

## **Diagnosis of Mast Cell Activation Syndrome**

Mast cell activation syndrome (MCAS) is a recently recognized non-neoplastic mast cell disease driving chronic multisystem inflammation ± allergy. A mast cell count >20 in a 40x high power field (HPF), in conjunction with the confirmed presence of aberrant mast cell mediators in blood or urine, is considered evidence of the disease (1).

## **Instructions for Pathologist**

- **Please locate the area of highest density of CD117 stained mast cells in the tissue and provide a count of the stained mast cells in this area observed in a single 40x high power field (HPF).**
- If any biopsy shows a mast cell count > 50 mast cells/40xhpf, please forward patient tissue block for KIT-D816V mutation analysis by PCR, to exclude mastocytosis.
- Please comment on any discernible features of stained mast cells (presence of spindling, clustering, shape etc).

## Reference

1. Afrin, Lawrence B., Self, Sally, Menk, Jeremiah and Lazarchick, John. *Characterization of Mast Cell Activation Syndrome* American Journal of Medical Science. 2017 March ; 353(3): 207–215.