
Pancreatic Neuroendocrine Neoplasms

Stefano La Rosa • Fausto Sessa
Editors

Pancreatic Neuroendocrine Neoplasms

Practical Approach to Diagnosis,
Classification, and Therapy

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Preface

Since the early 2000s, the advances in imaging technologies and the wide diffusion of endoscopic ultrasound-guided fine needle aspiration have led to an increased detection of pancreatic neuroendocrine neoplasms compelling radiologists, pathologists, and nuclear medicine physicians to manage these diseases at an earlier stage. The increased surgical expertise together with new pharmacological options has also changed the therapeutic approach. At the same time, the refined WHO classification of 2010, increased experience of pathologists in this field, better knowledge of the clinicopathological features, and the availability of new molecular technologies have all increased our understanding of the pathogenesis and progression of such neoplasms. For all these reasons, the field of pancreatic neuroendocrine neoplasms has rapidly grown in the last 10 years and the aim of this book is to capture these dynamic changes providing a broad overview of this topic.

After a historical and epidemiological overview, four chapters attempt to capture the technical advances in diagnostic procedures providing insights for a critical evaluation of the new diagnostic options. The chapters on the immunohistochemical approach to diagnosis and on the criteria now used to classify pancreatic neuroendocrine neoplasm in different prognostic categories represent the bridge between the diagnostic step and the full characterization of the different entities. These are treated in 11 chapters which cover the epidemiology, diagnosis, morphology, and prognosis of each tumor type. A specific chapter is also dedicated to hyperplastic and microadenomatous neuroendocrine lesions, which may represent a diagnostic challenge for pathologists and clinicians.

Careful consideration is given to the molecular features of various tumors and a specific chapter gives a critical overview of the most important knowledge which has contributed to our understanding of the pathogenesis of such neoplasms and may have potential implications for new therapeutic pathways. The final chapters consider the surgical and medical approaches to therapy, providing a practical and analytical overview of the available options.

The book is written by a multidisciplinary team of worldwide-recognized experts and is addressed to radiologists, nuclear medicine physicians,

endocrinologists, pathologists, surgeons, and oncologists interested in endocrine tumors of the pancreas.

The editors wish to thank the contributing authors and hope the readers will find all the information they need for their daily practice.

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Contents

1	Historical Background and Epidemiology	1
	Fausto Sessa and Roberta Maragliano	
2	Radiological Diagnosis of Pancreatic Neuroendocrine Neoplasms	13
	Carlo Fugazzola, Maria Gloria Angeretti, Natalie Lucchina, Ejona Duka, Valeria Molinelli, and Fausto Sessa	
3	The Role of Nuclear Medicine in the Diagnosis of Pancreatic Neuroendocrine Neoplasms	29
	Vittoria Rufini, Paola Castaldi, and Valerio Lanni	
4	Endocrinological Approach to the Diagnosis of Pancreatic Neuroendocrine Neoplasms	39
	Wouter W. de Herder	
5	Cytological Diagnosis of Pancreatic Neuroendocrine Neoplasms	43
	Massimo Bongiovanni, Christine Sempoux, and Antoine Nobile	
6	Classification and Staging of Pancreatic Neuroendocrine Neoplasms	51
	Frediano Inzani, Gianluigi Petrone, and Guido Rindi	
7	Immunohistochemical Approach to the Diagnosis and Prognostic Evaluation of Pancreatic Neuroendocrine Neoplasms	63
	Ricardo V. Lloyd, Jason N. Rosenbaum, and Lori A. Erickson	
8	Insulinoma	75
	Jean-Yves Scoazec	
9	Glucagonoma	81
	Anne Couvelard and Olivia Hentic	
10	Somatostatin-Producing Tumor	89
	Paul Komminoth	
11	VIPoma	97
	Carlo Capella and Stefano La Rosa	

12 Gastrinoma	105
Anja M. Schmitt, Annika Blank, and Aurel Perren	
13 ACTH-Producing Tumor	109
Silvia Uccella, Roberta Maragliano, and Francesca Magnoli	
14 Serotonin-Producing Tumor	117
Stefano La Rosa, Nora Sahnane, and Laura Cimetti	
15 Pancreatic Neuroendocrine Tumors Producing GHRH, GH, Ghrelin, PTH, or PTHrP	125
Kai Duan, Shereen Ezzat, Sylvia L. Asa, and Ozgur Mete	
16 Nonfunctioning Pancreatic Neuroendocrine Neoplasms (Including PP-Producing and Calcitonin-Producing Tumors)	141
Alessandro Vanoli and Enrico Solcia	
17 Poorly Differentiated Neuroendocrine Carcinoma of the Pancreas	147
Olca Basturk and David S. Klimstra	
18 Mixed Adenoneuroendocrine Carcinoma of the Pancreas	155
Michelle D. Reid, Gizem Akkas, Olca Basturk, and Volkan Adsay	
19 Hyperplastic and Microadenomatous Pancreatic Neuroendocrine Lesions	167
Günter Klöppel, Martin Anlauf, Aurel Perren, and Bence Sipos	
20 Molecular Pathology of Pancreatic Neuroendocrine Neoplasms	175
Daniela Furlan	
21 Surgical Therapy of Pancreatic Neuroendocrine Neoplasms	185
Angela Maurizi, Stefano Partelli, Francesca Muffatti, Sara Nobile, and Massimo Falconi	
22 Medical Therapy of Pancreatic Neuroendocrine Neoplasms	191
Nicola Fazio	