Everolimus lengthens survival time of patients with pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors.

Printed from https://www.cancerquest.org/newsroom/2011/04/everolimus-lengthens-survival-time-patients-pancreatic-neuroendocrine-tumors on 11/14/2026



Pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors (panNET) are among the rarest forms of pancreatic cancer, accounting for only about 2% of reported cases. In general, the prognosis for pancreatic cancer is poor, but new research out of the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center indicates that the drug everolimus (Afinitor®) can extend the time of progression-free survival. Everolimus inhibits the activity of an enzyme called mTOR, a kinase. The same drug, under a different brand name (Zortress®), is used to treat organ transplant recipients to reduce organ rejection.

The study compared patients treated with everolimus with patients treated with a placebo. The latter group had a median progression-free survival (PFS) of 4.6 months, whereas the everolimus group had a median PFS of 11.0 months. The results showed a 65% reduced risk of cancer progression or death. Everolimus also exhibited limited adverse effects, which offers hope of extending both length and quality of life for patients with advanced panNET.

Source
http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa1009290
Learn More
Learn More