



NEUROENDOCRINE CANCER GUIDE

# GETTING YOUR RESULTS

2023



[www.neuroendocrinecancer.org.uk](http://www.neuroendocrinecancer.org.uk)



Finding out if you have Neuroendocrine Cancer, how it's behaving over time or whether treatment is working can be stressful, especially if you've had to wait a while for results. But planning ahead for results day can help you prepare.

As much as we'd all like test results straight after a test, it takes time. As a rough guide, blood test results can take between one day and eight weeks to come back, scans reports can take one to three weeks and the results of a biopsy can take up to three weeks to come back (though it rarely takes this long unless additional tests on the sample are required). Your care team will give you a better idea of exact times for your results.



#### **BLOOD TEST RESULTS**

can take  
1 day & 8 weeks



#### **SCAN REPORTS RESULTS**

can take  
1 – 3 weeks



#### **BIOPSY RESULTS**

can take  
1 – 3 weeks



As soon as your scan and/or histology results are available, your care team will then review them at a specialist meeting and consider which next steps are to be taken - this could be starting a new treatment or ongoing monitoring. This usually occurs before you have a results appointment with your consultant to discuss what's been discovered, so that you can also talk through all options.

**Please don't forget.....**

**whatever news you receive - it's that the conversations should always be two-way.**

No appointment should involve you only being a passive listener. A big part of meeting with your doctors is to make sure you get the information you need to understand what's happening, so you can make the right choices about your treatment and/or ongoing care.



We know that listening to and trying to understand difficult information can be difficult, especially if you're feeling nervous or anxious. And it can be hard to think of the questions you may want to ask, whilst trying to make sense of what you may have been told. But hopefully the following suggestions might help you to get more out of your consultation:



Prepare a list of questions you might want to ask – this can help to you remember what you wanted to ask. If you are finding it difficult to ask these questions you can hand them to your doctor or nurse, and if you don't feel able to deal with them at the time, you can ask to go through them later.



Ask if your consultant is happy for you to record the conversation on your phone, or recording device, so you can listen back later to check you've understood and haven't forgotten anything. If using your phone, make sure you download an app beforehand if your phone doesn't have a record function.



Take someone with you to your appointment to help you remember what's said and to ask questions with you. If that's not possible, you can always ask your specialist nurse to come into the consultation with you.



If any medical language confuses you, ask for a simple explanation. Your doctors want you to understand what's happening, and may use jargon without even realising they're doing it.



Ask for written information and for a copy of any letters that your "NET" specialists are sending to your GP or care team.



If you have a Clinical Nurse Specialist – keep in touch. Use them as a sounding board for concerns, to answer questions and / or explain anything you're having difficulty with.

**Remember that you can always call back after your appointment to clarify anything you've not understood. It's your health, and you're the boss.**



# Questions you may want to ask about your results



- Where has it spread?
- Will I need to have any more tests?
- What grade is it?
- What stage is it?
- What does this mean for me?
- Who will be involved and who will lead in my care?
- Will I need to be referred elsewhere?
- How is it best treated?
- Do I need treatment straight away?
- Have you got any written information I can take home with me?
- What can I expect from this diagnosis?
- What affect will this have on my health?
- Who is my main point of contact? Who can I call with any questions?
- Will I have a Clinical Nurse Specialist?
- What support is there available to me and my loved ones?

**Select the button below to  
download and print our useful  
questions printout**

