# A 43 year old male presents with abdominal complaints. An axial CT reveals ....







# **Diagnosis: Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor**



Location: stomach Size: 12 cm Mitotic count: 10 mitoses / 50 high power fields Risk Assessment: High risk of aggressive behavior Mutation status: ?

#### C-kit

Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumors (GIST) Understanding Pathology and the Role of Mutations in Treatment



Definition Epidemiology Pathology Molecular pathology oncogenic mutations Prognostic Features

### Cancer





A malignant tumor/neoplasm - has the biological capacity to metastasize Classified according to the normal tissues of the body Epithelium – carcinoma Melanocytes - melanoma Immune cells – lymphoma/leukemia/myeloma Connective tissue - sarcoma

Definition: A mesenchymal neoplasm whose line of differentiation recapitulates the cells of Cajal and has a broad spectrum of biological behavior.



#### Epidemiology

1% GI malignancies
3,300-6,000 new clinically significant cases/year in U.S.
11-20 per million persons
10-30% behave clinically malignant
<1% familial</li>



#### **Clinical Findings**

Depends on size, location and invasion of other organs Abdominal mass, GI bleeding, pain, anorexia, perforation, fever Site specific Incidental finding



















#### **Risk Stratification**

#### Tumor Feature

#### **Risk of Progression**

Mitoses	Size (cm)	Stomach	Duod	Jej/lleum	Rectum
<5/50 hpf	≤2	very low (0%)	very low (0%)	very low (0%)	very low (0%)
	>2≤5	very low (1.9%)	low (8.3%)	low (4.3%)	low (8.5%)
	>5≤10	low (3.6%)	high (34%)	mod (24%)	high (57%)
	>10	mod (12%)	high (52%)		
≥5/50 hpf	≤2	very low (0%)		high (50%)	high (54%)
	>2≤5	mod (16%)	high (50%)	high (73%)	high (52%)
	>5≤10	high (55%)	high (86%)	high (85%)	high (71%)
	>10	high (86%)		high (90%)	

#### J Surgical Oncology 2011;104:865-873

Immunohistochemical profile C-Kit: 85-100%

DOG-1: 85-100% CD 34: 30-100%





C-kit

Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumors Terminology Gastrointestinal stromal tumor; Mazur 1983

#### Interstitial Cells of Cajal

Described > 100 yrs ago Located throughout GI tract Function as 'pacemaker' and mediator of neuro transmission







# C-KIT

Protein – cell surface receptor - tyrosine kinase Chromosome 4, Development of heme stem cells, germ cells, mast cells, melanocytes, interstitial cells, of Cajal Cell survival Cell proliferation Cell adhesion Cell differentiation

#### Genetic disease - caused by mutations



# Molecular Classification of GIST



#### **C-Kit Mutations**

Described 1998 Located on chromosome 4 Found in 75-80% of GIST Mutations activate the tyrosine kinase receptor

#### **PDGFRa Mutations**

Located on chromosome 4 Found in 5-8% of GIST Mutations activate tyrosine kinase receptor







Arch Pathol 2011;135:1298-1310.

- Kit mutations -worse prognosis than PDGFRa mutations
  - deletions in exon 11
     most aggressive
  - Exon 9 mutations associated with intestinal location and more aggressive course
- PDGFRa exon 14 and 18 mutations - gastric origin, epithelioid morphology and favorable outcome

# C-Kit and PDGFRa Negative GIST Account for 12% of GIST

epithelioid/stomach

BRAF NRAS HRAS

> loss of function mutation – succinate dehydrogenase & IGFR amplification



NF1

# Progression of Molecular Aberrations in GIST



Malignant

Additional CKIT and PDGFRa mutations Resistance to Drugs

CKIT PDGFRa BRAF SDH

Chromosome 14, 14q Loss or monosomy Chromosome 8q 17q Gains Chromosome 1p,9p,11p 10, 13q,15q, 22q Loss







# Outcome

Local recurrence 44-66% spread along serosal sufaces deposits in liver 5 yr survival 38-65% 60% develop metastases (18% have metastases at presentation)

# Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumors Summary

GIST is the most common mesenchymal tumor of the bowel and recapitulates the cells of Cajal

GIST have the potential to be biologically aggressive – risk stratification based on size mitotic rate, and location

GIST is associated with mutations (KIT, PDGFRa, SDH, BRAF) and there is a relationship between mutation and biological behavior and response to therapy. Additional mutations are responsible for acquired resistance to therapy





#### Picasso at work




## **Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumors**

Etiology Unknown – vast majority are sporadic; rarely a complication of prior radiation Associated with syndromes: Carney's triad, Carney-Stratakis syndrome, von Recklinghausen's disease type 1 Familial forms





Genetic type	Relative frequency	Anatomic distribution	Germline examples
KIT mutation (relative frequency 75–80%	)		
Exon 8	Rare	Small bowel	One kindred
Exon 9 insertion AY502-503	10%	Small bowel and colon	None
Exon 11 (deletions, single nucleotide substitutions and insertions)	67%	All sites	Several kindreds
Exon 13 K642E	1%	All sites	Two kindreds
Exon 17 D820Y, N822K and Y823D	1%	All sites	Five kindreds
PDGFRA mutation (relative frequency 5-	8%)		
Exon 12 (such as V561D)	1%	All sites	Two kindreds
Exon 14 N659K	<1%	Stomach	None
Exon 18 D842V	5%	Stomach, mesentery and omentum	None
Exon 18 (such as deletion of amino acids IMHD 842–846)	1%	All sites	One kindred
KIT and PDGFRA wild-type (relative frequencies)	uency 12–15%)		
BRAF V600E	~7-15%		
SDHA, SDHB, SDHC and SDHD mutations	~2%	Stomach and small bowel	Carney–Stratakis
HRAS and NRAS mutation	<1%		
Sporadic paediatric GISTs	~1%	Stomach	Not heritable
GISTs as part of the Carney triad	~1%	Stomach	Not heritable
NF1-related	Rare	Small bowel	Numerous

GIST, gastrointestinal stromal tumour; NF1, neurofibromatosis type I; PDGFRA, platelet-derived growth factor receptor-α; SDH, succinate dehydrogenase.



Nature Reviews | Cancer

## C-Kit







Genotype Imat. Resp % cases KIT exon 11 70% 85% KIT exon 9 15% 45% few KIT exon 13 <5% KIT exon 17 <5% few PDGRA d842 4% none PDGFRA other 1% few No KIT/ PDGFRA 5-10% little



## Treatment

Complete resection; Conventional chemotherapy fails

Imatinib - inhibitor of c-Kit

most effective

Mechanism of Action of Gleevec™



## Metastatic GIST Before and After Imatinib

**Baseline Pre-Imatinib** 

1 Month on Imatinib





### 7 July 2000

Courtesy of George D. Demetri, MD.



Differential Diagnosis Fibromatosis Leiomyoma, leiomyosarcoma Schwannoma Inflammatory fibroid polyp

# Interstitial Cells of Cajal





MASS. GENERAL HOSPITAL PATHO

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GIST recapitulates cells of Cajal Similar ultrastructural features and immunophenoype as cells of Cajal Similar distribution as cells of Cajal Both express c-Kit

**GI Stromal Tumors Other Prognostic Features Proliferation markers** Ki-67, PCNA Flow Cytometry aneuploidy



Morphologic Prognostic Features
Location, size, mitotic activity and
invasion of other organs
Good features: stomach, ≤ 5cm,
≤ 1 mitosis/50 hpf, non-invasive

### Mechanism of Action of Gleevec<sup>™</sup>



Gleevec is not entirely selective for Bcr-Abl; it also inhibits c-Kit and PDGF-R.



# GIST Treated with Imatinib

### **Pre-treatment**



#### Post -treatment

## **Gleevec** Trials

Partial response 59%
Stabilization 28%
Progression 13%
If no ckit mutation, 8x more likely to have progression (44%) vs Exon 11 mutation (5%)







# Special Groups of GIST

Children

usually female, usually have epithelioid morphology Familial GIST- inherited mutation in exon 11 Kit gene ICC hyperplasia & multiple GIST, hyperpigmentation Type 1 von Recklinghausen's Disease arise in background of diffuse hyperplasia of ICC, multiple, lack mutation in KIT + PDGFA have inactivating mutation of NF1 gene producing dysfunctional protein neurofibromin Carny's triad – gastric GIST, pulmonary chondroma, paraganglioma, no Kit or PDGF mutations



# **Etiology**

- unknown
- rare complication of radiation
- associated with Carney's triad, von Reckinghausens disease, type 1, and intestinal neuronal dysplasia

C-Kit Negative GIST

Epithelioid morphology PDGFR-alpha mutations Originate in omentum/peritoneum Many are responsive to Imatinib

## Imatinib mesylate (Gleevac)

### **MECHANISM**:

Binds to ATP binding pocket of C-KIT kinase domain and inhibits receptor phosphorylation

### **TOXICITY:**

Mild anemia, nausea, diarrhea, muscle cramps hepatorenal failure (rare)






