

Dotatate item number

⁶⁸Ga-DOTATATE for GEP-NETs

Medicare approved another PET item number for patients with Gastroenteropancreatic Neuroendocrine Tumours (GEP-NETs) from 1st May 2018. The test uses ⁶⁸Ga-DOTATATE, which replaces ¹¹¹In-Octroskan and ¹²³I-MIBG Scintigraphy, as a somatostatin receptor (SSTR) imaging agent. ⁶⁸Ga-DOTATATE can dramatically improve the spatial resolution and lesion detectability compared to Octreoskan and MIBG. A literature review by Mojtahedi (2014) placed the sensitivity between 80-100% and specificity between 82-90%.

ITEM NUMBER 61647

The item can only be accessed when:

1. A Gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine tumour is suspected on the basis of biochemical evidence with negative or equivocal conventional imaging; or
2. both:
 - a. a surgically amenable gastro-entero-pancreatic neuroendocrine tumour has been identified on the basis of conventional techniques; and
 - b. the study is for excluding additional disease sites (R)

Key benefits include:

- High sensitivity and specificity
- Dramatically improved resolution
- Cost effective
- Same day service
- Low radiation burden

References

Alireza Mojtahedi, S. T. (2014). The value of ⁶⁸Ga-DOTATATE PET/CT in diagnosis and management of neuroendocrine tumors compared. *Am J Nucl Med Mol Imaging*, 426-434. Retrieved from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4138137/pdf/ajnm0004-0426.pdf>