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Survey of Challenges in Access to Diagnostics and Treatment for NET Patients (SCAN)

Teodora Kolarova¹; Simone Leyden²; Catherine Bouvier³; Dirk Van Genechten⁴; Ronald Hollander¹

¹International Neuroendocrine Cancer Alliance; ²Unicorn Foundation; ³NET Patient Foundation; ⁴vzw NET & MEN Kanker Belgium

BACKGROUND: Neuroendocrine Tumours (NETs) are uncommon and complex neoplasms, with increasing incidence and prevalence. This survey (SCAN) aims to measure the global readiness to provide access to diagnostics and treatments for NET patients in terms of awareness, availability, quality of servicing and affordability. An earlier assessment of unmet needs carried out among NET patients and healthcare professionals identified significant disparities in what patients consider available to them in terms of the latest diagnostic tools and treatments, compared to what their healthcare systems actually offer.

METHODS: The survey is to be conducted by two online questionnaires among NET patients and healthcare professionals. Both questionnaires would be available in 10 of the most spoken languages globally: Arabic, English, German, French, Japanese, Hindi, Italian, Mandarin (Chinese), Russian, Spanish. To draw statistically reliable conclusions, this survey would use quotas based on patient registries wherever available, national registries of the medical professionals by expertise and NET medical societies’ registries by region.

RESULTS: SCAN results will measure awareness of NETs and level of access to diagnostics and optimal treatment. The findings will also allow calculating the financial burden for NET patients globally, per region and nationally, based on their socio-economic profile. SCAN aims to capture the reasons for the existing gaps in diagnostics and care for NET patients in the different parts of the world.
CONCLUSION: The survey would be the first to incorporate the perspectives of all key stakeholders, part of the healthcare system, who could be in a position to communicate and provide services to the NET patient, addressing all medical professionals involved in multidisciplinary care, including: oncologists, surgeons, gastroenterologists, endocrinologists, nuclear medicine specialists, pathologists, radiologists, psychiatrists, nurses, and general practitioners. Data would be crossed with the NET patients' perspective.