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Neuroendocrine Tumors: Challenges and Future Perspectives

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Message from the Guest Editors

Neuroendocrine tumors (NETs) are a family of neoplasms of increasing incidence and prevalence worldwide. Their heterogeneity in terms of biological aggressiveness, their variegated site of origin and their capability to potentially produce hormonally active substances poses unique challenges for clinical management. NETs are characterized by the peculiar and frequent expression on cell surfaces of somatostatin receptors, which represents the ideal target for therapy. Few chemotherapy schemes (such as streptozotocin/5-FU or the association of Capecitabine and Temozolomide) are currently part of the therapeutic armamentarium. However, regardless of the huge number of clinical trials and many promising new drugs, the only approved targeted agents for advanced progressive NETs are everolimus and sunitinib (the second one only for those of pancreatic origin). Additionally, despite a great effort in the search for innovative biomarkers, only few validated biomarkers are available so far. The aim of this Special Issue is to highlight recent advances in the context of diagnosis, treatment, and the prediction of prognosis for NETs.

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