

# Racial Disparities in End-Of-Life Care Among Patients with Neuroendocrine Tumors

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## Background:

- Patients with neuroendocrine tumors (NETs) often suffer from a heavy symptom burden yet struggle to find proper end of life (EOL) support and palliative care
- Studies show that Black patients with advanced cancer are more likely to receive aggressive care which negatively impacts quality of life at EOL

## Methods:

National Inpatient Sample queried for all hospitalizations from 2016 quarter 1 to 2020 quarter 4 using ICD-10-CM codes for NETs

Patients <18 years of age, identified to have neuroendocrine carcinomas, and no inpatient mortality event were excluded

6,265 patients

Racial subgroups

White: 5,125

Black: 1,140

Black patients with neuroendocrine tumors at end of life had lower rates of palliative care consultation and higher rates of aggressive intervention

## Results:

	White N=5125	Black N=1140	aOR (95% CI)	p-value
Age (in years)	67.67 ± 11.89	65.14 ± 11.29	-	<.001
Females	46.1%	50.9%	-	.004
CCI	11.0 ± 3.22	10.9 ± 3.42	-	.538
LOS	8.42 ± 10.03	10.25 ± 15.75	-	<.001
Palliative	62.6%	54.5%	0.70 (.61-.80)	<.001
DNR	64.9%	60.1%	0.80 (.70-.92)	.002
Blood transfusion	13.2%	15.4%	1.18 (.98-1.41)	.052
Mechanical ventilation	28.8%	38.6%	1.55 (1.35-1.77)	<.001
Vasopressor	9%	9.6%	1.07 (.86-1.33)	.47

aOR is adjusted odds ratio. CCI is Charlson comorbidity index. LOS is length of stay in days.

## Future Directions:

- Evaluate if these racial disparities exist with outpatient palliative care integration
- Elucidate why these racial disparities exist to guide future interventions