

# Mast Cell Disorders

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Osteopathic Recognition Allergy and Immunology Fellowship  
University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center

Cleveland Academy of Osteopathic Medicine  
Allergy and Immunology Section

# Outline

- Brief History of Mast Cells
- Development of Mast Cells
- Histology of Mast Cells
- Natural Role and Pathophysiology of the Mast Cell
- Disorders of the Mast Cell
- Summary

# Brief History of Mast Cells

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- 500 Millions years ago: Mast cells are theorized to have joined with simple eukaryotic organisms<sup>1</sup>

# Brief History of Mast Cells

- 500 Millions years ago: Mast cells are theorized to have joined with simple eukaryotic organisms<sup>1</sup>
- 1878: First described by Paul Ehrlich in his doctoral thesis on the basis of their unique staining characteristics and large granules<sup>2</sup>
- Originally, believed that the granules existed to nourish the surrounding tissue, and he named them "*Mastzellen*" (from the German: *Mast*, "fattening" as of animals).

1) Crivellato, Enrico, and Domenico Ribatti. "The mast cell: an evolutionary perspective." *Biological Reviews* 85.2 (2010): 347-360.

2) Metcalfe, Dean D., Dana Baram, and Yoseph A. Mekori. "Mast cells." *Physiological reviews* 77.4 (1997): 1033-1079.

# Actual Thesis June 17, 1878

**B e i t r ä g e**  
**z u r T h e o r i e u n d P r a x i s**  
**d e r**  
**h i s t o l o g i s c h e n F ä r b u n g.**

**eingegangen 17. Juni 1878.**

**A b s c h r i f t**  
-----  
von dem im Besitz der Medizinischen  
Fakultät der Universität Leipzig  
befindlichen Original.  
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Paul Ehrlich, "Beiträge zur Theorie und Praxis der Histologischen Färbung",  
Doctoral Thesis, University of Leipzig June 17, 1878  
("Contributions to the theory and practice of the histological coloring")

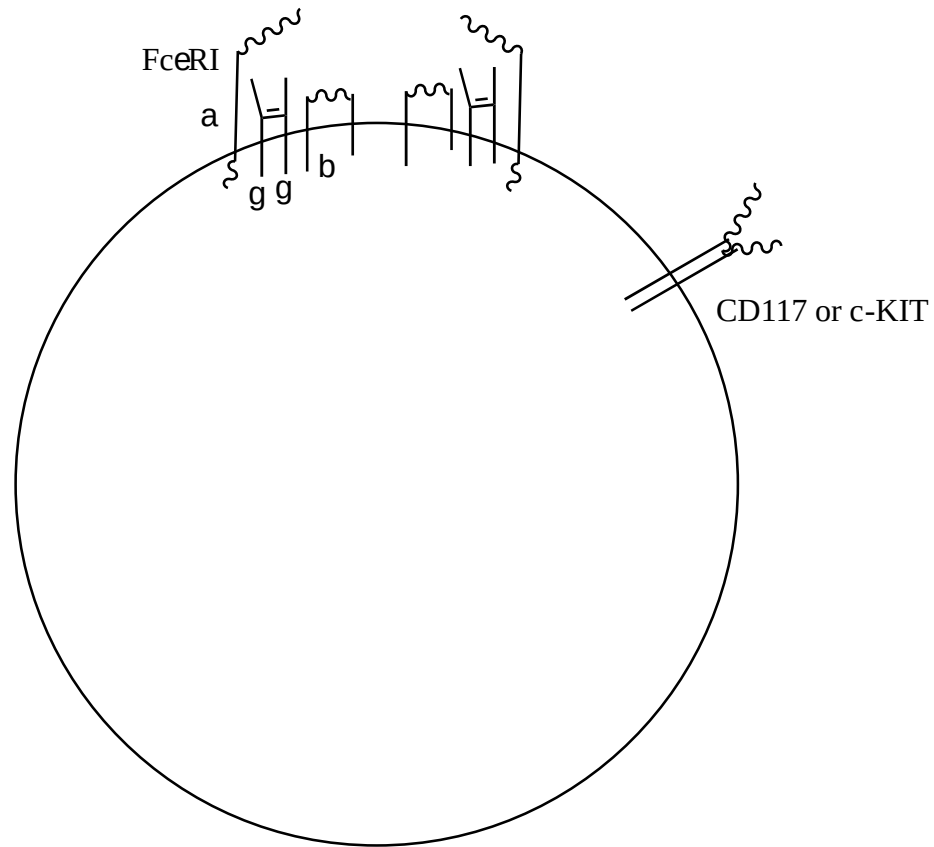
# Development of Mast Cells

- Mast cells are traditionally difficult to capture and culture in humans.
  - This is secondary to their low numbers in the blood and contamination with other cells in the marrow.
- Mast cells are thought to originate from bone marrow precursors expressing the CD34 molecule.<sup>2,3</sup>
- Mast cell circulates in an immature form, only maturing once in a tissue site.
- The site an immature mast cell settles in probably determines its precise characteristics.

2) Metcalfe, Dean D., Dana Baram, and Yoseph A. Mekori. "Mast cells." *Physiological reviews* 77.4 (1997): 1033-1079.

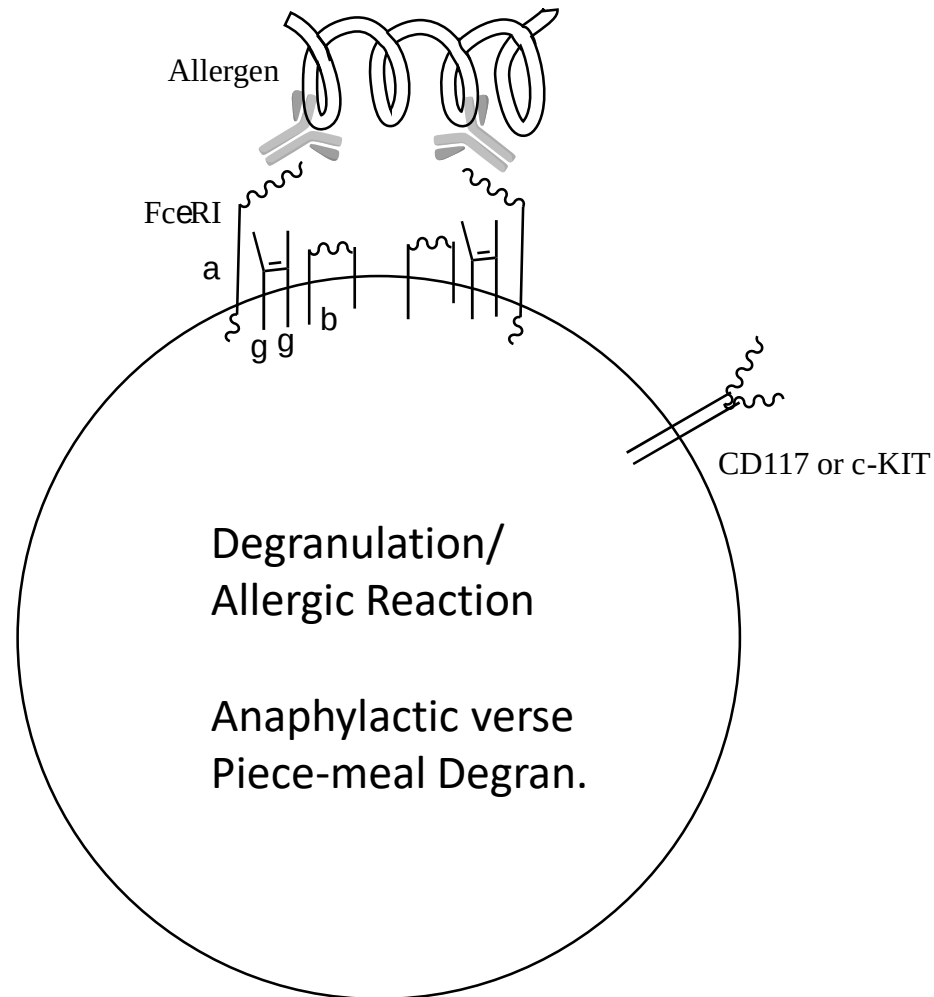
3) Kirshenbaum, Arnold S., et al. "Demonstration of the origin of human mast cells from CD34+ bone marrow progenitor cells." *The Journal of immunology* 146.5 (1991): 1410-1415.

# Mast Cell FcεRI and c-KIT

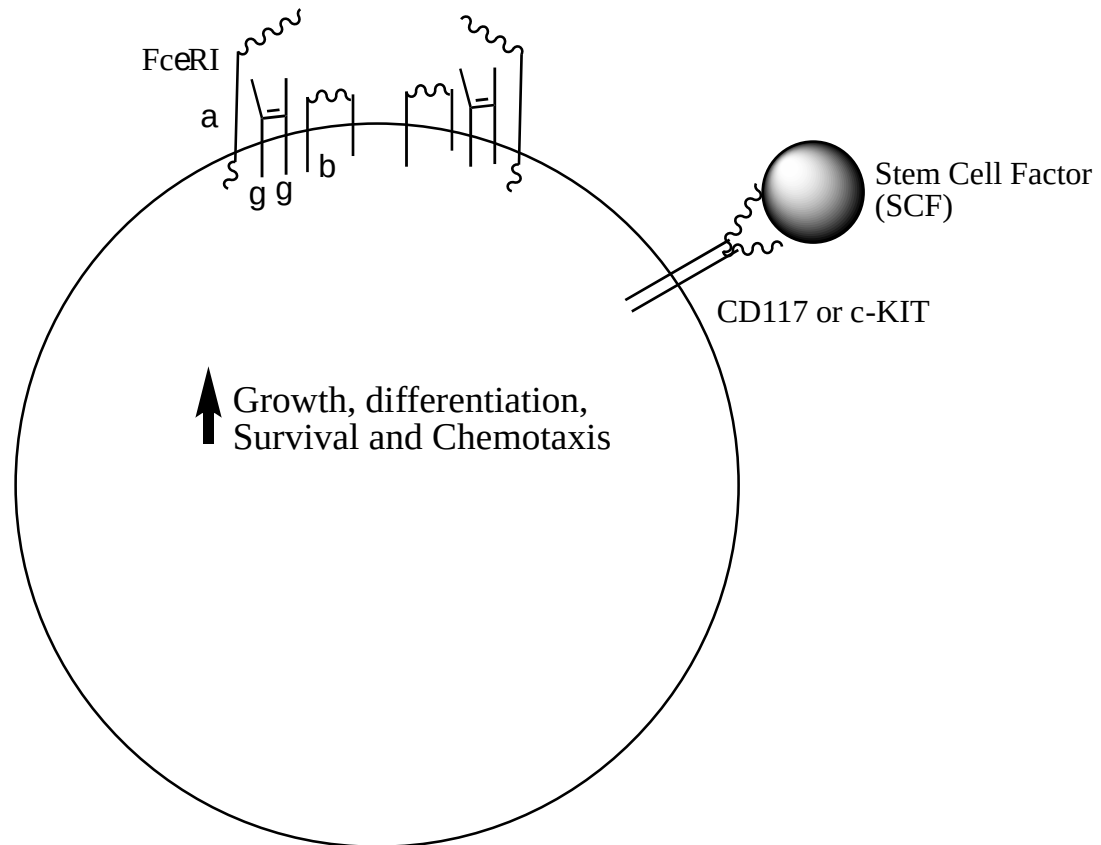




# Mast Cell FcεRI and c-KIT



# Mast Cell FcεRI and c-KIT



# Histology of Mast Cells

microplacae

Electron microscopy of a  
Human Skin Mast Cell

Electron microscopy of Granules

Left (B): Scrolls

Middle (C): Grates

Right (D): Lattices

# Mast cell types

- One type contains the neutral proteases, tryptase and chymotryptic proteinase, and is termed the TC mast cell or  $MC_{TC}$ .
- The second type contains only tryptase and is termed the T mast cell or  $MC_T$ .

# Mast Cell Type and Distribution

| Characteristics of Human Mast Cell Subsets |             |                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Characteristic                             | MC(T)       | MC(TC)                                                 |
| Neutral Protease                           | Tryptase    | Tryptase<br>Chymase<br>Carboxypeptidase<br>Cathepsin G |
| Granule Structure                          | Scrolls     | Lattice/grating                                        |
| T Cell Dependence                          | Yes         | No                                                     |
| Inhibited by NaCromoglycate                | Yes         | No                                                     |
| Distribution %                             |             |                                                        |
| Skin                                       | Less Than 1 | 99+                                                    |
| Alveolar Tissue                            | 93          | 7                                                      |
| Nasal Mucosa                               | 66          | 34                                                     |
| Tonsils                                    | 40          | 60                                                     |
| Small Intestine                            |             |                                                        |
| Mucosa                                     | 81          | 19                                                     |
| submucosa                                  | 23          | 77                                                     |

2) Metcalfe, Dean D., Dana Baram, and Yoseph A. Mekori. "Mast cells." *Physiological reviews* 77.4 (1997): 1033-1079.

# Mast Cell Type and Function

| Characteristics of Human Mast Cell Subsets |       |        |
|--------------------------------------------|-------|--------|
| Characteristic                             | MC(T) | MC(TC) |
| Activated by Antigen                       | Yes   | Yes    |
| Activated by Substance P                   | No    | Yes    |
| Responds to C5a                            | No    | Yes    |
| Responds to PAF                            | Yes   | No     |
| Responds to Opioids                        | No    | Yes    |
| Inhibited by NaCromoglycate                | Yes   | No     |

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4) Adkinson Jr, N. Franklin, et al. *Middleton's Allergy E-Book: Principles and Practice*. Elsevier Health Sciences, 2013.p213

# Clinical signs and symptoms of mast cell stimulation

## Constitutional:

- Fatigue, malaise

## Dermatological:

- Urticaria pigmentosa, pruritus, flushing

## Ophthalmologic:

- Irritation, conjunctivitis, dry eyes

## Otologic, oropharyngeal:

- Ear/nose/throat inflammation, distorted taste, ulcers, sores, rhinitis, and sinusitis

## Cardiopulmonary:

- Hyper/Hypotension, chest discomfort, faintness, syncope, dyspnea (low grade – often), wheezing, URI, bronchitis, pneumonia, and anaphylaxis (with or without shock)

## Gastrointestinal:

- Abdominal discomfort, nausea/vomiting/diarrhea, malabsorption, ulcers, GERD, IBS, Food and drug intolerance, organomegaly (spleen, liver)

## Musculoskeletal:

- Bone and muscle pain, osteopenia/osteoporosis/osteosclerosis, joint laxity/mobility, fibromyalgia in past medical history

## Neurologic:

- Headache, peripheral neuropathy

## Immunologic:

- Type I (II-IV) hypersensitivity reactions, impaired wound healing, increased risk of: infections/malignancy/autoimmune



# List of Mast Cell Disorders<sup>6</sup>

## Cutaneous Mastocytosis

- Urticaria Pigmentosa (UP)/Maculopapular Cutaneous mastocytosis (MPCM)
- Telangiectasia macularis eruption perstans(TMEP)
- Diffuse cutaneous mastocytosis
- Solitary mastocytoma of skin

## Extracutanenous Mastocytoma

## Systemic Mastocytosis (SM)

- Indolent, systemic, aggressive systemic
- Mast Cell Leukemia
- Mast Cell Sarcoma

## Mast Cell Activation syndrome<sup>5</sup>

## Vibratory Urticaria<sup>7</sup>

5) Afrin, Lawrence B., et al. "Often seen, rarely recognized: mast cell activation disease—a guide to diagnosis and therapeutic options." *Annals of medicine* 48.3 (2016): 190-201.

6) Pardanani, Animesh. "Systemic mastocytosis in adults: 2017 update on diagnosis, risk stratification and management." *American journal of hematology* 91.11 (2016): 1146-1159.

7) Boyden, Steven E., et al. "Vibratory urticaria associated with a missense variant in ADGRE2." *New England Journal of Medicine* 374.7 (2016): 656-663.

# Urticaria Pigmentosa

- Urticaria pigmentosa occurs in both children and adults
  - Common for spontaneous remission (~50% of children by adulthood)
  - Children may have bullous eruptions with hemorrhage
  - Present in >90% of individuals with Indolent SM
  - Present in <50% of individuals with Systemic and severe or aggressive SM.
  - Mild irritation or stimulus can cause urticaria
    - (Darier's sign)
  - Diagnosis is confirmed by skin histopathology

# Urticaria Pigmentosa

Left: UP in children, small and discrete  
But can also have less discrete borders  
and larger

Right: Close up of UP lesions

# Diffuse Cutaneous Pigmentosa

- Normally occurs before the age of 3
- May have bullous eruptions with hemorrhage
- Skin is often thickened
- Biopsy shows diffuse mast cell infiltrates in the skin

Left: Diffuse CP<sup>10</sup>

Right: Bullous eruptions

With hemorrhage<sup>10</sup>

9) Rossi, A. G., Ward, C., Dransfield, I., Haslett, C., & Adkinson, N. F. (2003). Middleton's Allergy: Principles and Practice. *Middleton's Allergy: Principles and Practice*.

10) Adkinson Jr, N. Franklin, et al. *Middleton's Allergy E-Book: Principles and Practice*. Elsevier Health Sciences, 2013. p1229

# Telangiectasia macularis eruption perstans (TMEP)

- Adults
- 2-6mm red macule with tan brown background
- Seen in <1% of individuals with mastocytosis
- Pruritus and blistering not commonly associated with TMEP
  - May become edematous
  - Originally described as a blanching macule<sup>12</sup>
    - Diascopy test

11) Costa, D. L. M., Moura, H. H., Rodrigues, R., Pineiro-Maceira, J., & Ramos-e-Silva, M. (2011). Telangiectasia macularis eruptiva perstans: a rare form of adult mastocytosis. *The Journal of clinical and aesthetic dermatology*, 4(10), 52.

12) Weber, F. P., & Hellenschmied, R. (1930). Telangiectasia macularis eruptiva perstans. *British Journal of Dermatology*, 42(8-9), 374-382.

# Systemic Mastocytosis

- Slight Female:male ratio (1:1 to 3:1)
- Prevalence is estimated at 20,000-30,000 (in US)
- All ethnic background susceptible, but higher in Caucasians.
- Indolent SM is the most common

# Diagnostic Criteria for Systemic Mastocytosis (SM)

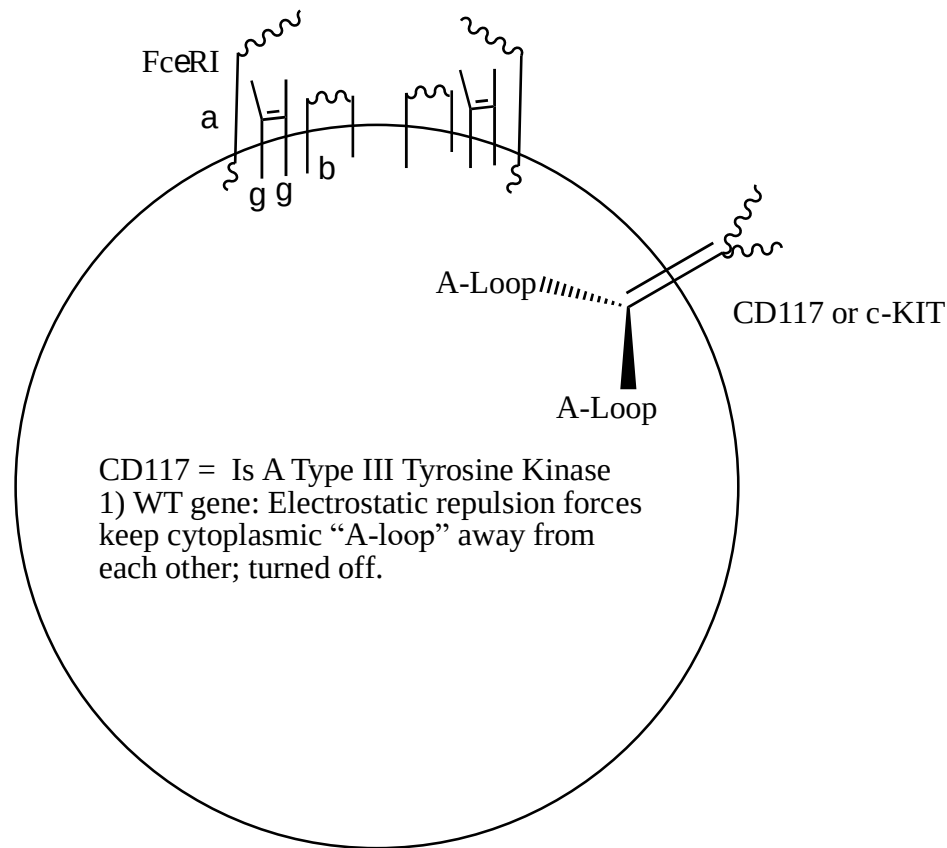
If at least 1 major and 1 one minor, or at least 3 minor criteria, are met, the diagnosis of Systemic Mastocytosis (SM) can be established.

**Major Criteria:** Multifocal, dense infiltrates (>15 mast cells in aggregate) of mast cells in bone marrow and/or other extracutaneous organ(s) and confirmed by tryptase or other special stains.

## **Minor Criteria:**

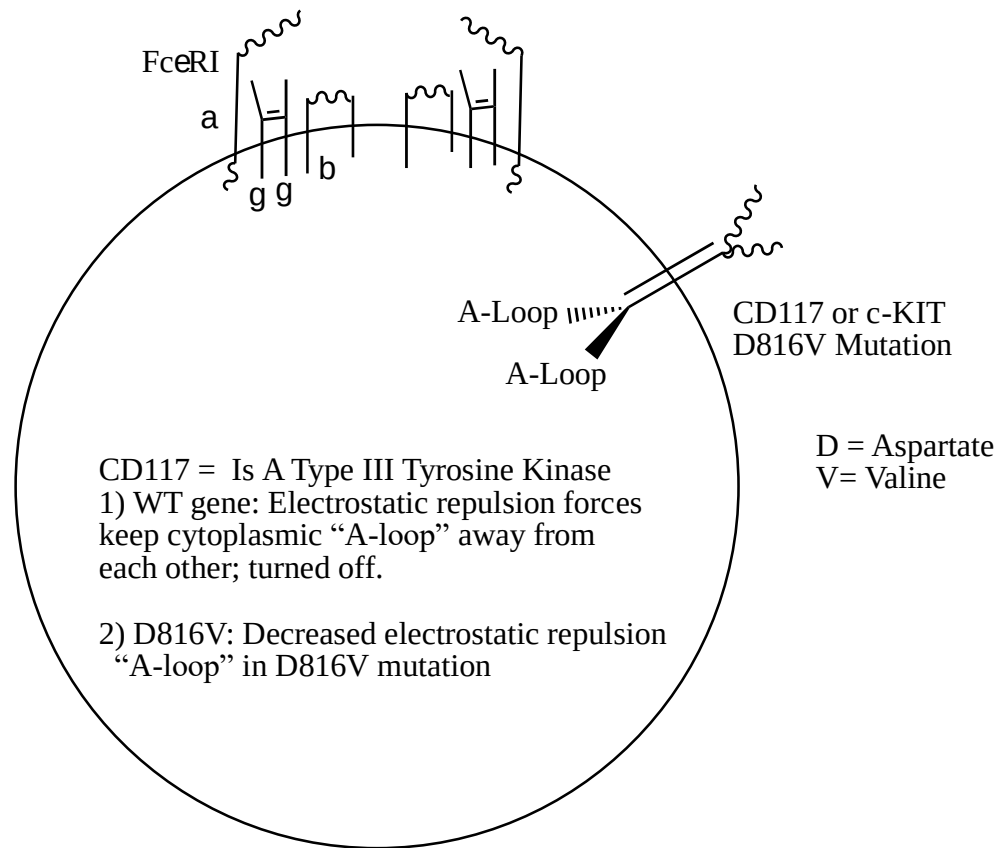
- a) Mast cells in bone marrow or other extracutaneous organ(s) show an abnormal morphology (> 25%)
- b) C-kit mutation at codon 816 in extracutaneous organ(s). (Activating mutations at codon 816; in most cases, c-kit D816V)
- c) Mast cells in bone marrow express CD117 with CD2 and/or CD25
- d) Serum total tryptase > 20 ng/mL (does not count in patients who have associated hematologic clonal non-mast cell lineage disease-type disease)

# Gain of Function Mutation of D816V





# Gain of Function Mutation of D816V



13) Laine, E., de BeauchLaine, E., de Beauchêne, I. C., Perahia, D., Auclair, C., & Tchertanov, L. (2011). Mutation D816V alters the internal structure and dynamics of c-KIT receptor cytoplasmic region: implications for dimerization and activation mechanisms. *PLoS computational biology*, 7(6), e1002068.

# Indolent, Systemic (AHNMD), and Aggressive SM

| Diagnosis of SM                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| If at least 1 major and 1 one minor, or at least 3 minor criteria, are met, the diagnosis of Systemic Mastocytosis (SM) can be established.                                      |
| <b>Major Criteria:</b>                                                                                                                                                           |
| Multifocal, dense infiltrates (>15 mast cells in aggregate) of mast cells in bone marrow and/or other extracutaneous organ(s) and confirmed by tryptase or other special stains. |
| <b>Minor Criteria:</b>                                                                                                                                                           |
| a) Mast cells in bone marrow or other extracutaneous organ(s) show an abnormal morphology (> 25%)                                                                                |
| b) C-kit mutation at codon 816 in extracutaneous organ(s)                                                                                                                        |
| c) Mast cells in bone marrow express CD117with CD2 and/or CD25                                                                                                                   |
| d) Serum total tryptase > 20 ng/mL (does not count in patients who have associated hematologic clonal non-mast cell lineage disease-type disease)                                |

Indolent: No C-findings

Smoldering: 2 or more B Findings

SM-AHNMD(AHN): SM with MDS, MPS, AML, plasma cell myeloma, etc.

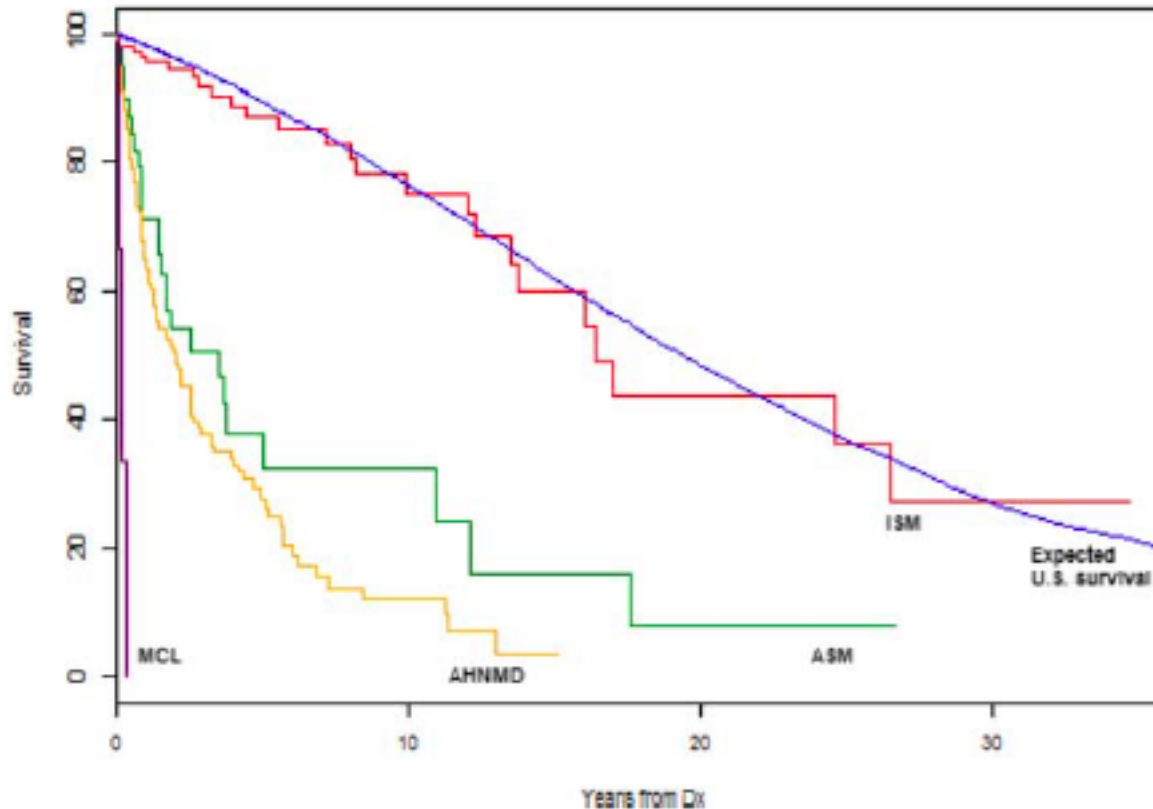
Aggressive: one or more C Findings

6) Pardanani, Animesh. "Systemic mastocytosis in adults: 2017 update on diagnosis, risk stratification and management." *American journal of hematology* 91.11 (2016): 1146-1159.

Each must meet all the criteria for SM in general (Left)

| B Findings                                                                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) Bone Marrow biopsy >30% infiltration by mast cells and/or Serum total tyrptase >200ng/mL                                      |
| 2) Signs of non-mast cell dysplasia or myeloproliferation (must not meet neoplasm criteria)                                      |
| 3) Hepatomegaly without impairment of liver function, and/or palpable splenomegaly without hypersplenism, and/or lymphadenopathy |
| C Findings                                                                                                                       |
| 1) No mast cell malignancy with bone marrow dysfunction seen as cytopenias                                                       |
| 2) Palpable hepatomegaly with impairment of liver function, ascites, and/or portal hypertension                                  |
| 3) Skeletal involvement with large osteolytic lesions and/or pathologic fractures                                                |
| 4) Palpable splenomegaly with hypersplenisms (overactive spleen)                                                                 |
| 5) Malabsorption with weight loss caused by gastrointestinal mast cell infiltrates                                               |

# Survival Rates for SM



Expected US survival: Blue line; Observed survival rate for: Indolent (Red), AHNMD (Yellow), Aggressive (Green), Mast Cell Leukemia (~6 months, Purple)

6) Pardanani, Animesh. "Systemic mastocytosis in adults: 2017 update on diagnosis, risk stratification and management." *American journal of hematology* 91.11 (2016): 1146-1159.

# Treatment for Symptom Control

| Pharmacologic Therapies for Symptom Control |           |                                                              |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| System                                      | Treatment | Drug Class                                                   |
| Cutaneous                                   | 1st line  | H1-antagonist                                                |
|                                             | 2nd line  | Leukotriene antagonist                                       |
|                                             | 3rd line  | NSAIDs                                                       |
|                                             |           | Psolaren plus<br>ultraviolet A (PUVA)<br>Photchemicaltherapy |
| Adominal                                    | 1st line  | H2-antagonist                                                |
|                                             | 2nd line  | Proton Pump Inhibitors                                       |
|                                             | 3rd line  | Sodium Cromolyn                                              |
|                                             | 4th Line  | Corticosteroid <sup>1</sup>                                  |
| Headache                                    | 1st line  | H1 and H2 antagonist                                         |
|                                             | 2nd line  | Sodium Cromolyn                                              |
| Recurrent Hypotension                       | 1st line  | Epinephrine                                                  |
|                                             | 2nd line  | H1 and H2 antagonist                                         |
|                                             | 3rd line  | Corticosteroid <sup>1</sup>                                  |
|                                             | 4th Line  | Cytoreductive Therapy                                        |
| Osteoporosis                                | 1st line  | Bisphosphonate                                               |
|                                             | 2nd line  | Cytokine/Immunodulatory                                      |
|                                             | 3rd line  | Purine nucleoside analogue                                   |

1) Prednisone 0.5-1mg/kg/d; taper as feasible based on response/tolerance

# Mast Cell Activation Syndrome

| Proposed Diagnosis of Mast Cell Activation Syndrome                                                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Major Criteria:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 1) Multifocal, <b>or disseminated</b> dense infiltrates (>15 mast cells in aggregate) of mast cells in bone marrow and/or other extracutaneous organ(s) and confirmed by tryptase or other special stains. |
| 2) Clinical Symptoms of increased Mast Cell activity                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Minor Criteria:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| a) Mast cells in bone marrow or other extracutaneous organ(s) show an abnormal morphology (> 25%)                                                                                                          |
| b) C-kit mutation at codon 816 in extracutaneous organ(s)                                                                                                                                                  |
| c) Mast cells in bone marrow express CD117with CD2 and/or CD25                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>d) evidence of above-normal levels of MC Mediators</b>                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>e) Clinical Response to treatment of MC activation/mediators</b>                                                                                                                                        |

Basic difference:

1) MCAS is unable to meet the full Criteria for SM (ISM)

2) Tryptase <20 ng/mL

**\*\*Clinical symptoms with clinical response is the most significant addition**

| Diagnosis of SM                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| If at least 1 major and 1 one minor, or at least 3 minor criteria, are met, the diagnosis of Systemic Mastocytosis (SM) can be established.                                      |
| <b>Major Criteria:</b>                                                                                                                                                           |
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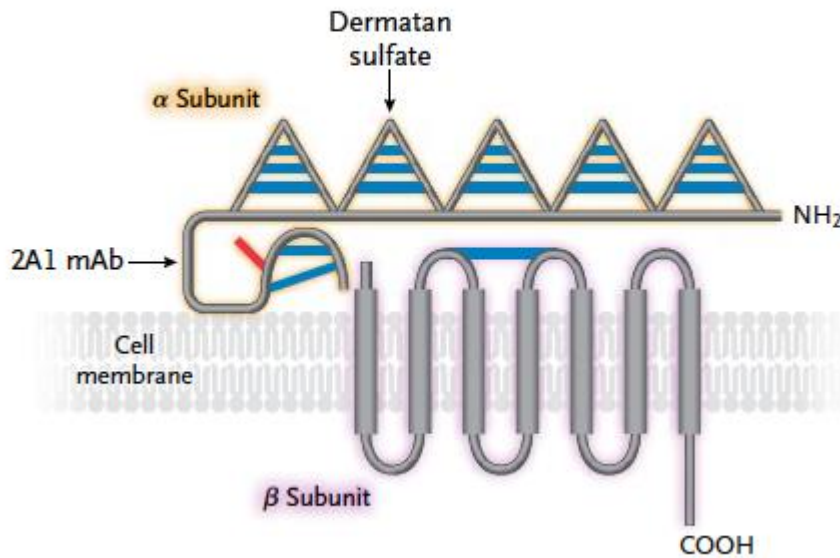
# New Mast Cell Disorder?

- Vibratory Urticaria
  - Defect in ADGRE2 gene discovered
    - Epidermal Growth Factor seven transmembrane (TM7) Adhesion G protein-couple receptor
    - Autosomal Dominant
    - Missense Mutation with Gain of Function
      - Thought to destabilized the the inhibitory interaction between the Alpha and Beta subunits
      - Cysteine substituted for a tyrosine at AA 492(p.C492Y)
        - » Wild Type gene: Stronger Non-covalently bond = Less Mast cell activation
        - » ADGRE2 p.C492Y: Weaker Non-covalently bond = More Mast Cell activation

Boyden, Steven E., et al. "Vibratory urticaria associated with a missense variant in ADGRE2." *New England Journal of Medicine* 374.7 (2016): 656-663.

# Vibratory Urticaria Missense Variant

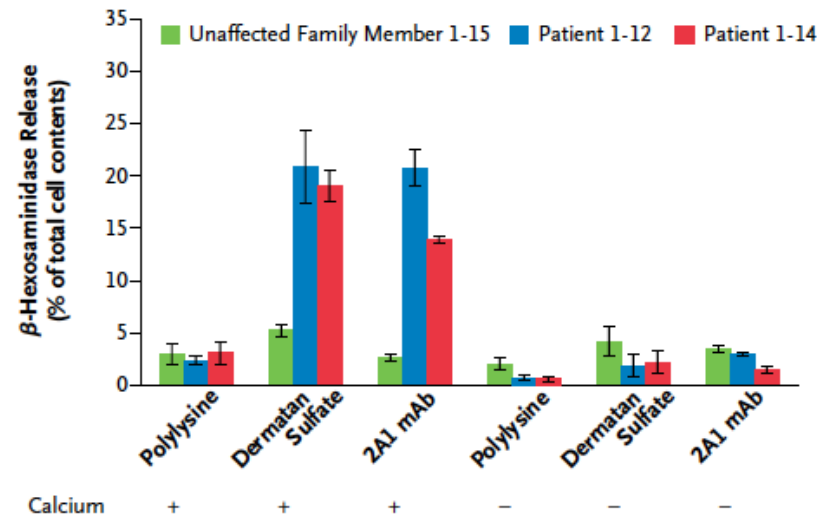
**A** ADGRE2 Protein Domains



Right: Blue and Red bars are subjects With mutations. Green = normal gene

Left: Alpha and Beta Subunit non-covalently Associated. Blue bars are normal disulfide Bonds. Red bar is the mutation and altered Protein structure

**B** Vibration-Induced Degranulation of Mast Cells in Family 1



Boyden, Steven E., et al. "Vibratory urticaria associated with a missense variant in ADGRE2."

*New England Journal of Medicine* 374.7 (2016): 656-663.

# Review Question 1

A 56 year old female with flushing, chronic fatigue, abdominal pain and diarrhea is being tested for systemic mastocytosis. Based on her current work-up she has? Her lab results are:

- Tryptase of 21ng/mL, In range CBC with diff.
- negative ckit mutation
- negative multifocal dense mast cell aggregates in BM, no abnormal mast cells in
- Mast Cells in BM + for CD117, CD2 and CD25

- A) Mast Cell Activation Syndrome
- B) Systemic Mastocytosis
- C) Aggressive SM
- D) Mast Cell Leukemia
- E) Cutaneous Mastocytosis



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C) Aggressive SM

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E) Cutaneous Mastocytosis

# Review Question 2

A 56 year old female with flushing, chronic fatigue, abdominal pain and diarrhea is being tested for systemic mastocytosis. Based on her current work-up she has? Her lab results are:

- Tryptase of 21ng/mL, ANC: 750, Platelets of 85, remainder of CBC in range
- negative ckit mutation
- negative multifocal dense mast cell aggregates in BM, no abnormal mast cells in BM
- Mast Cells in BM + for CD117, CD2 and CD25

- A) Mast Cell Activation Syndrome
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# Review Questions 3

A 56 year old female with flushing, chronic fatigue, abdominal pain and diarrhea is being tested for systemic mastocytosis. Based on her current work-up she has? Her lab results are:

- Tryptase of 12ng/mL, CBCd in range
- negative ckit mutation
- negative multifocal dense mast cell aggregates in BM, no abnormal mast cells in BM
- Mast Cells in BM + for CD117, CD2 and CD25

- A) Mast Cell Activation Syndrome
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# Review Questions 3

A 56 year old female with flushing, chronic fatigue, abdominal pain and diarrhea is being tested for systemic mastocytosis. Based on her current work-up she has? Her lab results are:

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- Mast Cells in BM + for CD117, CD2 and CD25

**A) Mast Cell Activation Syndrome**

B) Systemic Mastocytosis

C) Aggressive SM

D) Mast Cell Leukemia

E) Cutaneous Mastocytosis

# Summary

- Cutaneous Mastocytosis in children seldom have comorbid systemic mastocytosis
- Mast Cell Disorders often present as a combination of vague clinical symptoms
- Indolent systemic Mastocytosis is the most common and least severe
- Aggressive SM and Mast Cell Leukemia are the least common and lowest life expectancy
- Although there are promising new treats in clinical trials, symptom control remains the staple management plan

# Acknowledgements

- University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center and Lake Erie Consortium of Osteopathic Medical Training
- **Fellowship Mentors:**
  - Robert W. Hostoffer, DO, LhD (Program Director)
  - Haig Tcheurekdjian, MD
  - Theodore Sher, MD
  - Devi Jhevari, DO
- Colleagues in the Fellowship

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- Colleagues in the Fellowship
- *All of You!!!*