

— UNDERSTAND · NEUROENDOCRINE CANCER (NET)

The cancer that hides in *plain sight*.

Neuroendocrine Cancer is often called an "invisible" cancer - not because it's rare, but because its symptoms look like almost anything else.

6,000

New NET diagnoses in the UK every year - one person every 90 minutes

36,000+

People currently living with NET in the UK today

4.5 yrs

Average time it takes to get a correct diagnosis

11

Average number of GP visits before a correct diagnosis

— 01 · WHAT IT IS

A cancer of the body's messenger cells

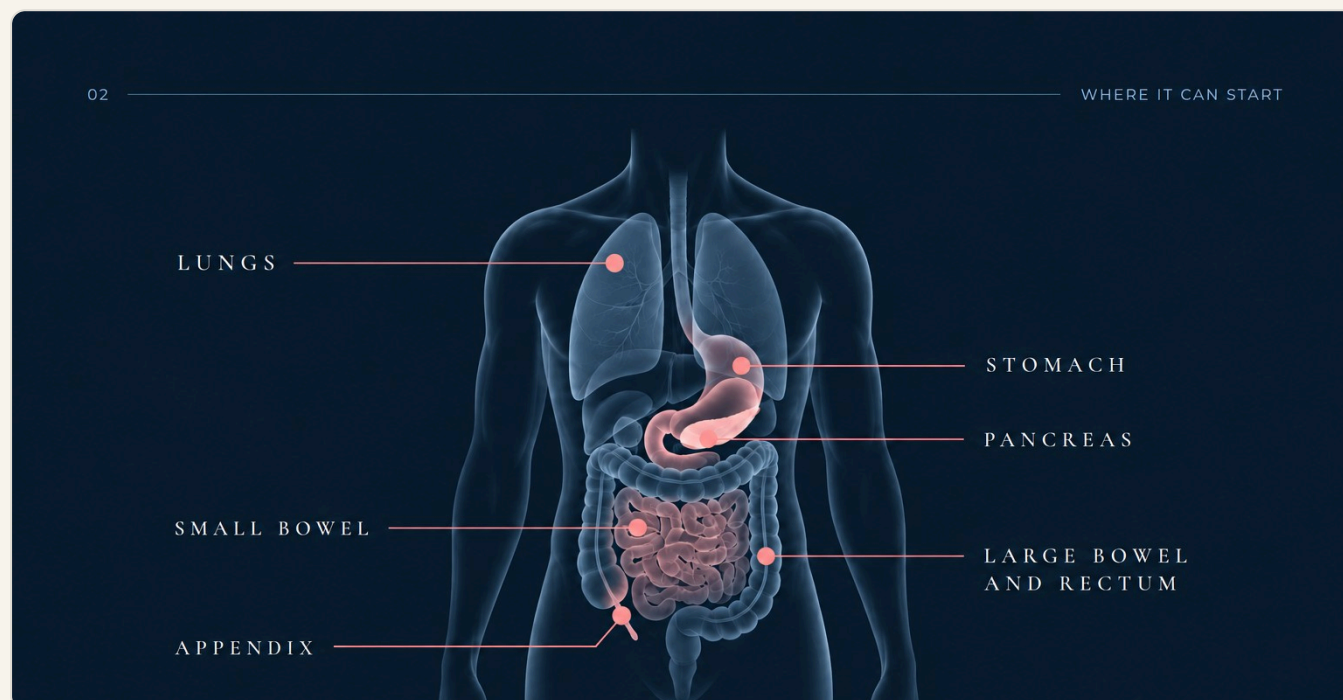
Neuroendocrine tumours develop in neuroendocrine cells: cells found throughout the body, including the gut, pancreas and lungs, that help control hormones and everyday bodily functions. When these cells become cancerous, the tumours that form can behave very differently from person to person - some grow slowly over many years, others more aggressively.

Because neuroendocrine cells exist all over the body, NET can start almost anywhere, which is part of why it's so easy to miss. One person is diagnosed with NET every 90 minutes in the UK, and it's now more prevalent than stomach or pancreatic cancer.

— 02 · WHERE IT CAN START

Almost anywhere the body has these cells

NET most commonly starts in the lungs, the small bowel, the pancreas, the stomach, the appendix, or the large bowel and rectum. Wherever it starts, the underlying disease is fundamentally the same: cells that have stopped behaving normally.



— 03 · WHY DIAGNOSIS TAKES SO LONG

Symptoms that look like *everything else*

NET symptoms are commonly mistaken for IBS, menopause, anxiety, or asthma. On average, it takes four and a half years to get a correct diagnosis, and the average patient visits their GP 11 times before they get one.

DIGESTIVE

- New IBS-type symptoms over 50
- Persistent bloating or wind
- Heartburn or stomach pain
- Changes in bowel habit

RESPIRATORY

- Persistent dry cough
- Asthma-like symptoms
- Unexplained wheeze or breathlessness

HORMONAL

- Flushing without sweating
- Heart palpitations
- Menopause-like symptoms
- High or low blood sugar

GENERAL

- Fatigue and headaches
- Anxiety or low mood
- Unintentional weight loss

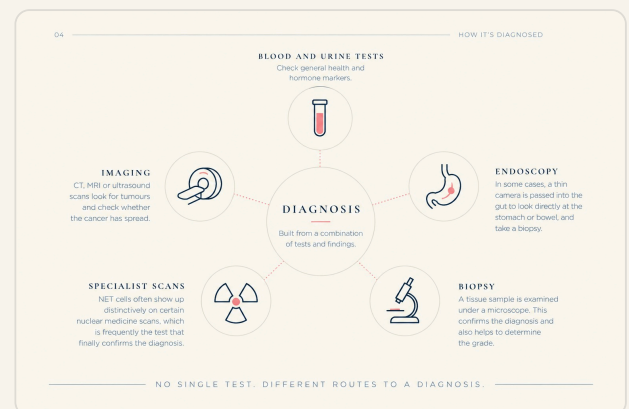
This is not a diagnostic checklist. No single symptom points to NET on its own - it's a pattern across more than one of these groups, especially if it doesn't resolve, that's worth raising with a GP. Early conversations are how earlier diagnosis happens.

— 04 · HOW IT'S DIAGNOSED

There's no single test

Because NET can start almost anywhere and behaves so differently case to case, getting to a diagnosis usually means working through several different kinds of test, not just one.

- 1 Blood and urine tests**
Check general health and hormone markers. There's no single blood test that confirms NET on its own.
- 2 Imaging**
CT, MRI, or ultrasound scans look for tumours and check whether the cancer has spread.
- 3 Endoscopy**
A thin camera passed into the gut to look directly at the stomach or bowel, and take a biopsy.
- 4 Specialist scans**
NET cells often show up distinctively on certain nuclear medicine scans - frequently the test that finally confirms the diagnosis.
- 5 Biopsy**
A tissue sample examined under a microscope. This is also how the grade is worked out.



05 · HOW IT'S GRADED

Not all NET behaves the same way

Even when it starts in the same place, NET can grow at very different speeds. Doctors grade it using a test called Ki-67, which measures how many cells are actively dividing. Getting the grade right isn't paperwork - it decides the treatment path someone is offered.

Grade 1	Under 3% of cells dividing. Slow growing, low grade.
Grade 2	A moderate pace. Intermediate grade.
Grade 3	Fast growing, high grade.
NEC	Neuroendocrine carcinoma - the fastest-growing form, usually treated more like other fast-growing cancers.

~70%

of cases are NET, the slower-growing form, where five-year survival is above 65%

~30%

are NEC, faster-growing and more aggressive, where five-year survival falls below 10%

06 · WHY WE FUNDRAISE

Awareness

The more people - and GPs - who recognise the signs of NET, the sooner someone gets the right test.

Earlier diagnosis

Every year shaved off the average diagnosis time is a year of treatment options someone didn't have before. Treating a patient at an advanced stage costs the NHS an estimated £200,000-£300,000 more than catching it early.

Research

Funding goes toward research into NET, because better understanding of the disease is what improves outcomes long term.

Earlier diagnosis doesn't just change treatment. It gives people back time.

Daily Dip 4 Dave

dailydip4dave.com/neuroendocrine-cancer

Read more, or donate to help fund earlier diagnosis



SCAN TO FIND OUT MORE