



"The Other Side of the Stethoscope" N. Teixeira, RN, BSN

New Study Examines NET Metastasis to Liver

Researchers at Oregon Health and Science University have recently published findings in the area of neuroendocrine cancer, with a focus on carcinoid.

In a study recently published in *Surgery*, Christante, et al (2008), based their research on the following premise:

"Hepatic metastases from neuroendocrine cancer dramatically reduce survival, introducing an important opportunity for intervention. Several treatment modalities have been examined, but an optimal treatment approach has been difficult to define."

The group evaluated a treatment modality that combined hepatic artery chemoinfusion with chemoembolization on patients who demonstrated disease progression despite octreotide therapy. Seventy-seven patients were treated; 18 received chemoinfusion only. The treatment-related mortality rate was 7%. The overall response rate was 80% for Patients with **carcinoid** or islet cell neoplasms. Median progression-free survival was 19 months. Median disease specific survival was 39 months from the first treatment; 1- and 5-year survival rates were 78% and 27%, respectively (Christante, 2008).

The group of researchers concluded, "The addition of hepatic artery chemoinfusion, to chemoembolization offers a high probability of clinical benefit to patients who, otherwise, have severely limited therapeutic options and a dismal survival. (*Surgery* 2008; 144:885-94)."

For any readers seeking additional information, regarding this study, you may contact R. Pommier, Oregon Health Sciences University, Div. Surgery Oncology, Dept. of Surgery, 3181 SW Sam Jackson Pk Rd., Mail Code L619, Portland, OR, 97239.

Resource:

Obesity, Fitness & Wellness Week, Feb. 7, 2009, p. 1433