
Advanced Systemic Mastocytosis (SM) Brochure

This resource for haematologists provides an overview of Advanced SM, including key symptoms and diagnostic testing

Advanced SM is a rare clonal mast cell neoplasm¹

Systemic mastocytosis is a rare disorder characterised by abnormal proliferation of mast cells,¹ driven by the *KIT* D816V mutation in ~95% of cases.^{2,3} It is divided into two main forms: non-advanced SM and Advanced SM.⁴



~1 in
10,000
people have SM³

Advanced SM has three different subtypes⁴

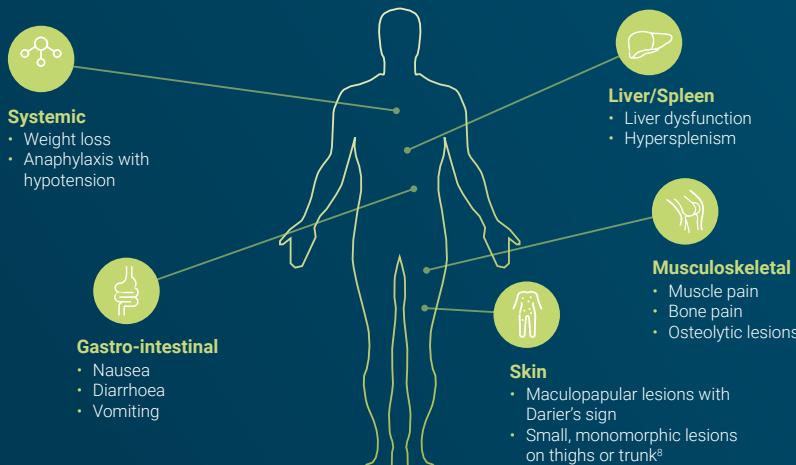
Aggressive systemic mastocytosis (ASM)

Systemic mastocytosis with an associated haematological neoplasm (SM-AHN)

Mast cell leukaemia (MCL)

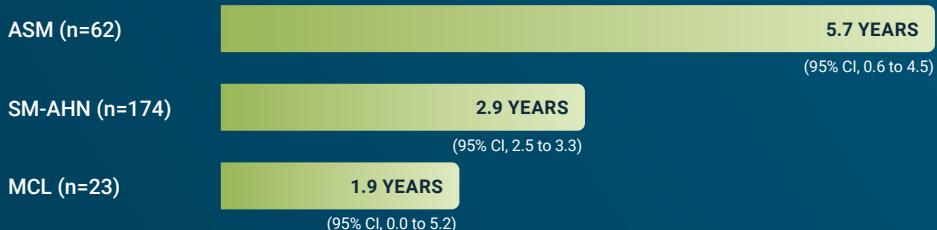
Identifying Advanced SM in your practice

Patients with Advanced SM can experience debilitating mast cell mediator symptoms that impair quality of life and cause organ damage.⁵⁻⁷



Advanced SM is associated with a poor prognosis and decreased overall survival⁹

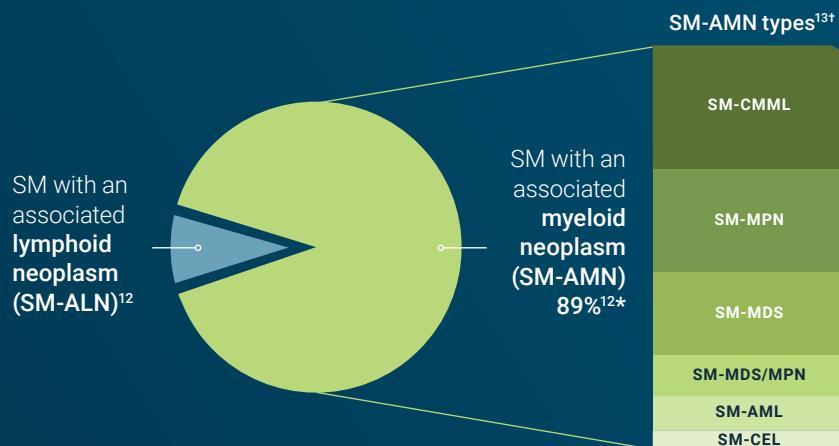
Historical median overall survival for patients with Advanced SM⁹



Data based on the ECNM registry of patients diagnosed with mastocytosis between 1978 and 2017. Only patients with Advanced SM are shown here (N=259).⁹

Advanced SM may be missed in patients with concurrent myeloid neoplasms¹⁰

Approximately two-thirds of patients with Advanced SM present with an associated haematological neoplasm,¹¹ primarily of myeloid origin¹²



*Data based on a retrospective study at the Mayo Clinic. Only patients with SM-AHN are reported (N=138).¹²

[†]Estimated prevalence among all reported cases of SM-AHN, based on published data (PubMed) reported in the Valent 2024 study.¹³

AML=acute myeloid leukaemia; CEL=chronic eosinophilic leukaemia; CMML=chronic myelomonocytic leukaemia; ECNM=European Competence Network of Mastocytosis; MDS=myelodysplastic syndrome; MDS/MPN=myelodysplastic syndrome/myeloproliferative neoplasm; MPN=myeloproliferative neoplasm.

Suspecting Advanced SM: A combination of diagnostic tests is required due to its heterogeneity¹⁴



Serum tryptase

Serum tryptase testing is recommended as an initial step in evaluating SM upon suspicion.¹⁴



High-sensitivity *KIT* D816V testing

High-sensitivity PCR methods such as droplet digital polymerase chain reaction (ddPCR; ~0.01% sensitivity) are recommended for detecting *KIT* D816V in peripheral blood.¹⁴

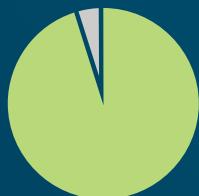
Next-generation sequencing (NGS) assays have low sensitivity and are insufficient for reliably detecting *KIT* D816V:

In a study of ISM patients (n=39)^{15}*



28%
detection of
KIT 2816V
with NGS

*Statistical analysis
was not performed*



95%
detection of
KIT 2816V
with ddPCR

**Although this study was conducted in ISM, similar principles apply – ddPCR offers superior sensitivity for *KIT* D816V detection across the SM spectrum.*



Bone marrow biopsy

A bone marrow examination is recommended for patients with clear signs of SM:¹⁴



Typical skin
lesions



Spontaneous
anaphylaxis



Persistently
elevated
tryptase levels



REMA score[†] ≥ 2



KIT-activating
mutation



Splenomegaly



Unexplained
osteoporosis



Blood cell count
abnormalities

[†]The REMA scoring system assigns points as follows: male (+1) or female (-1); basal serum tryptase <15 ng/mL (-1) or >25 ng/mL (+2); presence (-1) or absence (+1) of urticaria/pruritus/angioedema; and presence of presyncope or syncope (+3). It is a predictive model for clonal mast cell disorders, with a score 2 indicating high risk.

ISM=indolent systemic mastocytosis; PCR=polymerase chain reaction; REMA=Red Española de Mastocitosis (Spanish Network on Mastocytosis).

Diagnosing Advanced SM

WHO DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA FOR SM⁴

1 major and ≥ 1 minor criterion, or ≥ 3 minor criteria

Major Criterion



Multifocal dense infiltrates of mast cells (≥ 15 mast cells in aggregates) in bone marrow biopsies and/or in sections of other extracutaneous organ(s)

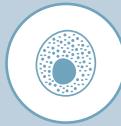
Minor Criteria



$\geq 25\%$ of all mast cells are atypical cells (type I or type II) on bone marrow smears or are spindle-shaped in mast cell infiltrates in sections of bone marrow or other extracutaneous organs



KIT-activating *KIT* point mutation(s) at codon 816 or in other critical regions of *KIT* in bone marrow or another extracutaneous organ



Mast cells in bone marrow, blood or another extracutaneous organ express one or more of: CD2 and/or CD25 and/or CD30



Baseline serum tryptase concentration >20 ng/mL. In the case of a known HaT, the tryptase level should be adjusted

Advanced SM is associated with a poor prognosis and decreased overall survival due to organ damage⁹

Advanced SM predominantly presents with an associated haematological neoplasm (SM-AHN), most commonly of myeloid origin.¹⁰ The presence of persistent non-chemotherapy-specific symptoms or unexplained organopathy due to mast cell infiltration in AHNs should prompt further investigation for SM.^{10,14}

For more information on SM-AHN, download the [SM-AHN leaflet](#)

References:

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