Protocol for the Examination of Specimens From Patients with Well-Differentiated Neuroendocrine Tumors (Carcinoid Tumors) of the Duodenum and Ampulla of Vater

Version: 1.1.0.0
Protocol Posting Date: June 2021
CAP Laboratory Accreditation Program Protocol Required Use Date: March 2022

The changes included in this current protocol version affect accreditation requirements. The new deadline for implementing this protocol version is reflected in the above accreditation date.

For accreditation purposes, this protocol should be used for the following procedures AND tumor types:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resection</td>
<td>Includes specimens designated segmental duodenum resection, pancreaticoduodenectomy (Whipple resection)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tumor Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Well-differentiated neuroendocrine tumor of the duodenum and the ampulla</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This protocol is NOT required for accreditation purposes for the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biopsy</td>
<td>Excisional biopsy (includes endoscopic resection, local resection and ampullectomy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Primary resection specimen with no residual cancer (eg. following neoadjuvant therapy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Recurrent tumor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cytologic specimens</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following tumor types should NOT be reported using this protocol:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tumor Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Well-differentiated neuroendocrine tumors of the jejunum and ileum (consider the Jejunum and Ileum Neuroendocrine Tumor protocol)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poorly differentiated neuroendocrine carcinoma including small cell and large cell neuroendocrine carcinoma (consider the Small Intestine protocol)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other epithelial carcinomas including mixed neuroendocrine-non-neuroendocrine neoplasms (consider the Small Intestine protocol)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lymphoma (consider the Hodgkin or non-Hodgkin Lymphoma protocols)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gastrointestinal stromal tumor (GIST) (Consider the GIST protocol)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-GIST sarcoma (consider the Soft Tissue protocol)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Authors
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With guidance from the CAP Cancer and CAP Pathology Electronic Reporting Committees.

* Denotes primary author.
Accreditation Requirements
This protocol can be utilized for a variety of procedures and tumor types for clinical care purposes. For accreditation purposes, only the definitive primary cancer resection specimen is required to have the core and conditional data elements reported in a synoptic format.

- **Core data elements** are required in reports to adequately describe appropriate malignancies. For accreditation purposes, essential data elements must be reported in all instances, even if the response is “not applicable” or “cannot be determined.”

- **Conditional data elements** are only required to be reported if applicable as delineated in the protocol. For instance, the total number of lymph nodes examined must be reported, but only if nodes are present in the specimen.

- **Optional data elements** are identified with “+” and although not required for CAP accreditation purposes, may be considered for reporting as determined by local practice standards.

The use of this protocol is not required for recurrent tumors or for metastatic tumors that are resected at a different time than the primary tumor. Use of this protocol is also not required for pathology reviews performed at a second institution (ie, secondary consultation, second opinion, or review of outside case at second institution).

Synoptic Reporting
All core and conditionally required data elements outlined on the surgical case summary from this cancer protocol must be displayed in synoptic report format. Synoptic format is defined as:

- Data element: followed by its answer (response), outline format without the paired Data element: Response format is NOT considered synoptic.

- The data element should be represented in the report as it is listed in the case summary. The response for any data element may be modified from those listed in the case summary, including “Cannot be determined” if appropriate.

- Each diagnostic parameter pair (Data element: Response) is listed on a separate line or in a tabular format to achieve visual separation. The following exceptions are allowed to be listed on one line:
  - Anatomic site or specimen, laterality, and procedure
  - Pathologic Stage Classification (pTNM) elements
  - Negative margins, as long as all negative margins are specifically enumerated where applicable

- The synoptic portion of the report can appear in the diagnosis section of the pathology report, at the end of the report or in a separate section, but all Data element: Responses must be listed together in one location.

Organizations and pathologists may choose to list the required elements in any order, use additional methods in order to enhance or achieve visual separation, or add optional items within the synoptic report. The report may have required elements in a summary format elsewhere in the report IN ADDITION TO but not as replacement for the synoptic report ie, all required elements must be in the synoptic portion of the report in the format defined above.

Summary of Changes

**v 1.1.0.0**

- General Reformatting
- Revised Margins Section
- Revised Lymph Nodes Section
- Added Distant Metastasis Section
- Removed pTX and pNX Staging Classification
## Reporting Template

**Protocol Posting Date:** June 2021  
Select a single response unless otherwise indicated.

### CASE SUMMARY: (DUODENUM AND AMPULLA NEUROENDOCRINE TUMOR)

**Standard(s):** AJCC-UICC 8

### SPECIMEN (Notes [A,B])

**Procedure**  
- Ampullectomy  
- Endoscopic or local resection  
- Duodenum, segmental resection  
- Pancreaticoduodenectomy (Whipple resection)  
- Other (specify): _________________  
- Not specified

### TUMOR

**Tumor Site (Note C) (select all that apply)**  
- Duodenum: _________________  
  - First portion  
  - Second portion  
  - Third portion  
  - Fourth portion  
- Ampulla: _________________  
  - Other (specify): _________________  
  - Cannot be determined: _________________

**Histologic Type and Grade# (Notes [D,E])**  
# For poorly differentiated (high-grade) neuroendocrine carcinomas arising in the small intestine or ampulla, the checklists for carcinomas of those organ sites should be used.

- G1, well-differentiated neuroendocrine tumor  
- G2, well-differentiated neuroendocrine tumor  
- G3, well-differentiated neuroendocrine tumor  
- Other (specify): _________________  
- GX, well-differentiated neuroendocrine tumor, grade cannot be assessed: _________________  
- Not applicable  
  +Histologic Type and Grade Comment: _________________

**Histologic Grade Determination (select all that apply)**  
*Mitotic rate and / or Ki67 labeling index is required to determine histologic grade*

- Mitotic rate (Note E)  
  **Mitotic Rate#**  
  # Mitotic rate should be reported as number of mitoses per 2 mm2, by evaluating at least 10 mm2 in the most mitotically active part of the tumor (e.g., if using a microscope with a field diameter of 0.55 mm, count 42 high power fields (10 mm2) and divide the resulting number of mitoses by 5 to determine the number of mitoses per 2 mm2 needed to assign tumor grade).

- Specify number of mitoses per 2 mm2: _________________ mitoses per 2 mm2  
- Less than 2 mitoses per 2 mm2  
- 2 to 20 mitoses per 2 mm2

---

Replaced by version 2.0.0.0 on December 13, 2023, Obsolete as of September 2024 (8 months after newest release date)
___ Greater than 20 mitoses per 2 mm²
___ Cannot be determined (explain): ____________________
   Not applicable

**AND / OR**

___ Ki-67 labeling index

**Ki-67 Labeling Index**
___ Specify Ki-67 percentage: ________________ %
___ Less than 3%
___ 3% to 20%
___ Greater than 20%
___ Cannot be determined (explain): ____________________
___ Not applicable

**+Histologic Subtype (Notes C,D)**
___ Somatostatinoma
___ Gastrinoma
___ Gangliocytic paraganglioma
___ Other (specify): ____________________

**Tumor Size (Note F)**
*Specify size of largest tumor if multiple tumors are present*
___ Greatest dimension in Centimeters (cm): ____________________ cm
   +Additional Dimension in Centimeters (cm): ____ x ____ cm
___ Cannot be determined (explain): ____________________

**Tumor Focality**
___ Unifocal
___ Multifocal

**Number of Tumors**
___ Specify number: ____________________
___ Other (specify): ____________________
___ Cannot be determined: ____________________
___ Cannot be determined

**Tumor Extent (select all that apply)**
___ Duodenal Tumor
   ___ Invades mucosa
   ___ Invades submucosa
   ___ Invades muscularis propria
   ___ Invades pancreas
   ___ Invades peripancreatic adipose tissue
   ___ Invades visceral peritoneum (serosa)
   ___ Invades other organ(s) (specify): ____________________
   ___ Cannot be determined: ____________________

___ Ampullary Tumor
   ___ Confined within sphincter of Oddi
   ___ Invades through sphincter into duodenal submucosa
   ___ Invades through sphincter into duodenal muscularis propria
   ___ Invades pancreas
   ___ Invades peripancreatic adipose tissue
___ Invades visceral peritoneum (serosa)
___ Invades other organ(s) (specify): _________________
___ Cannot be determined: _________________
___ No evidence of primary tumor

Lymphovascular Invasion
___ Not identified
___ Present
___ Cannot be determined: _________________

+Perineural Invasion
___ Not identified
___ Present
___ Cannot be determined: _________________

+Tumor Comment: _________________

MARGINS (Note G)

Margin Status
___ All margins negative for tumor

+Closest Margin(s) to Tumor (select all that apply)
___ Proximal: _________________
___ Distal: _________________
___ Radial or mesenteric: _________________
___ Uncinate (retroperitoneal / superior mesenteric artery): _________________
___ Bile duct: _________________
___ Pancreatic neck / parenchymal: _________________
___ Mucosal: _________________
___ Deep: _________________
___ Other (specify): _________________
___ Cannot be determined: _________________

+Distance from Tumor to Closest Margin
 Specify in Centimeters (cm)
___ Exact distance in cm: _________________ cm
___ Greater than 1 cm

Specify in Millimeters (mm)
___ Exact distance in mm: _________________ mm
___ Greater than 10 mm

Other
___ Other (specify): _________________
___ Cannot be determined: _________________

Tumor present at margin

Margin(s) Involved by Tumor (select all that apply)
___ Proximal: _________________
___ Distal: _________________
___ Radial or mesenteric: _________________
___ Uncinate (retroperitoneal / superior mesenteric artery): _________________
___ Bile duct: _________________
___ Pancreatic neck / parenchymal: _________________
___ Mucosal: _________________
REGIONAL LYMPH NODES

Regional Lymph Node Status
___ Not applicable (no regional lymph nodes submitted or found)
___ Regional lymph nodes present
   ___ All regional lymph nodes negative for tumor
   ___ Tumor present in regional lymph node(s)

   Number of Lymph Nodes with Tumor
   ___ Exact number (specify):______________
   ___ At least (specify):______________
   ___ Other (specify):______________
   ___ Cannot be determined (explain):______________

   ___ Other (specify):______________
   ___ Cannot be determined (explain):______________

   Number of Lymph Nodes Examined
   ___ Exact number (specify):______________
   ___ At least (specify):______________
   ___ Other (specify):______________
   ___ Cannot be determined (explain):______________

   ___ Other (specify):______________
   ___ Cannot be determined (explain):______________

+Regional Lymph Node Comment:______________

DISTANT METASTASIS

Distant Site(s) Involved, if applicable (select all that apply)
___ Not applicable
___ Liver:______________
___ Lung:______________
___ Ovary:______________
___ Nonregional lymph node(s):______________
___ Peritoneum:______________
___ Bone:______________
___ Other (specify):______________
___ Cannot be determined:______________

PATHOLOGIC STAGE CLASSIFICATION (pTNM, AJCC 8th Edition) (Note H)
Reporting of pT, pN, and (when applicable) pM categories is based on information available to the pathologist at the time the report is issued. As per the AJCC (Chapter 1, 8th Ed.) it is the managing physician’s responsibility to establish the final pathologic stage based upon all pertinent information, including but potentially not limited to this pathology report.

TNM Descriptors (select all that apply)
___ Not applicable
___ m (multiple primary tumors)
___ r (recurrent)
___ y (post-treatment)

pT Category
___ pT not assigned (cannot be determined based on available pathological information)
___ pT1: Tumor invades the mucosa or submucosa only and is less than or equal to 1 cm (duodenal tumors); tumor less than or equal to 1 cm and confined within the sphincter of Oddi (ampullary tumors)
___ pT2: Tumor invades the muscularis propria or greater than 1 cm (duodenal); tumor invades through sphincter into duodenal submucosa or muscularis propria, or is greater than 1 cm (ampullary)
___ pT3: Tumor invades the pancreas or peripancreatic adipose tissue
___ pT4: Tumor invades the visceral peritoneum (serosa) or other organs

pN Category
___ pN not assigned (no nodes submitted or found)
___ pN not assigned (cannot be determined based on available pathological information)
___ pN0: No regional lymph node involvement
___ pN1: Regional lymph node involvement

pM Category (required only if confirmed pathologically)
___ Not applicable - pM cannot be determined from the submitted specimen(s)
  pM1: Distant metastasis
    ___ pM1a: Metastasis confined to liver
    ___ pM1b: Metastasis in at least one extrahepatic site (e.g., lung, ovary, nonregional lymph node, peritoneum, bone)
    ___ pM1c: Both hepatic and extrahepatic metastases
    ___ pM1 (subcategory cannot be determined)

ADDITIONAL FINDINGS (Note I)

+Additional Findings (select all that apply)
___ None identified
___ Endocrine cell hyperplasia
___ Tumor necrosis
___ Psammoma bodies
___ Other (specify): ________________________

COMMENTS

Comment(s): ________________________
Explanatory Notes

A. Application and Tumor Location
This protocol applies to well-differentiated neuroendocrine tumors (carcinoid tumors) of the duodenum and the ampulla of Vater. Poorly differentiated neuroendocrine carcinomas (small cell and large cell neuroendocrine carcinomas) and tumors with mixed glandular/neuroendocrine differentiation are not included. Well-differentiated neuroendocrine tumors of the jejunum and ileum use a different CAP cancer protocol.

Because of site-specific similarities in histology, immunohistochemistry, and histochemistry, neuroendocrine tumors of the digestive tract have traditionally been subdivided into those of foregut, midgut, and hindgut origin (Table 1). In general, the distribution pattern along the gastrointestinal (GI) tract parallels that of the progenitor cell type, and the anatomic site of origin of GI neuroendocrine tumors is an important predictor of clinical behavior.

Table 1. Site of Origin of Gastrointestinal Neuroendocrine Tumors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Foregut Tumors</th>
<th>Midgut Tumors</th>
<th>Hindgut Tumors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stomach, Proximal Duodenum</td>
<td>Jejunum, Ileum, Appendix, Proximal Colon</td>
<td>Distal Colon, Rectum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immunohistochemistry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chromogranin A</td>
<td>86%-100% +</td>
<td>82%-92% +</td>
<td>40%-58% +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synaptophysin</td>
<td>50% +</td>
<td>95%-100% +</td>
<td>94%-100% +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serotonin</td>
<td>33% + [5]</td>
<td>86% + [5]</td>
<td>45%-83% + [5,6,7,8,9]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Immunohistochemical Markers</td>
<td>Rarely, + for pancreatic polypeptide, histamine, gastrin, vasoactive intestinal peptide (VIP), or adrenocorticotropic hormone (ACTH)</td>
<td>Prostatic acid phosphatase + in 20%-40% [10,11]</td>
<td>Prostatic acid phosphatase + in 20%-82% [5,6,7,8,9,10,11]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carcinoid Syndrome</td>
<td>Rare</td>
<td>5%-39% [12,13]</td>
<td>Rare</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

References


**B. Procedure**

Depending on tumor size, stage, location, and functional status, the surgical options range from endoscopic resection to pancreatoduodenectomy. In general, duodenal tumors <1 cm are treated by endoscopic or local resection, whereas a lymphadenectomy is included for those >2 cm. The surgical approaches for tumors of 1 cm to 2 cm remain controversial. Small gastrinomas are sometime excised locally through duodenotomy. Segmental resection with reconstruction can be performed for the tumors in the first, third, and fourth portion of the duodenum without involvement of ampulla of Vater.

**References**


**C. Site-Specific Features**

Duodenal neuroendocrine tumors are relatively uncommon, accounting for roughly 4% of GI neuroendocrine tumors. Most duodenal and ampullary NETs are nonfunctional. The most common functional tumor is the gastrin-secreting neuroendocrine tumors, or gastrinoma, associated with Zollinger-Ellison syndrome in one-third of cases. These gastrin-secreting tumors are often associated with multiple endocrine neoplasia type 1 (MEN1) syndrome, but sporadic tumors also occur. Duodenal somatostatin-producing tumors (somatostatinomas) are less common, accounting for about 1% of GI neuroendocrine tumors, and are seldom associated with the functional syndrome of mild diabetes mellitus, cholelithiasis, and steatorrhea. These tumors often have a pure glandular growth pattern with scattered psammoma bodies and may be confused with conventional adenocarcinomas. They arise almost exclusively in the ampulla or periampullary duodenum and are often associated with neurofibromatosis type 1. Gangliocytic paraganglioma is another rare neuroendocrine tumor arising in the ampulla of Vater or periampullary duodenum with a distinctive histology composed of 3 components: S-100-positive spindle cells, ganglion cells, and paraganglioma.

Duodenal neuroendocrine tumors can arise in the first, second, third, or fourth portion of the duodenum, but more than 95% of them are located in the first and second portion with those in the second portion predominating in the ampullary region. Tumors arising in the third or fourth portion may behave more like jejunal and ileal neuroendocrine tumors. Most duodenal neuroendocrine tumors are unifocal but can be multifocal, especially in MEN1 patients with duodenal gastrinoma. Metastatic risk is increased by tumor size >2 cm, involvement of the muscularis propria, and mitotic activity.
D. Histologic Type

The World Health Organization (WHO) classifies neuroendocrine neoplasms as well-differentiated neuroendocrine tumors (either the primary tumor or metastasis) and poorly differentiated neuroendocrine carcinomas. Historically, well-differentiated neuroendocrine tumors have been referred to as “carcinoid tumors,” a term which may cause confusion because clinically a carcinoid tumor is a serotonin-producing tumor associated with functional manifestations of carcinoid syndrome. The use of the term “carcinoid” for neuroendocrine tumor reporting is therefore discouraged for these reasons.

Classification of neuroendocrine tumors is based upon size, functionality, site, and invasion. Functioning tumors are those associated with clinical manifestations of hormone production or secretion of measurable amounts of active hormone; immunohistochemical demonstration of hormone production is not equivalent to clinically apparent functionality. Most functional tumors arising in the duodenum and the ampulla of Vater are gastrinomas. While somatostatinomas in the pancreas are associated with the functional syndrome of mild diabetes mellitus, cholelithiasis, and steatorrhea, those arising in the duodenum and the ampulla are always nonfunctional.

Immunohistochemistry and other ancillary techniques are generally not required to diagnose well-differentiated neuroendocrine tumors. Specific markers that may be used to establish neuroendocrine differentiation include chromogranin A, synaptophysin, and CD56. Because of their relative sensitivity and specificity, chromogranin A and synaptophysin are recommended.

Immunohistochemistry for specific hormone products, such as gastrin and somatostatin, may be of interest in some cases. However, immunohistochemical demonstration of hormone production does not equate with clinical functionality of the tumor.

References


**E. Histologic Grade**

Cytologic atypia in well-differentiated neuroendocrine tumors has no impact on clinical behavior of these tumors.

The WHO classification¹ and others² use mitotic rate and/or Ki-67 index as 1 of the criteria for potential for aggressive behavior. Mitotic rate should be reported as number of mitoses per 2 mm², by evaluating at least 10 mm² in the most mitotically active part of the tumor. Only clearly identifiable mitotic figures should be counted; hyperchromatic, karyorrhectic, or apoptotic nuclei are excluded. Because of variations in field size, the number of high-power field (HPF) (at 40X magnification) for 10 mm² (thereby 2 mm²) must be determined for each microscope (Table 2). For example, if using a microscope with a field diameter of 0.55 mm, count 42 HPF and divide the resulting number of mitoses by 5 to determine the number of mitoses per 2 mm² needed to assign tumor grade.

**Table 2. Number of HPF Required for 10 mm² Using Microscopes with Different Field Diameter**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field Diameter (mm)</th>
<th>Area (mm²)</th>
<th>Number of HPF for 10 mm²</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.40</td>
<td>0.125</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.41</td>
<td>0.132</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.42</td>
<td>0.139</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.43</td>
<td>0.145</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.44</td>
<td>0.152</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>0.159</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.46</td>
<td>0.166</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.47</td>
<td>0.173</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.48</td>
<td>0.181</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.49</td>
<td>0.189</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>0.196</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.51</td>
<td>0.204</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.52</td>
<td>0.212</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.53</td>
<td>0.221</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.54</td>
<td>0.229</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.55</td>
<td>0.238</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.56</td>
<td>0.246</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.57</td>
<td>0.255</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.58</td>
<td>0.264</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.59</td>
<td>0.273</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.60</td>
<td>0.283</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>0.292</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.62</td>
<td>0.302</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.63</td>
<td>0.312</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.64</td>
<td>0.322</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>0.332</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.66</td>
<td>0.342</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.67</td>
<td>0.353</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.68</td>
<td>0.363</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.69</td>
<td>0.374</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ki-67 index is reported as percent positive tumor cells in area of highest nuclear labeling (“hot spot”), although the precise method of assessment has not been standardized. A number of methods have used to assess Ki-67 index, including automatic counting and “eyeballing.”³⁴ Automated counting is not widely available and requires careful modification of the software to circumvent the inaccuracies.³³ Eye-balling
can be used for most tumors; however, for tumors with Ki-67 index close to grade cut-offs, it is recommended to perform the manual count on the print of camera-captured image of the hot spot. It has been recommended that a minimum of 500 tumor cells be counted to determine the Ki-67 index, and a notation is made if less cells are available. Grade assigned based on Ki-67 index is typically higher than that based on mitotic count, and the case is assigned to the higher of the 2 if both methods are performed.\textsuperscript{1}

It is important to note that there are a small group of well-differentiated neuroendocrine tumors with a Ki-67 index >20% and a mitotic rate usually <20 per 10 HPF. In WHO-2010, these tumors were considered as G3 poorly differentiated neuroendocrine carcinomas. However, they have typical morphology of well-differentiated tumors.

Previous studies (most on pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors) have demonstrated that these tumors have a worse prognosis than grade 2 (Ki-67=3-20% and mitosis <20/10 HPF) neuroendocrine tumors, but they are not as aggressive as poorly differentiated neuroendocrine carcinomas.\textsuperscript{5} In addition, these tumors do not have the genetic abnormalities seen in poorly differentiated neuroendocrine carcinomas.\textsuperscript{6} Furthermore, unlike poorly differentiated neuroendocrine carcinomas, they are less responsive to platinum-based chemotherapy.\textsuperscript{2} In the WHO-2017 blue book of endocrine tumors, WHO-2019 blue book of digestive system tumors, and AJCC 8th edition, those with typical morphology of well-differentiated tumors are classified as “well-differentiated neuroendocrine tumor” but as grade 3 (Table 3).\textsuperscript{1,8}

\begin{table}[h]
\centering
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|}
\hline
\textbf{Grade} & \textbf{Mitotic Rate (per 2mm\textsuperscript{2})} & \textbf{Ki-67 index (%)} \\
\hline
Well-differentiated neuroendocrine tumor, G1 & <2 & <3 \\
Well-differentiated neuroendocrine tumor, G2 & 2-20 & 3-20 \\
Well-differentiated neuroendocrine tumor, G3 & >20 & >20 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\caption{Recommended Grading System for Well-Differentiated Gastroenteropancreatic Neuroendocrine Tumors}
\end{table}

References
F. Tumor Size
For neuroendocrine tumors in any part of the GI tract, size greater than 2.0 cm is associated with a higher risk of lymph node metastasis. For duodenal NETs, nodal metastases occur in 3%, 13%, and 40% of patients with tumors smaller than 1.0 cm, between 1 cm and 2 cm, and larger than 2 cm, respectively. However, duodenal gastrinomas frequently have lymph node metastasis even if they are smaller than 1 cm. In addition, ampullary neuroendocrine tumors may be more likely to metastasize at a smaller size.

References

G. Margins
Circumferential (Radial or Mesenteric) Margin
In addition to addressing the proximal and distal margins, assessment of the circumferential (radial) margin is necessary for the duodenum either incompletely encased by peritoneum (Figure, A) or unencased (Figure, B). The circumferential margin represents the adventitial soft tissue margin closest to the deepest penetration of tumor and is created surgically by blunt or sharp dissection of the retroperitoneal or subperitoneal aspect, respectively. The distance between the tumor and circumferential (radial) margin should be reported. The circumferential (radial) margin is considered positive if the tumor is present at the inked nonperitonealized surface. This assessment includes tumor within a lymph node as well as direct tumor extension, but if circumferential (radial) margin positivity is based solely on intranodal tumor, this should be so stated.

H. Pathologic Stage Classification
The TNM staging system for neuroendocrine tumors of the duodenum and ampulla of the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) and International Union Against Cancer (UICC) is recommended.1

By AJCC/UICC convention, the designation “T” refers to a primary tumor that has not been previously treated. The symbol “p” refers to the pathologic classification of the TNM, as opposed to the clinical classification, and is based on gross and microscopic examination. pT entails a resection of the primary tumor or biopsy adequate to evaluate the highest pT category, pN entails removal of nodes adequate to validate lymph node metastasis, and pM implies microscopic examination of distant lesions. Clinical
classification (cTNM) is usually carried out by the referring physician before treatment during initial evaluation of the patient or when pathologic classification is not possible.

Pathologic staging is usually performed after surgical resection of the primary tumor. Pathologic staging depends on pathologic documentation of the anatomic extent of disease, whether or not the primary tumor has been completely removed. If a biopsied tumor is not resected for any reason (eg, when technically unfeasible) and if the highest T and N categories or the M1 category of the tumor can be confirmed microscopically, the criteria for pathologic classification and staging have been satisfied without total removal of the primary cancer.

TNM Descriptors
For identification of special cases of TNM or pTNM classifications, the “m” suffix and “y,” “r,” and “a” prefixes are used. Although they do not affect the stage grouping, they indicate cases needing separate analysis.

The “m” suffix indicates the presence of multiple primary tumors in a single site and is recorded in parentheses: pT(m)NM.

The “y” prefix indicates those cases in which classification is performed during or following initial multimodality therapy (ie, neoadjuvant chemotherapy, radiation therapy, or both chemotherapy and radiation therapy). The cTNM or pTNM category is identified by a “y” prefix. The ycTNM or ypTNM categorizes the extent of tumor actually present at the time of that examination. The “y” categorization is not an estimate of tumor prior to multimodality therapy (ie, before initiation of neoadjuvant therapy).

The “r” prefix indicates a recurrent tumor when staged after a documented disease-free interval, and is identified by the “r” prefix: rTNM.

The “a” prefix designates the stage determined at autopsy: aTNM.

T Category Considerations
Multiple tumors should be designated as such (and the largest tumor should be used to assign the T category):
- If the number of tumors is known, use T(#) eg, pT3(4)N0M0.
- If the number of tumors is unavailable or too numerous, use the suffix m—T(m)—eg, pT3(m)N0M0

N Category Considerations
The regional lymph nodes for the duodenum and the ampulla of Vater vary with site. For duodenal tumors, the regional lymph nodes are duodenal, hepatic, pancreaticoduodenal, infrapyloric, gastroduodenal, pyloric, superior mesenteric, and pericholedochal nodes. The regional nodes for the ampulla may be subdivided as follows:
- Superior: Lymph nodes superior to head and body of pancreas
- Inferior: Lymph nodes inferior to head and body of pancreas
- Anterior: Anterior pancreaticoduodenal, pyloric, and proximal mesenteric lymph nodes
- Posterior: Posterior pancreaticoduodenal, common bile duct or pericholedochal, and proximal mesenteric nodes
**M Category Considerations**
The liver is the most common metastatic site for duodenal and ampullary neuroendocrine tumors. Metastases to extrahepatic sites, such as lung, ovary, peritoneum, and bone, are rare. Involvement of the celiac, para-aortic, and other nonregional lymph nodes is also considered M1 disease. In the AJCC 8th edition, M is subcategorized into M1a (hepatic only), M1b (extrahepatic only), and M1c (both hepatic and extrahepatic).

References

I. Additional Findings
Psammoma bodies are commonly found in duodenal neuroendocrine tumors, especially periampullary tumors\(^1\) expressing somatostatin and associated with neurofibromatosis type 1.\(^2\)

References