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Care of Neuroendocrine Tumors: the Collaborative of Surgical Teams for NeuroEndocrine Tumors (CUTNETs)

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BACKGROUND

Despite the importance of surgical management, most data on NETs surgical care come from single-center studies, limiting generalizability. To address these challenges and improve NETs surgical care, a worldwide Collaborative of Surgical Teams for NeuroEndocrine Tumors (CUTNETs) was created.

METHODS

A cross-sectional survey was conducted to profile CUTNETs centres and surgeons, assess expertise, and document general clinical practices. The survey was self-administered online by CUTNETs centers. Descriptive analysis was used.

RESULTS

In 27 centres in 11 countries, on 2 continents, 2–15 surgeons were involved in NETs care, with strong representation in hepato-pancreato-biliary (88.0%) and surgical oncology (76.0%). Surgeons were involved in initial assessment (92.3%), delivery of systemic therapy (34.6%), and follow-up (80.8%). Specialized NETs multidisciplinary tumor boards existed in 84.6% of centres. Most services estimated seeing over 11 new NETs consultations (76.9%) and performing over 6 NETs operations (65.4%) monthly. Most centres were engaged in research, with 80.8% maintaining a NET registry and 71.4% a biobank, and 69% training graduate students in NETs research. Variability across reported practices was observed for hepatic cytoreduction, resection of asymptomatic primary in stage IV small intestine NETs, use of preoperative systemic therapy, and resection of advanced neuroendocrine carcinomas.

CONCLUSIONS

CUTNETs is an international initiative to enhance NETs surgical care. This survey revealed a strong foundation in clinical expertise and research, with NETs-specific expertise and volume, surgeon-led care, multidisciplinary tumor boards, biobanks, and clinical registries. CUTNETs is poised to leverage these strengths to address key clinical questions to advance NETs surgical care.

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