

# Somatostatin analogs in the treatment of gastroenteropancreatic tumors

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# Natural Somatostatin (1)

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Peptide discovered by Brazeau in 1973.

It has been shown to:

- Inhibit hormone release
- Inhibit tumor growth in vitro
- Inhibit pancreatic enzyme secretion
- Impair gall bladder contraction and gastrointestinal motility

*Inhibitory effect on secretion of peptide hormones*



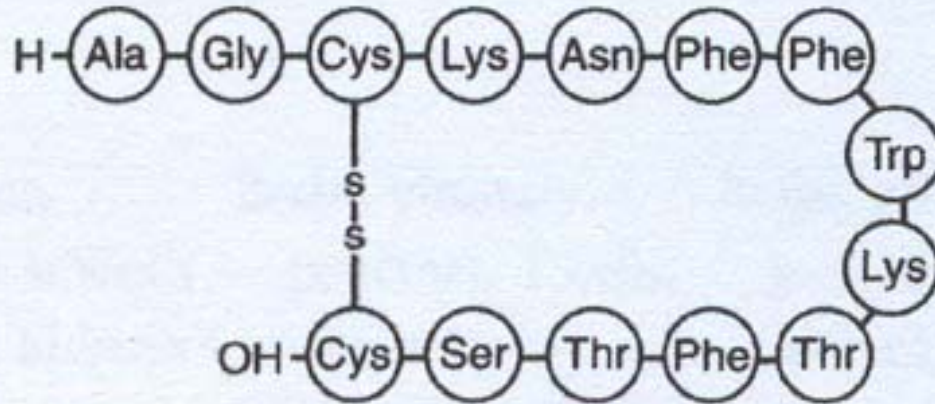
*neuroendocrine tumors*

# Natural Somatostatin (2)

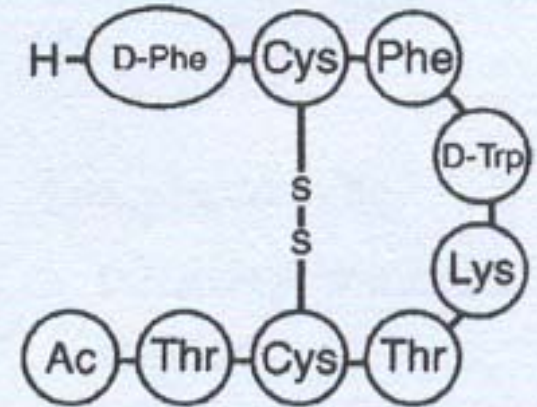
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- Because of its short half-life (<3 min), sst was inconvenient for clinical use
- Analogs were developed at the beginning of the 1980s
- Two of them, octreotide and lanreotide, are regularly used in clinics

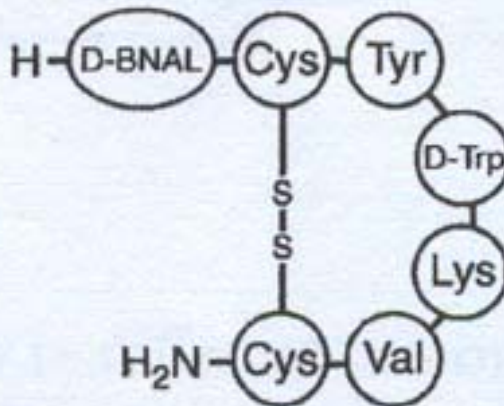
# Chemical structure of native somatostatin-14 and the synthetic analogs



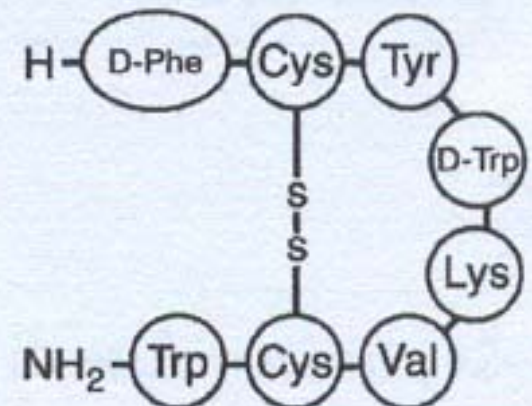
**Native somatostatin-14**



**Octreotide**



**Lanreotide**

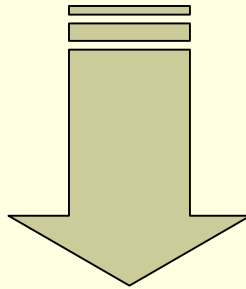


**RC-160**

# Goals of treatment (1)

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The primary goal is to decrease hormone production and secretion



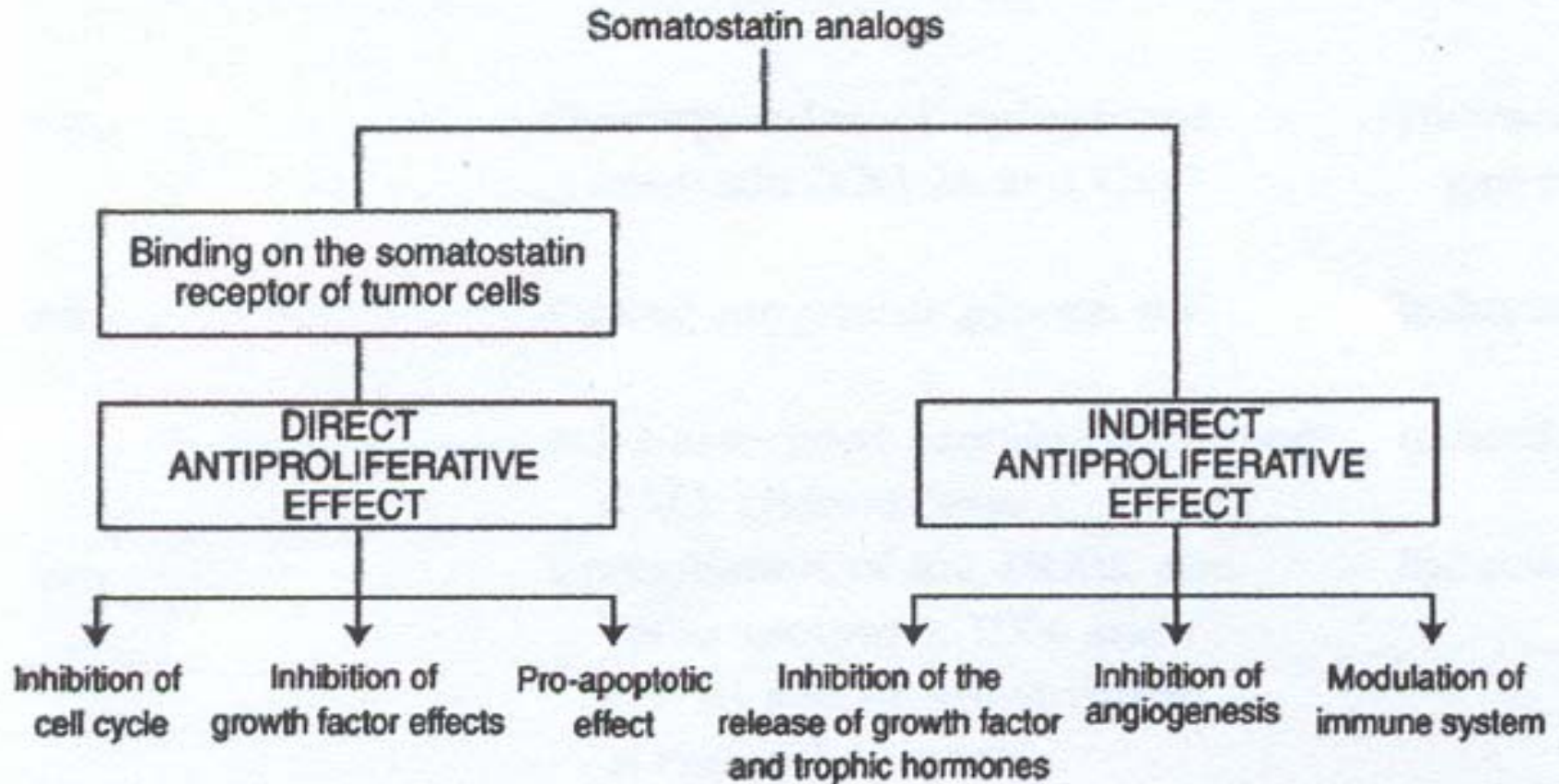
Control of hormone induced symptoms

# Goals of treatment (2)

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- Control tumor growth which may result in a stabilization of tumor size in treated patients
- Very high doses of somatostatin analogs may have a tumoricidal effect

# Antiproliferative effects of somatostatin analogs on tumor cells



# Somatostatin analog (1)

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- When should somatostatin analog treatment be started?
- How should SSTa be prescribed for optimal symptom control?
- How should a patient on SSTa therapy be followed?



# Somatostatin analog (2)

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- How should octreotide be administered during invasive procedure ?
- What is the role of octreotide in patients receiving radiolabeled somatostatin therapy ?
- Do patients with GEP tumors develop drug resistance?

# Somatostatin receptors

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- Somatostatin acts through five different membrane receptors and induce different second messenger systems depending on which receptor is stimulated
- The reduction of hormone secretion is mainly mediated through SSTR2 and 5
- growth inhibition through receptors 1, 2 and 5
- apoptosis through receptors 2 and 3

# Available SSTS analogs

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- Short acting

Octreotide

- Long acting

Octreotide (Sandostatin LAR)

Lanreotide (Somatuline LA,  
Somatuline Autogel)

# Octreotide - Lanreotide

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Show

- high affinity for SSTR2
- Intermediate affinity to SSTR3 and SSTR5
- Low affinity for SSTR1 and SSTR4

# Responses to SSTa therapy (1)

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- They are defined according to three categories

A. Symptomatic

B. Biochemical

C. Objective (radiologic)

# Responses to SSTa therapy (2)

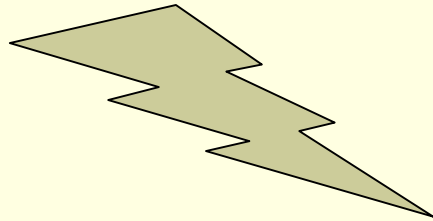
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- A. Symptomatic responses (up to 90%)  
are reduction in hypersecretion  
related/hormonally mediated symptoms  
such as diarrhea, hypoglycemia
- In non-functional NETs they are: reduction  
in tumor bulk-related symptoms such as  
upper abdominal pain and improvement in  
quality of life or performance status

# Responses to SSTa therapy (3)

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**B.** Biochemical responses (up to 70%) are defined as a  $\geq 50\%$  decrease in tumor markers



- ❖ The importance of biochemical responses is controversial.
- ❖ An early and dramatic reduction in markers may portend a more durable response to analogs

# Responses to SSTa therapy (4)

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## C. Objective responses:

- Stable disease is observed, after initiation of treatment, in about one-third of the patients who show progressive disease before somatostatin analog therapy
- Tumor shrinkage was demonstrated in a small percentage



# NETs response to SSt analog treatment

Response	Standard dose (%) 100–1500 mg/d	High dose (%) >3 mg/d	SR (%) 20–30 mg/ 2–4w
Subjective	64	42	63
Biochemical	63	75	67
Tumor	5	13	3

# Comparative features of octreotide and lanreotide

	<b><i>Octreotide</i></b>	<b><i>Lanreotide</i></b>
Reduction of diarrhea	50%	45%
Reduction of flushing	68%	54%
Most common adverse events	Gastrointestinal disorders Biliary disorders Injection site pain	Gastrointestinal disorders Biliary disorders Injection site pain
Availability of short acting formulation	yes	no
Frequency of administration	4 weeks	2 & 4 weeks

# SSTR scintigraphy

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- All patients with GEP tumors that are considered for somatostatin analog treatment should undergo SSTR scintigraphy, to establish their tumors SSTR status
- If the SSTR scintigraphy is negative other treatment options should be considered
- More than 80% of patients with a positive SSTR scan respond to somatostatin analog treatment

# When should SSTa treatment be started?

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- The accepted indications for the use of SSTa include:
  - ❖ Patients with peptide/amine-induced syndromes with clinical symptoms
  - ❖ Patients with progression of metastatic disease even without a syndrome

# How to start treatment

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- Start with short-acting octreotide for 2-3 days followed by injection of the long-acting analog  
In that way, patients with intolerable side-effects are prevented from receiving a long-acting injection
- Patients with very severe hormone induced symptoms may need a supplement of short-acting analog during the first weeks of treatment until plasma concentrations of the long-acting analog has reached therapeutic levels

# Intavenous SSTa

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- i.v administration of octreotide should be considered during certain invasive procedures, such as liver embolization and surgery
- Patients experiencing massive hormone secretion (carcinoid crises, WDHA-syndrome) should also be considered for iv infusion
- All patients should receive supplement therapy with pancreatic enzymes to avoid mal absorption diarrheas

# Long acting analogs

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- The majority of patients will prefer the convenience of once monthly injection with the long acting formulations
- Most patients are initially treated with the 20mg of LAR.
- The LAR doses range from 20 to 60mg every 28 days

Oberg k et al. Concensus report....Annals of Oncol 2004

- Somatuline 60, 90, 120 mg

# Long acting analogs

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- Supplementary administration with the IR form of octreotide in patients escaping anti-secretory response is often required during long term treatment with LAR
- If it is necessary to give the patient rescue doses of IR octreotide three or four times per week increase in LAR dose to 30/4 weeks or reduce the interval between administration of LAR



# Side effects of somatostatin analogs

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- Most patients tolerate treatment very well
- Side effects are usually mild
- Usually diminish during the first few days of treatment

Abdominal cramps, nausea and flatulence, loose stools, mild steatorrhea

- Impaired glucose tolerance
- Development of gallstones

# Intolerance – Resistance (1)

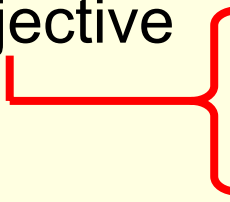
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- Some patients develop intolerance to octreotide or lanreotide. In these cases it might be worth trying the other analog
- For patients who develop resistance to treatment a switch to the other analog might prove useful

# Intolerance – Resistance (2)

- 15 patients with progressive metastatic NETs who had experienced a prior response or disease stabilization with lanreotide 30 mg/14 d

All patients had measurable disease

- Octreotide LAR, i.m, 20 mg/4 weeks, 7 months
- Results:
- Symptomatic response rate → 82%
- Biochemical response → 41%
- Objective  partial response, 1 pt (7%)  
stabilization of disease, 6 pts (40%)  
progressive disease, 8 pts (53%)

# Follow-up (1)

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- Biochemical parameters are repeated every 3-6 months

GEP NET patients: CgA, 24-h urine collection for determination of 5-HIAA

Pancreatic NETs: the predominant peptide should be measured

- Note: patients with non-functional GEP NET tumors may develop functional hormone secretion during tumor progression

# Follow-up (2)

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- Physical examination every three months
- Conventional imaging studies  
CT, MRI, U/S every six months
- Patients with progressive disease should be scanned before therapy and every 3 months until stability is seen for two consecutive imaging studies

# Midgut carcinoid

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- The largest group of patients with NET tumors that benefit from SSTSa treatment is midgut carcinoid tumors.
- Up to 80% will respond with a significant relief in symptoms
- Stabilization in tumor size has been reported in 24-57% of treated patients
- 5-10% respond with reduction in tumor size

# SSTa + Radioisotopes

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- Therapy with unlabeled octreotide should be stopped before the administration of radiolabeled somatostatin analogs.
- Stop the IR form of octreotide for 24 h before radiotherapy
- For patients receiving LAR treatment should be interrupted >2 months before radiotherapy. The patient can switch to the IR formulation

# SSTa + Interferon

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- Generally they are proposed as single-agent therapy
- The combined use of these drugs was proposed in several non-randomized trials, indicating that there is an additive effect of the combination
- It could be indicated after progression to single-agent therapy



# IFN-a/SST-analog combination therapy: published randomized trials

Author	No. pts	Arms	Results
10 centers Kölby 2003 Liver metastases	68 1991–98	IFN $\alpha$ OCT+IFN $\alpha$	5-year-survey (%) 36.6 56.8
metastases Faiss 2003	80 1995–98	IFN $\alpha$ LAN IFN $\alpha$ +LAN	1-year PFS (%) 44.4 44 50 $p = 0.69$
Arnold 2005	109 1995–98	OCT OCT+IFN $\alpha$	Median survival (months) 35 51

PFS, progression free survival.

# Octreotide - Lanreotide

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Show

- high affinity for SSTR2
- Intermediate affinity to SSTR3 and SSTR5
- Low affinity for SSTR1 and SSTR4

# Future - SOM 230

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- Has the same inhibitory effect when binding to SSTR2 as octreotide
- Binds to SSTR1-3, SSTR5
- The effect mediated through SSTR1,3,5 is much stronger for SOM230

SOM 230 may have a stronger inhibitory effect than octreotide on hormone secretion from neuroendocrine tumor cells

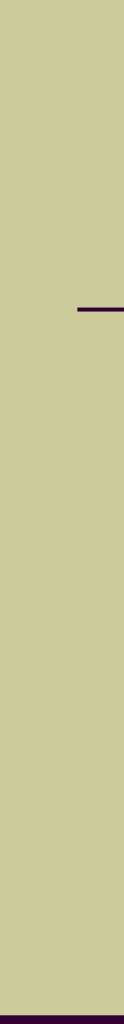
# Conclusions

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- Treatment with somatostatin analogs reduces symptoms and hormone secretion in a majority of patients with functioning neuroendocrine tumors
- Stabilization of tumor growth may be achieved
- A reduction in tumor size can be achieved in few patients



Thank you for your attention



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- Suppression test after administration of 100  $\mu\text{g}$  octreotide s.c.
  - >50% decrease in peptide / amine levels is seen 1-2 h after octreotide

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- 31 patients, GEP with metastatic liver disease or distant metastases
  - SSTa 6 months
  - 45.2% stable disease for 26 months