

Diagnosis

- The identification of the neuroendocrine phenotype and the correct NET classification necessarily include the evaluation of specific neuroendocrine markers. Among these chromogranin A and synaptophysin expression are the most reliable stains (Table 2). Other markers helpful to define a neuroendocrine phenotype include PGP 9.5, NSE and CD56.
- Transcription factors driving neuroendocrine cell differentiation during human development have been described in bronchial NETs. These include human achaete-scute homolog 1 whose expression has been reported in high-grade bronchial NETs. In addition, the proliferation index as detected by Ki-67 immunostaining is also an extremely useful tool to better classify a bronchial NET although actually not included in the WHO classification criteria.