

NEUROENDOCRINE TUMORS (NETS)

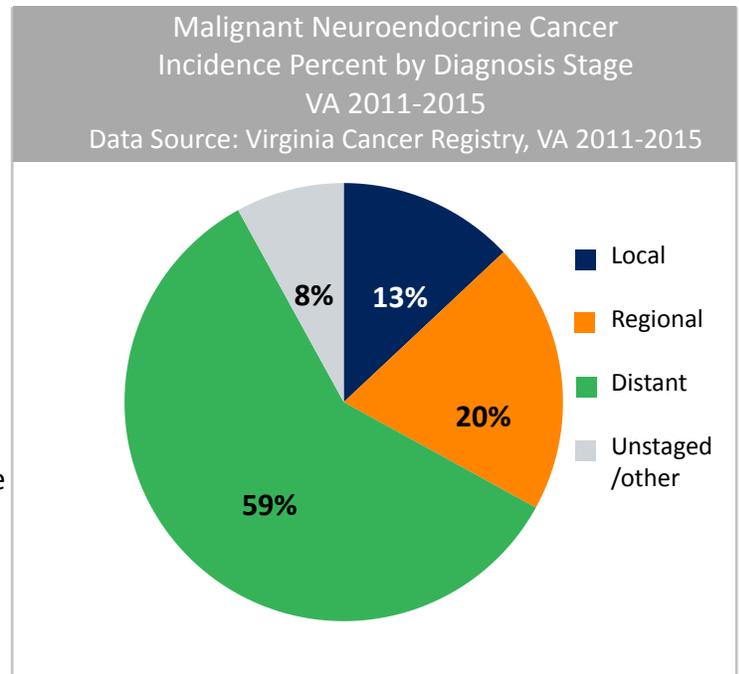
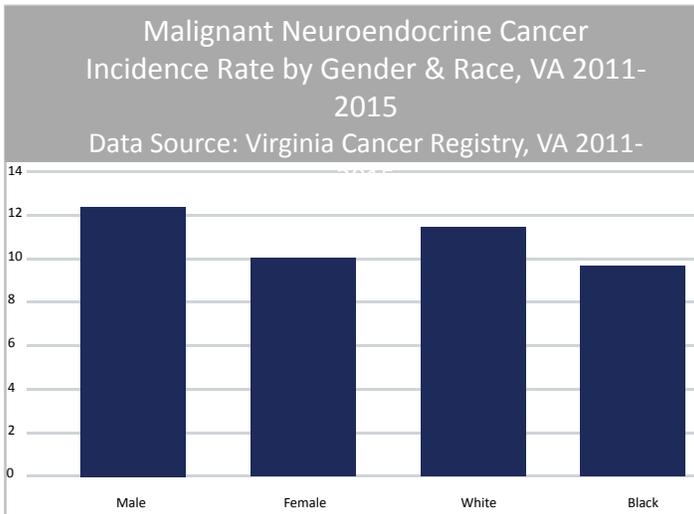
Neuroendocrine tumors start in the hormone-producing cells of the body's neuroendocrine system. This system is made up of cells that are a combination of hormone-producing endocrine cells and nerve cells. Neuroendocrine cells can be found throughout the body's internal organs such as the GI tract, stomach, intestines, and lungs. Neuroendocrine cells are responsible for performing certain bodily functions, like regulating airflow through the lungs and controlling how food moves through the GI tract.

How Prevalent is Neuroendocrine Cancer?

Neuroendocrine tumors are typically rare and are found almost anywhere in the body. Most NETs occur in the pancreas, rectum, lungs, appendix, and small intestine. According to the National Cancer Institute, NETs increased by five times between 1973 and 2004. Since then, the incidence of NETs has continued to rise with a marked increase over the past 14 years.

Are All Neuroendocrine Tumors Cancerous?

Neuroendocrine tumors can be non-cancerous. The treatment and diagnosis of NET's depend on the type of tumor, its location, whether it produces excess hormones, how aggressive it is, and whether it has spread to other parts of the body.

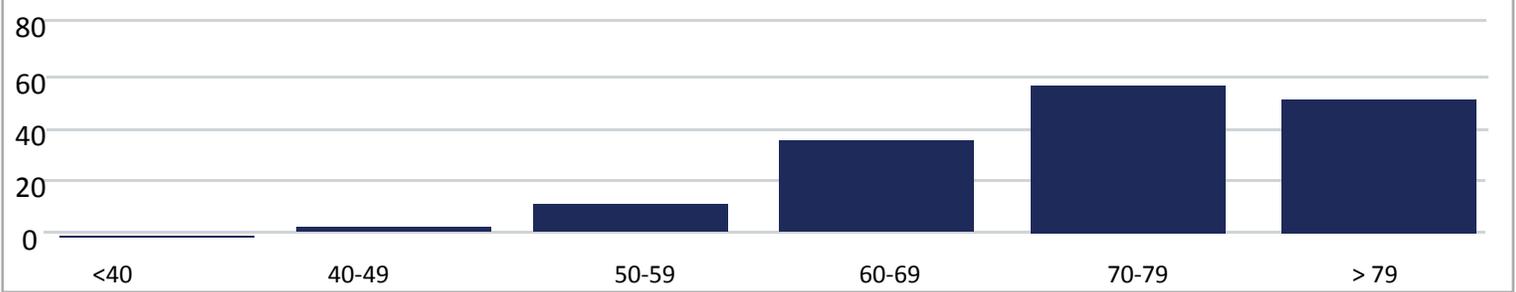


How Are NET's Treated?

Usually, the first course of treatment for patients with localized NETs is surgery. The purpose of surgery is to try to remove all of a neuroendocrine tumor or at least reduce the size of the tumor. Surgery can also be best suited for people with advanced disease, for palliative symptom relief. Some of the other procedures for neuroendocrine tumors include cytosurgery or debulking, laparoscopic resections, and liver transplant.

Malignant Neuroendocrine Cancer Incidence Rate by Age Group, VA 2011-2015

Data Source: Virginia Cancer Registry, VA 2011-2015



Prognosis for Neuroendocrine Cancer

Neuroendocrine cancers are never considered routine. Every person with neuroendocrine cancer is different. They all have unique genes and molecules. Neuroendocrine tumors can be both non-cancerous (benign) or cancerous (malignant). Treatment and prognosis for NETs depends on the tumor type, location, and whether or not it produces excess hormones. Prognosis also depends on how aggressive the tumor, and whether or not it has spread to other parts of the body.

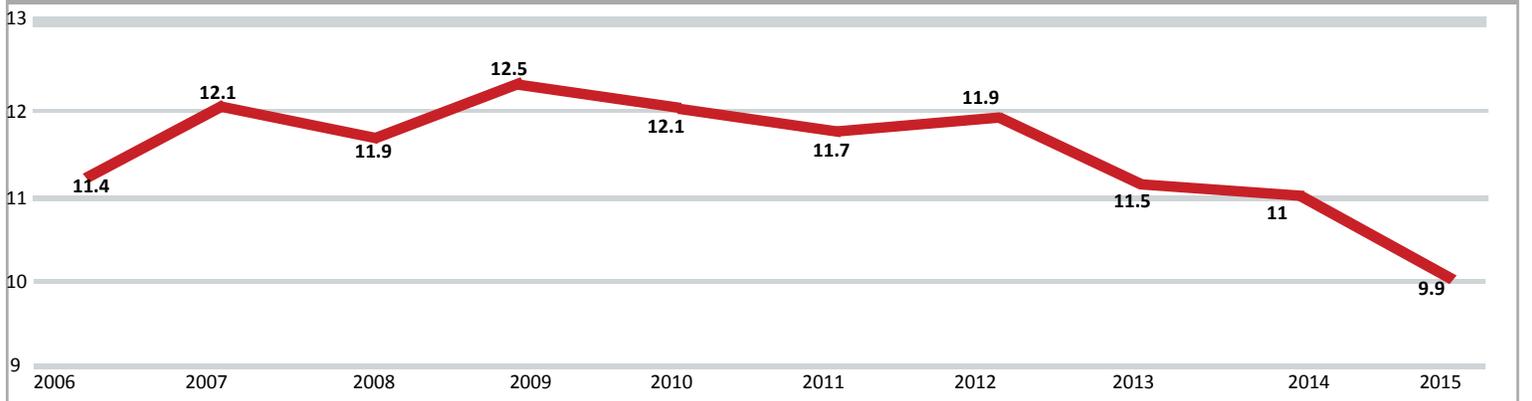
Is NET Cancer Curable?

When caught at an early stage, NET cancers are often cured with surgery. As with many cancers, if a surgical cure is possible, this should be the first course of treatment. Unfortunately, many patients with NET's are diagnosed late, when the cancer has already spread to other parts of the body.

Malignant Neuroendocrine Cancer Incidence Age

Adjusted Rate (per 100,000) Trend, VA 2006-2015

Data Source: Virginia Cancer Registry, VA 2011-2015



Sources of Information

- www.cancer.net/cancer-types/neuroendocrine-tumor/risk-factors
- www.cancer.net/cancer-types/neuroendocrine-tumor/introduction
- www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/neuroendocrine-tumors/symptoms-causes/syc-20354132
- www.cancercenter.com/neuroendocrine-tumors/