

# Carcinoid tumors

Carcinoid Cancer is known to affect approximately 80,000 people in the United States.

Carcinoid Cancer is commonly misdiagnosed due to the symptomatic similarities to other diseases such as Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS), anxiety, Crohns disease, Asthma, Rosacea. Thus the disease is considered to be under diagnosed. Even after diagnosis, many patients will go untreated since it has been generally believed that Carcinoid tumors are benign and slow-growing.

## Screening and diagnosis

Because carcinoid tumors grow slowly and rarely cause signs or symptoms, doctors often discover carcinoids by chance during a test or procedure for an unrelated condition. No screening test is available for carcinoid tumors, nor is screening routinely necessary because the disease is so rare. If your family has a strong history of MEN 1, your doctor should monitor your condition carefully, watching for the possible development of a carcinoid tumor.

If your doctor suspects you have a carcinoid tumor, he or she may recommend the following tests:

- **Blood test.** If you have a carcinoid tumor, your blood may contain high levels of the protein chromogranin A.
- **Urine test.** People with carcinoid tumors may secrete excess levels of a chemical called 5-HIAA in their urine.
- **Computerized tomography.** Doctors often use computerized tomography (CT) scans to confirm a carcinoid tumor diagnosis, pinpoint the tumor's location and determine if it has spread.
- **Biopsy.** A biopsy is the only test that can definitely confirm the presence of any cancer, including a carcinoid tumor. Your doctor may do a biopsy with just a needle or by some type of surgical procedure. He or she will determine which method is best based on your individual circumstances.

Carcinoid tumors aren't the same as other tumors, such as adenocarcinomas (malignant tumors in cells that produce mucous) and adenomas (benign tumors in mucous-producing cells). Because carcinoids' slow rate of growth, course of disease, treatment and outlook for survival are different from other tumors, it's important that you receive an accurate diagnosis.