



October 20, 2016

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RE: eviCore healthcare Oncology Guidelines Response

NorCal CarciNET Community is a patient community based in Northern California representing over 450 Neuroendocrine Tumor (NETs) patients in the San Francisco Bay Area and over 1,000 NETs patients and their caregivers in the United States. We recently reviewed your draft 2016 Oncology draft guidelines that are available online. The guidelines state that eviCore will treat ⁶⁸Ga DOTATATE as investigational (pg12).

NorCal CarciNET Community is concerned that the draft eviCore guidelines, if implemented, will deprive patient access to ⁶⁸Ga DOTATATE which is US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved, commercially available, and a highly valuable PET diagnostic imaging procedures that is superior in every aspect to ¹¹¹In-DTPA-Octreotide (Octreoscan®).

¹¹¹In-DTPA-Octreotide (Octreoscan®) has been used to image Neuroendocrine tumors (NET) since 1994. It has been useful in the diagnosis and management of NET patients. Octreoscan is listed as an acceptable scan in the imaging guidelines(pg 100). On June 1, 2016, a newer agent, ⁶⁸Ga-DOTATATE, with a demonstrated higher accuracy than Octreoscan, has been approved.¹ The study is more accurate, delivers a lower radiation dose, and is more convenient for the patient as the images are acquired in 2 hours versus 2-3 days. Furthermore, the cost for the two agents are similar. We suggest that DOTATATE be added to the guidelines.

In our patient community, patients who had ⁶⁸Ga DOTATATE PET/CT have had their treatment plans altered. Some had undiscovered or unknown tumors removed others had their treatment plans modified given enhanced knowledge of the state of their disease, including change in surgical plan or localized therapy plans. The three major medical facilities in our areas, UCSF, Stanford and Kaiser now routinely use ⁶⁸Ga PET/CT in lieu of the Octreoscan as part of their imaging surveillance of patients with NETs.

We respectfully request that eviCore Healthcare amend its current draft guidelines to include ⁶⁸Ga DOTATATE for the initial staging and management of patients with NETs. Amendment of eviCore's guidelines can help ensure that NET patients receive the optimal therapy plan while increasing convenience, safety, and accuracy.

Thank you for your consideration and time. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or to set up a call to discuss this letter.

Very sincerely,

Josh Mailman
President, NorCal CarciNET Community
Inaugural Chair, Patient Advocacy Advisory Board, Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging



1. Deppen et al, ^{68}Ga -DOTATATE compared with ^{111}In -DTPA-Octreotide and conventional Imaging for Pulmonary and Gastroenteropancreatic Neuroendocrine Tumors: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis; J Nucl Med 2016 Jun 57:872-878