- ❑ Evaluation of CHD severity (imaging, markers)
  - life-time expectancy (3y survival 68% without vs 31% with CHD).
- ❑ Risk of bleeding
- ❑ Decide on time of surgery & type of prosthesis (>40% of new biological valves are destroyed if serotonin remains high)
- ❑ Discuss with the patient  
(RISK/BENEFITS/PREFERENCE/AVAILABILITY)

Davar J et al., J Am Coll Cardiol, 2017;69(10):1288-1304.

Korach A, Grozinsky-Glasberg S, et al. J Heart Valve Dis. 2016;25(3):349-355.

Grozinsky-Glasberg S et al, Neuroendocrinology; 2015;101(4):263-73.



# Take Home Messages

- ❑ CHD Prevention by CS control - The Best Treatment
- ❑ CHD-related Right HF - the cause of death in  $\leq 50\%$  pts
  - may progress very fast!
- ❑ The Heart (Of the Matter) Needs an MDT Approach
  - aggressive lowering of 5-HIAA levels
  - pharmacotherapy for RHF
  - timely valve replacement (selected individuals)
- ❑ The Survival Rates Are Improving
- ❑ Unmet needs
  - serotonin inhibition
  - studies on CHD prevention/reversibility?

