

**Belfast Pathology 2017**  
**Gastrointestinal tract**  
**involvement by systemic disease**  
 21.6.17  
  
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**Plan**

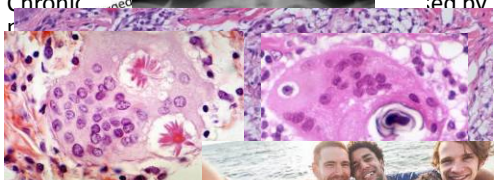
- “ Sarcoidosis
- “ Amyloid
- “ Mast cell disorders
- “ IgG4-related disease
- “ Dermatological conditions
- “ Behcet’s disease

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**Sarcoidosis**

**Sarcoidosis**

“ Chronic necrotising granulomatous disease




“ Erythema nodosum

“ Acute sarcoidosis

“ >90% Sarcoidosis

“ Erythema nodosum - skin lesions on back

“ Subcutaneous nodules



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**Sarcoidosis**

**Liver involvement**

- “ Up to 70% show liver involvement
- “ Usually asymptomatic
- “ Portal tract & scarring may be seen
- “ Secondary biliary cirrhosis
- “ Portal hypertension
- “ Jaundice due to liver or bile duct involvement or extrinsic compression
- “ Ascites due to portal hypertension or peritoneal nodules

**Granulomas in the liver**

Primary biliary cholangitis  
Primary sclerosing cholangitis  
Autoimmune hepatitis  
Viral hepatitis

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**Sarcoidosis**

**GI involvement**

- “ Luminal GI tract involvement relatively rare
- “ Stomach is most involved site
- “ Other more common sites are small intestine & colon
- “ Gastritis exists
- “ Oesophagus but the latter is rare
- “ Mucosal inflammation
- “ Extrinsic compression

**Granulomatous gastritis**

Crohn’s disease  
Helicobacter pylori  
Unusual infections

**Granulomas within the luminal GI tract**

WIDE differential diagnosis!!  
Infections  
Inflammatory bowel disease  
Other inflammatory conditions  
Vasculitis  
Immunodeficiency states  
Granulomatous reactions to neoplasia  
Reaction to foreign material

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**Sarcoidosis**

**Diagnosis**

- “ Granulomatous inflammation
- “ Appropriate clinical context
- “ Exclusion of alternative granulomatous conditions
- “ Necrosis not usual but necrotising sarcoidosis can occur
- “ Serology e.g. angiotensin-converting enzyme, soluble interleukin-2 receptor (Th1 cells), neopterin (macrophages)

Schaumann bodies  
Asteroid bodies  
**NOT specific!**

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## Sarcoidosis

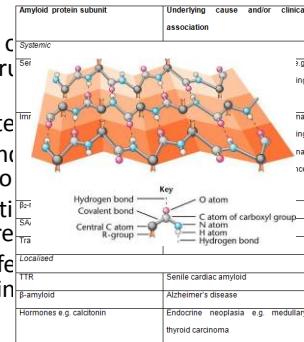
### Practical points

- “ Portal tract and parenchymal involvement can lead to cholestasis and portal hypertension
- “ Mucosal involvement may be seen in the luminal GI tract – often as an incidental finding
- “ Differential diagnoses include many other granulomatous conditions which need to be excluded e.g. with appropriate additional stains for infective organisms as well as careful clinicopathological correlation

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## Amyloid

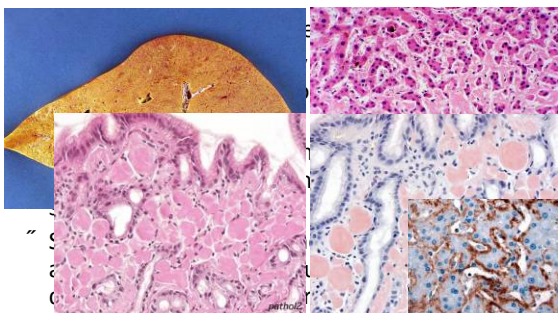
- “ A group of sheet structures
- “ Associated with
- “ Many underlying
- “ Distributed therefore
- “ Clinical features



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## Amyloid

### GI & liver involvement



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## Amyloid

### Diagnosis

- “ Demonstrate amyloid walls,
- “ Early diagnosis
- “ Congo red and IHC
- “ Molecular biology
- “ Don't confuse
- “ Clinicopathological correlation important



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## Amyloid

### Practical points

- “ May be identified incidentally, while GI biopsies sometimes taken to look for amyloid deposition
- “ Within GI biopsies, deposition most commonly seen in subepithelial region and within submucosal blood vessels
- “ Within liver, portal tract blood vessels commonly affected but deposition may be marked within sinusoids
- “ Congo red characteristic, IHC also useful

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## Mast cell disorders

- “ *Mastocytosis* relates to a range of conditions characterised by the presence of prominent mast cells that are clonal in nature
- “ Cutaneous *or* systemic
- “ Indolent *or* aggressive
- “ Most common in children – especially cutaneous

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## Mast cell disorders



Myelomastocytoid leukaemia  
Mast cell activation syndrome  
Mast cell hyperplasia

Mastocytosis: Histamine and heparin release from mast cells

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## Mast cell disorders

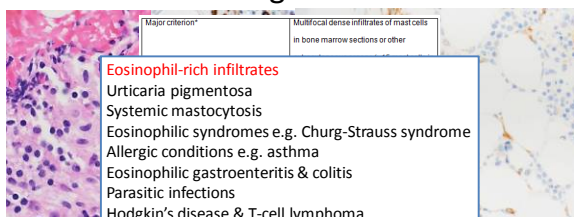
### GI & liver involvement

	Healthy subjects		Mastocytosis	
	CD117	CD117	Tryptase	tract-
Stomach				
Small bowel				
Colon				

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## Mast cell disorders

### Diagnosis



IHC – Langerhan's cell histiocytosis  
Inflammatory bowel disease

PCR-based mutation

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## Mast cell disorders

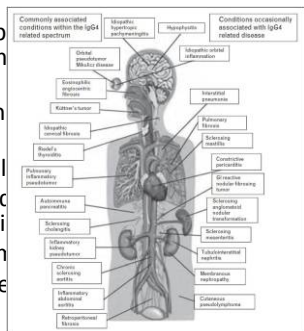
### Practical points

- " Mastocytosis is a wide spectrum of conditions
- " Mast cells are normal GI lamina propria cells
- " Diagnosis requires prominent mast cell infiltrates in an appropriate clinicopathological context
- " Diagnosis should be considered when a monotonous infiltrate of regular lymphoid cells present, often with eosinophils
- " Mast cells can be difficult to identify on H&E and special stains required

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## IgG4-related disease

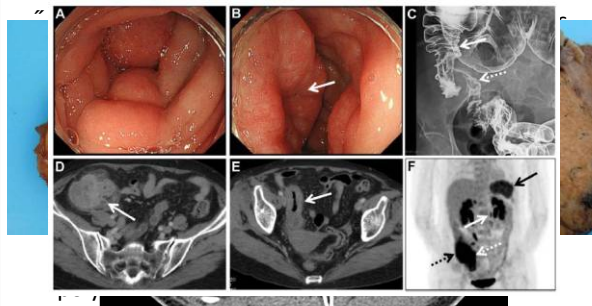
- " Lymphoplasmacytic infiltrate
- " Commonly localised
- " Affects all organs
- " Focal or diffuse
- " Most common in the elderly
- " 30% have systemic involvement



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## IgG4-related disease

### GI & liver involvement



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### IgG4-related disease

#### Diagnosis

lymphoplasmacytic inflammation

Mayo criteria

lymphoplasmacytic inflammation

Certain tumours, chronic conditions, others – rheumatoid arthritis

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### IgG4-related disease

#### Practical points

- “ May involve one or multiple anatomical sites
- “ Diagnosis based on clinical, radiological and histopathological factors (published criteria)
- “ Histopathological assessment involves identification of key morphological criteria, prominent IgG4+ plasma cells and an IgG4+/IgG+ ratio of >40%
- “ Sampling variability and immunosuppressive treatment may alter histopathological features
- “ Prominent IgG4+ plasma cells may also be found in other (non-IgG4-related disease) conditions

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### Dermatological conditions

#### Examples

- “ *Coeliac disease* and dermatitis herpetiformis
- “ *Inflammatory bowel disease* and cutaneous manifestations
- “ The *oesophagus* and various skin conditions
- “ The *liver and treatment* for skin diseases

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### Dermatological conditions

#### Practical points

ELF Test Score	Interpretation	Action plan
>9.8	Highly abnormal	for liver
7.7-9.8	Abnormal	for liver
<7.7	Normal	for liver

- “ The above... However... MTX used... liver biopsy... markers and elastography has led to reductions in liver biopsy

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### Behcet's disease

Ocular disease: Anterior uveitis, relapsing hypopyon, vitritis, retinal infiltrates, retinal vasculitis, retinal vascular occlusion

Neuro Behcet: Parenchymal disease in addition to cerebral sinus thrombosis

Genitourinary: Testicular pain, epididymitis, proctitis, urethritis, balanitis, penile ulcers

Skin: Erythema nodosum, pyoderma gangrenosum, skin ulcers, pyoderma gangrenosum, skin ulcers

Deep venous thrombosis: Asymptomatic, usually large joints

Central nervous system: focal lesions, sinus thrombosis, dementia

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### Behcet's disease

#### GI & liver involvement

Liver involvement uncommon

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## Behcet's disease

### Diagnosis

Sign/symptom	Points*
Ocular lesions	2
Genital aphthosis	2
Oral aphthosis	1
Skin	1
Neurological	1
Vascular	1
Positive pathergy test	1**

Key: \* A score of 4 or above indicates Behcet's Disease, \*\* the pathergy test (insertion of a sterile needle into the skin and examination 1-2 days later for the presence of a localised inflammatory reaction at the site) is optional, but when conducted, an extra point may be assigned for a positive result.

Differential diagnosis: Crohn's disease, Polyarteritis nodosa, Granulomatosis with polyangiitis (Wegener's)

Notes: p for ; n's

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## Behcet's disease

### Practical points

- “ Rare condition characterised by the presence of mucosal ulceration and other features e.g. arthritis
- “ Histological features of GI biopsies often non-specific but characteristic finding is lymphocytic vasculitis affecting submucosal veins
- “ Diagnosis requires recognition of appropriate clinical features and may be supported by appropriate histological appearances, even if GI biopsies do not show classical pattern of vasculitis

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## Conclusion

- “ Many systemic diseases can affect the luminal GI tract and/or the liver
- “ Wide spectrum of clinical manifestation depending on pattern and extent of involvement
- “ Involvement may be asymptomatic
- “ Diagnosis may be incidental or critical and usually relies on clinicopathological correlation
- “ Treatments for systemic disease may also result in important changes

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