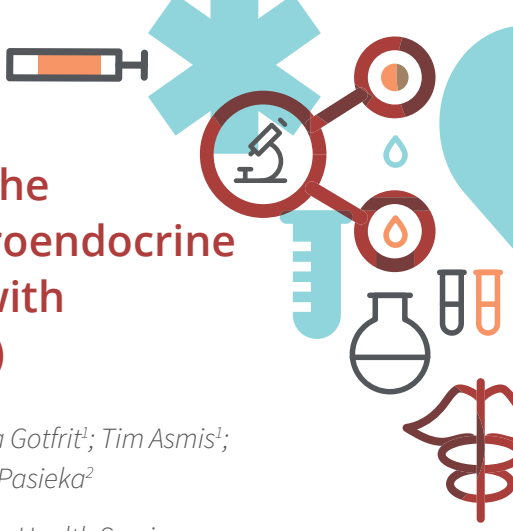

T-4

A Pilot Study Assessing the Cognitive Profile in Neuroendocrine Tumour (NET) Patients with Carcinoid Syndrome (CS)

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BACKGROUND: There is limited information on cognitive changes over time in NET patients with CS. We are developing a study to assess the effect of treatment with somatostatin analogs (SSAs) on cognitive function in patients with NETs. This pilot study has been designed to test the feasibility of a larger study.

METHODS: The pilot study will recruit 10 adult patients from 4 Canadian cancer centres with stage IV NET who manifest CS who are starting long acting SSA therapy. Cognitive performance will be assessed before treatment begins and twice at 3 and 6 months post-SSA injections. Cognitive tests will examine the subjective experience of the patient and family members, and the objective functioning of the patient, including domains of processing speed, auditory attention, sustained attention, executive functioning, and affective awareness.

RESULTS: The pilot study will validate the feasibility of critical components of the full-scale study: recruitment rate, retention levels, eligibility criteria, suitability of time and resources allocated, and will corroborate estimates for sample size calculation. If the main study is feasible without major amendments to the design of the protocol, the pilot study will be considered a 'run in' period and the participants will be included in the full-scale study. Pilot study results available at the date of the symposium will be presented.

CONCLUSION: The proposed research has direct implications for clinical services development to improve quality of life for NET patients with carcinoid syndrome. SSA therapy may help NET patients with carcinoid syndrome, it may

result in improved cognitive function which could ameliorate or restore quality of life. This may ultimately help us determine if cognitive testing and cognitive rehabilitation should become standard of care.