

# Neuroendocrine and Carcinoid Tumors

The UCSF Patient and Family Cancer Support Center is the hub of support, information and resources for people with cancer at the Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Learn more about UCSF's supportive care programs at

<https://cancer.ucsf.edu/support/crc/patientsupport-center>

The Cancer Support Center at Mission Bay is located at 1825 4th St., 1st Floor, Room M-1210.

The Cancer Support Center at Mt. Zion is located at 1600 Divisadero St., 1st Floor, Room B-101.

The complete list of Patient Education Resource Pages is available to view at

<http://cancer.ucsf.edu/support/crc/patient-education-resources>

## Overview

Neuroendocrine tumors (NETs) can form in nearly any organ in the body. Wherever they occur, all NETs originate in neuroendocrine cells, cells that are a combination of nerve cells and hormone-producing endocrine cells. NETs can produce hormones that may cause symptoms. NETs can be fast- or slow-growing, malignant (cancerous) or benign. Pathologists grade NETs based on cellular features seen when biopsy tissue is examined under a microscope. These features include how closely the tumor cells resemble nearby normal cells and how fast the tumor cells are replicating

Website: <https://neuroendocrine.ucsf.edu/net-basics-and-faqs>

Carcinoid tumors are neuroendocrine tumors typically arising in the gastrointestinal (GI) tract, most notably in the ileum, the last third of the small intestine, and the appendix, but may occur elsewhere in the body including the lungs, rectum, colon, pancreas, stomach, ovary, thymus, kidney, prostate, and breast. The term "carcinoid" usually implies a well-differentiated tumor with cells more like normal cells, slower growing, and therefore with less invasive malignant potential.

Website: <https://surgicaloncology.ucsf.edu/conditions--procedures/carcinoid-syndrome.aspx>

## UCSF Resources

### UCSF Center for Neuroendocrine Tumors

The UCSF Center for Neuroendocrine Tumors provides comprehensive care for patients with all types of neuroendocrine tumors (NETs). Arising from cells that have traits of both nerve cells and endocrine cells, these rare tumors may produce hormones and can develop in many parts of the body, including the head and neck, lungs, pancreas and digestive tract. We're equipped to handle any NET, no matter where it appears in the body or how it behaves. Our team includes surgeons, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, radiologists, cardiologists, endocrinologists, symptom management experts, genetic counselors, nutritionists, psychologists, social workers and other

specialists. We work together to provide patients with a precise diagnosis and treatment plan tailored to their particular case and needs.

All of our patients can expect to receive the latest and most effective therapies available for their condition. For a patient with a pancreatic NET, for example, the best treatment might involve minimally invasive surgery to remove the tumor. A patient with a gastrointestinal tumor might benefit from peptide receptor radionuclide therapy (PRRT), a new radiation technique that targets cancer cells. And we might use advanced screening tools, such as the UCSF500 Cancer Gene Panel test, to identify the precise biology behind another patient's tumor. Website:

<https://www.ucsfhealth.org/clinics/center-for-neuroendocrine-tumors> | Phone Number:  
415.476.2212

### **Publications**

National Cancer Institute – Center for Cancer Research: Neuroendocrine Tumors

Website: <https://ccr.cancer.gov/developmental-therapeutics-branch/clinical-team/neuroendocrine-tumors>

### **Organizations**

American Cancer Society (ACS) – Pancreatic Neuroendocrine Tumor (NET)

At the American Cancer Society, we're on a mission to free the world from cancer. Until we do, we'll be funding and conducting research, sharing expert information, supporting patients, and spreading the word about prevention. All so you can live longer — and better.

Website: <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/pancreatic-neuroendocrine-tumor.html> | Phone  
Number: 800.227.2345

Cancer.Net – Neuroendocrine Tumors

This is Cancer.Net's Guide Neuroendocrine Tumors

Website: <https://www.cancer.net/cancer-types/neuroendocrine-tumors>

Cancer Support Community – Neuroendocrine & Carcinoid Tumors

As the largest professionally led nonprofit network of cancer support worldwide, the Cancer Support Community is dedicated to ensuring that all people impacted by cancer are empowered by knowledge, strengthened by action, and sustained by community.

Website: <https://www.cancersupportcommunity.org/neuroendocrine-carcinoid-tumors> | Phone  
Number: 888-793-9355

#### National LGBT Cancer Network

The National LGBT Cancer Network works to improve the lives of LGBT cancer survivors and those at risk by: EDUCATING the LGBT community about our increased cancer risks and the importance of screening and early detection; TRAINING health care providers to offer more culturally-competent, safe and welcoming care; and ADVOCATING for LGBT survivors in mainstream cancer organizations, the media and research.

Website: <https://cancer-network.org/about/> | Phone Number: 212-675-2633

#### Neuroendocrine Tumor Research Foundation

The focus of the NETRF is to fund and discover cures and more effective treatments. Website: <https://netrf.org> | Phone Number: 617 946 1780

#### NorCal CarciNet Community

Helps those with neuroendocrine and carcinoid tumors to share challenges and experiences, learn about prognosis and treatments, find information, and improve communications between the medical community, patients and caregivers. Website: [www.NorCalCarciNET.org](http://www.NorCalCarciNET.org)

#### The Carcinoid Cancer Foundation

Promotes awareness and education for patients and healthcare providers. The website includes many patient resources and videos. Website: <http://www.carcinoid.org> | Phone Number: 888 722 3132

#### The Healing NET Foundation

Promotes awareness and education about neuroendocrine tumors. The patient resources page includes links to other agencies and support groups. Website: <http://www.thehealingnet.org> | Phone Number: 615-369-6463

#### The North American Neuroendocrine Tumor Society (NANETS)

Features an annual symposium which brings physicians, researchers, allied healthcare providers and students together. Website: <https://www.nanets.net> | Phone Number: 650-762-6387