

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE MANAGEMENT OF NETS:

An international NET CONNECT survey of NET patients and healthcare professionals treating NET patients.

Cives M, et al. *J Neuroendocrinol.* 2022 Aug 26;e13196. doi: 10.1111/jne.13196. Online ahead of print.

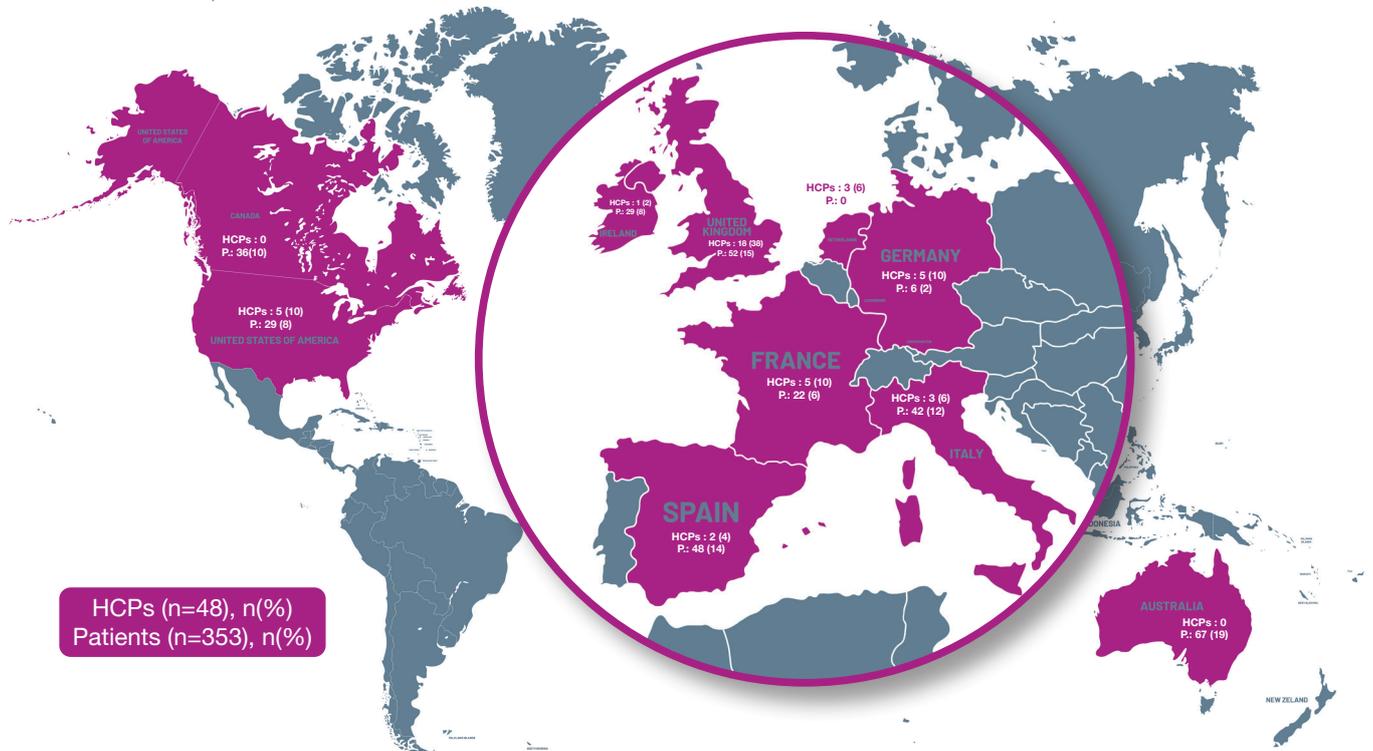
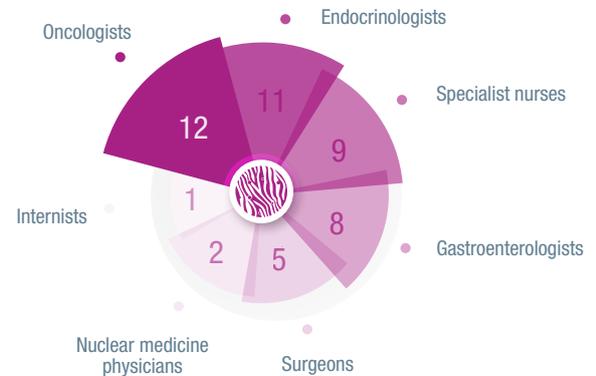
Effect of COVID-19 pandemic on NET (*Neuroendocrine Tumour*) management: Patient and HCP perspectives

Background

- Physicians and nurses working in European Neuroendocrine Tumor Society (ENETS) Centers of Excellence or other hospitals with high volume of NET patients (n=48)
- NET patients worldwide (n=353)
- Two NET CONNECT COVID taskforce surveys addressing different aspects of NET care
- Responses collected between March 24, 2021 and August 19, 2021 for the healthcare professional survey and between May 10, 2021 and August 31, 2021 for the patient survey
- Co-operation with the European Neuroendocrine Tumor Society (ENETS), North American Neuroendocrine Tumor Society (NANETS), International Neuroendocrine Cancer Alliance (INCA), and national patient associations
- ▶ **Key outcomes of interest:** clinical management changes, role of COVID-19 vaccination, role of telemedicine

Results

▶ Overall response rate: 59%



HCPs (n=48), n(%)
Patients (n=353), n(%)

Healthcare professionals reported

- Negative consequences of the COVID-19 outbreak: Deferred diagnoses (40%), delayed surveillance procedures (54%) and postponed elective surgeries (46%)
- Somatostatin analogs increasingly used as bridging strategy for delaying surgery (31%)
- Multidisciplinary tumour boards kept their usual schedule (58%) but were held virtually in 77% of cases

Patients reported

- More frequent self-injection or delivery by home care services of somatostatin analogs than before the pandemic (53% versus 44%)
- Greater use of remote contact (telephone calls, emails, video consultations) with healthcare professionals (69% of patients)
- 66% of patients would prefer continued remote contact versus return to face-to-face meetings with healthcare professionals

CONCLUSION

New health policy measures should guarantee the highest standard of treatment to NET patients, regardless of the trajectory of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pros and cons of telemedicine should be carefully weighed before systematic implementation.

