

Gastrointestinal stromal tumor

Gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GISTs) are the most common mesenchymal neoplasms of the gastrointestinal tract. GISTs arise in the smooth muscle pacemaker interstitial cell of Cajal, or similar cells.

They are defined as tumors whose behavior is driven by mutations in the KIT gene (85%),^[1] PDGFRA gene (10%), or BRAF kinase (rare).^[1] 95% of GISTs stain positively for KIT (CD117).^[1]^[2] Most (66%) occur in the stomach and gastric GISTs have a lower malignant potential than tumors found elsewhere in the GI tract.

see [Gastrointestinal stromal tumor metastases](#)

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