

Differentiating carcinoid syndrome from IBS



Diagnosis of carcinoid syndrome can be delayed. Symptoms of carcinoid syndrome can be misinterpreted due to their similarities to GI disorders, such as irritable bowel syndrome (IBS)^{1,2}

The first step toward accurately diagnosing carcinoid syndrome is to recognize its symptoms.³⁻⁵

For example, nocturnal diarrhea rarely occurs in IBS and may be a useful clue in identifying carcinoid syndrome.^{5,6}

DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS FOR CARCINOID SYNDROME VS IBS^{2-5,7}

	CARCINOID SYNDROME	IBS
Patient age at onset, ≤35 y		✓
Average age at diagnosis, 61 y	✓	
Dry flushing	✓	
Nocturnal diarrhea	✓	
Diarrhea	✓	✓
Constipation		✓
Cramping	✓	✓

Key factors in identifying carcinoid syndrome

Other differentiating symptoms

- With carcinoid syndrome, stool is mostly watery; with IBS, it's mixed with mucus^{3,6}
- Pain relief upon defecation occurs more often with IBS than with carcinoid syndrome^{2,4}

MOST COMMON SYMPTOMS OF CARCINOID SYNDROME



Diarrhea^{3,5,8,9}

- Diarrhea can occur during the day, but **nocturnal** diarrhea may also occur
- Watery stool
- 2 to 30 stools per day
- Occurs in up to 80% of patients with carcinoid syndrome
- Linked to neurohormonal products, including serotonin, overproduced by carcinoid tumors



Flushing^{9,10}

- **Dry** flushing affects the face, neck, and chest
- Occurs in over 90% of patients with carcinoid syndrome
- Linked to serotonin overproduced by carcinoid tumors

Another clue to diagnosing carcinoid syndrome

Chronic diarrhea that does not respond completely to antidiarrheal medicines (whether antibiotics, a prescription for IBS, or an over-the-counter antidiarrheal) should raise the suspicion of possible carcinoid syndrome.*

*Expert panel opinion.

Learn more about carcinoid syndrome

VISIT WWW.CARCINOID.COM/HCP-RESOURCES ▶

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