

# C-58

## Management of Small Asymptomatic Nonfunctioning Pancreatic Neuroendocrine Tumors: Limitations to Apply Guidelines into Real Life

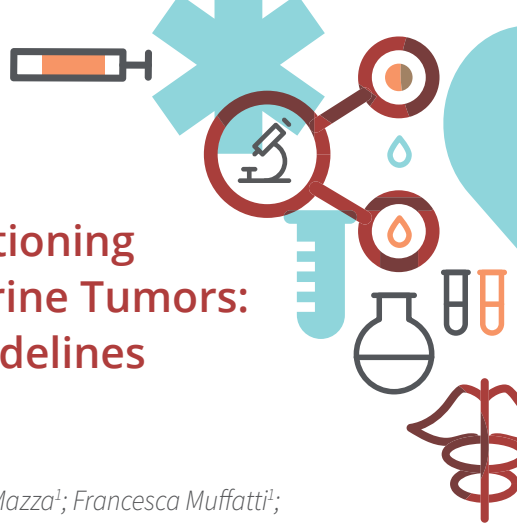
Valentina Andreasi<sup>1</sup>; Stefano Partelli<sup>1</sup>; Michele Mazza<sup>1</sup>; Francesca Muffatti<sup>1</sup>; Stefano Crippa<sup>1</sup>; Domenico Tamburrino<sup>1</sup>; Massimo Falconi<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>San Raffaele Scientific Institute

**BACKGROUND:** International guidelines suggest a watchful strategy for small nonfunctioning pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors. The aim of this study was to evaluate the management and indications for surgery in patients with asymptomatic nonfunctioning pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors  $\leq 2$  cm.

**METHODS:** Patients with asymptomatic, incidental, sporadic nonfunctioning pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors  $\leq 2$  cm without nodal or distant metastases were included (2012-2016). A comparison between active surveillance and surgery groups was performed.

**RESULTS:** Of the 101 included patients, 72% underwent active surveillance and 28% were surgically treated. Patients submitted to surgery were significantly younger (53 vs 60 years,  $P = 0.013$ ), had a higher incidence of positive 18F-fluorodeoxyglucose positron emission tomography (18F-FDG PET) (18% vs 50%,  $P = 0.003$ ), and a higher incidence of cytologically determined G2 tumor (0% vs 14%,  $P = 0.008$ ). Conservatively managed patients had a significantly smaller tumor size (12 vs 16 mm,  $P = 0.0001$ ). The main reasons determining the surgical choice were as follows: patient's preference (32%), positive 18F-FDG PET (21.5%), main pancreatic duct dilation (17.5%), cytologically determined G2 tumor (14.5%) and young age (14.5%). At a median follow-up of 40 months, all of the 73 patients



conservatively managed were alive, with no evidence of distant metastases and none underwent surgery. Only 5 patients had a tumor growth > 20%.

**CONCLUSION:** One third of patients with asymptomatic small nonfunctioning pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors  $\leq 2$  cm underwent surgery. Patient's preference, initial tumor size and young age were the main determinants of surgical indication. Preoperative diagnostic workup, including 18F-FDG PET and cytologic grading seem to be poorly accurate in determining malignant features in these small lesions.