

Date
18.11.12

Publication
Sunday Herald Sun
(Body & Soul)

Circulation
529,063

Page
23

DO YOU KNOW WHAT NETs ARE?



1500
Australians
will be
diagnosed
with these
tumours
this year.
Here
are five
important
questions
to ask
yourself

Sure, neuroendocrine tumours (NETs) are rare but they still affect more Australians than ovarian cancer. The problem is that they often have symptoms that are vague or can mimic those of other disorders such as irritable bowel syndrome.

This can make NETs difficult to detect in the early stages and sufferers can be misdiagnosed for years. By the time patients are correctly diagnosed the tumours will likely have spread, which may result in a life expectancy of as little as three years.

On a positive note, if detected early, NET cancers can often be cured with surgery.

The most common symptoms of NETs include abdominal bloating and cramping, diarrhoea and asthma-like wheezing. If you have symptoms that have persisted despite medical treatment, the NETs charity, the Unicorn Foundation (www.unicornfoundation.org.au) recommends asking your doctor about NETs.

Symptom checklist

The foundation wants Australians to ask themselves these five important questions:

- 1 Have I experienced repeated abdominal pain, diarrhoea and cramping?
- 2 Do I have asthma-like symptoms that are not relieved by inhalers?
- 3 Am I experiencing periods of anxiety that can't be explained?
- 4 Am I flushing for no apparent reason?
- 5 Have I felt "not quite right" for a long time?

