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Current Status of Neuroendocrine Tumors with a Special Focus on Diagnosis and Novel Treatments

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Message from the Guest Editor

Neuroendocrine tumors are an increasing group of tumors. A majority are malignant, with local or distant metastases at diagnosis. Tumors are divided according to their proliferative rate into grade 1, grade 2, and grade 3 (G1, G2, and G3). Most tumors are G1 and G2, and hence slow-growing and patients suffering from such tumors may live for several years. Some tumors, however, are highly proliferative, and patients affected by them have a short survival and poor prognosis. Most G1 and G2 tumors, and some G3 tumors, express somatostatin receptors and may be detected by somatostatin receptor imaging. Diagnostic sensitivity has improved with the introduction of ^{68}Gallium-DOTATOC PET CT. Somatostatin analogs are the main treatment for patients with low proliferative tumors. Other treatments include chemotherapy, PRRT with ^{177}Lutetium-DOTATATE, and targeted therapies, such as Everolimus and Sunitinib, which have led to an improvement in prognosis. The need for newer therapeutic agents is, however, urgent. This Special Issue will address the current knowledge at the epidemiologic, diagnostic, molecular and therapeutic level, focusing on new diagnostic and therapeutic measures.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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