ROYAL FREE LONDON
PRIVATE PATIENTS
Investing in the NHS

Royal Free London Private Patients

Neuroendocrine Tumour (NET) Service



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About The Royal Free London Private Patients Unit



Situated in the heart of Hampstead, the Royal Free London Private Patients Unit (PPU) offers a unique sanctuary where the comfort and personalised attention of a private clinic meet the clinical rigour and advanced technological landscape of a premier London teaching hospital. We are proud to extend the world-class expertise and exceptional standards of the NHS to our private patients, ensuring that our success directly contributes to the ongoing development and innovation of the wider Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust.

As one of the United Kingdom's largest and most distinguished care organisations, the Royal Free London delivers expert healthcare to over 2 million patients annually. Our commitment to excellence is reflected in our record; the trust consistently achieves some of the nation's highest survival rates, underpinned by a long-standing reputation for clinical leadership across a vast spectrum of specialised and sub-specialised areas of medicine and surgery.

Our private patient services are offered primarily at two main sites:

Royal Free Hospital

Our dedicated private patient unit in Hampstead, located on the 12th floor of the hospital. Facilities include:

- A private outpatient suite (The Lyndhurst Rooms) offering consultations and outpatient treatments.
- 38 private en-suite rooms available for surgical cases and medical admissions (including emergency transfers)
- A Private Oncology Treatment Suite (POTS)
- A cardiac investigation unit
- A private renal dialysis unit
- Onsite tests, diagnostics and pharmacy

Hadley Wood Hospital

Our dedicated private hospital located in High Barnet. The site's facilities include:

- Outpatient treatment and consulting rooms
- A state-of-the-art radiology suite including MRI, CT and ultrasound
- Day surgery theatres and an endoscopy suite

We support the National Health Service

The Private Patients Unit is based wholly owned by the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust. This makes us unique as we reinvest all profits into enhancing the hospital's vital clinical staff, equipment and research outcomes. In turn we are proud to bring together a team of clinicians with the most advanced skills and highest-quality standards of the NHS to the mutual benefit of private patients.

Treatment and services

Experience world-class healthcare, where clinical excellence meets compassionate, patient-centred care. We offer a comprehensive suite of medical services, ranging from diagnostics and urgent care to specialised dialysis and life-changing cancer treatments.

Our surgical department stands at the forefront of innovation, utilising cutting-edge robotic and minimally invasive techniques to ensure the most precise care and the best possible recovery outcomes. With the reassurance of our advanced intensive care facilities, we provide the robust support necessary to manage the most complex clinical cases with absolute confidence.

What truly distinguishes our service is our commitment to continuity and accessibility. Our consultants are primarily based at the Royal Free Hospital, ensuring they remain readily available and deeply involved throughout every stage of the treatment journey.

How to refer private patients

If you are a referring a patient for an appointment for private care, please call our Liaison hotline number:

020 7317 7760

Alternatively, you can send referrals to our teams to the following emails:

Consultant appointments:
rf-tr.ppu-gpliaison@nhs.net

Referring for imaging:
rf-tr.radiologyprivatepatients@nhs.net

Referring for pathology:
rf-tr.ppu-gpliaison@nhs.net

For more information on our services, consultants, and education events, please visit our website:
https://www.royalfreeprivatepatients.com/referrers/

Royal Free Hospital **Neuroendocrine Tumour Unit**

Founded in 1997, Royal Free Hospital (RFH) Neuroendocrine Tumour (NET) unit is currently the largest globally, with approximately 3,000 patients under regular follow-up.

We are the first NET Unit in UK and one of the first in Europe that became an European Neuroendocrine Tumour Society (ENETS) "Centre of Excellence".

As a world-class institution, we run a large clinical research program, with multiple international collaborations.

What do we offer?

Our tertiary Neuroendocrine Tumour (NET) service delivers expert, comprehensive care at every stage of the patient journey. From sophisticated diagnostics to seamless access to both established gold-standard protocols and pioneering novel treatments, we are dedicated to excellence.

We pride ourselves on blending high-quality, multi-disciplinary expertise with a deeply personalised approach, ensuring every patient receives a bespoke care plan tailored to their unique clinical needs.

In collaboration with the Institute for Liver and Digestive Health (ILDH) at University College London and the Royal Free Hospital's oncology department, our unit sits at the forefront of medical discovery. We actively drive innovation through rigorous basic and clinical research, continuously advancing the understanding of NET pathogenesis and refining the next generation of life-enhancing treatments.

Our NET multi-disciplinary team (MDT) and meetings

At the heart of our service is a dedicated, weekly multi-disciplinary team (MDT) meeting, where between 50 and 70 complex cases are meticulously reviewed. This collaborative forum brings together an elite panel of NET physicians (including gastroenterologists, oncologists, and endocrinologists), HPB and colorectal surgeons, radiologists, nuclear medicine specialists, and pathologists to craft a bespoke, individualised treatment plan for every patient.

Recognising the complex nature of associated conditions, we also host a monthly, highly specialised Carcinoid Heart Disease MDT meeting. Conducted in partnership with the prestigious Cardiothoracic Surgical Department at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, this forum provides advanced care planning for patients requiring intricate cardiothoracic surgery or non-surgical interventional techniques. The members of our MDT are internationally recognised authorities in the field; many hold senior positions within the European Neuroendocrine Tumour Society (ENETS) and serve as lead authors on international clinical guidelines.

Holistic patient support is woven into every stage of the treatment journey. Our patients benefit from the unwavering guidance of dedicated NET Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS), who serve as a constant, reassuring point of contact. This clinical care is further bolstered by two specialised NET research nurses who facilitate access to pioneering clinical trials, and a dedicated NET dietitian who provides convenient remote consultations and practical, expert advice to optimise nutritional health and well-being.



Our NET Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT)

The patient pathway

To ensure a seamless patient journey, all new referrals are carefully triaged by a specialist NET physician.

Once we have collated local imaging and histopathology reports, scans and biopsies undergo a rigorous review by our expert team of NET radiologists, nuclear medicine physicians and pathologists.

All cases are then discussed in our weekly NET multi-disciplinary team meeting. Following this, and any necessary supplementary investigations at the Royal Free Hospital, our patients are seen in our clinic by a leading NET consultant.

We accept tertiary referrals from specialist colleagues seeking expert guidance on patient management, as well as from GPs requesting a second opinion for patients currently managed elsewhere. We view referring physicians as our partners in care; to facilitate this collaboration, we invite them to participate in our multi-disciplinary team meetings online and offer a shared follow-up and treatment protocol to ensure continuity of care.

Our NET clinics

We hold five NET clinics every month, scheduled for every Monday and the third Thursday of each month. Our Monday clinic is the largest of its kind globally, where eleven NET physicians, comprising nine consultants and two fellows, review between 60 and 80 patients. On our Thursday clinic dates, we review a further 30 to 40 patients.

Across these sessions, we are the largest service of our kind worldwide, reviewing 30 to 35 new patients each month. In addition to our general clinics, patients undergoing chemotherapy or molecular-targeted therapies, such as everolimus and sunitinib, are seen by our specialist oncology NET colleagues during a dedicated Monday oncology clinic. Furthermore, patients with carcinoid heart disease are reviewed by an expert cardiologist in a specialised cardiac valve clinic held on Thursdays.

Diagnostic modalities

All diagnostics for a full (re)staging of NET patients are offered on-site including:

i) Radiology

- Cross-sectional imaging (CT, MRI) of gastro-intestinal (GI) tract / liver and pancreas
- Cardiac MRI

ii) Nuclear medicine

- **Ga-68 DOTATATE PET scan**
- FDG PET scan

iii) Endoscopy

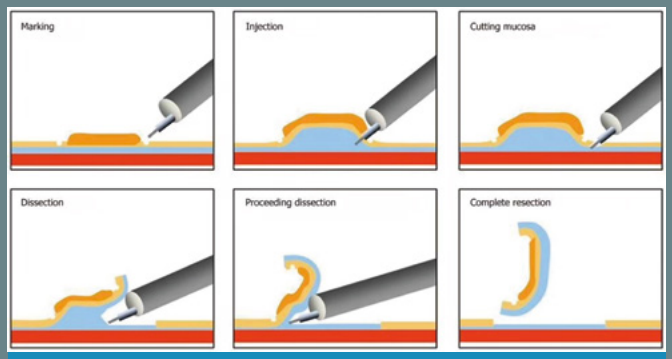
- GI endoscopies: oesophago-gastro-duodenoscopy (OGD) / colonoscopy / wireless small capsule endoscopy.
- Our Endoscopy Unit is one of very few in UK that offer **double balloon enteroscopy.**
- Endoscopic ultrasound and endoscopic retrograde cholangio-pancreatography (ERCP)

Gastroenterology

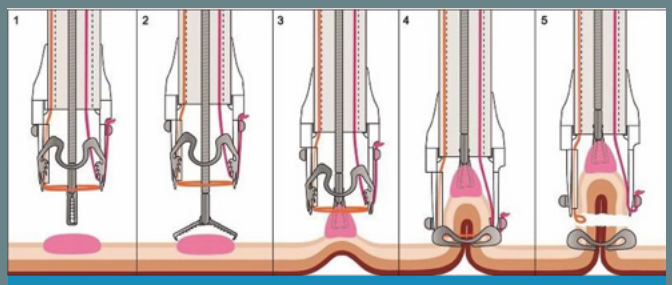
We provide a comprehensive range of specialist outpatient gastroenterology services, covering the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of gastrointestinal disease, underpinned by major clinical trials and laboratory research into inflammatory bowel disease. Our team of expert interventional endoscopists offers cutting-edge care for complex bowel polyps and other inflammatory conditions of the gastrointestinal tract.

Four of our gastroenterologists serve as core members of the Royal Free Hospital NET unit, where they provide expert care for NET patients experiencing complex digestive symptoms.

Our interventional endoscopists perform double-balloon diagnostic enteroscopy and therapeutic procedures, utilising advanced techniques such as endoscopic submucosal dissection and endoscopic full-thickness resection. Through these methods, they are able to provide a safe and effective endoscopic excision of gastric, duodenal and rectal NETs when clinically indicated.



Endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD)



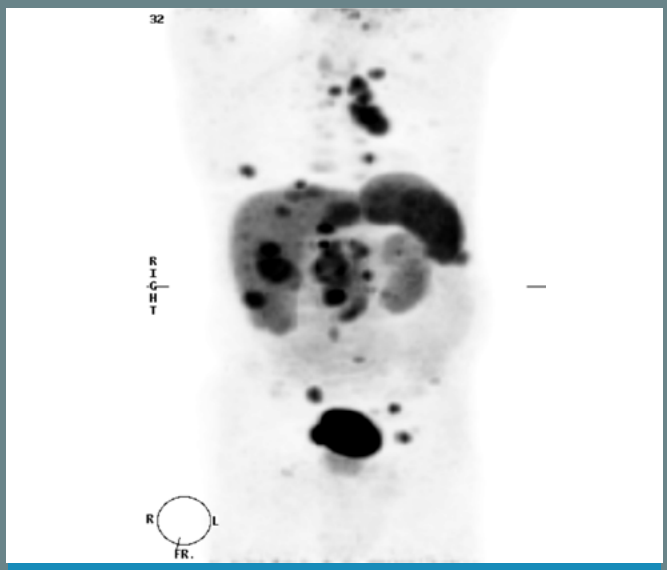
Endoscopic full-thickness resection (EFTR)

Gallium-68 DOTATATE PET scan

Ga-68 DOTATATE is a radiopharmaceutical, meaning it is a radioactive pharmaceutical designed for medical imaging. It combines a minimally radioactive isotope, Gallium-68, with a peptide called dotatate, which mimics the natural hormone somatostatin. This combination allows the tracer to specifically bind to somatostatin receptors (SSTR2), which are commonly overexpressed on NET cells.

Ga-68 DOTATATE is primarily used for diagnosis and localisation of NETs in adults and children, staging and assessing tumour spread, and to determine eligibility for targeted therapies, such as peptide receptor radionuclide therapy (PRRT) with Lutetium Lu-177 DOTATATE. The radiopharmaceutical is administered via intravenous injection, usually over 10–30 seconds. After injection, there is a waiting period of 40–90 minutes to allow the tracer to bind to tumour cells. Imaging is performed using a PET-CT scan, which combines functional and anatomical information.

Ga-68 DOTATATE PET is most sensitive and specific imaging modality to visualise NETs.



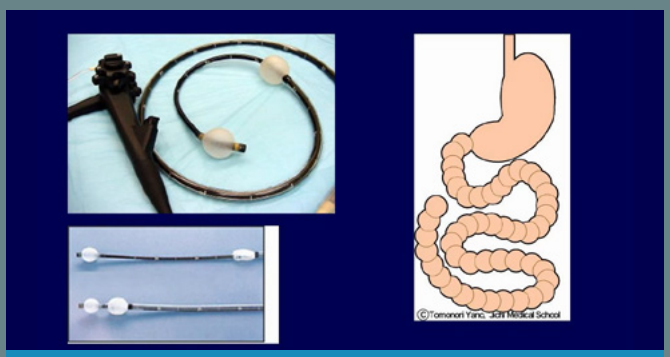
***Ga-68 DOTATATE PET** of a patient with metastatic pancreatic NET, demonstrating hepatic, lymph nodal and skeletal metastases*

Double balloon enteroscopy (DBE)

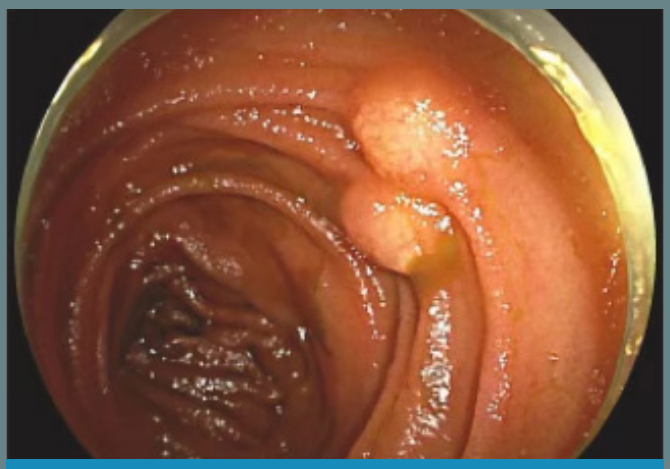
Double balloon enteroscopy (DBE) is a specialised endoscopic procedure that allows doctors to examine and treat the entire small intestine using two inflatable balloons to advance the scope safely and effectively. DBE can be performed via two approaches:

- Anterograde (through the mouth) that accesses the upper small intestine.
- Retrograde (through the rectum) that accesses the distal small intestine and terminal ileum.

The procedure is usually done under general anaesthesia or deep sedation. The enteroscope provides a magnified view of the intestinal lining on a monitor, allowing the physician to detect the small intestinal NETs and place tattoos, facilitating surgical excision.



Double-balloon enteroscope



DBE Image of 2 small bowel NETs

Treatments provided

i) Surgical treatments (incl. robotic)

- Colorectal: standard small intestinal and colonic resections, and complex resections of mesenteric metastases, associated with desmoplasia.
- HPB: Pancreatectomies, epatectomies and orthotopic liver transplantations (OLT), as part of National OLT programme for NETs.
- We have a collaboration pathway with other sites for lung, cardiac, and upper GI surgery.

ii) Interventional radiology

- Trans-catheter arterial embolisation (TAE)
- Radio-frequency-ablation (RFA)
- **Selective intra-arterial radio-embolisation therapy (SIRT)**
- Stent placement in occluded superior mesenteric vein (SMV) and inferior vena cava (IVC)

iii) Interventional endoscopy

- Endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD)
- Endoscopic full thickness resection (EFTR)

iv) Medical treatments

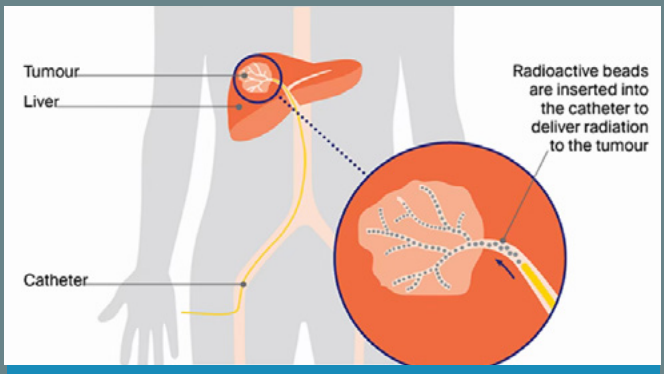
- **Peptide receptor radionuclide therapy (PRRT)**
- External beam radiotherapy
- All systemic treatments including; long-acting somatostatin analogues, interferon-A, molecular targeted therapies, chemotherapy, and immunotherapy.

General surgery, colorectal and HPB services

Because the Private Patient Unit is located within the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust, we are uniquely positioned to offer treatments for the most complex surgeries and high-risk patients. We specialise in major, complex surgery, including advanced minimally invasive laparoscopic procedures. We are also proud to be one of the few hospitals in the UK to offer the robotic da Vinci Surgical System, which is utilised for a range of colorectal and HPB NET surgical procedures.

Our expert colorectal surgeons are highly skilled in performing complex resections of mesenteric metastases associated with desmoplasia. Together, they perform surgery on approximately 60 to 70 NET patients annually, representing the highest volume in the UK and one of the largest internationally.

Furthermore, our expert HPB surgeons perform a high volume of pancreatectomies and hepatectomies, consistently achieving excellent success rates and low complication rates. As a centre of excellence, they also perform orthotopic liver transplantations as part of the national programme for NETs.

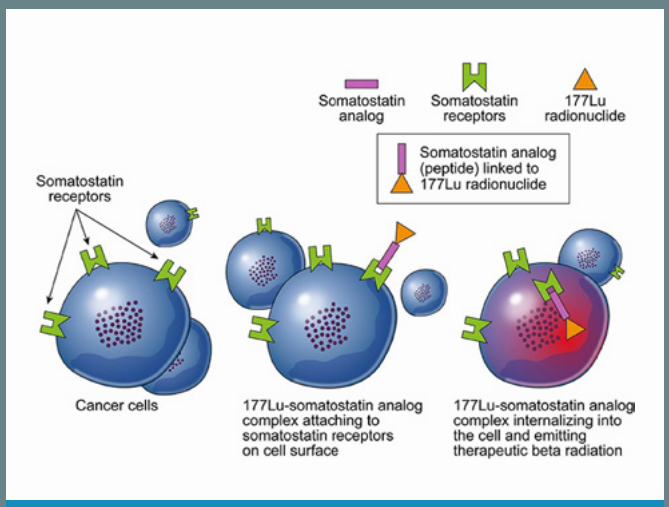


Selective intra-arterial radio-embolisation therapy

Selective intra-arterial radio-embolisation therapy (SIRT)

SIRT is a liver-directed treatment for selected NET patients. Tiny radioactive microspheres delivered via the hepatic artery, through a catheter that is inserted through the femoral vessels.

It targets liver metastases while limiting radiation exposure elsewhere and can help control both tumour burden and hormone-related symptoms. Advantages of SIRT over the conventional trans-catheter arterial embolisation (TAE) include shorter hospital stay and less-pronounced post-embolisation syndrome.



Peptide receptor radionuclide therapy

Peptide receptor radionuclide therapy (PRRT)

PRRT is a type of radioisotopic therapy that uses a radioactive substance (Luttetium-177) to target special protein (somatostatin) receptors on the NET cell surface. Then, radiation is internalised into the cells and causes lethal damage to their DNA.

The treatment has been designed for advanced (metastatic) NETs and can be considered if the tumour progresses despite an initial treatment, especially if all tumour lesions are avid on a Ga-68 DOTATATE PET scan. PRRT has been proven highly efficacious in controlling symptoms and tumour growth.

The Royal Free London Hospital Nuclear Medicine Department, in collaboration with the NET Unit has been providing this treatment for more than 15 years and almost 900 patients have been treated so far with PRRT with Luttetium-177 DOTATATE, which is the largest number in UK and one of the largest, internationally, demonstrating our expertise in this technique.

Oncology services

The Royal Free Hospital is a regional specialist Cancer Centre. We are proud to have a reputation as a leading specialist centre in the research and treatment of the following cancer types:

- Hepatocellular (liver) cancer (HCC)
- Cholangiocarcinoma
- Pancreatic cancer
- Neuroendocrine tumours (NETs)
- Melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers
- Renal (kidney) cancer

Our Private Patient Unit distinguishes itself from other private cancer centres through our dedicated Private Oncology Treatment Suite (POTS), which is fully integrated into a large acute hospital with extensive multidisciplinary expertise. This setting provides superior support for high-risk patients, including those with complex medical needs, frailty, or multiple comorbidities.

Whether patients are at the beginning of their cancer journey or seeking an expert second opinion, we are proud to offer access to innovative technologies and an experienced multidisciplinary team, all of whom are committed to delivering the highest standards of compassionate, specialist care.

Private Oncology Treatment Suite (POTS)

Situated on the 12th floor of the Royal Free Hospital, our Private Oncology Treatment Suite (POTS) provides a dedicated space for patients receiving chemotherapy and other essential cancer therapies.

Our clinical environment has been designed with patient comfort in mind, featuring four private bays equipped with reclining seats, as well as a private bedroom for patients requiring isolation.

The department is led by our team of consultant oncologists and supported by our specialist oncological nurses, who are readily available to oversee the delivery of a comprehensive range of cancer treatments.

Treatments offered as part of the PPU oncology services include:

- Chemotherapy
- Radiotherapy
- Electrochemotherapy
- Immunotherapy
- Stereotactic radiotherapy
- Surgical interventions
- Intraoperative radiotherapy (IORT)

Oncology services for NETs

Our NET oncologists hold clinics on Monday afternoons on the ground floor, where they provide comprehensive systemic treatment options for our patients. This includes chemotherapy, molecular targeted therapies such as everolimus and sunitinib, immunotherapy, and external beam radiotherapy.



UCLPartners
Academic Health Science Partnership

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