ORIGINAL ARTICLE



Efficacy of [¹⁷⁷Lu]Lu-DOTATATE in metastatic neuroendocrine neoplasms of different locations: data from the SEPTRALU study

Mercedes Mitjavila¹ · Paula Jimenez-Fonseca² · Pilar Belló³ · Virginia Pubul⁴ · Juan Carlos Percovich⁵ · Amparo Garcia-Burillo⁶ · Jorge Hernando⁷ · Javier Arbizu⁸ · Emilia Rodeño⁹ · Montserrat Estorch¹⁰ · Belén Llana¹¹ · Maribel Castellón¹² · Lina García-Cañamaque¹³ · Pablo Gajate¹⁴ · Maria Carmen Riesco¹⁵ · Maria Begoña Miguel¹⁶ · David Balaguer-Muñoz¹⁷ · Ana Custodio¹⁸ · Juana María Cano¹⁹ · Alexandra Repetto²⁰ · Pilar Garcia-Alonso²¹ · Maria Angustias Muros²² · Jose Luis Vercher-Conejero²³ · Alberto Carmona-Bayonas²⁴

Received: 6 December 2022 / Accepted: 18 February 2023 / Published online: 6 March 2023 © The Author(s) 2023

Abstract

Background Peptide receptor radionuclide therapy (PRRT) is one of the most promising therapeutic strategies in neuroendocrine neoplasms (NENs). Nevertheless, its role in certain tumor sites remains unclear. This study sought to elucidate the efficacy and safety of [¹⁷⁷Lu]Lu-DOTATATE in NENs with different locations and evaluate the effect of the tumor origin, bearing in mind other prognostic variables. Advanced NENs overexpressing somatostatin receptors (SSTRs) on functional imaging, of any grade or location, treated at 24 centers were enrolled. The protocol consisted of four cycles of ¹⁷⁷Lu-DOTA-TATE 7.4 GBq iv every 8 weeks (NCT04949282).

Results The sample comprised 522 subjects with pancreatic (35%), midgut (28%), bronchopulmonary (11%), pheochromocytoma/ paraganglioma (PPGL) (6%), other gastroenteropancreatic (GEP) (11%), and other non-gastroenteropancreatic (NGEP) (9%) NENs. The best RECIST 1.1 responses were complete response, 0.7%; partial response, 33.2%; stable disease, 52.1%; and tumor progression, 14%, with activity conditioned by the tumor subtype, but with benefit in all strata. Median progression-free survival (PFS) was 31.3 months (95% CI, 25.7–not reached [NR]) in midgut, 30.6 months (14.4–NR) in PPGL, 24.3 months (18.0-NR) in other GEP, 20.5 months (11.8-NR) in other NGEP, 19.8 months (16.8–28.1) in pancreatic, and 17.6 months (14.4–33.1) in bronchopulmonary NENs. [¹⁷⁷Lu]Lu-DOTATATE exhibited scant severe toxicity. **Conclusion** This study confirms the efficacy and safety of [¹⁷⁷Lu]Lu-DOTATATE in a wide range of SSTR-expressing NENs, regardless of location, with clinical benefit and superimposable survival outcomes between pNENs and other GEP and NGEP tumor subtypes different from midgut NENs.

Keywords $[^{177}Lu]Lu$ -DOTATATE · Lutathera · Lung · Neuroendocrine tumor · PRRT · Radionuclide therapy

Abbreviations [¹⁷⁷ Lu]Lu-DOTATATE	[¹⁷⁷ Lu][Lu-DOTA ⁰ , Tyr ³]	BP-NENs	Bronchopulmonary neuroendo-
[Lu]Lu-DOTATATE			crine neoplasms
20	Octreotate (DOTATATE)	CI	Confidence interval
[⁹⁰ Y]Y-DOTATOC	[⁹⁰ Y][Y-DOTA-DPhe ¹ -Tyr ³]	CT	Computed tomography
	octreotide	DF	Degrees of freedom
[⁶⁸ Ga]Ga-DOTATOC	[⁶⁸ Ga]Ga-DOTA-Tyr-octreotide	ECOG-PS	Eastern Cooperative Oncology
AEMPS	Spanish Agency of Medicines		Group performance status
	and Medical Devices	EMA	European Medicines Agency
		FDA	Food and Drug Administration
		GBq	Gigabecquerel
This article is part of the Topical Collection on Oncology -		GEP	Gastroenteropancreatic
Digestive tract.		GEP-NENs	Gastroenteropancreatic neuroen-
Alberto Commono Dovon			docrine neoplasms
Alberto Carmona-Bayon alberto.carmonabayonas		HR	Hazard ratio
5	available on the last page of the article	IV	Intravenous

Extended author information available on the last page of the article

MR mPFS	Magnetic resonance Median progression-free
	survival
mOS	Median overall survival
NCI-CTC	National Cancer Institute Com-
	mon Toxicity Criteria
NENs	Neuroendocrine neoplasms
NGEP	Non-gastroenteropancreatic
NR	Not reached
ORR	Overall response rate
PET/CT	Positron emission tomography
	and computed tomography
pNENs	Pancreatic neuroendocrine
	neoplasms
PPGL	Pheochromocytoma/
	paraganglioma
PRRT	Peptide receptor radionuclide
	therapy
RCT	Randomized clinical trial
RECIST v1.1	Response Evaluation Criteria in
	Solid Tumors version 1.1
SEMNIM	Spanish Society of Nuclear
	Medicine and Molecular
	Imaging
SEEN	Spanish Society of the Endocri-
	nology and Nutrition
SRI	SSTR imaging
SSA	Somatostatin analogs
SSTRs	Somatostatin receptors
Y-90	Yttrium-90

Introduction

Somatostatin receptors (SSTRs) are G-protein-coupled receptors with complex biological activities, diffusely distributed in multiple tissues and tumors [1, 2]. Overexpression of SSTRs in more than 80% of well-differentiated gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine neoplasms (GEP-NENs) (more in gastrinomas and less in insulinomas), in addition to expression in 50% of bronchopulmonary NENs (BP-NENs), as well as in thyroid tumors, pheochromocytomas and paragangliomas (PPGLs) lay the groundwork for the rationale to study the potential antitumor effect of targeted therapies with radioligands [3, 4].

Under the aegis of this strategy, theragnosis based on SSTRs for both the diagnosis and treatment with peptide receptor radionuclide therapy (PRRT) is one of the most promising treatment approaches in NENs. In vivo expression of SSTRs is detected by SSTR imaging (SRI) with great sensitivity, making it possible to select patients for PRRT with [⁹⁰Y][Y-DOTA-DPhe¹-Tyr³] octreotide (DOTA-TOC) or [¹⁷⁷Lu][Lu-DOTA⁰-Tyr³] octreotate (DOTATATE)

[5, 6], by means of standardized methods, such as Krenning criteria [7].

Nonetheless, NENs' low incidence and tremendous heterogeneity have been a stumbling block to attaining evidence of PRRT's efficacy in most tumor subtypes [8, 9]. With a biological imprint modulated by tumor origin, the embryogenesis of the diffuse neuroendocrine system accounts for the broad spectrum of these tumors: GEP-NENs (approximately two thirds of all cases), BP-NENs (22–27%), unknown primaries (10–20%), and up to 5% located in endocrine glands, endocrine islets other than the pancreas (thyroid), and in other organs, such as the gonads [9–12].

The most robust evidence in favor of PPRT in NENs derives from the phase 3 NETTER-1 randomized clinical trial (RCT) comparing [¹⁷⁷Lu]Lu-DOTATATE and octreotide vs high-dose octreotide in SSTR+, advanced midgut NEN in progression on somatostatin analog (SSA) [13]. The study showed signs of unmistakable efficacy, exhibiting an objective response rate (ORR) of 18% vs. 3% and mature median progression-free survival (mPFS) of 28.4 vs. 8.5 months (HR 0.21; 95% confidence Interval (CI), 0.14–0.33; p < 0.0001) with [¹⁷⁷Lu]Lu-DOTATATE vs. high-dose octreotide, respectively. In the final analysis, median overall survival (mOS) was 48 vs. 36.3 months (HR 0.84; 95% CI, 0.60-1.17; p = 0.30) conditioned by the crossover in 36% and probably, by the impact of successive therapies [14]. The evidence is far less resounding for NENs of other locations or those having a worse prognosis. Thus, the FDA/EMA's approval of [¹⁷⁷Lu]Lu-DOTATATE in pancreatic NENs (pNENs) was grounded on a non-randomized cohort in which ORRs were documented of 31%, 55%, and 30%; mPFS of 30 (95% CI, 52–68), 30, and 20 months, and mOS of 60 (95% CI, 52-68), 71 (56-86), and 52 months (49-55), in midgut NENs (n = 181), pNENs (n = 133), and BP-NENs (n = 23), respectively [15]. Despite the fact that the regulators considered that a consistent effect across the entire spectrum of SSTR+ well-differentiated GEP-NENs was plausible, leading to unrestricted approval, the truth is that there is still a paucity of evidence for a substantial percentage of factual indications.

More recently, the phase 2 CONTROL NET trial has yielded more solid signals of efficacy in pNENs in a randomized setting with the peculiarity that PRRT was coupled with chemotherapy in the experimental arm in the pNEN cohort [16]. Consequently, the need for more solid information is pressing, inasmuch as pNENs appear to respond well to PRRTs, but later progress somewhat more quickly than midgut NENs [15, 17–20]. It will take other ongoing phase 3 RCTs, such as NETTER-2 (NCT03972488) and COMPETE (NCT03049189), years to yield hard, mature data regarding the role of PPRTs in pNENs. Evidence concerning BP-NEN, PPGLs, subtypes of rarer NENs, or high-grade tumors is even more preliminary [21].

Moreover, the lack of randomized data leaves the issue up in the air of to what point PRRT-based theragnosis should be established in the repertoire of treatments for advanced unresectable NENs independently of their location. This gap is generally more important in daily care, with non-selected patients having a more unfavorable profile compared to clinical trials.

Under these premises, our study (NCT04949282) contributes to the body of evidence available, traditionally sparse in *apropos* of advanced NENs, with this analysis of a national registry of PRRT in which the results of subjects with NENs originating within or outside the digestive tract have been meticulously examined.

Method

Study design and population

SEPTRALU (NCT04949282) is a national registry of tumors treated with PRRT sponsored by the Spanish Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (SEMNIM) in collaboration with the Spanish Society of the Endocrinology and Nutrition (SEEN). The data loggers are nuclear medicine physicians, medical oncologists, endocrinologists, and surgeons from 24 Spanish hospitals.

A registerable case is defined as any adult (> 18 years) with a metastatic, unresectable, SSTR-overexpressing, histologically confirmed neoplasm, that receives at least one cycle of [177 Lu]Lu-DOTATATE, in accordance with the clinical practice of each center. At all centers, [177 Lu]Lu-DOTATATE was administered at a dose of 7.4 GBq iv per cycle, in 4 cycles with an interval of 8–10 weeks together with an amino acid solution to protect the kidneys. The sample also included undifferentiated or/and grade 3 (Ki67 > 20%) NENs if they expressed SSTRs. Individuals were excluded if they had < 3 months of follow up except for those who had died during this period. In cases pretreated with PRRTs, outcomes of the first treatment received were evaluated.

The data are managed by means of a website (http:// www.septralu.es/) consisting of filters and an online monitoring system to guarantee data reliability and to control missing or inconsistent data (MM and PJF).

The protocol and study were approved by the Spanish Agency of Medicines and Medical Devices (AEMPS) (CSV: DSRZJ6QF1B), a reference Research Ethics Committee, the local agencies and Ethics Committees of each center. The study was conducted in accordance with the Guide of Good Clinical Practices of the International Conference of Harmonization, the principles of the Declaration of Helsinki, and local laws and regulations. All patients still alive at the time of data collection gave their informed consent in writing.

Endpoints, variables, and assessments

The populations of interest comprised midgut, pancreatic, and other gastroenteropancreatic tumors (collectively, GEP-NENs); as well as BP-NENs, PPGLs, and other non-gastroenteropancreatic tumors (collectively, NGEP-NENs). Midgut tumors included primary jejunum, ileum, appendix, and proximal colon tumors. The group of "other GEP-NENs" collectively included tumors originating in esophagus, stomach, duodenum, biliary, distal colon, rectum, and anus. In addition, neoplasms of unknown primary were clustered as "other GEP-NENs" in the presence of at least one histopathologic marker compatible with digestive origin; if not, as "NGEP-NENs" [22].

The objective was to describe the outcomes (ORR, mPFS, and mOS) and safety (toxicity) of [¹⁷⁷Lu]Lu-DOTATATE in NGEP-NENs and GEP-NENs, both aggregated and individually by tumor subtype. As a secondary objective, the effect of tumor site was explored, taking into account other prognostic variables and confounding factors.

SRI positivity was graded according to Krenning's criteria [7], considering positivity when the uptake intensity of the primary tumor and metastases exceeded the uptake of normal liver using any SRI modality. Clinical, treatment, and disease status data were acquired from clinical history, patient interview, and local procedures, which included radiological studies, SRI, and serum and urinary markers that were performed following clinical practice.

The data evaluated included demographic (age, sex), clinical (Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status (ECOG-PS), and symptoms), tumor (primary tumor site, number and location of metastases, functioning, serum, and urinary markers), histopathological (grade, Ki67, differentiation, immunohistochemistry), prior treatments (types, number, time on treatment, and best response), and treatment characteristics (dose, cycles, reasons for discontinuation, ORR, mPFS, mOS, toxicity) information. Response was assessed on the basis of morphological criteria, ORR (proportion of subjects with partial or complete response according to RECIST1.1 criteria on computed tomography (CT) or magnetic resonance (MR)), and functional criteria based on SRI ([68Ga]Ga-DOTA-Tyr-octreotide PET/ CT, [¹¹¹In]In-DTPA0-D-Phe1-octreotide SSTR scintigraphy or post-therapy [¹⁷⁷Lu]Lu-DOTATATE) scans. All patients were re-evaluated by post-therapy scans at the end of treatment; assessment by CT or PET-CT was performed according to each center's clinical practice (generally every 3-6 months). The best response achieved at follow-up was determined and the measurement technique was the one used locally, as per clinical practice in each center. In the case of PET-CT scans, response was graded analogously to the PERCIST criteria, with partial response defined as a reduction in lesion size or intensity of $\geq 30\%$ (minimum absolute

change in peak standardized uptake value [SUV] of 0.8), complete response defined as normalization of all SUVs, and progression defined as an increase in intensity > 30% or the appearance of new lesions, verified through morphological criteria during follow-up [23]. In the case of scintigraphy evaluation, a semi-quantitative assessment of response was requested through the relationship between tumor uptake intensity and reference zones (liver or spleen), with response or progression defined as an increase or decrease in uptake of approximately 30%. Biochemical response was evaluated utilizing the criteria proposed by the Italian Trials in Medical Oncology (ITMO) [24]. Partial response was defined as a $\geq 50\%$ decrease in plasma Chromogranin A (CgA), 5-hydroxyindoleacetic acid, or other secreted biomarkers compared to the baseline, stable disease was defined as a decrease of < 50% or an increase of < 25%, and progressive disease (PD) was characterized by an increase of $\geq 25\%$. Moreover, the greatest reduction in biomarkers from baseline to radiological progression was also documented. The response was categorized based on the stability of the biomarker concentration during the follow-up period. In the case of symptomatic response, data were obtained from the clinical history, and subsequent follow-up. Investigators were asked to report documentary evidence of subjective improvement in various areas such as functional syndrome due to hormonal hypersecretion (e.g., flushing or diarrhea), constitutional syndrome, functional improvement, or improvement in specific symptoms such as pain or gastrointestinal clinical symptoms. mPFS and mOS were defined as the period between the date that [¹⁷⁷Lu]Lu-DOTATATE was initiated and progression according to the investigator's assessment (mPFS) or death due to any cause (mOS), censoring those cases without an event at the time of the last follow-up. Assessments were performed during each treatment cycle and thereafter, following standard practice, at least every 6 months until progression or demise. Adverse events were classified according to the National Cancer Institute Common Toxicity Criteria (NCI-CTC), version 4.03, considering the maximum toxicity developed during follow up.

Statistical analyses

The time-to-event variables (mPFS/mOS) were evaluated utilizing the Kaplan-Meier estimator, comparing survival functions via log-rank tests. The results were modeled using multivariable Cox proportional hazards regression. The covariables selected in these models were chosen by theoretical criteria, consistent with the review of the literature and registry coordinators (MM, PJF, ACB, JCP), while avoiding collinearity (variation inflation factor < 2.5). For this purpose, the most common, known prognostic factors in NENs that might act as confounding factors were taken into account. The model was designed to assess the effect of tumor subtype while controlling for various confounding variables, so coefficients associated with confounders should not be interpreted as implying causality [25].

Missing values were handled by multiple imputation with predictive mean matching by chained equations, discarding covariates with > 20% of missing data [26]. The study had a fixed sample size, contingent on the number of registered cases, which means that the inferences had to be interpreted as a function of the magnitude of the CIs. However, to specify the multivariable models, the "rule of thumb" of having at least 15 events per degree of freedom spent (between 15 and 16 in this context) was applied [27]. The correlation between PFS and OS was quantified using Kendall's τ associated with Hougaard's copula models for bivariate survival data [28]. Descriptive data were treated with appropriate standard statistics and measures in each instance. Proportions were compared by χ 2-tests. The outcomes for uncommon neoplasms were reported individually using swimmer plots.

Results

Baseline characteristics

The registry contains 562 eligible patients treated between June 2014 and June 2022, 522 of whom were eligible given that follow-up data were available for them. The sample consisted of 35% pNENs (n = 182), 28% midgut NENs (n = 148), 11% BP-NENs (n = 56), 6% PPGLs (n = 31),11% other GEP-NENs (n = 60), and 9% other NGEP-NENs (n = 45). Baseline characteristics by tumor subtype are reported in Table 1 and aggregated into GEP-NENs and NGEP-NENs are provided in Supplementary Materials, Annex Table 1. Median age was 60 years (range, 21–88) and 60.2% (n = 314) were male. Most neoplasms were well-differentiated (90%, n = 470), with median Ki67 of 5% (range, 0-80), and Krenning score of 3 (uptake exceeding hepatic) in 75.7% (n = 395). Tracer uptake varied with histologic grade but was independent of line of treatment (Supplementary Materials, Annex Table 2). The percentage of Krenning 4 tumors was higher in patients diagnosed by [⁶⁸Ga]Ga-DOTATOC vs. SSTR scintigraphy (33% vs. 14%, p < 0.0001) (Supplementary Materials, Annex Table 2). Roughly one-third were functioning tumors. Treatments were given as first, second, third, and subsequent lines in 4.2% (n = 22), 35.2% (n = 184), 29.6% (n = 155), and 30.8% (n = 161), respectively. Most frequent previous therapies were somatostatin analog (91%), everolimus (42.9%, n = 224), or chemotherapy (27.6%, n = 144) with no differences between GEP and NGEP-NENs. The most substantial differences by tumor subtypes were younger age, greater prevalence among females,

Baseline charac- teristic	All patients, N = 522 (100%)	pNEN, <i>N</i> = 182 (100%)	Midgut NEN, <i>N</i> = 148 (100%)	BP-NEN, N = 56 (100%)	PPGLs, N = 31 (100%)	Other GEP- NEN, <i>N</i> = 60 (100%)	Other NGEP- NEN, <i>N</i> = 45 (100%)
Gender		·					
Men	314 (60.2)	105 (57.7)	93 (62.8)	44 (78.6)	14 (45.2)	33 (55.0)	25 (55.6)
Women	208 (39.8)	77 (42.3)	55 (37.2)	12 (21.4)	17 (54.8)	27 (45.0)	20 (44.4)
Age (years), median (range)	60 (21-88)	59 (22–84)	65 (38–88)	60 (21-83)	50 (21–78)	61 (21–85)	60 (29–81)
ECOG performance	e status						
0	256 (49.0)	103 (56.6)	71 (48.0)	24 (42.9)	10 (32.3)	28 (46.7)	20 (44.4)
1	210 (40.2)	63 (34.6)	59 (39.9)	26 (46.4)	15 (48.4)	26 (43.3)	21(46.7)
2	37 (7.1)	13 (7.1)	11 (7.4)	5 (8.9)	4 (12.9)	3 3 (5.0)	1 (2.2)
> 2	4 (0.8)	0	1 (0.7)	0	1 (3.2)	11 (1.7)	1 (2.2)
Unknown	15 (2.9)	3 (1.6)	6 (4.1)	1 (1.8)	1(3.2)	22 (3.3)	2 (4.4)
Ki-67%, median (range)	5 (0-80)	6 (1-60)	3 (1–35)	6 (1–30)	4 (0–20)	5 (1-80)	10 (1–77)
Missing WHO 2017	95 (18.2)	32 (17.6)	18 (12.2)	12 (21.4)	18 (58.1)	6 (10.0)	9 (20.0)
NET G1	178 (34.1)	51 (28.0)	64 (43.2)	15 (26.8)	13 (41.9)	23 (38.3)	12 (26.7)
NET G2	292 (55.9)	103 (56.6)	79 (53.4)	35 (62.5)	16 (51.6)	34 (56.7)	25 (55.6)
NET G3	42 (8.0)	24 (13.2)	4 (2.7)	3 (5.4)	2 (6.5)	2 (3.3)	7 (15.6)
NEC G3	10 (1.9)	4 (2.2)	1 (0.7)	3 (5.4)	0	1 (1.7)	1 (2.2)
Hormonal syn- drome	169 (32.4)	36 (19.8)	73 (49.3)	10 (17.9)	20 (64.5)	16 (26.7)	14 (31.1)
Localization of met	tastases						
Liver	436 (83.5)	168 (92.3)	132 (89.2)	47 (83.9)	9 (29.0)	50 (83.3)	30 (66.7)
Lymph nodes	286 (54.8)	94 (51.6)	91 (61.5)	30 (53.6)	22 (71.0)	23 (38.3)	26 (57.8)
Peritoneum	90 (17.2)	17 (9.3)	52 (35.1)	1 (1.8)	2 (6.5)	8 (13.3)	10 (22.2)
Bone	145 (27.8)	35 (19.2)	25 (16.9)	30 (53.6)	20 (64.5)	17 (28.3)	18 (40.0)
Lung	48 (9.2)	7 (3.8)	4 (2.7)	14 (25.0)	8 (25.8)	9 (15.0)	6 (13.3)
Other	78 (14.9)	22 (12.1)	17 (11.5)	15 (26.8)	1 (3.2)	13 (21.7)	10 (22.2)
Prior surgery		× ,	× ,	~ /	~ /		~ /
Primary tumor	281 (53.8)	83 (45.6)	94 (63.5)	34 (60.7)	26 (83.9)	31 (51.7)	13 (28.9)
Metastases	121 (23.2)	49 (26.9)	41 (27.7)	7 (12.5)	4 (12.9)	14 (23.3)	6 (13.3)
Number of prior sy		ts	× ,	~ /	~ /		
0	22 (4.2)	4 (2.2)	1 (0.7)	2 (3.6)	12 (38.7)	0	3 (6.7)
1	184 (35.2)	55 (30.2)	73 (49.3) 48	12 (21.4)	6 (19.4)	22 (36.7)	16 (35.6)
2	144 (29.7)	55 (30.2)	(32.4)	21 (37.5)	5 (16.1)	16 (26.7)	10 (2.2)
> 2	161 (30.8)	68 (37.4)	26(17.6)	21 (37.5)	8 (5.8)	22 (36.7)	16 (35.6)
Prior systemic treat							
Somatostatin analogues	477 (91.4)	168 (92.3)	146 (98.6)	53 (94.6)	14 (45.2)	57 (95.0)	39 (86.7)
Chemotherapy	144 (27.6)	70 (38.5)	15 (10.1)	16 (28.6)	14 (45.2)	11 (18.3)	18 (40.0)
Everolimus	224 (42.9)	78 (42.9)	59 (39.9)	32 (57.1)	3 (9.7)	20 (44.4)	20 (44.4)
Sunitinib	104 (19.9)	61 (33.5)	10 (6.8)	7 (12.5)	4 (12.9)	12 (20)	10 (22.2)
Other tyrosin quinase inhibi- tor	54 (10.3)	15 (8.2)	15 (10.1)	10 (17.9)	3 (9.7)	6 (10.0)	5 (11.1)
Prior locoregional and ablative therapies	77 (14.8)	36 (19.8)	18 (12.2)	4 (7.1)	0	15 (25.0)	4 (8.9)

Table 1 Baseline characteristics by tumor subtype

Baseline charac- teristic	All patients, N = 522 (100%)	pNEN, <i>N</i> = 182 (100%)	Midgut NEN, N = 148 (100%)	BP-NEN, N = 56 (100%)	PPGLs, N = 31 (100%)	Other GEP- NEN, <i>N</i> = 60 (100%)	Other NGEP- NEN, $N = 45$ (100%)
Median time from initial diagnosis to PRRT,months (range)	40.6 (0-288)	40.7 (0–276)	39.0 (2–288)	39.7 (3–273)	41.2 (1–169)	41.4 (2–186)	40.9 (2–127)
Median time from most recent progression until PRRT, months (range)	2.3 (0–92.1)	2.2 (0.1–33)	2.7 (0–92)	2.4 (0–16.9)	2.9 (0.9–16)	2.2 (0.5–31)	2.2 (0.6–25)
SRI, Krenning scale	e						
2	44 (8.4)	15 (8.2)	12 (8.1)	4 (7.1)	2 (6.5)	1 (1.7)	10 (22.2)
3	395 (75.7)	133 (73.1)	120 (81.1)	41 (73.2)	21 (67.7)	51 (85.0)	29 (64.4)
4	83 (15.9)	34 (18.7)	16 (10.8)	11 (19.6)	8 (25.8)	8 (13.3)	6 (13.3)
[18F]F-FDG PET-C	T						
Not done	383 (73.4)	130 (71.4)	122 (82.4)	41 (73.2)	13 (41.9)	50 (83.3)	27 (60.0)
Consistent with SRI	50 (9.6)	16 (8.8)	6 (4.1)	7 (12.5)	12 (38.7)	2 (3.3)	7 (15.6)
Not concordant	89 (17.0)	36 (19.8)	20 (13.5)	8 (14.3)	6 (19.4)	8 (13.3)	11 (24.4)

pNEN pancreatic neuroendocrine neoplasm, *NEN* neuroendocrine neoplasm, *BP-NEN* bronchopulmonary neuroendocrine neoplasm, *GEP-NEN* gastroenteropancreatic neoplasm, *NGEP-NEN* no gastroenteropancreatic neoplasm, *PPGL* pheochromocytoma and paraganglioma, *ECOG* Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group, *WHO* World Health Organization, *PRRT* peptide receptor radionuclide therapy, *PET* positron emission tomography, *SRI* somatostatin receptor-based imaging, *18F*-fluorodeoxyglucose position emission tomography-computed tomography

and more bone metastases in PPGLs; the predominance of liver, peritoneal, and lymph node involvement in midgut tumors, and the preponderance of males in BP-NENs (Table 1).

Treatment

Table 1 (continued)

At the time of analysis, 90% (n = 471) had completed therapy with [¹⁷⁷Lu]Lu-DOTATATE. The most common reasons for withdrawal were having completed the schedule planned in 74% (n = 385), progression in 7% (n = 37), or toxicity in 3% (n = 15) of the subjects. Twenty-one intra-treatment deaths (4%) were recorded in relation to tumor-associated complications, 71% of which occurred following progression to ≥ 2 previous lines. Of the participants who completed therapy, 94% received the four standard doses; the rest, 5-8 doses, with no variation based on tumor subtype (the reason for administering > 4 doses was usually retreatment after 18–60 months of initial therapy, except in 2 cases that initially received 6 cycles to increase tumor regression). Almost all (97%) of the doses were 7.4 GBq and average interval between them was 2.1 months (90% between 1.7 and 3 months). Median time from diagnosis of metastasis until PRRT was 40.6 months (range, 0–288). Prior to [¹⁷⁷Lu] Lu-DOTATATE, 94% (n = 489) displayed tumor progression as per RECIST.

Response, survival, and toxicity outcomes

Response based on radiological, SRI, clinical, or biochemical criteria was available in 85%, 72%, 90%, and 87% of the cases, respectively. Response distribution can be seen in Fig. 1. Considering only subjects with measurable and response-evaluable disease (443/552), the best RECIST 1.1 response was complete response in three (0.7%), partial response in 147 (33.2%), stable disease in 231 (52.1%), and tumor progression in 62 (14%). The overall disease control rate (responses and stabilizations) was 86% (n = 381). ORR and disease control rate broken down by tumor subtype was 42.4% and 84.8% in pNENs, 35.4% and 85.4% in other GEP-NENs, 31.5% and 78.9% in other NGEP-NENs, 28.6% and 77.6% in BP-NENs, 28.2% and 93.5% in midgut, and 19.2% and 84.6% in PPGLs ($\chi 2 = 27.1$, degrees of freedom [d.f.] = 15, p = 0.0274 (Table 2). The landmark-analysis survival curves stratified by response are shown in Supplementary Materials, Annex Fig. 1 . The response type prior to 12-month landmark predicts OS with a concordance index of 0.646 (standard error [SE] = 0.034). Clinical responses were higher than radiographic or SRI responses across all tumor types (Fig. 1). The response rate tended to decrease with the number of previous lines, with the exception of midgut NENs (Supplementary Materials, Annex Table 3). No substantial differences were detected across tumor subtypes for SRI, clinical, or biochemical response (Fig. 1, see χ^2 tests

 Table 2
 Response assessment

 according to tumor subtype in
 subjects with measurable and

 response-assessable disease
 disease

Tumor subtype	PD, N (%)	DC, N (%)	SD, N (%)	PR, N (%)	CR, N (%)	Total, <i>N</i> (%)
pNENs	24 (15.2)	134 (84.8)	67 (42.4)	66 (41.8)	1 (0.6)	158 (100)
Midgut NENs	8 (6.5)	116 (93.5)	81 (65.3)	34 (27.4)	1 (0.8)	124 (100)
BP-NENs	11 (22.4)	38 (77.6)	24 (49.0)	14 (28.6)	0	49 (100)
PPGLs	4 (15.4)	22 (84.6)	17 (65.4)	5 (19.2)	0	26 (100)
Other GEP-NENs	7 (14.6)	41 (85.4)	24 (50.0)	17 (35.4)	0	48 (100)
Other NGEP-NENs	8 (21.1)	30 (78.9)	18 (47.4)	11 (28.9)	1 (2.6)	38 (100)
Total	62 (14.0)	381 (86.0)	231 (52.1)	147 (33.2)	3 (0.7)	443 (100)

pNEN pancreatic neuroendocrine neoplasm, *BP-NEN* bronchopulmonary neuroendocrine neoplasm, *PPGL* pheochromocytoma and paraganglioma, *NEN* neuroendocrine neoplasia, *GEP* gastroenteropancreatic, *NGEP* no gastroenteropancreatic, *PD* progression disease, *DC* disease control (CR+PR+SD), *SD* stable disease, *PR* partial response, *CR* complete response

Note: Response was evaluated using RECIST v1.1 criteria

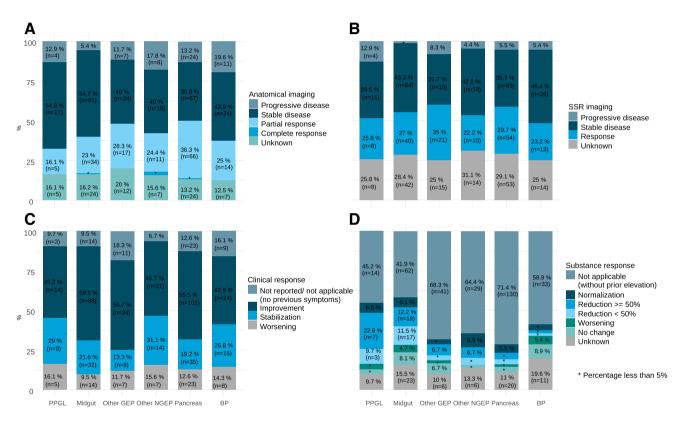


Fig. 1 Response rate, assessed with anatomical imaging (**A**), SSR imaging (**B**), clinical interview (**C**), and with markers (**D**). Bivariate χ^2 tests of response and tumor type, with SSR imaging: $\chi^2 = 15.33$, degrees of freedom [d.f.] = 15, *p* value = 0.4277; anatomical:

 $\chi^2 = 29.33$, d.f. = 20, *p* value = 0.0816; clinical: $\chi^2 = 15.64$, d.f. = 15, *p* value = 0.4047; and biomarkers: $\chi^2 = 13.86$, d.f. = 15, *p* value = 0.5359

in the footnote). The response stratified by tumor grade is shown in Table 4, with more partial responses but also a higher rate of tumor progression, and lower percentage of stable disease in high-grade tumors (G3) versus NET G1/2 (Supplementary Materials, Annex Table 4).

After a median follow up of 21.2 months in participants still alive, 245 progressions to PRRT events and 163 death events were recorded, with mPFS of 24.3 (95% CI, 20.6–28.7) and mOS of 42.3 (95% CI, 34.2–61.1) months. Survival results stratified by tumor subtype are reflected in Fig. 2. mPFS was 31.3 months (95% CI, 25.7–not reached [NR]) in midgut, 30.6 months (14.4–NR) in PPGLs, 24.3 months (18.0–NR) in other GEP-NENs, 20.5 months (11.8–NR) in other NGEP-NENs, 19.8 months (16.8–28.1) in pNENs, and 17.6 months (14.4–33.1) in BP-NENs (Fig. 2A). In any of the strata, results worsened with increasing number of previous treatments (Supplementary Materials, Annex Table 5). However, the correlation between PFS and OS does not seem to vary significantly based on the number of previous treatments: Kendall's $\tau = 0.765$ (SE = 0.036), 0.794 (SE = 0.026), and 0.750 (SE = 0.026) for patients who received 0–1, 2, or 3 or more prior therapies for PRRT, respectively.

Sensitivity analysis for PFS by histological grade is found in Supplementary Materials, Annex Table 6. Likewise, it cannot be ruled out that the detection method, [⁶⁸Ga]Ga-DOTATOC vs. SSTR scintigraphy, constitutes an additional source of heterogeneity (Supplementary Materials, Annex Table 6). In the 52 subjects with grade 3 NENs, mPFS increased with SSTR expression in SRI, but the signal was weak (i.e., median PFS of 8.8 vs. 26.9 months in NENs with Krenning 2 vs. 4 [χ 2 = 3.6, d.f. = 2, *p* = 0.2]) (Supplementary Materials, Annex Table 2).

Multivariable Cox regression model for PFS is displayed in Table 3. Taking the most numerous stratum (pNENs) as

 Table 3
 Multivariable
 Cox
 PH
 regression
 for
 progression-free
 survival

Variable	HR	(95% CI)	p value
Number of previous lines	1.22	1.00- 1.50	0.048
Everolimus	1.38	1.01-1.89	0.040
Ki67%	1.22	1.08-1.39	0.001
ECOG performance status			
0	Ref.	Ref.	_
1	1.81	1.36-2.41	< 0.0001
2	2.58	1.64-4.05	< 0.0001
Tumor site			
pNEN	Ref.	Ref.	_
Midgut NEN	0.64	0.44-0.93	0.020
BP-NEN	0.89	0.73-1.73	0.585
PPGL	1.12	0.49-1.62	0.713
Other GEP-NEN	0.69	0.44-1.09	0.118
Other NGEP-NEN	0.68	0.41-1.13	0.144
Krenning score			
2	Ref.	Ref.	Ref.
3	0.73	0.46-1.15	0.183
4	0.53	0.30-0.92	0.025
Metastases			
Liver	Ref.	Ref.	Ref.
Extrahepatic	1.39	1.04-1.87	0.025
Extranodal	1.14	0.48-2.71	0.751

PFS progression-free survival, *HR* hazard ratio, *CI* confidence interval, *Ref.* reference, *ECOG* Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group, *pNEN* pancreatic neuroendocrine neoplasm, *BP-NEN* bronchopulmonary neuroendocrine neoplasm, *PPGL* pheochromocytoma and paraganglioma, *NEN* neuroendocrine neoplasm, *GEP* gastroenteropancreatic, *NGEP* no gastroenteropancreatic

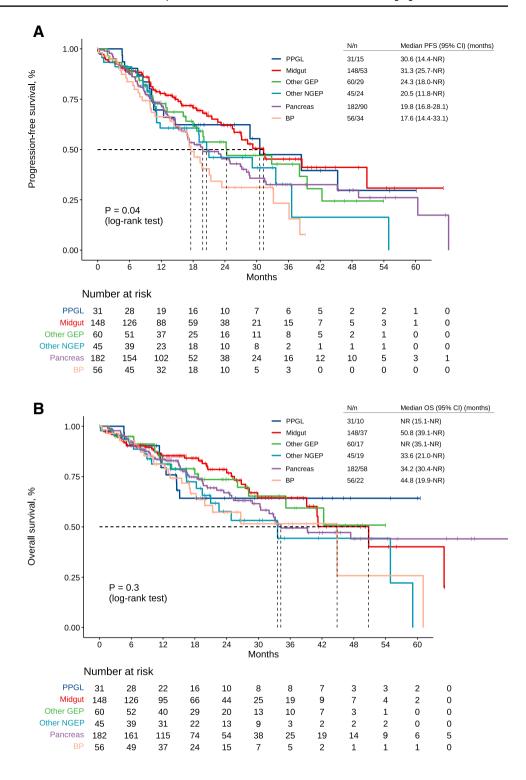
mOS was 50.8 months (95% CI, 39.1-NR) in midgut NENs, 44.8 months (19.9-NR) in BP-NENs, 34.2 months (30.4-NR) in pNENs, 33.6 months (21.0-NR) in other NGEPs, and not-reached in other GEP-NENs and PPGLs (log-rank test, p = 0.3) (Fig. 2B). Individual survival results in rare neoplasms are displayed in a swimmer plot (Fig. 3). Of note is the 57% (8/14) ORR in rectal NENs; tumor control rate (objective response + stable disease) of 72% (23/32) and ORR of 21% in tumors of unknown primary, and tumor control rate of 64% (14/22) and 89% (8/9), in paragangliomas and pheochromocytomas, respectively.

As for safety, $[^{177}Lu]Lu$ -DOTATATE was associated with scant severe toxicity, with hematological toxicity the only grade 3–4 side effect presenting an incidence > 1% (4.7%) (Table 4). The most common adverse effects were nausea (30.4%), hematological (29.8%), emesis (19.5%), asthenia (13%), and alopecia (7.2%). In a sensitivity analysis, prior treatment with chemotherapy or biological agent was not associated with increased hematological toxicity (Supplementary Materials, Annex Table 7). Grade 5 events included pancytopenia (in 2 patients), leukemia (in 1 patient), and myelodysplastic syndrome (in 2 patients). In addition, two patients who died due to tumor progression had severe cytopenia attributed to PRRT.

Table 4 Adverse events

Adverse events	All patients $N = 522 (100\%)$)
Drug-related adverse events	All grades	Grade 3/4
Nausea	30.4%	0.6%
Vomiting	19.5%	0.2%
Hematological toxicity	29.8%	4.7%
Asthenia	13.0%	0.7%
Alopecia	7.2%	
Enteritis	4.4%	0.1%
Nephrotoxicity	3.6%	0.9%
Abdominal pain	3.0%	0.1%
Urticaria	2.3%	_
Hepatotoxicity	1.3%	0.7%
Decreased appetite	1.3%	_
Flushing	0.9%	_
Fever	0.7%	0.1%
Mucositis	0.3%	_
Musculoskeletal pain	0.3%	_
Skin disorders	0.1%	_
Others	2.1%	0.3%
Death		0.9%

Fig. 2 Kaplan-Meier curves for progression-free survival (A) and overall survival (B) based on tumor site. *N/n* sample size/events, *PFS* progressionfree survival, *CI* confidence interval, *NR* not reached, *PPGL* pheochromocytoma and paraganglioma, *GEP* gastroenteropancreatic, *NGEP* non-gastroenteropancreatic, *BP* bronchopulmonary



Discussion

This analysis of the SEPTRALU registry confirms, albeit with nuances, the effect of [¹⁷⁷Lu]Lu-DOTATATE in metastatic, SSTR-expressing NENs, regardless of location. The results in midgut NENs were similar to those of the NET-TER-1 trial [13], and outcomes in BP-NENs, PPGLs, and other neoplasms comparable to that seen in pNENs. The rationale for this study is that therapy and optimal treatment sequence in advanced NENs continues to be poorly established and there is still limited evidence in favor of PRRT in various tumor subtypes. The approval of [¹⁷⁷Lu] Lu-DOTATATE for SSTR+ GEP-NENs was based on the comparison of the results of the NETTER-1 RCT in

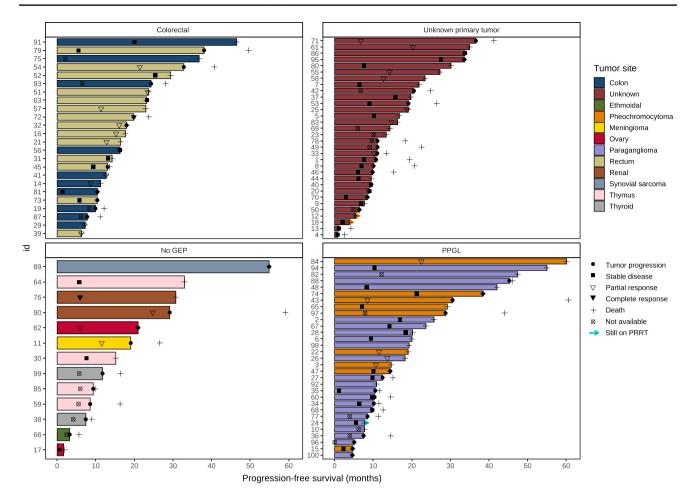


Fig. 3 Swimmer plot with results of responses and survival in individual tumors. Each bar represents one patient. *PRRT* peptide receptor radionuclide therapy, *PPGL* pheochromocytoma/paraganglioma, *GEP* gastroenteropancreatic

ileal tumors and the data from the ERASMUS MC series (Rotterdam) in pNENs. In contrast, with less activity in the Rotterdam series, BP-NENs and other subtypes were excluded from the approval. Uncertainty underlies this criterion due to the smaller size of these strata, as well as the reasonable doubts regarding the external validity of the data derived from a single-center, non-randomized study. This uncertainty has been reflected in disparate clinical recommendations. Thus, the 2016 NEN ENETS clinical guidelines does not reflect PRRT as an alternative for BP-NEN [29], whereas the Commonwealth Neuroendocrine (CommNETs) and North American (NANETS) 2020 clinical guidelines suggest that PRRT can be an option in patients with SSTR+ BP-NEN, on the basis of an expert opinion [30].

Compiling the clinical practice from many centers, the SEPTRALU study has revealed that the ORR of [¹⁷⁷Lu] Lu-DOTATATE is higher in pNEN vs midgut NEN, which, in turn, is similar for the remaining neoplasms. The results for pNENs in the SEPTRALU registry are slightly less favorable than those reported in other series (ORR 42% vs.

52–60%, mPFS 19.8 vs. 31–34 months, and mOS 34.2 vs. 53–71 months), respectively [15, 18, 19]). The cause for these discrepancies lies in the heterogeneous composition of the samples, with individuals having a worse prognosis and heavily pretreated in the SEPTRALU registry (i.e., 61% and 6% had received somatostatin analogs or chemotherapy prior to PRRT in the Rotterdam series vs. 92% and 38% in our registry, with multiple participants treated with TKIs or everolimus). The greater ORR seen for [¹⁷⁷Lu]Lu-DOTATATE in pNENs was not clearly correlated with other endpoints. On the other hand, the findings are consistent with those of the recent OCLURANDOM trial, which reported a median PFS of 20.7 months (95% CI 17.2–23.7), similar to the results from our study [31].

In our series, midgut NENs had better mPFS, with an adjusted HR of 0.64 (95% CI, 0.44–0.93) using pNENs as a reference. This datum coincide with other bibliographic reports [20, 32]. For example, a German, multicenter registry with 450 cases reported greater mOS in tumors of the ileum-jejunum vs. other locations (HR 0.39; 95% CI, 0.18–0.87; p = 0.021) [32]. This worse survival rate raises

questions surrounding the benefit dimension of [¹⁷⁷Lu]Lu-DOTATATE in the stratum of pNENs and its optimal application, which must be resolved by the ongoing phase 3 RCTs (NCT03972488, NCT03049189).

As in other series, the evidence about other rarer subtypes of NENs is limited, albeit our data point toward an effect that is consistent with the literature. As for BP-NENs, the 28.6% ORR and the mPFS and mOS of 17.6 and 44.8 months, respectively, are in keeping with the data from a small Italian phase 2 trial that reported an ORR of 15%, 18.5-month mPFS (95% CI, 12.9-26.4), and 48.6-month mOS (95% CI, 26.4–68.9) [33]. The remainder of the observational studies have yielded similar results, with ORR of 10-40%, mPFS of 17-28 months, and mOS of 40-59 months [34-38]. However, it is noteworthy that all of these previous series, including the phase 2 trial, have a limited number of patients (< 50), except for the Milan series (n = 114) which recruited patients between 1997 and 2012 [34]. Since RCTs and indications for therapeutic alternatives have traditionally focused on GEP-NENs, it becomes increasingly important to have evidence of [¹⁷⁷Lu]Lu-DOTATATE efficacy in this underserved location. Likewise, in the case of PPGLs, our results (19% ORR and 30.6 months mPFS) are comparable to those of a small Polish phase 2 trial that reported an ORR of 8%, mPFS of 35 months (95% CI, 24.4-93.1), and mOS of 68 months (95% CI, 38.6-105.1) [39]. Similarly, an Italian study reported a mPFS and mOS of 27.5 months (95% CI, 14.5-51.5) and 142.6 months (95% CI 76.1-146.2), respectively in sympathetic paragangliomas [40]. Moreover, a meta-analysis of 12 studies on PRRT in SSTR+ advanced PPGL reported a pooled estimate of 25% ORR (95% CI, 19-32%), 61% clinical response (30-88%), and 64% biochemical response (11-96%). The mPFS was 37.1 months (95% CI, 32.1-42.0 and range, 10-91) and mOS was 54.5 months (42.5-66.5) [41]. In this context, it is important to note the remarkable disease control rate observed in PPGLs (84.6%) with a median PFS that is comparable to that reported in midgut tumors. These results may have implications for the management of these conditions; however, further validation through larger-scale prospective trials is required to fully establish its significance.

Our study also endorses the efficacy of [¹⁷⁷Lu]Lu-DOTA-TATE in uncommon NENs, for which the evidence is even scarcer, such as hindgut NENs and other NGEP-NENs, including those of unknown origin that cannot be mapped in the digestive tract. Activity has been detected in all of them and deserves to be confirmed in future RCTs. The similar prognosis of NENs of unknown primary or other locations compared to pNENs has also been reported in a series of 1048 patients treated at a German reference center [20]. Therefore, our study indicates that the benefit of PRRT in SSTR+ tumors is independent of tumor site in the extra-midgut scenario, casting doubts on decision making based on this criterion. In this series, hematological toxicity and alopecia are in keeping with published findings of the NETTER-1 RCT, but nausea/vomiting and asthenia are much lower (less than half), possibly because the centers are aware of these side effects and therefore prevent them.

As for generalizability, it must be remembered that the SEPTRALU registry cases had a metastatic, SSTR+ (defined by a Krenning score of 2-4) NEN, in progression (94%), and of any location. Unlike the NETTER-1 RCT [13], this registry includes 71% of non-midgut NENs; 10% with Ki67 > 20%; 60.5% treated in third or successive lines; patients and NENs having a worse prognosis, which must be contemplated when making treatment decisions.

Our work has several limitations, not least of which are its retrospective nature and the relative immaturity of the follow up (i.e., events of progression recorded in 245/522). SRIs were conducted according to the imaging modalities and laboratory tests available at each center. Readers should be aware that both functional response evaluation by scintigraphy and biochemistry were performed in a semiquantitative or non-standardized manner, with the potential loss of sensitivity that this implies. Similarly, symptomatic response was evaluated through records in medical histories and subsequent follow-up, without a validated questionnaire, which limits the accuracy of the data and prevents precise investigation into specific aspects of quality of life. The readers should also be aware that the multivariable model in Table 3 attempts to assess the effect of tumor subtype, while considering various confounding factors. The choice of everolimus as a covariate is based solely on its widespread utilization among NENs, and the results should not be interpreted as implying causal effects [25]. PFS estimation may also have been affected by the local regularity in performing CTs. Furthermore, other uncommon factors may be relevant in unusual contexts (i.e., the effect of SDHB mutation or PPGL subtype) [39, 40, 42].

With these limitations present, our article contains noteworthy information that is applicable in clinical practice, and it contribute to externally validate the results of other studies such as the OCLURANDOM trial [31]. To begin with, PRRT continues to be the modality associated with greater ORRs in well-differentiated midgut NENs and potentially has an ORR similar to chemotherapy in other scenarios of extramidgut NENs. Nevertheless, our data point toward decreased efficacy as the number of previous lines increases. Treatment sequence clarification by RCTs notwithstanding, the finding might be related with non-differentiation and the tumors being less dependent on SSTR, which would indicate the advisability of prescribing PRRT earlier [20, 43–45]. PRRT is currently indicated following progression to somatostatin analog, pending the results of the COMPETE RCT, comparing everolimus to PRRT, and of the NETTER2 study, comparing somatostatin analog vs.

PRRT in first line, to have more evidence with respect to the best sequence [14, 46]. However, it is noteworthy that PFS appears to be a reliable surrogate for OS, regardless of the line in which PRRT is administered. This suggests that PRRT effectively controls the disease and contributes significantly to the patient's survival, while the impact of subsequent treatments is likely to be less significant. Second, in the case of PPGLs, treatment choice should be informed by the concentration of the tracer in the various molecular imaging modalities, being mindful of the greater experience with $[^{131}I]I$ -metaiodobenzylguanidine. However, PRRT has the potential advantage of producing fewer hematological side effects and not requiring thyroid blockade prior to treatment. Third, our data demonstrate that PPRT is active in grade 3 NENs with an ORR comparable to that of well-differentiated tumors, albeit mPFS is more limited. Fourth, an evaluation of both [¹⁸F]fluoro-2-deoxy-D-glucose PET-CT and SRI might help to select patients with grade 3 NENs who can benefit more with PRRT, despite the evidence being weak. Subject to the presence of SSTRs demonstrated by SRI, PRRT prescription may be particularly suitable in symptomatic individuals that need rapid relief.

As for safety, our data point toward [¹⁷⁷Lu]Lu-DOTA-TATE having a favorable profile, with scant adverse events that were generally mild. Thus, the literature reflects that [¹⁷⁷Lu]Lu-DOTATATE is safer than [⁹⁰Y]Y-DOTATOC thanks to the lower doses absorbed by the kidneys and bone marrow at comparable dosages and to the longer half-life (6.7 versus 2.7 days) [36].

In short, our data imply that [¹⁷⁷Lu]Lu-DOTATATE is active and safe in wide range of NENs, with both radiological and clinical response rates and survival outcomes in pNENs and other tumor subtypes coinciding, which would support its tumor-agnostic use in the presence of SSTRs demonstrated by SRI techniques.

Supplementary Information The online version contains supplementary material available at https://doi.org/10.1007/s00259-023-06166-8.

Acknowledgements Natalia Cateriano, Miguel Vaquero, and IRICOM S.A. for supporting the registry website and Priscilla Chase for editing the manuscript. Authors are indebted to all patients, as well as to SEPTRALU centers and investigators who participated in this research and made it possible.

Author contribution MM, PJF, and ACB developed and conceptualized the project, analyzed the data, and drafted the manuscript. The other authors (PB, VP, JCP, AGB, JH, JA, ER, ME, BL, MC, LGC, PG, MCR, MBM, DBM, AC, JMC, AR, PGA, MAM, JLVC) recruited patients and provided clinical information, comments, and improvements to the manuscript. All authors participated in the interpretation and discussion of data and the critical review of the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Funding The SEPTRALU registry received external funding from Novartis. The funder was not involved in the study design, collection,

analysis or interpretation of the data, nor in the drafting of the manuscript.

Data availability All the data generated or analyzed in this study are included in the manuscript, tables, and figures.

Declarations

Ethics approval and consent to participate The study was approved by the Research Ethics Committee of the Principality of Asturias (151/17, November 3, 2017) and by the Spanish Agency of Medicines and Medical Devices (AEMPS) as a post authorization study with prospective follow-up (PAS-PF) (identification code: CSV: DSRZJ6QF1B). All procedures followed were in accordance with the ethical standards of the committee responsible for human experimentation (institutional, local, and national) and with the Helsinki Declaration of 1964 and later versions. Informed consent was obtained from all patients before being included in the study. This study is an observational, non-interventionist trial. This work is original and has not been previously presented elsewhere.

Consent for publication Not applicable.

Competing interests ACB has received travel grants and participated in advisory boards from Novartis. The other authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest in relation to the scope of this work. This is an academic study.

Disclaimers The SEPTRALU registry (SEMNIM-SER-2021-01) is promoted by Spanish Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (SEMNIM) in collaboration with the Spanish Society of Endocrinology and Nutrition (SEEN).

Open Access This article is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License, which permits use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons licence, and indicate if changes were made. The images or other third party material in this article are included in the article's Creative Commons licence, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the article's Creative Commons licence and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder. To view a copy of this licence, visit http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/.

References

- Hasskarl J, Kaufmann M, Schmid HA. Somatostatin receptors in non-neuroendocrine malignancies: the potential role of somatostatin analogs in solid tumors. Futur Oncol Futur Med. 2011;7:895–913.
- Carmona-Bayonas A, Jiménez-Fonseca P, Custodio A, Grande E, Capdevila J, López C, et al. Optimizing somatostatin analog use in well or moderately differentiated gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine tumors. Curr Oncol Rep. 2017;19:72.
- Ambrosini V, Kunikowska J, Baudin E, Bodei L, Bouvier C, Capdevila J, et al. Consensus on molecular imaging and theranostics in neuroendocrine neoplasms. Eur J Cancer Elsevier. 2021;146:56–73.

- Oronsky B, Ma PC, Morgensztern D, Carter CA. Nothing but NET: a review of neuroendocrine tumors and carcinomas. Neoplasia Elsevier. 2017;19:991–1002.
- Garcia-Carbonero R, Garcia-Figueiras R, Carmona-Bayonas A, Sevilla I, Teule A, Quindos M, et al. Imaging approaches to assess the therapeutic response of gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine tumors (GEP-NETs): current perspectives and future trends of an exciting field in development. Cancer Metastasis Rev. 2015;34.
- Camus B, Cottereau A-S, Palmieri L-J, Dermine S, Tenenbaum F, Brezault C, et al. Indications of peptide receptor radionuclide therapy (PRRT) in gastroenteropancreatic and pulmonary neuroendocrine tumors: an updated review. J Clin Med. MDPI; 2021;10:1267.
- Krenning EP, Breeman WAP, Kooij PPM, Lameris JS, Bakker WH, Koper JW, et al. Localisation of endocrine-related tumours with radioiodinated analogue of somatostatin. Lancet Elsevier. 1989;333:242–4.
- Jimenez-Fonseca P, Carmona-Bayonas A, Lamarca A, Barriuso J, Castaño Á, Benavent M, et al. External validity of somatostatin analogues trials in advanced neuroendocrine neoplasms: the GETNE-TRASGU study. Neuroendocrinology [Internet]. 2021; Available from:https://www.karger.com, https://doi.org/10.1159/ 000514808
- 9. Kasajima A, Klöppel G. Neuroendocrine neoplasms of lung, pancreas and gut: a morphology-based comparison. Endocr Relat Cancer Bioscientifica Ltd. 2020;27:R417-32.
- Carmona-Bayonas A, Jiménez-Fonseca P, Lamarca Á, Barriuso J, Castaño Á, Benavent M, et al. Prediction of progression-free survival in patients with advanced, well-differentiated, neuroen-docrine tumors being treated with a somatostatin analog: The GETNE-TRASGU Study. J. Clin. Oncol. [Internet]. 2019/08/07. American Society of Clinical Oncology; 2019;37:2571–80. Available from: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/31390276. Accessed 2 Mar 2023
- Rindi G, Klimstra DS, Abedi-Ardekani B, Asa SL, Bosman FT, Brambilla E, et al. A common classification framework for neuroendocrine neoplasms: an International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and World Health Organization (WHO) expert consensus proposal. Mod Pathol Nature Publishing Group. 2018;31:1770–86.
- 12. Modlin IM, Lye KD, Kidd M. A 5-decade analysis of 13,715 carcinoid tumors. Cancer. 2003;97:934–59.
- Strosberg J, El-Haddad G, Wolin E, Hendifar A, Yao J, Chasen B, et al. Phase 3 trial of 177Lu-dotatate for midgut neuroendocrine tumors. N Engl J Med Mass Medical Soc. 2017;376:125–35.
- 14. Strosberg JR, Caplin ME, Kunz PL, Ruszniewski PB, Bodei L, Hendifar A, et al. 177Lu-Dotatate plus long-acting octreotide versus high-dose long-acting octreotide in patients with midgut neuroendocrine tumours (NETTER-1): final overall survival and long-term safety results from an open-label, randomised, controlled, phase 3 trial. Lancet Oncol Elsevier. 2021;22:1752–63.
- 15. Brabander T, Van der Zwan WA, Teunissen JJM, Kam BLR, Feelders RA, de Herder WW, et al. Long-Term Efficacy, Survival, and Safety of [177Lu-DOTA0, Tyr3] octreotate in Patients with Gastroenteropancreatic and Bronchial Neuroendocrine TumorsEfficacy, Survival, and Toxicity after 177Lu-DOTATATE. Clin Cancer Res AACR. 2017;23:4617–24.
- Pavlakis N, Ransom DT, Wyld D, Sjoquist KM, Wilson K, Gebski V, et al. Australasian Gastrointestinal Trials Group (AGITG) CONTROL NET Study: 177Lu-DOTATATE peptide receptor radionuclide therapy (PRRT) and capecitabine plus temozolomide (CAPTEM) for pancreas and midgut neuroendocrine tumours (pNETS, mNETS)—Final results. American Society of Clinical Oncology; 2022.

- 17. Garske-Román U, Sandström M, Fröss Baron K, Lundin L, Hellman P, Welin S, et al. Prospective observational study of 177Lu-DOTA-octreotate therapy in 200 patients with advanced metastasized neuroendocrine tumours (NETs): feasibility and impact of a dosimetry-guided study protocol on outcome and toxicity. Eur. J. Nucl. Med. Mol. Imaging. Springer; 2018;45:970–88.
- Alsadik S, Yusuf S, Al-Nahhas A. Peptide receptor radionuclide therapy for pancreatic neuroendocrine tumours. Curr Radiopharm Bentham Sci Publishers. 2019;12:126–34.
- Ezziddin S, Khalaf F, Vanezi M, Haslerud T, Mayer K, Al Zreiqat A, et al. Outcome of peptide receptor radionuclide therapy with 177Lu-octreotate in advanced grade 1/2 pancreatic neuroendocrine tumours. Eur J Nucl Med Mol Imaging Springer. 2014;41:925–33.
- Baum RP, Kulkarni HR, Singh A, Kaemmerer D, Mueller D, Prasad V, et al. Results and adverse events of personalized peptide receptor radionuclide therapy with 90Yttrium and 177Lutetium in 1048 patients with neuroendocrine neoplasms. Oncotarget Impact Journals LLC. 2018;9:16932.
- Capdevila J, Grande E, García-Carbonero R, Simó M, del Olmo-García MI, Jiménez-Fonseca P, et al. Position statement on the diagnosis, treatment, and response evaluation to systemic therapies of advanced neuroendocrine tumors, with a special focus on radioligand therapy. Oncologist Oxford University Press US. 2022;27:e328-39.
- Cives M, Strosberg JR. Gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine tumors CA. Cancer J Clin Wiley Online Library. 2018;68:471–87.
- 23. Wahl RL, Jacene H, Kasamon Y, Lodge MA. From RECIST to PERCIST: evolving considerations for PET response criteria in solid tumors. J. Nucl. Med. Division of Nuclear Medicine, Department of Radiology, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland 21287-0817, USA. rwahl@jhmi.edu; 2009;50 Suppl 1:122S-50S.
- Bajetta E, Zilembo N, Di Bartolomeo M, Di Leo A, Pilotti S, Bochicchio AM, et al. Treatment of metastatic carcinoids and other neuroendocrine tumors with recombinant interferon-alpha-2a: A study by the Italian trials in Medical Oncology Group. Cancer Wiley Online Library. 1993;72:3099–105.
- 25. Westreich D, Greenland S. The table 2 fallacy: presenting and interpreting confounder and modifier coefficients. Am J Epidemiol Oxford University Press. 2013;177:292–8.
- 26. Morris TP, White IR, Royston P. Tuning multiple imputation by predictive mean matching and local residual draws. BMC Med Res Methodol. BioMed Central; 2014;14:75.
- Harrell F. Regression modeling strategies: with applications to linear models, logistic and ordinal regression, and survival analysis. 2nd ed. New York: Springer; 2015.
- E. Shemyakin A, Youn H. Copula models of joint last survivor analysis. Appl. Stoch. Model. Bus. Ind. Wiley Online Library; 2006;22:211–24.
- Niederle B, Pape U-F, Costa F, Gross D, Kelestimur F, Knigge U, et al. ENETS Consensus Guidelines Update for Neuroendocrine Neoplasms of the Jejunum and Ileum. Neuroendocrinology [Internet]. 2016;103:125–38. Available from: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih. gov/pubmed/26758972. Accessed 2 Mar 2023
- Vinik AI, Woltering EA, Warner RRP, Caplin M, O'Dorisio TM, Wiseman GA, et al. NANETS consensus guidelines for the diagnosis of neuroendocrine tumor. Pancreas [Internet]. 2010 [cited 2015 Dec 25];39:713–34. Available from: http://www.ncbi.nlm. nih.gov/pubmed/20664471. Accessed 2 Mar 2023
- 31. Baudin E, Walter TA, Beron A, Smith D, Hadoux J, Lachachi C, et al. 887O First multicentric randomized phase II trial investigating the antitumor efficacy of peptide receptor radionucleide therapy with 177Lutetium-Octreotate (OCLU) in unresectable

progressive neuroendocrine pancreatic tumor: Results of the OCLURANDOM tria. Ann. Oncol. Elsevier; 2022;33:S954.

- 32. Hörsch D, Ezziddin S, Haug A, Gratz KF, Dunkelmann S, Miederer M, et al. Effectiveness and side-effects of peptide receptor radionuclide therapy for neuroendocrine neoplasms in Germany: a multi-institutional registry study with prospective follow-up. Eur J Cancer Elsevier. 2016;58:41–51.
- 33. Ianniello A, Sansovini M, Severi S, Nicolini S, Grana CM, Massri K, et al. Peptide receptor radionuclide therapy with 177Lu-DOTA-TATE in advanced bronchial carcinoids: prognostic role of thyroid transcription factor 1 and 18F-FDG PET. Eur J Nucl Med Mol Imaging Springer. 2016;43:1040–6.
- Mariniello A, Bodei L, Tinelli C, Baio SM, Gilardi L, Colandrea M, et al. Long-term results of PRRT in advanced bronchopulmonary carcinoid. Eur J Nucl Med Mol Imaging Springer. 2016;43:441–52.
- Zidan L, Iravani A, Oleinikov K, Ben-Haim S, Gross DJ, Meirovitz A, et al. Efficacy and safety of 177Lu-DOTATATE in lung neuroendocrine tumors: a bicenter study. J Nucl Med Soc Nuclear Med. 2022;63:218–25.
- Lim LE, Chan DL, Thomas D, Du Y, Tincknell G, Kuchel A, et al. Australian experience of peptide receptor radionuclide therapy in lung neuroendocrine tumours. Oncotarget Impact Journals LLC. 2020;11:2636.
- Mirvis E, Toumpanakis C, Mandair D, Gnanasegaran G, Caplin M, Navalkissoor S. Efficacy and tolerability of peptide receptor radionuclide therapy (PRRT) in advanced metastatic bronchial neuroendocrine tumours (NETs). Lung Cancer Elsevier. 2020;150:70–5.
- Parghane RV, Talole S, Prabhash K, Basu S. Clinical response profile of metastatic/advanced pulmonary neuroendocrine tumors to peptide receptor radionuclide therapy with 177Lu-DOTATATE. Clin Nucl Med LWW. 2017;42:428–35.
- 39. Kolasinska-Ćwikła A, Pęczkowska M, Ćwikła JB, Michałowska I, Pałucki JM, Bodei L, et al. A clinical efficacy of PRRT in patients with advanced, nonresectable, paraganglioma-pheochromocytoma, related to SDHx gene mutation. J Clin Med MDPI. 2019;8:952.
- 40. Severi S, Bongiovanni A, Ferrara M, Nicolini S, Di Mauro F, Sansovini M, et al. Peptide receptor radionuclide therapy in patients with metastatic progressive pheochromocytoma and paraganglioma: long-term toxicity, efficacy and prognostic biomarker data of phase II clinical trials ESMO open. Elsevier. 2021;6:100171.

- 41. Satapathy S, Mittal BR, Bhansali A. "Peptide receptor radionuclide therapy in the management of advanced pheochromocytoma and paraganglioma: a systematic review and meta-analysis." Clin. Endocrinol. (Oxf). [Internet]. Department of Nuclear Medicine, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, India.; 2019;91:718–27. Available from: http://europepmc. org/abstract/MED/31569282. Accessed 2 Mar 2023
- 42. Nastos K, Cheung VTF, Toumpanakis C, Navalkissoor S, Quigley A-M, Caplin M, et al. Peptide receptor radionuclide treatment and (131)I-MIBG in the management of patients with metastatic/ progressive phaeochromocytomas and paragangliomas. J. Surg. Oncol. [Internet]. ENETS Centre of Excellence Neuroendocrine Tumour Unit, Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust, London, UK.; 2017;115:425–34. Available from: http://europepmc. org/abstract/MED/28166370
- Bodei L, Cremonesi M, Grana CM, Fazio N, Iodice S, Baio SM, et al. Peptide receptor radionuclide therapy with ¹⁷⁷Lu-DOTA-TATE: the IEO phase I-II study. Eur. J. Nucl. Med. Mol. Imaging [Internet]. 2011;38:2125–35. Available from: http://www.ncbi. nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21892623
- 44. Sabet A, Haug AR, Eiden C, Auernhammer CJ, Simon B, Bartenstein P, et al. Efficacy of peptide receptor radionuclide therapy with 177Lu-octreotate in metastatic pulmonary neuroendocrine tumors: a dual-centre analysis [Internet]. Am. J. Nucl. Med. Mol. Imaging. Department of Nuclear Medicine, Saarland University-Homburg, Germany.; 2017. p. 74–83. Available from: http://europ epmc.org/abstract/MED/28533939
- 45. Imhof A, Brunner P, Marincek N, Briel M, Schindler C, Rasch H, et al. Response, survival, and long-term toxicity after therapy with the radiolabeled somatostatin analogue [90Y-DOTA]-TOC in metastasized neuroendocrine cancers. J. Clin. Oncol. [Internet]. Institute of Nuclear Medicine, University Hospital, Petersgraben 4, Basel, Switzerland.; 2011;29:2416–23. Available from: http://europepmc.org/abstract/MED/21555692
- Pavel ME, Rinke A, Baum RP. COMPETE trial: peptide receptor radionuclide therapy (PRRT) with 177Lu-edotreotide vs everolimus in progressive GEP-NET. Ann. Oncol. Elsevier; 2018;29:viii478.

Publisher's note Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

Authors and Affiliations

Mercedes Mitjavila¹ · Paula Jimenez-Fonseca² · Pilar Belló³ · Virginia Pubul⁴ · Juan Carlos Percovich⁵ · Amparo Garcia-Burillo⁶ · Jorge Hernando⁷ · Javier Arbizu⁸ · Emilia Rodeño⁹ · Montserrat Estorch¹⁰ · Belén Llana¹¹ · Maribel Castellón¹² · Lina García-Cañamaque¹³ · Pablo Gajate¹⁴ · Maria Carmen Riesco¹⁵ · Maria Begoña Miguel¹⁶ · David Balaguer-Muñoz¹⁷ · Ana Custodio¹⁸ · Juana María Cano¹⁹ · Alexandra Repetto²⁰ · Pilar Garcia-Alonso²¹ · Maria Angustias Muros²² · Jose Luis Vercher-Conejero²³ · Alberto Carmona-Bayonas²⁴

Mercedes Mitjavila mercedes.mitjavila@salud.madrid.org

- ¹ Department of Nuclear Medicine, Hospital Universitario Puerta de Hierro, Majadahonda, Madrid, Spain
- ² Department of Medical Oncology, Hospital Universitario Central de Asturias, ISPA, Oviedo, Spain
- ³ Department of Nuclear Medicine, Hospital Universitario La Fe, Valencia, Spain
- ⁴ Department of Nuclear Medicine, Hospital Clínico Universitario de Santiago, Santiago de Compostela, Spain
- ⁵ Department of Endocrinology and Nutrition, Hospital Universitario Gregorio Marañón, Madrid, Spain
- ⁶ Department of Nuclear Medicine, Hospital Universitario Vall d'Hebron, Barcelona, Spain
- ⁷ Department of Medical Oncology, Hospital Universitario Vall d'Hebron, Vall Hebron Institute of Oncology (VHIO), Barcelona, Spain
- ⁸ Department of Nuclear Medicine, Clínica Universidad de Navarra, Pamplona, Spain
- ⁹ Department of Nuclear Medicine, Hospital Universitario de Cruces, Bilbao, Spain
- ¹⁰ Department of Nuclear Medicine, Hospital de la Santa Creu i San Pau, Barcelona, Spain
- ¹¹ Department of Nuclear Medicine, Hospital Universitario Central de Asturias, Oviedo, Spain
- ¹² Department of Nuclear Medicine, Hospital Universitario Virgen de la Arrixaca, Murcia, Spain

- ¹³ Department of Nuclear Medicine, Hospital HM Sanchinarro, Madrid, Spain
- ¹⁴ Department of Medical Oncology, Hospital Universitario Ramón y Cajal, Madrid, Spain
- ¹⁵ Department of Medical Oncology, Hospital Universitario 12 de Octubre, Madrid, Spain
- ¹⁶ Department of Nuclear Medicine, Hospital Universitario de Burgos, Burgos, Spain
- ¹⁷ Department of Nuclear Medicine, Hospital Universitario Doctor Peset, Valencia, Spain
- ¹⁸ Department of Medical Oncology, Hospital Universitario La Paz, CIBERONC CB16/12/00398, Madrid, Spain
- ¹⁹ Department of Medical Oncology, Hospital General Universitario de Ciudad Real, Ciudad Real, Spain
- ²⁰ Department of Nuclear Medicine, Hospital Universitario Son Espases, Mallorca, Spain
- ²¹ Department of Nuclear Medicine, Hospital Universitario de Getafe, Madrid, Spain
- ²² Department of Nuclear Medicine, Hospital Universitario Virgen de las Nieves, Granada, Spain
- ²³ Department of Nuclear Medicine-PET Unit, Hospital Universitario de Bellvitge - IDIBELL, Barcelona, Spain
- ²⁴ Department of Medical Oncology, Hospital Universitario Morales Meseguer, University de Murcia, IMIB, Murcia, Spain