

## **Mast cells**

Mast cells are large tissue cells with basophilic granules in the cytoplasm. They are similar to basophils of the blood in appearance and function. Basophils are circulating but mast cells are sessile. They have a polymorphous nucleus.

The granules of the mast cells release substances like serotonin, histamine, heparin, platelet activating factor, leukotrienes and prostaglandins which bring about the inflammatory and allergic reactions.

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