

1 **A randomised, factorial phase II study to determine the optimal dosing regimen**  
2 **for <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan as an imaging agent in patients with**  
3 **gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine tumours**

4 **Running Title:** <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan optimal dose

5 Irene Virgolini<sup>1</sup>, Shadfar Bahri<sup>2</sup>, Andreas Kjaer<sup>3</sup>, Henning Grønbaek<sup>4</sup>, Peter Iversen<sup>5</sup>, Esben A.  
6 Carlsen<sup>3</sup>, Mathias Loft<sup>3</sup>, Ulrich Knigge<sup>6</sup>, Johanna Maffey-Steffan<sup>1</sup>, Christine Powell<sup>7</sup>, Colin G.  
7 Miller<sup>8</sup>, Thomas Rohban<sup>9</sup>, Sandy McEwan<sup>7</sup>, and Johannes Czernin<sup>2</sup>

8 *<sup>1</sup>Department of Nuclear Medicine, University of Innsbruck, Innsbruck, Austria; <sup>2</sup>Ahmanson*  
9 *Translational Theranostics Division, Department of Molecular and Medical Pharmacology, David*  
10 *Geffen School of Medicine, UCLA, Los Angeles, California; <sup>3</sup>Department of Clinical Physiology,*  
11 *Nuclear Medicine & PET and Cluster for Molecular Imaging, Department of Biomedical Sciences,*  
12 *Rigshospitalet, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark; <sup>4</sup>Department of Hepatology &*  
13 *Gastroenterology, Aarhus University Hospital, Aarhus, Denmark; <sup>5</sup>Department of Nuclear*  
14 *Medicine and PET Center, Aarhus University Hospital, Aarhus, Denmark; <sup>6</sup>Department of*  
15 *Endocrinology PE and Department of Surgery C, Rigshospitalet, University of Copenhagen,*  
16 *Copenhagen, Denmark; <sup>7</sup>Ipsen Bioscience, Cambridge, MA, USA; <sup>8</sup>The Bracken Group for Ipsen*  
17 *Bioscience, Newtown, PA, USA; and <sup>9</sup>Partner 4 Health for Ipsen Bioscience, Paris, France*

18 **Corresponding Author:** Dr. Irene Virgolini, Department of Nuclear Medicine, University of  
19 Innsbruck, Anichstraße 35, A-6020 Innsbruck, Austria. Tel: +43 512 504 82307; E-mail:  
20 [irene.virgolini@i-med.ac.at](mailto:irene.virgolini@i-med.ac.at).

21

22 Immediate Open Access: Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY) allows  
23 users to share and adapt with attribution, excluding materials credited to previous publications.

24 License: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.



25 Details: <https://jnm.snmjournals.org/page/permissions>.

26

## 27 **ABSTRACT**

28 <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan is a novel somatostatin receptor antagonist associated with high  
29 sensitivity and reproducibility in neuroendocrine tumour (NET) detection and localisation.  
30 However, the optimal peptide mass and radioactivity ranges for <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan have  
31 not yet been established. We therefore aimed to determine its optimal dosing regimen in patients  
32 with metastatic gastroenteropancreatic NETs in a prospective, randomised, 2×3 factorial,  
33 multicentre, phase II study.

34 **Methods:** Patients received <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan at a peptide mass of 5–20 µg on day 1 of  
35 the study and of 30–45 µg on day 16–22, at one of three gallium-68 radioactivity ranges (40–80,  
36 100–140, or 160–200 MBq). Whole-body PET/CT imaging was performed 50–70 minutes after  
37 each injection. The primary endpoint was the detection rate of NET lesions imaged by <sup>68</sup>Ga-  
38 satoreotide trizoxetan relative to contrast-enhanced CT (CECT) (for each of the six peptide  
39 mass/radioactivity range combinations).

40 **Results:** Twenty-four patients were evaluated in the per-protocol analysis. The median number of  
41 lesions detected by <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan PET/CT or PET only was at least twice as high as  
42 the number of lesions detected by CECT across the six studied peptide mass dose/radioactivity  
43 range combinations. There were no differences between the two peptide mass ranges and between  
44 the three radioactivity ranges in the number of identified lesions. However, a trend towards a lower

45 relative lesion count was noted in the liver for the 40–80 MBq range. No relationship was observed  
46 between the radioactivity range per patient’s body weight (MBq/kg) and the number of lesions  
47 detected by <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan. Median diagnostic sensitivity of <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide  
48 trizoxetan PET/CT, based on the number of lesions per patient, ranged from 85% to 87% across the  
49 different peptide mass and radioactivity ranges. Almost all reported adverse events were mild and  
50 self-limiting.

51 **Conclusion:** A radioactivity of 100–200 MBq with a peptide mass up to 50 µg were confirmed as  
52 the optimal dosing regimen for <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan to be used in future phase III studies.

53

54 **Keywords:** <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan; neuroendocrine tumours; somatostatin receptor antagonist;  
55 diagnostic imaging; optimal dose

56

57 **Word Count:** 5,375.

## 58 INTRODUCTION

59 Gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine tumours (GEP-NETs) constitute a heterogeneous  
60 group of tumours, most of which overexpress somatostatin receptors (SSTRs) (1). The current  
61 standard for the diagnosis and staging of NETs is positron emission tomography (PET)/computed  
62 tomography (CT) using radiolabelled SSTR2 agonists such as <sup>68</sup>Ga-DOTATATE, <sup>68</sup>Ga-  
63 DOTATOC, or <sup>64</sup>Cu-DOTATATE (2–4). The introduction of SSTR2 antagonists represents an  
64 important development in the field of NET imaging, as they bind to more receptors than SSTR2  
65 agonists and therefore provide a higher tumour uptake, with better NET visualisation (5–8).

66 <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan (also known as <sup>68</sup>Ga-IPN01070, <sup>68</sup>Ga-NODAGA-JR11, or <sup>68</sup>Ga-  
67 OPS202) is a new generation somatostatin antagonist developed as a PET imaging agent for the  
68 detection and localisation of NET lesions. It consists of the small somatostatin analogue JR11  
69 conjugated to the strong cyclical chelating agent 1,4,7-triazacyclononane,1-glutaric acid-4,7-acetic  
70 acid (NODAGA), which is radiolabelled with the isotope gallium-68. A previous prospective,  
71 single-centre, open-label, phase I/II imaging study (9), conducted in 12 patients with well-  
72 differentiated, low- or intermediate-grade, SSTR2-positive GEP-NETs, found that <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide  
73 trizoxetan, administered at a peptide mass ranging from 11 to 63 µg and an activity from 125 to 192  
74 MBq, was associated with a significantly higher lesion-based overall sensitivity compared to the  
75 SSTR2 agonist <sup>68</sup>Ga-DOTATOC (88%–94% versus 59%; p<0.001). This observation was mainly  
76 attributed to the higher detection rate of metastases in the liver (9).

77 We report on a prospective, multicentre, phase II trial designed to expand on the  
78 aforementioned phase I/II study (9) by confirming the optimal peptide mass dose and radioactivity  
79 ranges for <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan in patients with metastatic GEP-NETs. Furthermore, this  
80 study was designed based on the United States Food and Drug Administration's request for more

81 data on the optimal diagnostic performance of  $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -satoreotide trizoxetan for PET imaging in a  
82 multicentre setting. It was hypothesised that an administered activity range of 40–80 MBq (1.08–  
83 2.16 mCi) would provide a reduced diagnostic signal compared to the recommended range of 100–  
84 200 MBq (2.70–5.41 mCi).

85

## 86 MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 87 Study Design

88 This open-label, reader-blinded, dose-confirmation, 2×3 factorial, randomised (1:1:1), phase  
89 II study (ClinicalTrials.gov identifier: [NCT03220217](#); EudraCT no.: [2016-004928-39](#)) investigated  
90 two peptide mass dose ranges (5–20 and 30–45 µg) and three radioactivity ranges (40–80, 100–140,  
91 and 160–200 MBq) of <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan. The study was prospectively designed to enrol  
92 eight patients in each of the three arms to ensure a balanced inter-dose evaluation. Patients all  
93 received two doses of <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan on two separate visits, 2–3 weeks apart, according  
94 to the randomisation schedule of the three arms as shown in Figure 1.

95 Each patient underwent a total of four visits: a screening visit (visit 1) conducted within two  
96 weeks prior to the first <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan administration; on day 1 (visit 2) of the study  
97 during which all patients received <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan at a peptide mass of 5–20 µg with  
98 one of the three gallium-68 radioactivity ranges (40–80 MBq, arm A; 100–140 MBq, arm B; or  
99 160–200 MBq, arm C); on day 16–22 (visit 3) during which patients received the second dose of  
100 <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan at 30–45 µg and a different radioactivity range than the one administered  
101 on day 1; and an end-of-study visit (visit 4) on day 30–36 of the study for safety evaluation.

102 At screening, patient information was collected including medical and surgical history, the  
103 primary tumour site, tumour grade, histopathology, and PET images demonstrating SSTR2-  
104 expressing lesions obtained within the previous six months. A physical examination including vital  
105 sign assessment and laboratory tests (including haematology, blood chemistry, and urinalysis) were  
106 performed at all study visits. A 12-lead electrocardiogram was recorded at screening and at the end-  
107 of-study.

108           The study was conducted between September 2017 and October 2019 at four investigational  
109 sites in Austria, Denmark, and the United States. It was approved by all relevant ethics committees,  
110 and conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki and the International Conference on  
111 Harmonisation Guideline on Good Clinical Practice. All patients provided written informed  
112 consent, and data were anonymised.

113

#### 114 **Patients**

115           Adults with pathologically confirmed, well-differentiated, functioning or non-functioning,  
116 metastatic grade 1/2 GEP-NETs were enrolled in this study. All patients had to have  $\geq 2$  and  $\leq 25$   
117 lesions/organ expressing SSTR2, which were identified with prior SSTR2 agonist PET scans in  
118 either the primary tumour site or in key organs (liver, lymph nodes, bones and lungs). The limits  
119 were to ensure that a total number of lesions could be counted for statistical evaluation. Patient  
120 admissibility based on the number of SSTR2-expressing lesions was confirmed centrally by an  
121 independent nuclear medicine physician. Other inclusion criteria were: an Eastern Cooperative  
122 Oncology Group performance status of 0–2, a body weight of 50–110 kg, and adequate hepatic,  
123 renal, and haematologic functions.

124           Key exclusion criteria were treatment with short- or long-acting somatostatin analogues  
125 within 24 hours or 28 days, respectively, before either  $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -satoreotide trizoxetan injection, and any  
126 condition that might preclude the acquisition of high-quality PET and/or CT images.

127

#### 128 **Imaging**

129           At each of the four study centres, whole-body PET imaging was performed at both visit 2  
130 and visit 3 of the study 50–70 minutes post-intravenous injection of  $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -satoreotide trizoxetan,

131 using Siemens Biograph dedicated PET/CT scanners, with an acquisition time of 2–4 minutes per  
132 bed position. All PET scans were acquired in list mode, including time-of-flight capability. Whole-  
133 body, low-dose CT images were acquired for localisation and attenuation correction. During the  
134 same visits, patients also underwent contrast-enhanced CT (CECT) imaging, performed  
135 independently on a dedicated CT scanner and used as the standard-of-truth.

136 All images, including the pre-screening SSTR agonist images, were sent to an imaging core  
137 lab (Keosys, Nantes, France) after anonymisation. Following quality control, the images were  
138 reviewed on a dedicated workstation. The PET images with and without the CT scans were  
139 evaluated by two experienced nuclear medicine physicians and one adjudicator for discordant cases.  
140 In parallel, CECT scans were read by two other radiologists, with a third adjudicating discordances.  
141 To minimise bias, the independent readers were blinded to patient data, any information related to  
142 the study site, injected dose, and the temporal sequence of images.

143

#### 144 **Radiopharmaceutical**

145 <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan was prepared at the study centre's local radiopharmacy, using  
146 the clinical trial dose kit provided by Beaufour Ipsen Industries (Dreux, France), by a two-step  
147 aseptic compounding process. This process included: 1) reconstitution of the sterile vial A  
148 containing the satoreotide trizoxetan precursor and excipients with 1 mL of the solvent consisting  
149 of a solution of sterile sodium acetate from vial B; 2) radiolabelling of satoreotide trizoxetan by the  
150 addition of a 5-mL sterile hydrochloric acid solution of gallium-68, eluted from a sterile  
151 pharmaceutical grade germanium-68/gallium-68 generator (Eckert & Ziegler Radiopharm, Berlin,  
152 Germany).

153 The total amount of radioactivity (MBq) injected by a slow push intravenous injection into  
154 each patient was determined by measuring the radioactivity in the syringe before and after injection,  
155 using a standard dose calibrator. The peptide dosage corresponded to injected volume (mL) x 8.33  
156  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ .

157

## 158 **Efficacy Assessments**

159 All efficacy endpoints were assessed in the primary tumour site and in key organs (liver,  
160 lymph nodes, lungs, and bones), and were also evaluated in quartiles of radioactivity per baseline  
161 body weight expressed as MBq/kg. The primary endpoint of the study was the ratio of the number  
162 of lesions detected by a)  $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -satoreotide trizoxetan PET/CT and b) PET alone, to the number of  
163 lesions identified by CECT scan, for each of the six peptide mass dose/radioactivity range  
164 combinations. CECT was used as the standard-of-truth to provide a standardised denominator in  
165 order to make valid comparisons by peptide mass and radioactivity range.

166 Secondary efficacy endpoints included: mean and median tumour-to-background ratios  
167 calculated by radioactivity range per patient's body weight; preliminary diagnostic sensitivity of  
168  $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -satoreotide trizoxetan PET/CT based on the number of lesions per patient compared to the  
169 standard-of-truth; and the absolute number of lesions detected by  $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -satoreotide trizoxetan  
170 PET/CT and the difference with the number of lesions detected by CECT scan. Preliminary  
171 diagnostic sensitivity was calculated as the number of lesions detected by  $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -satoreotide  
172 trizoxetan PET/CT and CECT scan / (number of lesions detected by  $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -satoreotide trizoxetan  
173 PET/CT and CECT scan + number of lesions detected by CECT scan but not by  $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -satoreotide  
174 trizoxetan PET/CT).

175

176 **Safety Assessments**

177           The safety and tolerability of <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan were assessed throughout the study  
178 on the basis of adverse events (AEs) which were graded according to the National Cancer Institute  
179 Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events (version 5.0) and coded using the Medical  
180 Dictionary for Regulatory Activities (version 22.1), laboratory results (haematologic, biochemical,  
181 and urologic), physical examinations, vital signs, and electrocardiography.

182

183 **Statistical Analysis**

184           Statistical analysis was descriptive; consequently, no formal sample size calculation was  
185 performed. Continuous variables were presented as mean, standard deviation, median, and range,  
186 whereas categorical variables were described by counts and percentages. The safety population was  
187 defined as all patients who received at least one dose of <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan. By contrast, in  
188 order to ensure a balanced and adequate assessment for each dosage regimen, only the first eight  
189 patients in each arm who successfully completed all <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan PET/CT scans were  
190 used in the efficacy analysis and were consequently included in the per-protocol population.

191           All statistical analyses were performed using SAS version 9.4 (SAS Institute, Cary, NC).  
192 Missing values were not replaced.

## 193 **RESULTS**

### 194 **Patients**

195 A total of 29 patients were enrolled in the study, with a median age of 63.0 years (Table 1).  
196 Two patients withdrew from the study before receiving <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan, leaving 27  
197 patients in the safety population (arm A, n=8; arm B, n=9; arm C, n=10), as illustrated in Figure 2.  
198 The per-protocol population consisted of 24 patients (n=8 per arm) as initially planned.

199 Baseline demographic and disease characteristics were overall well-balanced between the  
200 three study arms, with the small intestine being the most frequent primary tumour site and liver and  
201 lymph nodes the most frequent metastasis locations (Table 1; Table 2). Overall, 28 out of the 29  
202 (96.6%) patients received at least one prior treatment, including somatostatin analogues in 26  
203 (89.7%) patients, <sup>177</sup>Lu-DOTATATE in 17 (58.6%), and everolimus in 3 (10.3%) patients. There  
204 were no intercurrent treatments reported between radiolabelled SSTR agonists and antagonists or  
205 between two consecutive SSTR antagonists at any time of the study in any patient.

206 All 24 patients in the per-protocol population had a prior SSTR scan performed within a  
207 median of 1.6 months (range, 0.1–6.0 months) from screening: 14 (58.3%) had a PET/CT scan with  
208 <sup>68</sup>Ga-DOTATOC, 9 (37.5%) with <sup>64</sup>Cu-DOTATATE, and 1 (4.2%) with <sup>68</sup>Ga-DOTATATE. The  
209 median (range) total number of SSTR-positive lesions detected by prior SSTR agonist scans was  
210 14.5 (6.0–94.0). The median (range) number of positive SSTR-lesions was 1.0 (0–1.0) in the  
211 primary tumour site, 9.5 (0–37.0) in the liver, 5.0 (0–36.0) in the lymph nodes, and 0.5 (0–38.0) in  
212 the bones. Three patients were enrolled with >30 lesions identified in the liver or in the lymph  
213 nodes.

214

### 215 **Efficacy**

216 For all organs combined, the median number of lesions detected by <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide  
217 trizoxetan PET/CT or PET only was at least twice as high as the number of lesions detected by  
218 CECT across the six peptide mass dose/radioactivity range combinations. This was reflected by a  
219 median relative lesion count, i.e., the ratio of the number of lesions detected by <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide  
220 trizoxetan PET/CT or PET only to the number of lesions detected by CECT, ranging from 2.1 to  
221 3.9. The results for the primary efficacy endpoint are shown in Table 3. When comparing the two  
222 administered peptide mass ranges as well as the three radioactivity ranges of <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide  
223 trizoxetan, there was no specific distribution pattern in the median relative lesion count for all  
224 organs combined. However, a trend towards a lower median relative lesion count in the liver was  
225 noted for the 40–80 MBq range compared to the higher radioactivity ranges (Table 3). When  
226 counting the number of lesions detected by <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan imaging in each of the three  
227 study arms, there was exact agreement among the two readers for all patients in arm B (100%),  
228 whereas the inter-reader agreement rate was 87.5% in arm A and 75% in arm C.

229 Similarly, no pattern indicating a possible association between the radioactivity range per  
230 patient's body weight (MBq/kg) and the relative lesion count or the absolute number of lesions  
231 detected by <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan was found (Table 4). There was also no observed association  
232 between the radioactivity range per patient's weight with the tumour-to-background ratio (Table 5).

233 Preliminary diagnostic sensitivity of <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan PET/CT, using CECT as  
234 the standard-of-truth, ranged from a median of 85% to 87% across different peptide mass dose and  
235 radioactivity ranges (Table 6).

236

237 **Safety**

238 All patients included in the safety population (n=27) received two injections of <sup>68</sup>Ga-  
239 satoreotide trizoxetan during the study. A total of 33 AEs were reported in 18 patients (66.7%),  
240 classified as grade 1 (23 AEs in 15 patients), grade 2 (9 in 5) and grade 3 (1 in 1), the latter event  
241 being hypertriglyceridaemia. Overall, 14 drug-related AEs were reported in 7 patients (25.9%), all  
242 grade 1 or 2, which included injection site pain (4 events), nausea (2 events), proteinuria (2 events),  
243 feeling cold (2 events), flushing (1 event), alopecia (1 event), diarrhoea (1 event), and fatigue (1  
244 event). Drug-related AEs occurred 1–2 days after the last dose of <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide, and were  
245 resolved within 15 days. Patients completely recovered from all drug-related AEs, except for one  
246 patient with reported alopecia that recovered with sequelae. No serious AEs and no post-dose AEs  
247 leading to withdrawal or death were reported.

248

249 **DISCUSSION**

250 This multicentre, randomised, factorial phase II study evaluated the optimal dose range of  
251 <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan. The results showed that the ratio of the number of lesions detected by  
252 <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan to the number of lesions detected by CECT was overall consistent across  
253 different peptide mass and radioactivity ranges, with no dependence on subject weight; however, a  
254 lower relative lesion count (median) in the liver was noted for the 40–80 MBq range compared to  
255 the higher radioactivity ranges. As anticipated with radiolabelled somatostatin analogues, the  
256 number of lesions identified by <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan was consistently higher than that  
257 identified by CECT in organs where lesions were present.

258 For the routine clinical setting, PET/CT images should be considered the primary evaluation  
259 in NET patients (10,11). The primary efficacy analysis found that, with <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan  
260 PET/CT scans (and also PET alone), there were no noticeable differences between the two peptide  
261 masses in the number of identified lesions for all organs, with a median relative lesion count of 2.7  
262 for both peptide mass ranges. Hence, based on the results of primary and secondary endpoints, <sup>68</sup>Ga-  
263 satoreotide trizoxetan imaging was not peptide mass-dependent. This is corroborated by the phase  
264 I/II imaging study by Nicolas et al. (2018) (9) which found no significant differences between two  
265 administered peptide mass doses ( $14 \pm 4$  and  $50 \pm 15$   $\mu$ g) in the number of malignant liver or lymph  
266 node lesions detected per patient or the tumour-to-background ratios, indicating a high  
267 reproducibility for <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan PET/CT, regardless of the administered amount of  
268 peptide. Thereby, the present study, along with the findings of the Nicolas et al. study (9), confirms  
269 that the optimal peptide mass of <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan for the diagnostic imaging of GEP-  
270 NETs can be up to 50  $\mu$ g, which is congruent with the current European Association of Nuclear  
271 Medicine administration guidelines for <sup>68</sup>Ga-labelled SSTR2 agonists (10).

272           Regarding the optimal administered radioactivity of <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan, the present  
273 study confirms that the radioactivity ranges of 100–140 and 160–200 MBq provide optimal imaging  
274 results. By contrast, the 40–80 MBq radioactivity range is associated with a trend towards a lower  
275 median relative lesion count in the liver, the predominant site of metastases in patients with GEP-  
276 NETs (12), and, therefore, further development will not be pursued for this radioactivity range,  
277 which of note was not tested in prior studies. The 40–80 MBq radioactivity range might also be  
278 associated with a reduced ratio of receptor-bound tracer to free tracer, resulting in declined image  
279 contrast and poor detection of GEP-NETs (13,14).

280           The absence of notable diagnostic performance and safety differences between the  
281 radioactivity ranges of 100–140 and 160–200 MBq, when discounting the 40–80 MBq range,  
282 provides confirmation of the optimal radioactivity range and ascertains the 100–200 MBq range as  
283 the appropriate activity for future use of <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan. This is in keeping with the  
284 European Association of Nuclear Medicine guidelines which recommend an administered  
285 radioactivity range of <sup>68</sup>Ga-labelled SSTR2 agonists between 100 and 200 MBq, depending on the  
286 technical characteristics of the PET scanner and the patient's body weight (10). Similarly, the  
287 Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging recommends administration of <sup>68</sup>Ga-labelled  
288 SSTR2 agonists at a radioactivity between 111 and 259 MBq, while taking into account the patient's  
289 body weight (11). Although there is a possibility of narrowing the radioactivity window of <sup>68</sup>Ga-  
290 satoreotide trizoxetan from 100–200 to 100–140 MBq, adopting the wider, guideline-recommended  
291 radioactivity range of 100–200 MBq offers increased flexibility and feasibility in routine clinical  
292 practice, while maintaining similarity in dosing to other gallium-68-labelled products. The absence  
293 of a clear dose-response relationship in the present study might be related to factors such as

294 heterogeneity in receptor density, hypoxia, interstitial pressure, necrosis, and tumour heterogeneity  
295 (15).

296 Of significant note, this study did not find a weight-dependent effect of <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide  
297 trizoxetan across the evaluated quartiles of radioactivity (MBq)/body weight (kg). This ideally  
298 provides the opportunity for an activity range of <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan (100–200 MBq) to be  
299 prescribed, regardless of body weight. By contrast, <sup>68</sup>Ga-labelled SSTR2 agonists require dosing  
300 per body mass (10,11,16). In a recent prospective study from the Netherlands conducted among 21  
301 patients with NETs who underwent whole-body <sup>68</sup>Ga-DOTATATE PET/CT, Cox and colleagues  
302 reported that, of all patient-dependent parameters, body mass showed the strongest correlation  
303 (coefficient of determination of 0.60) with normalised signal-to-noise ratio (16). Importantly, the  
304 absence of a weight-dependent effect represents a practical advantage for <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide  
305 trizoxetan, as an administered activity within a predetermined range instead of a weight-based  
306 administered activity is not only more convenient but also reduces the possibility of dosing errors.

307 The frequency and nature of the AEs reported with <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan in the present  
308 study did not raise any safety concern. Of note, many of these clinical manifestations (e.g., nausea,  
309 flushing, diarrhoea, fatigue) are common in patients with NETs. This compares favourably with the  
310 safety profile in the Nicolas et al. (2018) imaging study (17), in which no severe AEs or post-dose  
311 AEs leading to withdrawal or death were reported.

312 This study is mainly limited by a small sample size, which negated the use of a formal  
313 statistical analysis; thus, descriptive statistical analyses were applied. In addition, while not  
314 affecting image readability, the enrolment of three patients with >25 lesions/organ did increase  
315 lesion burden and skewed distributions in some instances. The study was also designed to evaluate  
316 five different organs (primary tumour site, liver, lymph nodes, lungs, and bones). However, due to

317 the few lesions identified in certain organs, meaningful results regarding the number of identified  
318 lesions were only available for all organs combined, the liver, and lymph nodes. Nevertheless, these  
319 limitations were balanced by a robust study design that allowed inter- and intra-individual  
320 comparisons across different peptide mass and radioactivity range combinations, which were  
321 evaluated at patient and lesion levels for both <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan PET/CT and PET only.

322

### 323 **CONCLUSION**

324 The overall results of this study confirm an optimal administered peptide mass of <sup>68</sup>Ga-  
325 satoreotide trizoxetan up to 50 µg with a radioactivity of 100–200 MBq, which is in line with current  
326 guidelines for administration of <sup>68</sup>Ga-labelled radiopharmaceuticals (10,11). This phase II study  
327 also confirmed that the overall safety profile of <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan is acceptable for  
328 continued clinical development.

329 **DISCLOSURE**

330 This study was funded by Ipsen (Boulogne, France). IV has acted as a consultant for Ipsen  
331 and Advanced Accelerator Applications. HG serves on the advisory board of Ipsen. CGM has acted  
332 as a consultant for Ipsen, CytoSite Bio and Alacrita, and is a managing partner at the Bracken Group.  
333 TR is a managing partner at Partner 4 Health, and has acted as a consultant for Ipsen. SM and CP  
334 are employees at Ipsen Bioscience. No other conflict of interest exists.

335

336 **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

337 The authors would like to thank all the patients who participated in the study and their  
338 families, as well as Partner 4 Health (Paris, France) for providing medical writing support  
339 (sponsored by Ipsen) in accordance with Good Publication Practice (GPP3) guidelines.

340

341 **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

342 TR and CGM designed the study. IV, SB, AK, HG, PI, UK, EAC, ML, JMS, and JC  
343 performed the experiments. CP, CGM, TR, and SM analysed the data. IV, AK, HG, JC, CGM, and  
344 TR supervised the study. All authors reviewed and edited the manuscript. All authors read and  
345 approved the final manuscript.

346 **KEY POINTS**

347 **Question:** What are the optimal peptide mass and radioactivity ranges for <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide  
348 trizoxetan administered as a PET imaging agent in patients with GEP-NETs?

349 **Pertinent Findings:** In this prospective, randomised, open-label, factorial-design, phase II study,  
350 the ratio of the number of lesions detected by <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan to the number detected by  
351 CECT was overall consistent across different peptide mass and radioactivity ranges, with no weight-  
352 dependent effect. However, a radioactivity range of 40–80 MBq was associated with a trend towards  
353 a lower median relative lesion count in the liver, the predominant site of metastasis in patients with  
354 GEP-NETs.

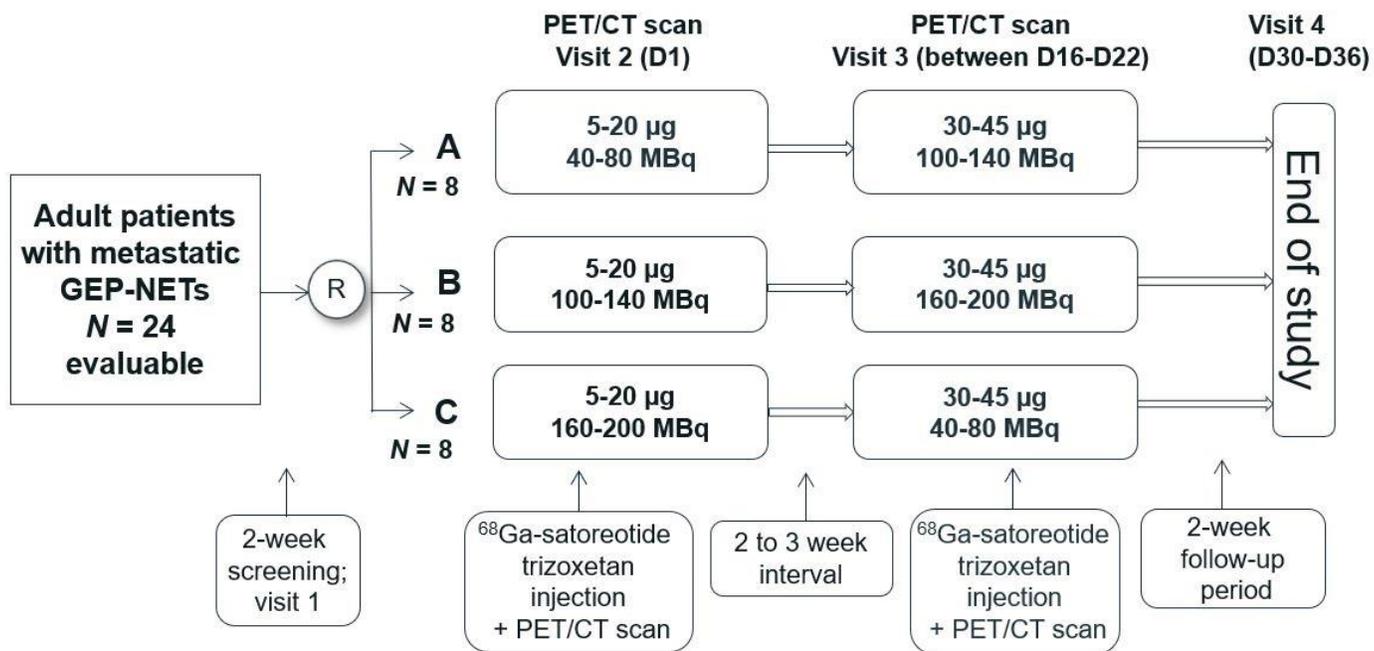
355 **Implications for Patient Care:** A radioactivity of 100–200 MBq with a peptide mass up to 50 µg  
356 were confirmed as the optimal dosing regimen for <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan to be used in future  
357 phase III clinical trials.

## REFERENCES

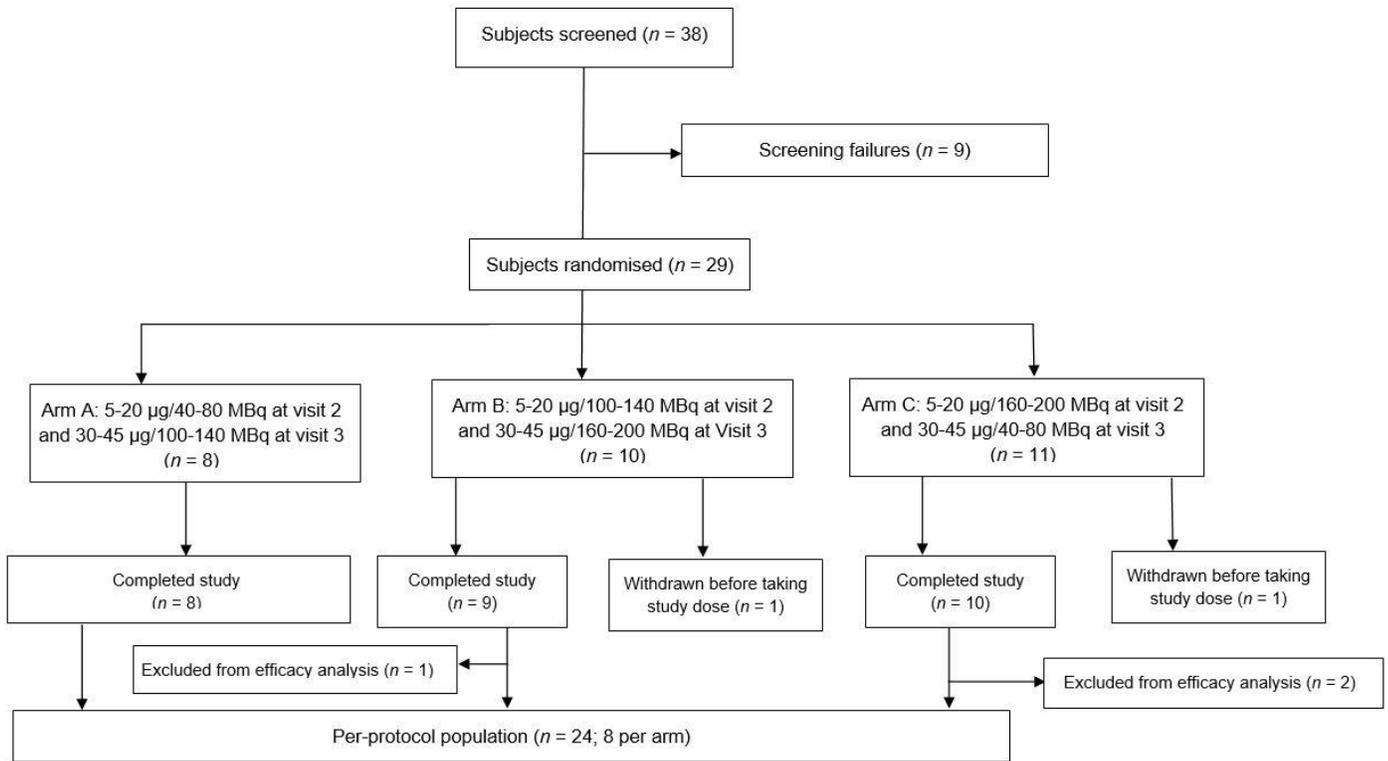
1. Reubi JC, Waser B. Concomitant expression of several peptide receptors in neuroendocrine tumours: molecular basis for in vivo multireceptor tumour targeting. *Eur J Nucl Med Mol Imaging*. 2003;30:781–793.
2. Barrio M, Czernin J, Fanti S, et al. The impact of somatostatin receptor-directed PET/CT on the management of patients with neuroendocrine tumor: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *J Nucl Med*. 2017;58:756–761.
3. Deppen SA, Blume J, Bobbey AJ, et al. <sup>68</sup>Ga-DOTATATE compared with <sup>111</sup>In-DTPA-octreotide and conventional imaging for pulmonary and gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine tumors: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *J Nucl Med*. 2016;57:872–878.
4. Johnbeck CB, Knigge U, Loft A, et al. Head-to-head comparison of <sup>64</sup>Cu-DOTATATE and <sup>68</sup>Ga-DOTATOC PET/CT: a prospective study of 59 patients with neuroendocrine tumors. *J Nucl Med*. 2017;58:451–457.
5. Ginj M, Zhang H, Waser B, et al. Radiolabeled somatostatin receptor antagonists are preferable to agonists for in vivo peptide receptor targeting of tumors. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA*. 2006;103:16436–16441.
6. Wild D, Fani M, Behe M, et al. First clinical evidence that imaging with somatostatin receptor antagonists is feasible. *J Nucl Med*. 2011;52:1412–1417.
7. Fani M, Nicolas GP, Wild D. Somatostatin receptor antagonists for imaging and therapy. *J Nucl Med*. 2017;58:61S–66S.
8. Fani M, Braun F, Waser B, et al. Unexpected sensitivity of sst2 antagonists to N-terminal radiometal modifications. *J Nucl Med*. 2012;53:1481–1489.

9. Nicolas GP, Schreiter N, Kaull F, et al. Sensitivity comparison of  $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -OPS202 and  $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -DOTATOC PET/CT in patients with gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine tumors: a prospective phase II imaging study. *J Nucl Med*. 2018;59:915–921.
10. Bozkurt MF, Virgolini I, Balogova S, et al. Guideline for PET/CT imaging of neuroendocrine neoplasms with  $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -DOTA-conjugated somatostatin receptor targeting peptides and  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DOPA. *Eur J Nucl Med Mol Imaging*. 2017;44:1588–1601.
11. Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (SNMMI).  $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -DOTA-XXX positron emission tomography (PET) for diagnosis, staging and measurement of response to treatment in somatostatin receptor-positive neuroendocrine tumors - imaging manual. [http://s3.amazonaws.com/rdcms-snmml/files/production/public/docs/CTN/DOTA%20Imaging%20Manual\\_Website\\_2-2-2015.pdf](http://s3.amazonaws.com/rdcms-snmml/files/production/public/docs/CTN/DOTA%20Imaging%20Manual_Website_2-2-2015.pdf). Updated February 2, 2015. Accessed July 8, 2020.
12. Cives M, Strosberg J. An update on gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine tumors. *Oncology (Williston Park)*. 2014;28:749–758.
13. Velikyan I.  $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -Based radiopharmaceuticals: production and application relationship. *Molecules*. 2015;20:12913–12943.
14. Velikyan I, Beyer GJ, Bergström-Pettermann E, Johansen P, Bergström M, Långström B. The importance of high specific radioactivity in the performance of  $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -labeled peptide. *Nucl Med Biol*. 2008;35:529–536.
15. Ilan E, Sandström M, Wassberg C, et al. Dose response of pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors treated with peptide receptor radionuclide therapy using  $^{177}\text{Lu}$ -DOTATATE. *J Nucl Med*. 2015;56:177–182.

16. Cox CPW, Segbers M, Graven LH, Brabander T, van Assema DME. Standardized image quality for  $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -DOTA-TATE PET/CT. *EJNMMI Res.* 2020;10:27.
17. Nicolas GP, Beykan S, Bouterfa H, et al. Safety, biodistribution, and radiation dosimetry of  $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -OPS202 in patients with gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine tumors: a prospective phase I imaging study. *J Nucl Med.* 2018;59:909–914.



**Figure 1.** Study design. Abbreviations: CT, computed tomography; D, day; GEP, gastroenteropancreatic; NET, neuroendocrine tumour; PET, positron emission tomography; R, randomised.



**Figure 2.** Patient disposition

**TABLE 1**  
Baseline Demographic Characteristics in the Randomised Population

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Arm A (N=8)</b>	<b>Arm B (N=10)</b>	<b>Arm C (N=11)</b>	<b>Overall (N=29)</b>
Age (years)				
Median [range]	71.5 [54–84]	69.5 [60–78]	59.0 [36–78]	63.0 [36–84]
Sex				
Male	6 (75.0)	4 (40.0)	9 (81.8)	19 (65.5)
Female	2 (25.0)	6 (60.0)	2 (18.2)	10 (34.5)
Weight (kg)				
Median [range]	81.0 [77–98]	85.3 [52–109]	86.0 [56–106]	83.0 [52–109]
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )				
Median [range]	26.4 [24–35]	28.8 [21–34]	26.3 [18–40]	26.4 [18–40]
ECOG performance status				
0	7 (87.5)	8 (80.0)	9 (81.8)	24 (82.8)
1	1 (12.5)	2 (20.0)	2 (18.2)	5 (17.2)

Data presented as n (%), unless otherwise specified. Percentages are calculated as n/N.  
Abbreviations: BMI, body mass index; ECOG, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group.

**TABLE 2**  
Baseline Disease Characteristics in the Per-Protocol Population

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Arm A (N=8)</b>	<b>Arm B (N=8)</b>	<b>Arm C (N=8)</b>	<b>Overall (N=24)</b>
Site of primary tumour				
Small intestine	6 (75.0)	4 (50.0)	6 (75.0)	16 (66.7)
Pancreas	1 (12.5)	1 (12.5)	1 (12.5)	3 (12.5)
Large intestine	1 (12.5)	3 (37.5)	1 (12.5)	5 (20.8)
Location of metastasis				
Liver	8 (100.0)	6 (75.0)	8 (100.0)	22 (91.7)
Lymph nodes	5 (62.5)	8 (100.0)	6 (75.0)	19 (79.2)
Bones	2 (25.0)	1 (12.5)	2 (25.0)	5 (20.8)
Lungs	2 (25.0)	0	2 (25.0)	4 (16.7)

Data presented as n (%). Percentages are calculated as n/N.

**TABLE 3**

Relative Lesion Count in the Per-Protocol Population (N=24), by Peptide Mass and Radioactivity Ranges

	All organs*		Liver		Lymph nodes	
	PET/CT	PET	PET/CT	PET	PET/CT	PET
<b>Peptide mass range</b>						
5–20 µg	n=24 2.7 (0.64–16.25)	n=24 2.6 (0.73–19.00)	n=17 2.3 (0.73–9.00)	n=17 2.6 (0.67–7.00)	n=13 2.0 (0.00–8.00)	n=13 2.3 (0.50–10.00)
30–45 µg	n=24 2.7 (0.82–13.50)	n=24 2.8 (0.68–14.50)	n=17 3.0 (0.76–11.00)	n=17 2.8 (0.62–9.00)	n=13 1.3 (0.00–12.00)	n=13 2.0 (0.50–14.00)
<b>Radioactivity range</b>						
40–80 MBq	n=16 3.1 (0.73–15.00)	n=16 2.6 (0.68–19.00)	n=13 2.2 (0.73–9.00)	n=13 2.6 (0.62–6.00)	n=7 2.0 (1.00–3.00)	n=7 2.7 (0.75–4.00)
100–140 MBq	n=16 2.6 (0.64–13.50)	n=16 2.8 (1.00–14.50)	n=9 3.0 (0.83–8.00)	n=9 3.3 (0.67–7.00)	n=9 1.3 (0.00–8.00)	n=9 2.0 (0.50–10.00)
160–200 MBq	n=16 2.6 (0.82–16.25)	n=16 2.7 (0.91–13.50)	n=12 2.7 (0.86–11.00)	n=12 2.8 (0.86–9.00)	n=10 1.3 (0.00–12.00)	n=10 2.2 (0.50–14.00)

Data are presented as median (range).

\*All organs refer to the primary tumour site + key organs (liver, lymph nodes, lungs, and bones).

Relative lesion count = number of lesions detected by <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan PET/CT or PET only / number of lesions detected by contrast-enhanced CT scan.

For the liver and lymph nodes, the number of analysed patients were those who had ≥2 lesions detected by contrast-enhanced CT on the given organ.

Abbreviations: CT, computed tomography; PET, positron emission tomography.

**TABLE 4**

Overall Lesion Count in the Per-Protocol Population (N=24), by Radioactivity Range (MBq) per Patient's Baseline Body Weight (kg)

	<b>0.69–0.97 MBq/kg (N=14)</b>	<b>0.97–1.55 MBq/kg (N=10)</b>	<b>1.55–2.09 MBq/kg (N=13)</b>	<b>2.09–3.72 MBq/kg (N=11)</b>
Relative lesion count				
Mean ± SD	4.3 ± 4.04	2.9 ± 1.88	3.6 ± 3.31	4.0 ± 4.15
Median (range)	3.5 (0.73–15.00)	2.5 (0.64–7.00)	2.1 (0.82–13.50)	2.6 (1.67–16.25)
Absolute number of detected lesions				
Mean ± SD	26.9 ± 25.95	18.1 ± 20.62	25.9 ± 21.45	26.8 ± 18.59
Median (range)	16.5 (7–94)	11.5 (6–75)	20.0 (8–73)	19.0 (10–65)

Overall relative lesion count = number of lesions detected by <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan in all organs / number of lesions detected by contrast-enhanced computed tomography.

The absolute number of detected lesions corresponds here to the absolute number of lesions detected by <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan in all organs.

Abbreviation: SD, standard deviation.

**TABLE 5**

Tumour-To-Background Ratio for the Liver and the Lymph Nodes in the Per-Protocol Population (N=24), by Radioactivity Range (MBq) per Patient's Baseline Body Weight (kg)

<b>Organ</b>		<b>0.69–0.97 MBq/kg (N=14)</b>	<b>0.97–1.55 MBq/kg (N=10)</b>	<b>1.55–2.09 MBq/kg (N=13)</b>	<b>2.09–3.72 MBq/kg (N=11)</b>
Liver	n*	11	6	9	8
	Mean ± SD	7.1 ± 5.90	4.3 ± 1.03	4.9 ± 2.95	6.2 ± 3.68
	Median (range)	4.3 (3.07–22.48)	4.0 (3.35–6.13)	4.1 (2.13–10.75)	5.1 (2.57–12.63)
Lymph nodes	n*	5	6	7	8
	Mean ± SD	10.1 ± 7.25	8.3 ± 5.18	9.2 ± 5.16	5.1 ± 3.17
	Median (range)	7.4 (3.53–18.69)	5.3 (4.47–16.10)	11.4 (2.87–15.00)	4.5 (1.54–11.65)

\*n corresponds to the number of patients with lesions in either the liver or the lymph nodes. The number of patients with lesions in the primary tumour site and bones was too small ( $\leq 3$  in each category) to allow a meaningful interpretation.

Abbreviation: SD, standard deviation.

**TABLE 6**

Preliminary Diagnostic Sensitivity (%) of <sup>68</sup>Ga-Satoreotide Trizoxetan PET/CT in the Per-Protocol Population (N=24), by Peptide Mass Dose and Radioactivity Range

	Peptide mass dose range		Radioactivity range				
	5–20 µg (N=24)	30–45 µg (N=24)	40–80 MBq (N=16)	100–140 MBq (N=16)	160–200 MBq (N=16)	100–200 MBq (N=24)	40–200 MBq (N=24)
Mean ± SD	79 ± 24	78 ± 28	86 ± 14	71 ± 34	77 ± 25	75 ± 29	80 ± 24
Median (range)	85 (8–100)	87 (0–100)	87 (64–100)	85 (0–100)	86 (8–100)	85 (0–100)	85 (8–100)

Diagnostic sensitivity = number of lesions detected by <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan PET/CT and by contrast-enhanced CT scan / (number of lesions detected by <sup>68</sup>Ga-satoreotide trizoxetan PET/CT and by contrast-enhanced CT scan + number of lesions detected by contrast-enhanced CT scan but not <sup>68</sup>Ga satoreotide trizoxetan PET/CT) x 100.

Abbreviations: CT, computed tomography; PET, positron emission tomography; SD, standard deviation.

