

# Lezione Soft tissue tumors

2024-25

Rita Alaggio

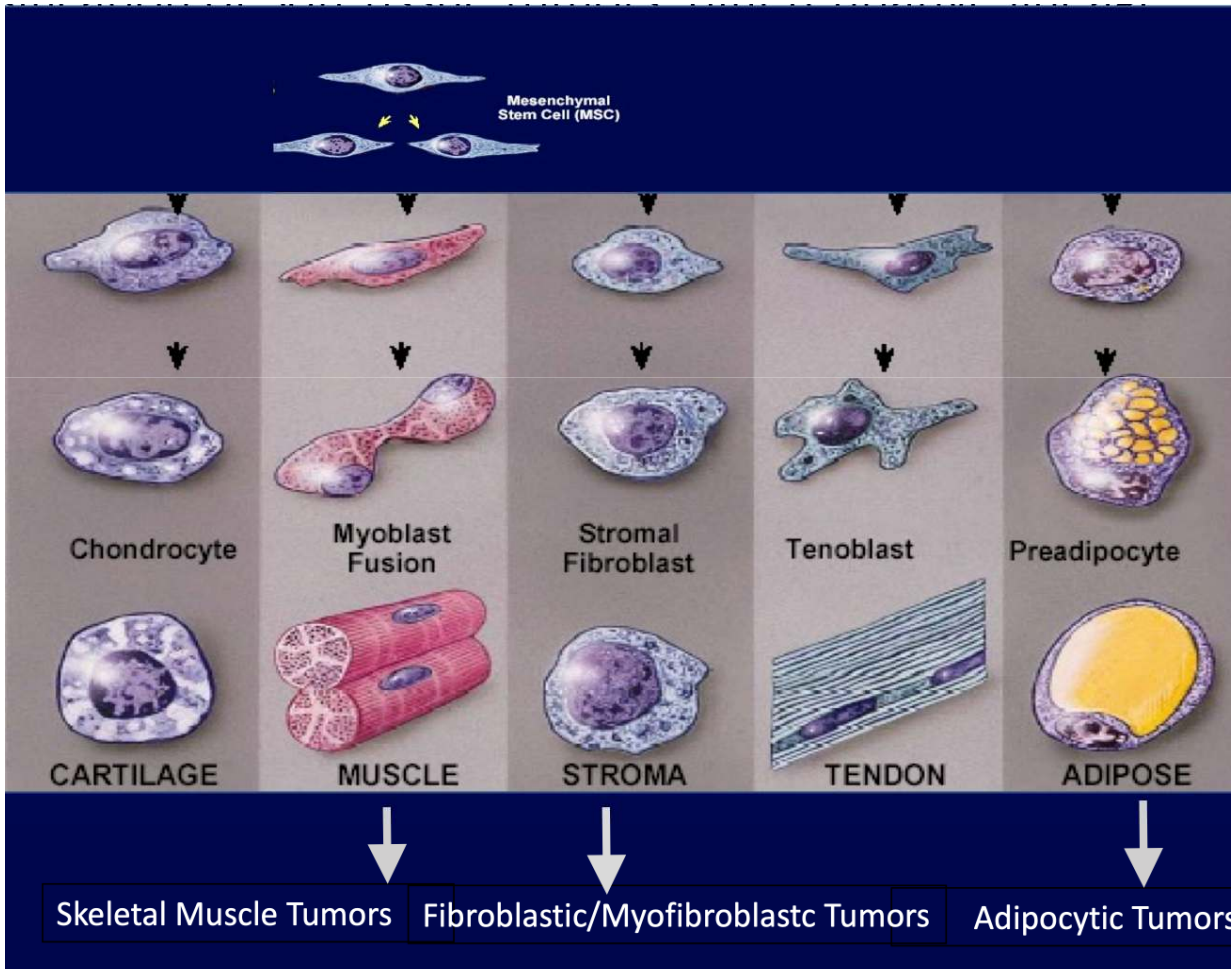
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Roma

# Soft tissue Tumors

Extra-skeletal mesenchymal neoplasm, include also neoplasms of peripheral nerves



# Soft tissue tumors: Epidemiology

Soft tissue tumors: majority benign (e.g. lipoma)

Benign/malignant ratio about 200:1

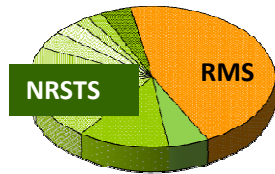
Malignant forms (Sarcomas ) are rare ( about 5/100.000)

Age: 50% from second decade, most frequently in the fourth

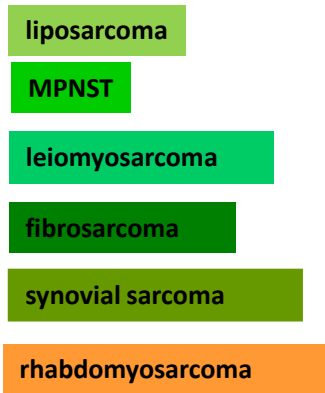
Different tumor types acc



# Soft tissue tumors: Epidemiology



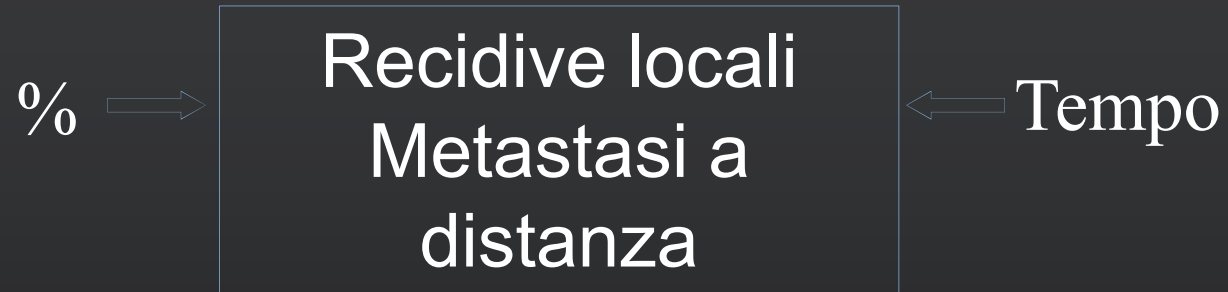
Pediatric STS  
More than 50 histotypes and subtypes, with different biology and clinical behavior...  
and their spectrum varies according to age



Age (y) 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70

# STM: generalità

- Spettro di aggressività biologica



*TTM benigni*

*TTM a malignità intermedia (localmente aggressivi)*

*TTM a malignità intermedia (raramente metastatizzanti)*

*TTM maligni*

# STM: generalità

- Uno stesso istotipo di tumore presenta spesso una aggressività variabile in funzione di differenti parametri

Dimensioni

Sede

Topografici

Istopatologici

Età

Ploidia

Fattori cinetici

Alt. citogenetiche

Alt. molecolari

# Distribuzione anatomica dei sarcomi dei tessuti molli

• <i>arto inferiore</i>	37,8 %
• <i>arto superiore</i>	13,5 %
• <i>testa - collo</i>	11,8 %
• <i>tronco</i>	13,4 %
• <i>retroperitoneo e mesentere</i>	16,7 %
• <i>mediastino</i>	1,0 %
• <i>Tratto urogenitale</i>	2,9 %
• <i>Cordone spermatico</i>	1,3 %
• <i>Altre sedi</i>	1,6 %

# Soft tissue Tumors: Etiology

Unknown

Association with trauma not demonstrated

Foreign material

Radiation therapy (1% of sarcomas)

Chemical agents (e.g. angiosarcoma of liver and vinyl polychlorure)

Virus (Kaposi Sarcoma, EBV)

Genetic predisposition (Li Fraumeni syndrome, Retinoblatoma, Neurofibromatosis type 1, Tuberous Sclerosis, FAP)



# La diagnosi di Neoplasia delle parti molli è difficile



**Esame Clinico**

Sintomi

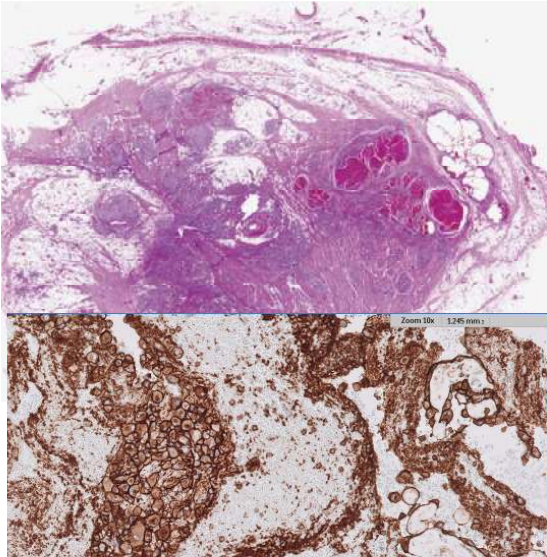
Caratteristiche cliniche della lesione:: età, sede, dimensioni, velocità di crescita

Esami di laboratorio

Esami ematochimici routinary;  
Markers tumorali

**Imaging**

- Rx standard
- Ecografia
- TAC
- RMN



**Approccio alla lesione:**

(Eventuale Agoaspirato)

Biopsia (tru-cut, chirurgica)

Exeresi

**Valutazione Istologica**

**Utilizzo di tecniche ancillary:**

Immunoistochimica

Analiisi citogenetiche/molecolari

# Soft tissue Tumors: Classification

## Classification based on

- Differentiative lineage, i.e. histologic resemblance to normal tissue (e.g. lipoma resembles mature adipocytes)
- Presence of mature or immature components characteristic of sarcomas (e.g. liposarcoma is composed of immature adipocytes)
- Exceptions: lipoblastoma-a pediatric adipocytic tumor with immature adipocytes, not malignant

## What about tumors with no evident differentiation lineage?

Category of Soft Tissue tumors with uncertain differentiation based on cytologic and/or molecular features



# Soft tissue Tumors: Molecular Pathogenesis

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## STT with “simple” genome

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1-Tumors with chimeric transcription factors and transcriptional deregulation into oncogenic gene fusions

2-Activating and inactivating point mutations

3-Gene amplifications

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## STT with complex genome

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4-Tumors with highly complex karyotypes

<b>Sarcoma Subtype</b>	<b>Translocation</b>	<b>Genes</b>	<b>Oncogenic Mechanism</b>
Ewing sarcoma	t (11; 22) (q24; q12) t (21; 22) (q22; q12) t (16; 21) (p11; q22)	<i>EWSR1, FLI1</i> <i>EWSR1, ERG</i> <i>FUS, ERG</i>	Transcription factor
DSRCT	t (11; 22) (p13; q12)	<i>EWSR1, WT1</i>	Transcription factor
Alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma	t (2;13) (q35; q14) t (1; 13) (p36; q14)	<i>PAX3, FOXO1</i> <i>PAX7, FOXO1</i>	Transcription factor
Clear cell sarcoma	t (12; 22) (q13; q12)	<i>EWSR1, ATF1</i>	Transcription factor
Extraskelatal myxoid chondrosarcoma	t (9; 22) (q22–31; q11–12)	<i>EWSR1, NR4A3</i>	Transcription factor
Myxoid liposarcoma	t (12; 22) (q13; q12) t (12; 16) (q13; p11)	<i>EWSR1, CHOP</i> <i>FUS, CHOP</i>	Transcription factor
Alveolar soft part sarcoma	t (X; 17) (p11.2; q25)	<i>ASPL, TFE3</i>	Transcription factor
PEComa	Xp11 rearrangement	*, <i>TFE3</i>	Transcription factor
Low grade fibromyxoid sarcoma	t (7; 16) (q33; p11)	<i>FUS, CREB3L2</i>	Transcription factor
Sclerosing epithelioid fibrosarcoma	t (11; 22) (p11; q12)	<i>EWSR1, CREB3L1</i>	Transcription factor
Low grade endometrial stromal tumor	t (7; 17) (p15; q21)	<i>JAZF1, JJAZ1</i>	Transcription factor
Synovial sarcoma	t (X; 18) (p11; q11)	<i>SYT, SSX1, SSX2, SSX4</i>	Chromatin remodeling
Congenital fibrosarcoma	t (12; 15) (p13; q25)	<i>ETV6, NTRK3</i>	Tyrosine Kinase
Inflammatory myofibroblastic tumor	t (2; 19) (p23; p13.1) t (1; 2) (q22–23; p23)	<i>TPM4, ALK</i> <i>TPM3, ALK</i>	Tyrosine Kinase
Dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans	t (17; 22) (q22; q13)	<i>COL1A1, PDGFβ</i>	Growth Factor
PVNS/TGCT	t (1; 2) (p13; q37)	<i>COL6A3, CSF1</i>	Growth Factor

Abbreviations: DSRCT: desmoplastic small round cell tumor, PVNS/TGCT: pigmented villonodular synovitis/tenosynovial giant cell tumor. \* Multiple gene partners.

## Soft Tissue and Bone Tumours (5th ed.)

### Adipocytic tumours

Lipoma  
Lipomatosis  
Lipomatosis of nerve  
Lipoblastoma and lipoblastomatosis  
Angiolipoma  
Myolipoma of soft tissue  
Chondroid lipoma  
Spindle cell lipoma and pleomorphic lipoma  
Hibernoma  
Atypical spindle cell / pleomorphic lipomatous tumour  
Atypical lipomatous tumour / well-differentiated liposarcoma  
Dedifferentiated liposarcoma  
Myxoid liposarcoma  
Pleomorphic liposarcoma  
**Myxoid pleomorphic liposarcoma**

### Fibroblastic and myofibroblastic tumours

Myositis ossificans and fibro-osseous pseudotumour of digits  
Ischaemic fasciitis  
Elastofibroma  
Fibrous hamartoma of infancy  
Fibromatosis colli  
Juvenile hyaline fibromatosis  
Inclusion body fibromatosis  
Fibroma of tendon sheath  
Desmoplastic fibroblastoma  
Myofibroblastoma  
Calcifying aponeurotic fibroma  
EWSR1-SMAD3-positive fibroblastic tumour (emerging)  
Angiomyofibroblastoma  
Cellular angiofibroma  
Angiofibroma of soft tissue  
Nuchal-type fibroma  
Acral fibromyxoma  
Gardner fibroma  
Palmar fibromatosis and plantar fibromatosis  
Desmoid fibromatosis  
Lipofibromatosis  
Giant cell fibroblastoma  
Dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans  
Solitary fibrous tumour  
Inflammatory myofibroblastic tumour  
Low-grade myofibroblastic sarcoma  
Superficial CD34-positive fibroblastic tumour  
Myxoinflammatory fibroblastic sarcoma  
Infantile fibrosarcoma  
Adult fibrosarcoma  
Myxofibrosarcoma  
Low-grade fibromyxoid sarcoma  
Sclerosing epithelioid fibrosarcoma

### So-called fibrohistiocytic tumours

Tenosynovial giant cell tumour  
Deep fibrous histiocytoma  
Plexiform fibrohistiocytic tumour  
Giant cell tumour of soft tissue

### Vascular tumours

*Haemangiomas*  
Synovial haemangioma  
Intramuscular angioma  
Arteriovenous malformation/haemangioma  
Venous haemangioma  
Anastomosing haemangioma  
Epithelioid haemangioma  
Lymphangioma and lymphangiomatosis  
Tufted angioma and kaposiform haemangioendothelioma  
Retiform haemangioendothelioma  
Papillary intralymphatic angioendothelioma  
Composite haemangioendothelioma  
Kaposi sarcoma  
Pseudomyogenic haemangioendothelioma  
Epithelioid haemangioendothelioma  
Angiosarcoma

### Pericytic (perivascular) tumours

Glomus tumour  
Myopericytoma, including myofibroma  
Angioleiomyoma

### Smooth muscle tumours

Leiomyoma  
EBV-associated smooth muscle tumour  
Inflammatory leiomyosarcoma  
Leiomyosarcoma

### Skeletal muscle tumours

Rhabdomyoma  
Embryonal rhabdomyosarcoma  
Alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma  
Pleomorphic rhabdomyosarcoma  
Spindle cell / sclerosing rhabdomyosarcoma  
Ectomesenchymoma

### Gastrointestinal stromal tumour

Gastrointestinal stromal tumour

### Chondro-osseous tumours

Soft tissue chondroma  
Extraskeletal osteosarcoma

### Peripheral nerve sheath tumours

Schwannoma  
Neurofibroma  
Perineurioma  
Granular cell tumour  
Dermal nerve sheath myxoma  
Solitary circumscribed neuroma  
Ectopic meningioma and meningotheial hamartoma  
Benign triton tumour / neuromuscular choristoma  
Hybrid nerve sheath tumour  
Malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumour  
Malignant melanotic nerve sheath tumour

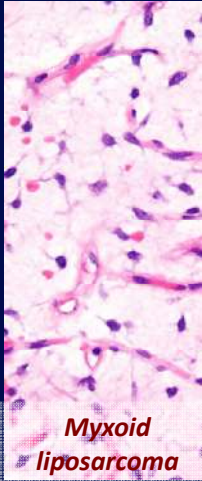
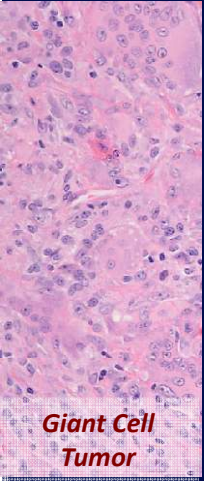
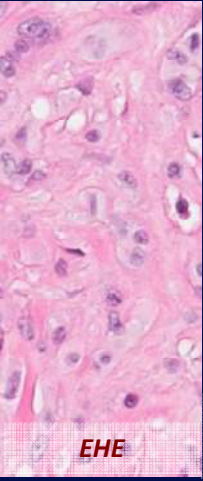
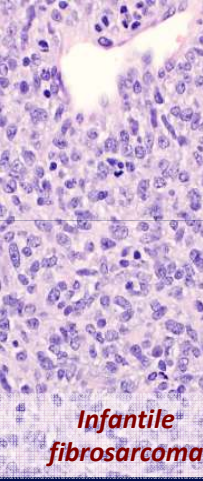
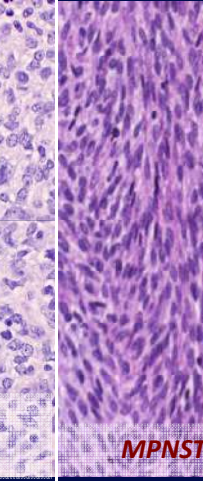
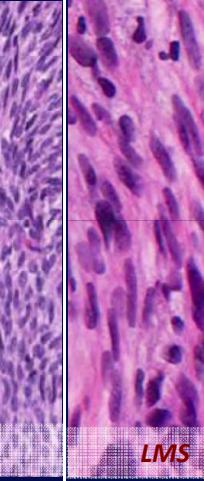
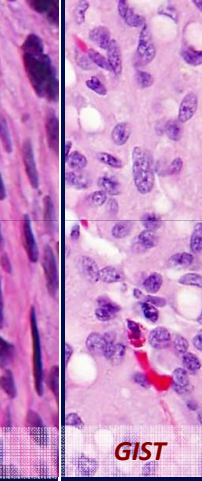
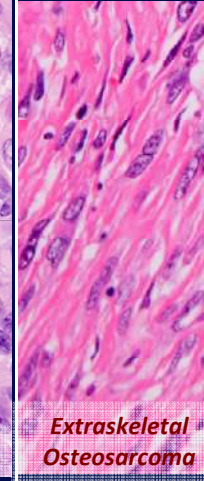
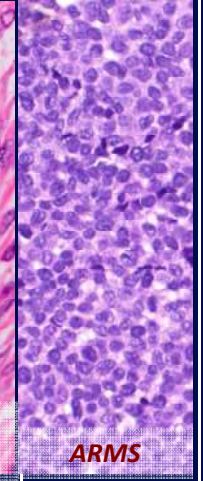
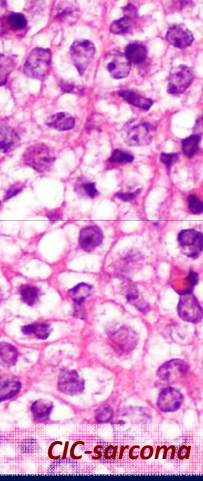
### Tumours of uncertain differentiation

Intramuscular myxoma  
Juxta-articular myxoma  
Deep (aggressive) angiofibromyxoma  
Atypical fibroxanthoma  
Angiomatoid fibrous histiocytoma  
Ossifying fibromyxoid tumour  
Myoepithelioma, myoepithelial carcinoma, and mixed tumour  
Pleomorphic hyalinizing angiectatic tumour of soft parts  
Haemosiderotic fibrolipomatous tumour  
Phosphaturic mesenchymal tumour  
NTRK-rearranged spindle cell neoplasm (emerging)  
Synovial sarcoma  
Epithelioid sarcoma  
Alveolar soft part sarcoma  
Clear cell sarcoma of soft tissue  
Extraskeletal myxoid chondrosarcoma  
Desmoplastic small round cell tumour  
Extrarenal rhabdoid tumour  
PEComa  
Intimal sarcoma  
Undifferentiated sarcoma

### 3. Undifferentiated small round cell sarcomas of bone and soft tissue

Ewing sarcoma  
Round cell sarcoma with EWSR1-non-ETS fusions  
CIC-rearranged sarcoma  
Sarcoma with BCOR genetic alterations

# Soft Tissue Sarcomas


Adipocytic	Fibro Histiocytic	Vascular	Fibroblastic & myofibroblastic	Peripheral nerve sheath	Smooth muscle	GI Stromal	Chondro osseous	Skeletal muscle	Uncertain differentiation
									
<i>Myxoid liposarcoma</i>	<i>Giant Cell Tumor</i>	<i>EHE</i>	<i>Infantile fibrosarcoma</i>	<i>MPNST</i>	<i>LMS</i>	<i>GIST</i>	<i>Extraskeletal Osteosarcoma</i>	<i>ARMS</i>	<i>CIC-sarcoma</i>

WHO Subcategories based on morphology:

- Round cell
- Spindle cell
- Pleomorphic
- Epithelioid cell
- **Not Otherwise Specified (NOS)**

# Sarcoma Grading: FNCLCC system

Combination of tumor differentiation / histology, mitotic count and tumor necrosis

- Tumor differentiation 
  - 1, 2 or 3 points based on resemblance to normal tissue
- Mitotic count: 10 successive high power fields (HPFs) in the most mitotically active area
  - 1 point: 0 - 9 mitoses
  - 2 points: 10 - 19 mitoses
  - 3 points: 20 or more mitoses
- Tumor necrosis
  - 0 points: no necrosis
  - 1 point: < 50% necrosis
  - 2 points: ≥ 50% necrosis

Tumor Grade: sum total of tumor differentiation, mitotic count and tumor necrosis scores

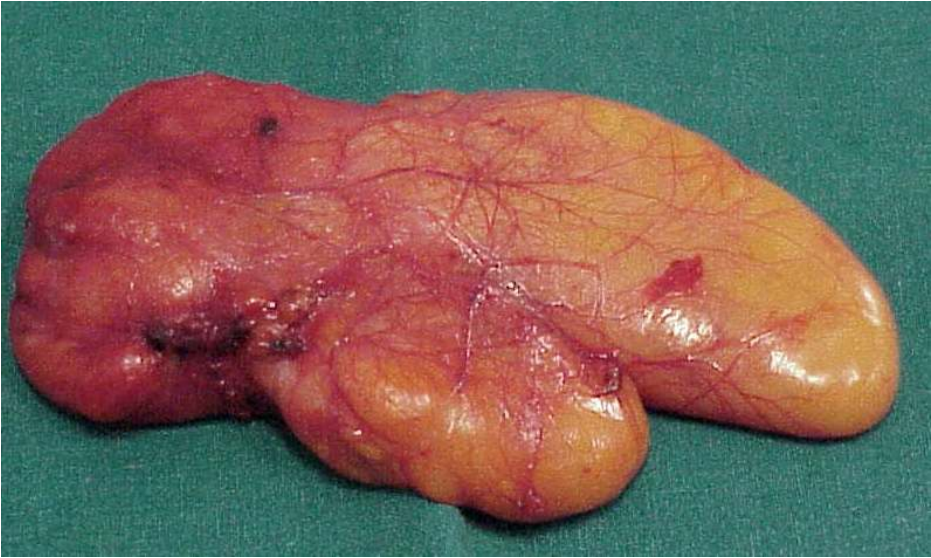
- Grade 1: 2 - 3 points
- Grade 2: 4 - 5 points
- Grade 3: 6 - 8 points

Histologic type	Score
Atypical lipomatous tumor / well differentiated liposarcoma	1
Well differentiated leiomyosarcoma	1
Malignant neurofibroma	1
Well differentiated fibrosarcoma	1
Myxoid liposarcoma	2
Conventional leiomyosarcoma	2
Conventional fibrosarcoma	2
Myxofibrosarcoma	2* (see <a href="#">above</a> )
High grade myxoid liposarcoma	3
Pleomorphic liposarcoma	3
Dedifferentiated liposarcoma	3
Pleomorphic rhabdomyosarcoma	3
Poorly differentiated / pleomorphic leiomyosarcoma	3
Synovial sarcoma	3
Mesenchymal chondrosarcoma	3
Extraskeletal osteosarcoma	3
Extraskeletal Ewing sarcoma	3
Malignant rhabdoid tumor	3
Undifferentiated pleomorphic sarcoma	3
Undifferentiated sarcoma, NOS	3

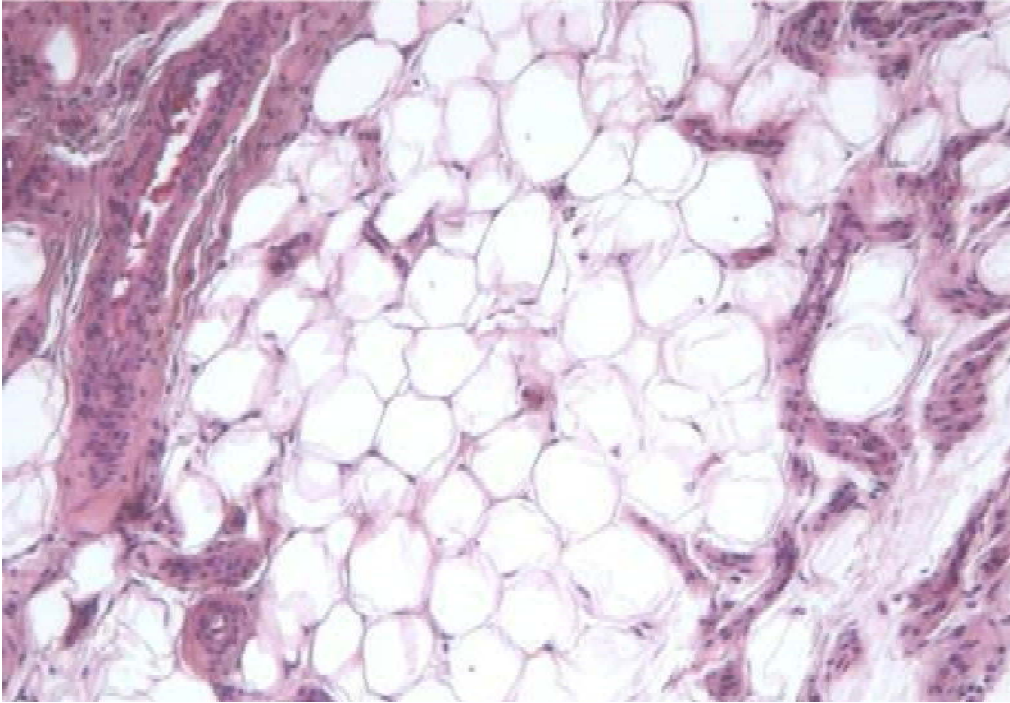
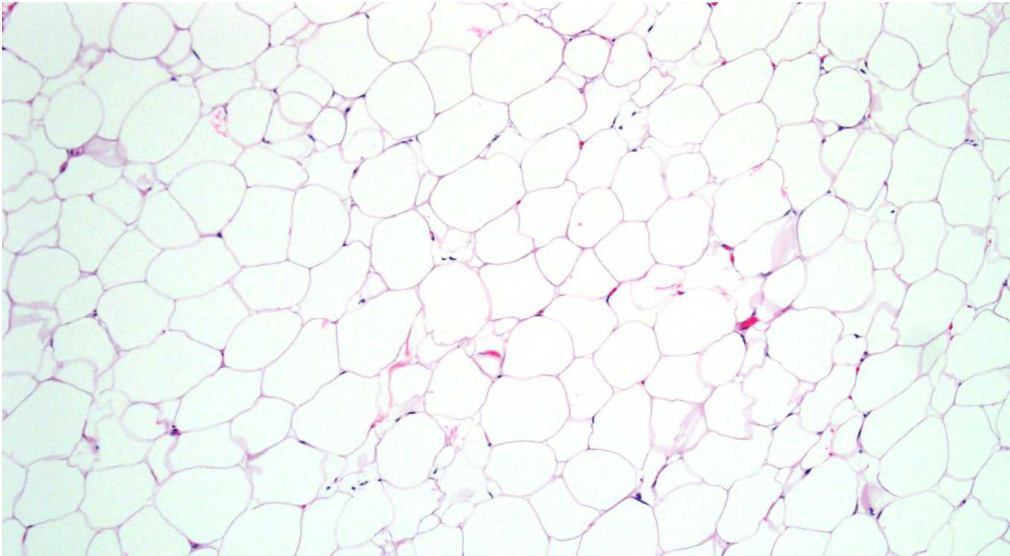
# Adipocytic tumours



- Adipocytic tumours
  - Lipoma
  - Lipomatosis
  - Lipomatosis of nerve
  - Lipoblastoma and lipoblastomatosis
  - Angiolipoma
  - Myolipoma of soft tissue
  - Chondroid lipoma
  - Spindle cell lipoma and pleomorphic lipoma
  - Hibernoma
  - Atypical spindle cell / pleomorphic lipomatous tumour
  - Atypical lipomatous tumour / well-differentiated liposarcoma
  - Dedifferentiated liposarcoma
  - Myxoid liposarcoma
  - Pleomorphic liposarcoma
  - Myxoid pleomorphic liposarcoma



**Lipoma**





# Lipoma

## **Epidemiology**

- most common mesenchymal neoplasm in adults, more common in males, tends to be associated with obesity
- Age: fifth to seventh decades, rare in the paediatric population.

## **Clinical features**

painless mass; larger tumours may compress peripheral nerves and result in pain or tenderness.

Site: upper back, proximal extremity, and abdominal region, mostly superficial (subcutaneous) soft tissue mass, less frequently deep-seated

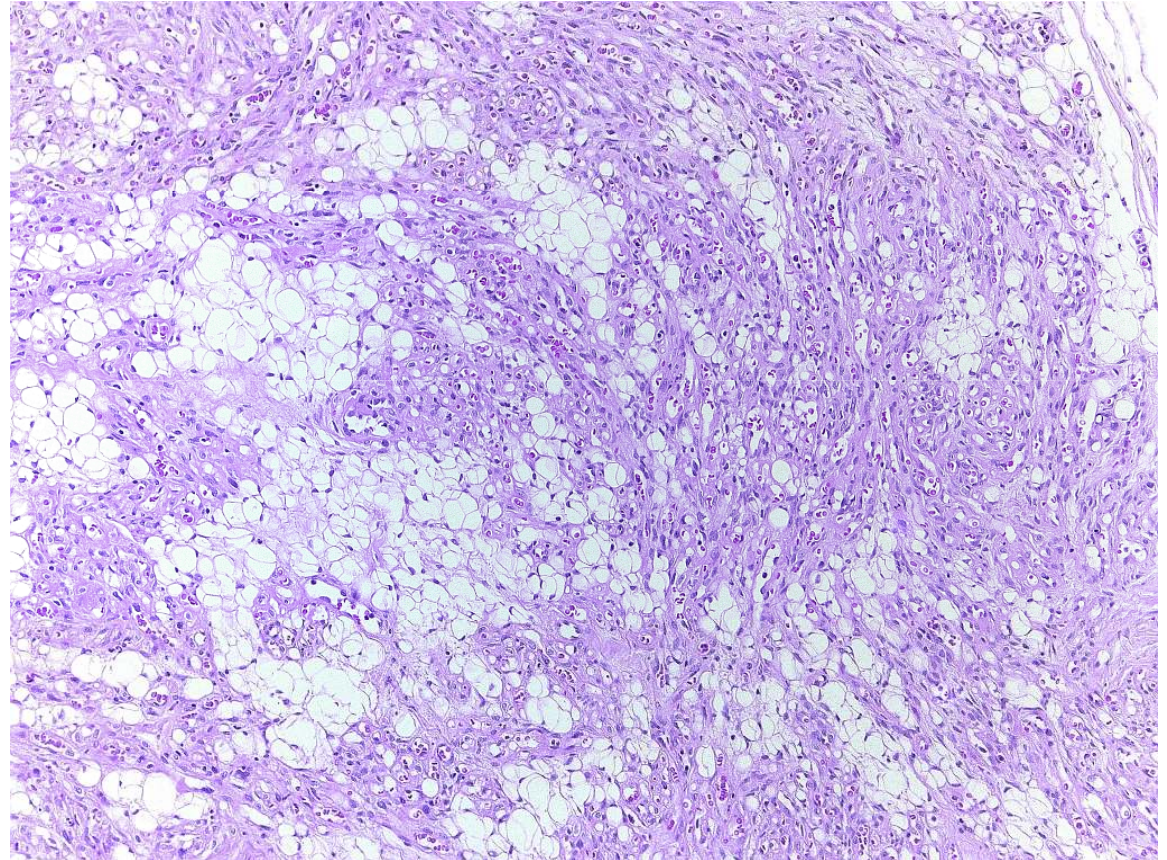
## **Prognosis**

Benign, recurrence rate < 5%.

# Angiolipoma

Multiple subcutaneous small nodules, tender to painful.

Mature fat cells intermingled with small and thin-walled vessels, a number of which contain fibrin thrombi.



# Ibernoma

## Clinical Features:

< 2% of benign adipocytic tumours.

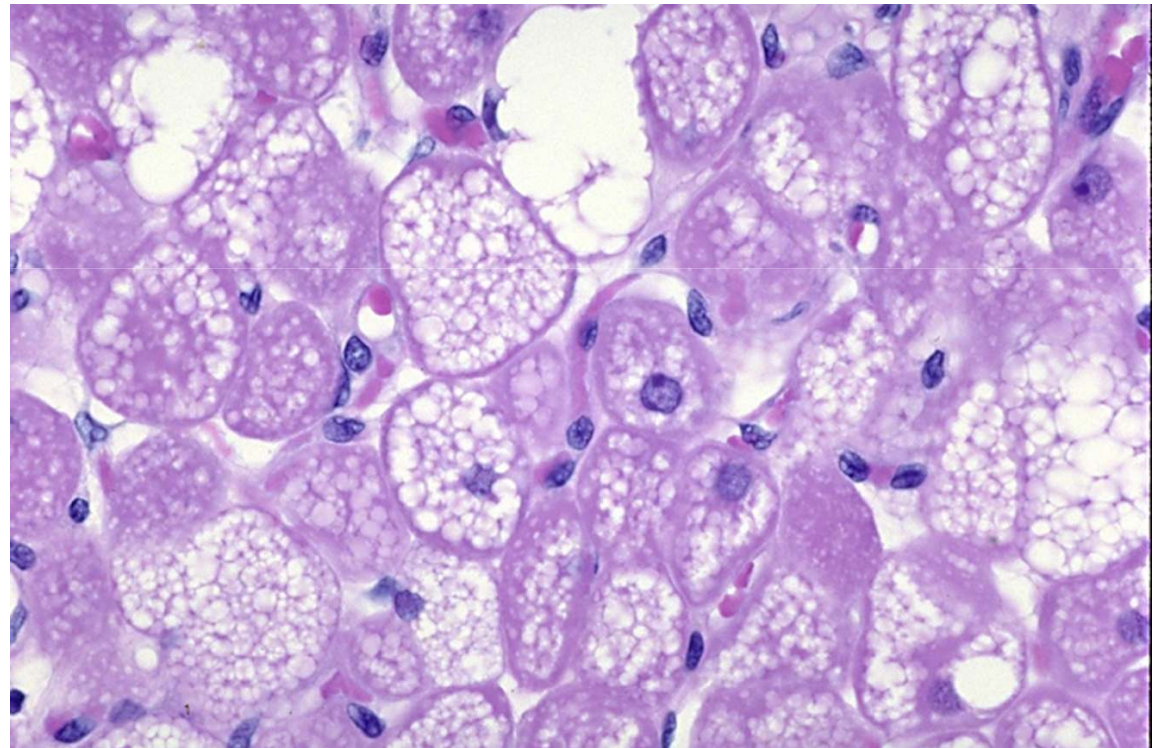
young adults (mean age: 38 years; range: 2–75 y)

small, slow-growing, painless, subcutaneous masses in thigh, trunk, chest, upper extremity, and head and neck.

10% intra-abdominal, retroperitoneal, or thoracic

## Histology:

Composed of eosinophilic and pale, polygonal, multivacuolated, granular, brown fat cells



# Lipoblastoma

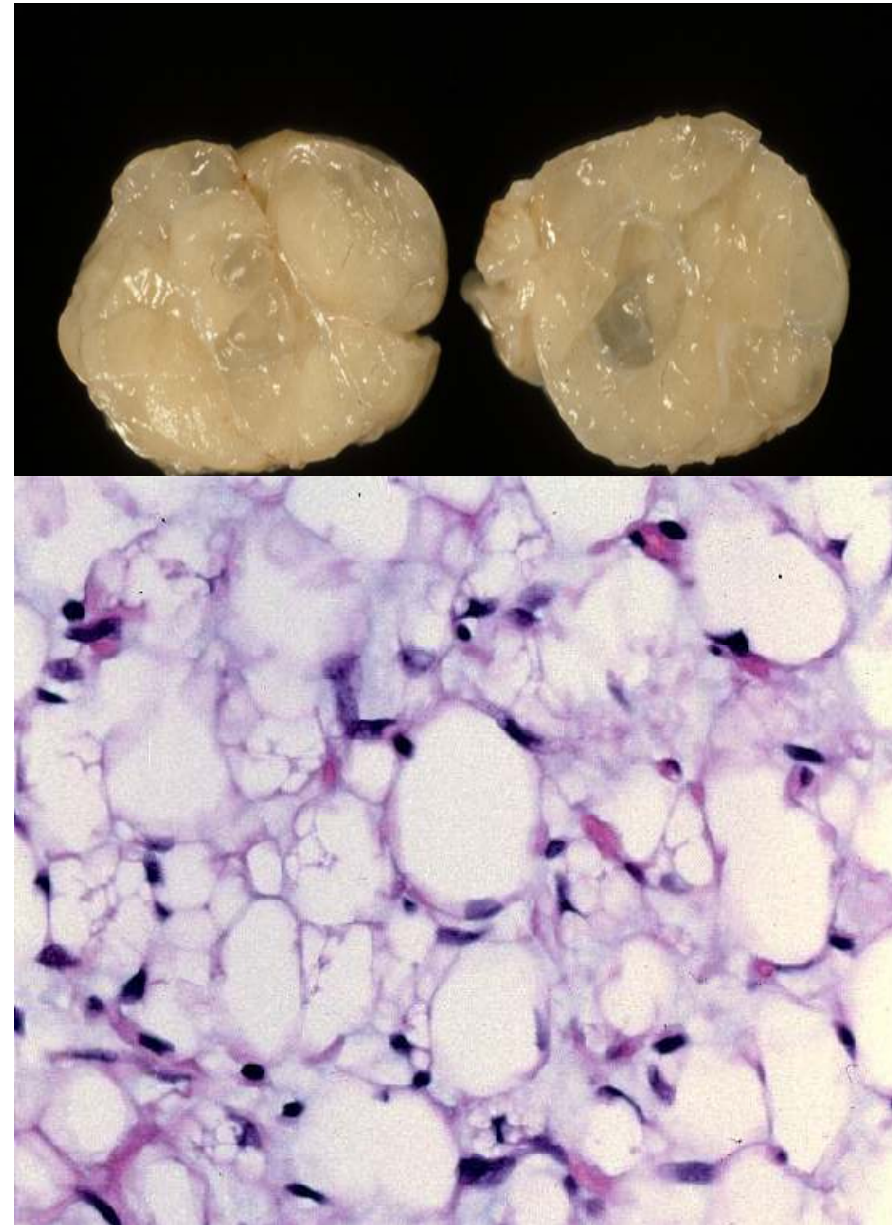
Benign neoplasm of embryonal white fat with a tendency for local recurrence if incompletely excised.

Age: 90% before 3 years, 40% 1st year of life

Site: trunk, extremities, less frequent in retroperitoneum, pelvis, abdomen, head/neck, organs (lung, heart)

Lobulated architecture with fibrovascular septa

Lipoblasts in various stages of differentiation to mature fat with orientation from periphery to the center:



# Adipocytic tumours



Atypical spindle cell / pleomorphic lipomatous tumour

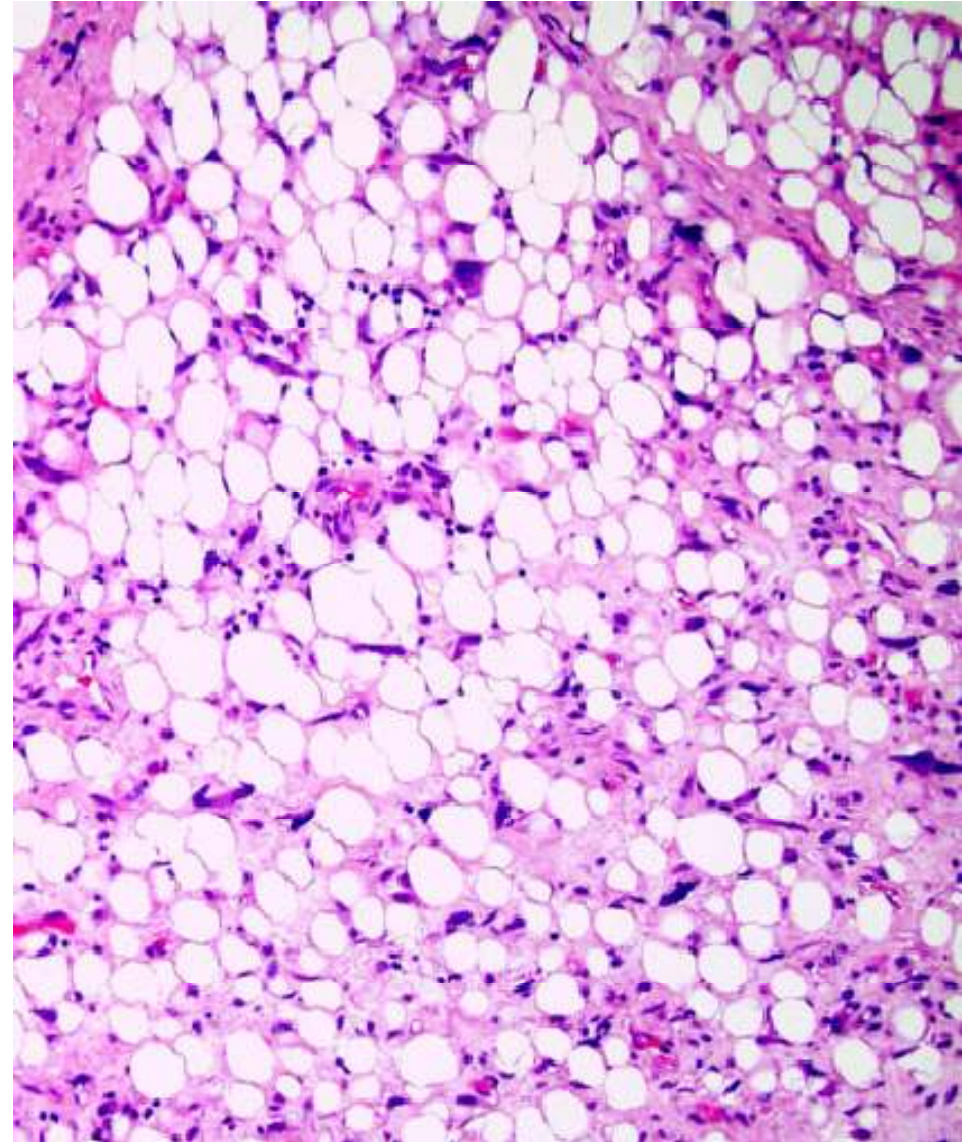
Atypical lipomatous tumour / well-differentiated liposarcoma

Dedifferentiated liposarcoma

Myxoid liposarcoma

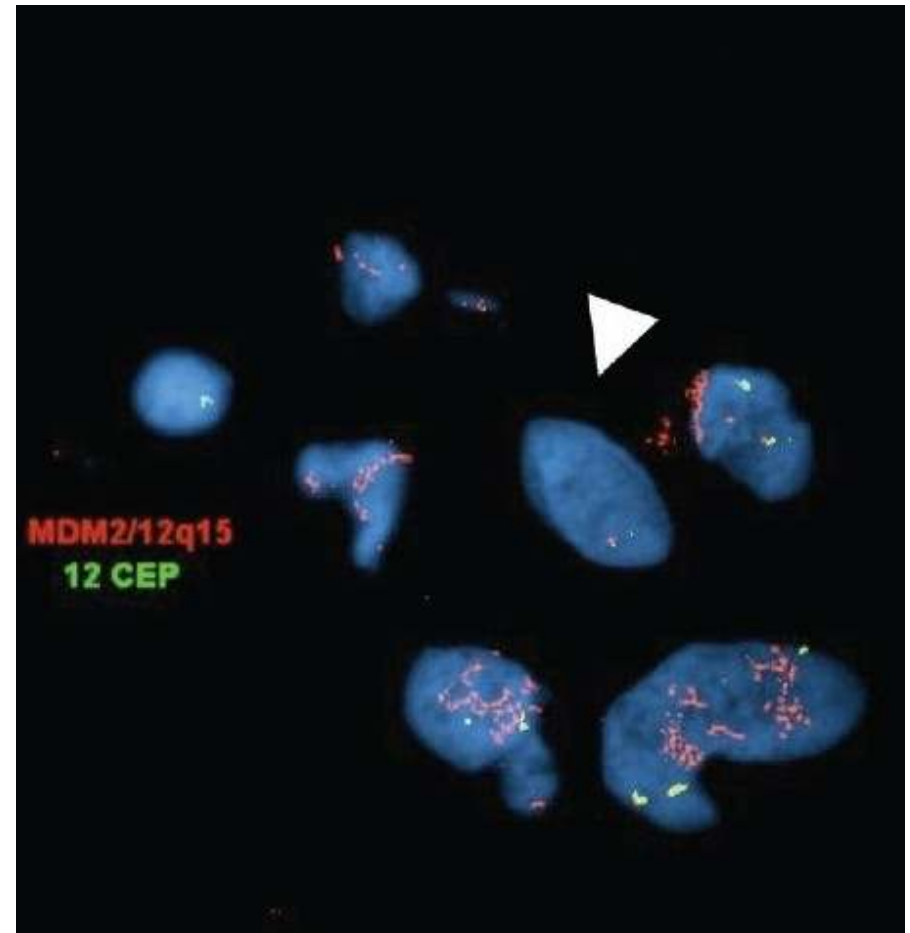
Pleomorphic liposarcoma

Myxoid pleomorphic liposarcoma



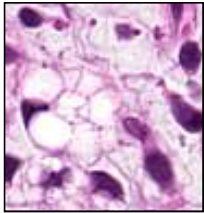
# WD Liposarcoma

- MDM2 (12q14-15) ampl
- IHC (protein)
- FISH (gene amplification)





Preadipocyte



Histology: Adipose

Molecular Features:

*MDM2* or *CDK4* ampl+highly complex karyotype

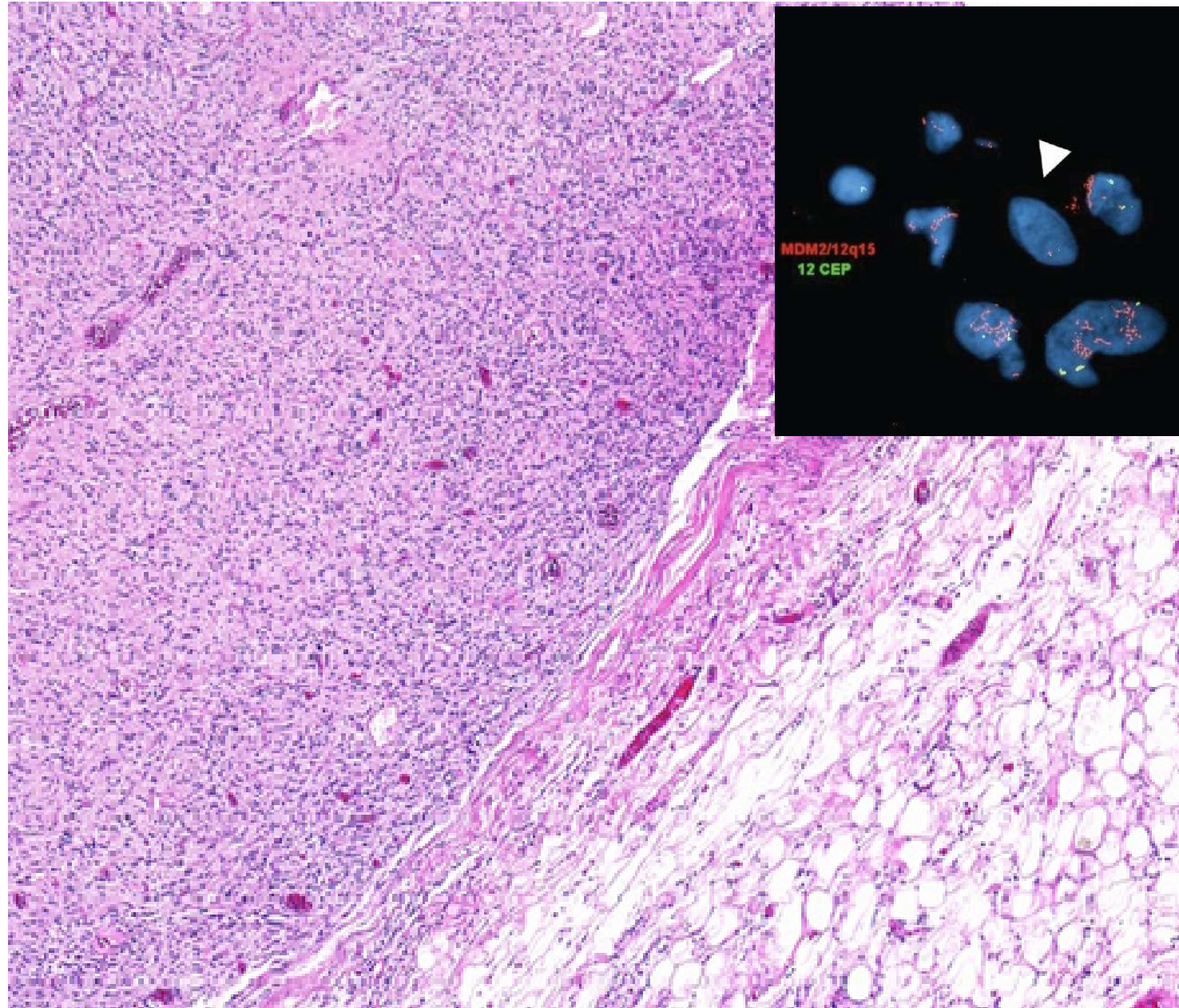
*Diagnosis:*

*Dedifferentiated Liposarcoma (high grade)*

Distant metastases 15–20%, overall mortality rate:28–30% at 5-year follow-up

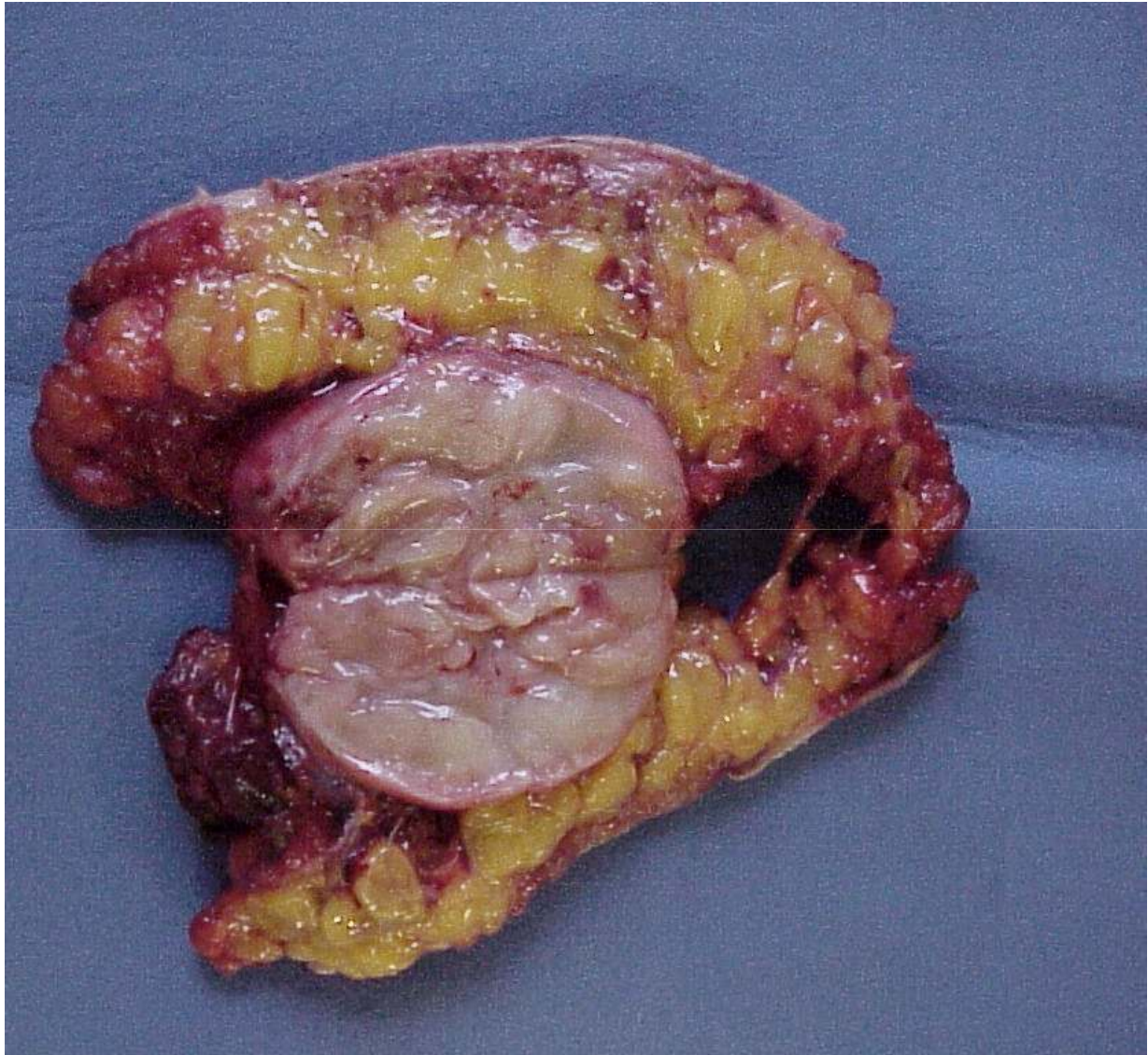
Prognostic significance of grade

Courtesy Silvia Vallese (OPBG, Rome)

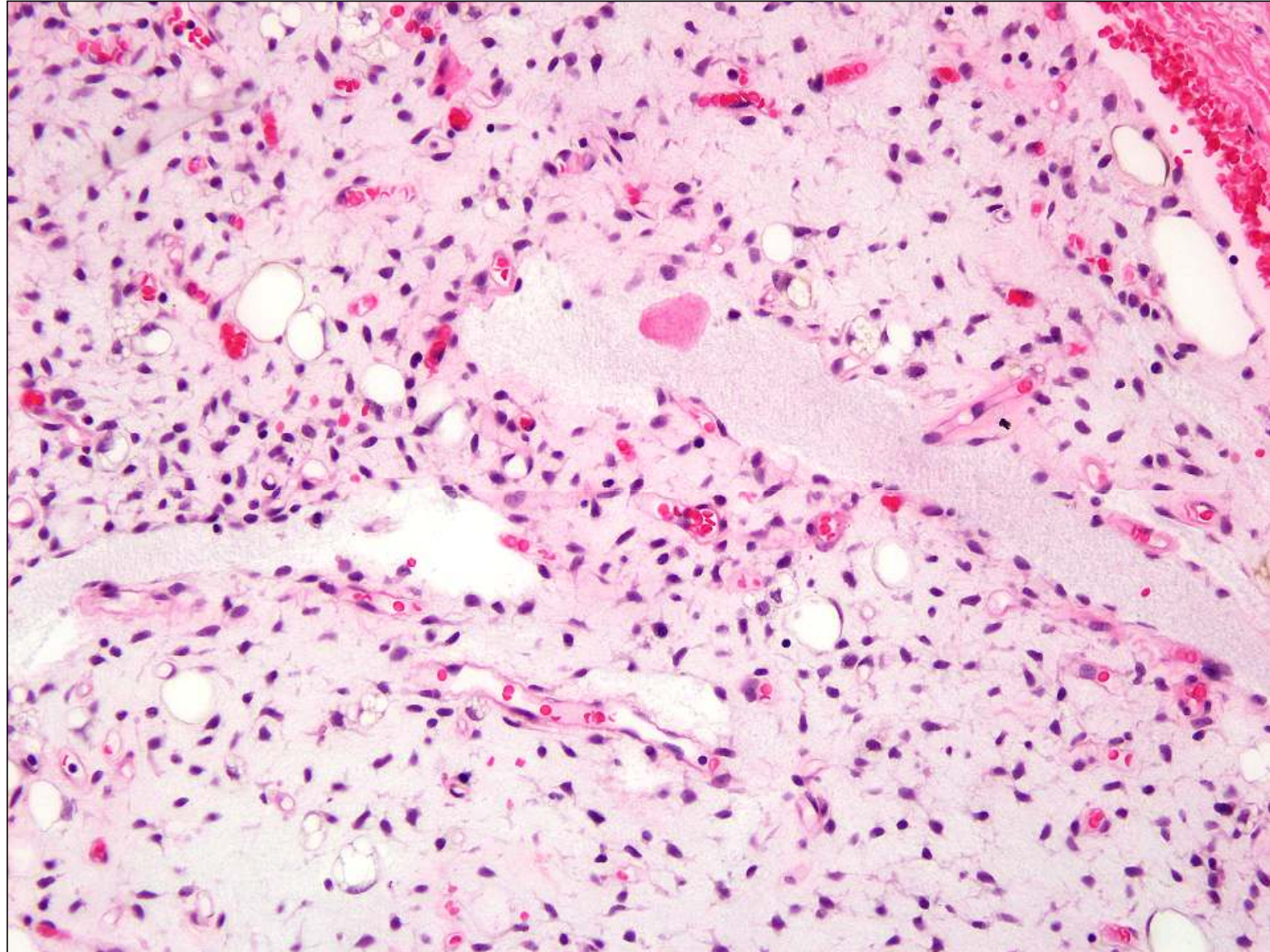
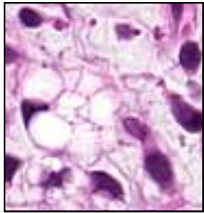


# Adipocytic tumours

Clinical History  
50 yr old, M  
Mass in the upper leg







Histology: Adipocytic lineage

Lipoblasts

Myxoid

Background

Prominent capillary  
vasculature

Molecular Features:

*FUS::DDIT3*

*Diagnosis:*

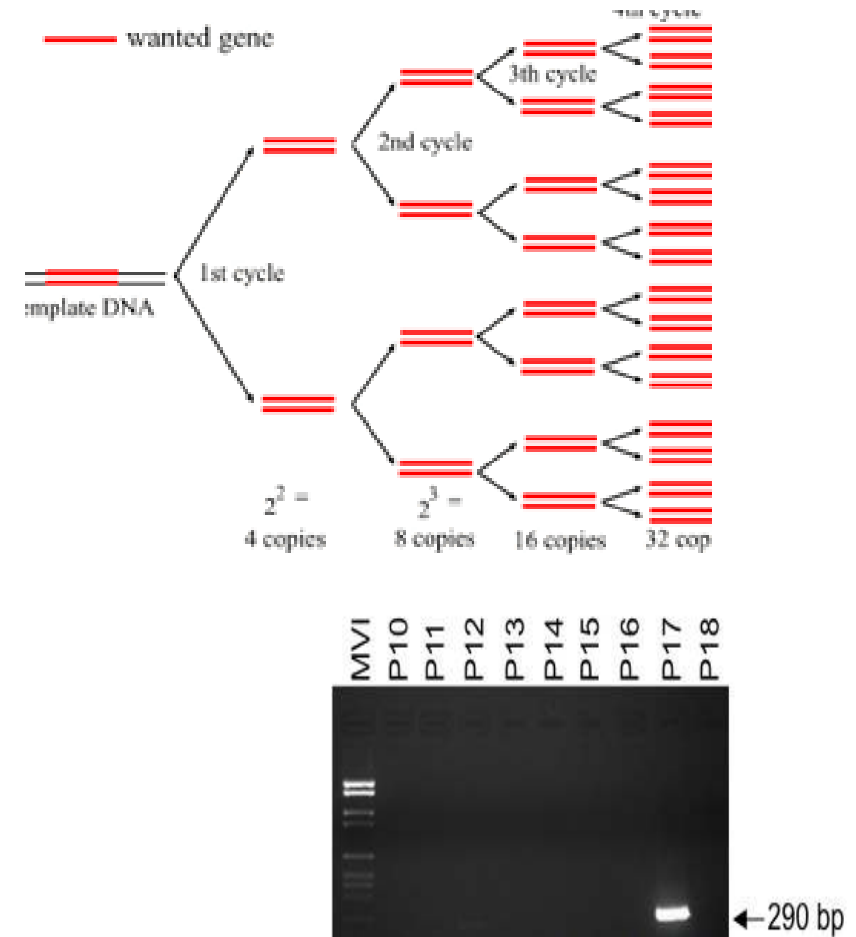
*Myxoid Liposarcoma*

20–30% of liposarcomas  
,5% of adult soft tissue  
sarcomas

# Molecular/Cytogenetic Testing

## Reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR)

A RNA template is converted into a complementary DNA (cDNA) using a reverse transcriptase. The cDNA is then used as a template for exponential amplification using PCR. RT-PCR is a sensitive method of detection of specific fusion transcripts in RNA (eg *FUS::DDIT3*)



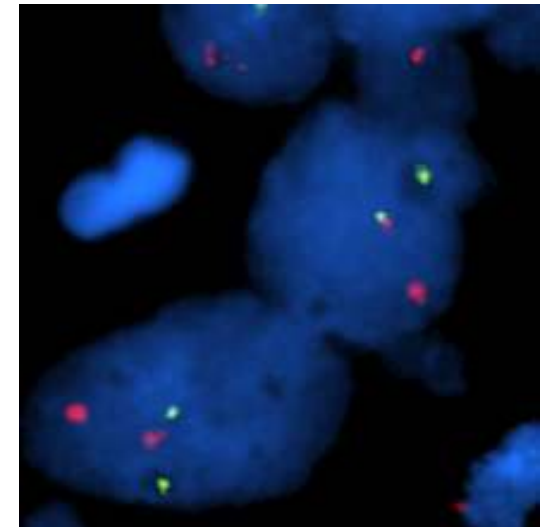
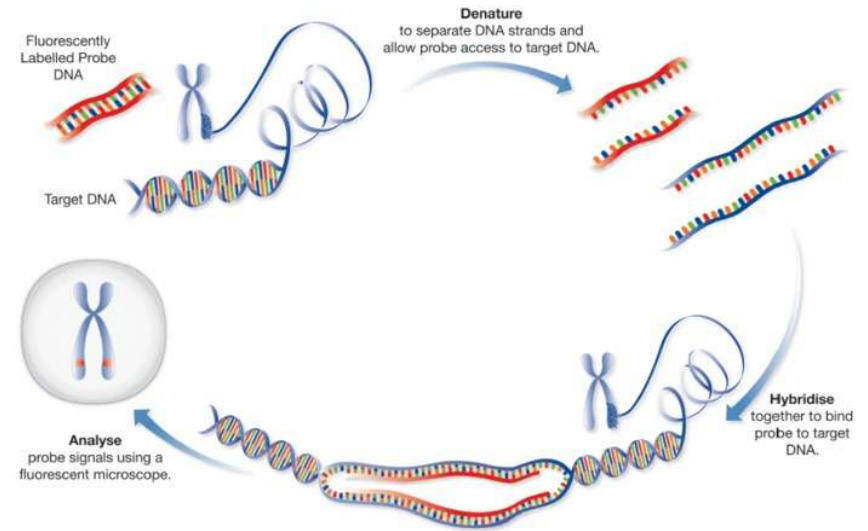
# Molecular/Cytogenetic Testing

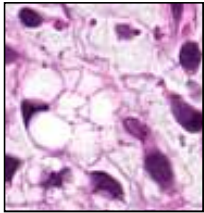
## Fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH)

Detects and localizes specific DNA sequences using fluorescently labelled complementary DNA probes

(eg a gene rearrangement)

Disadvantage: partner gene not known: eg *EWSR* rearrangement





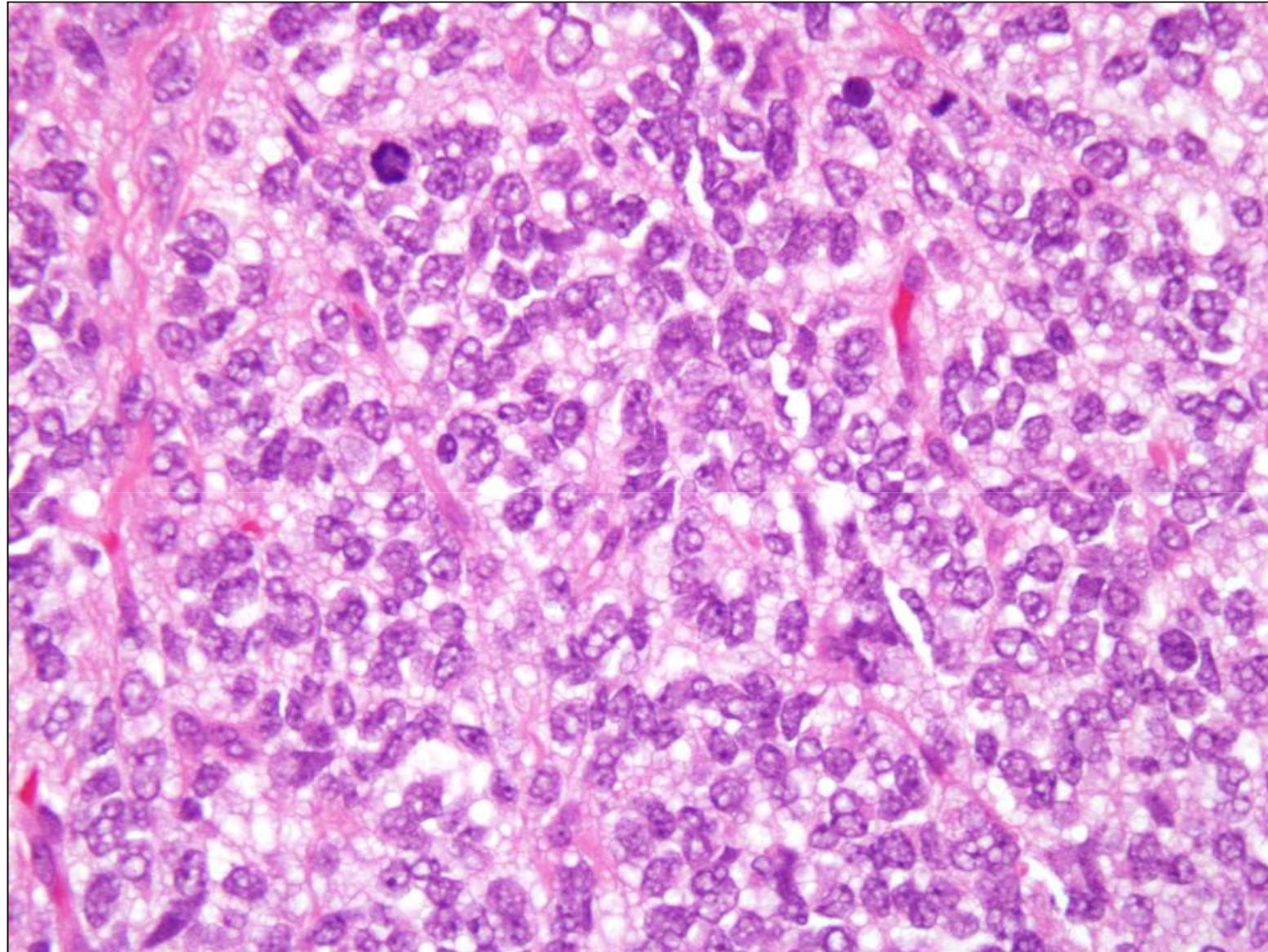
Histology: ? Lineage

Molecular Features:  
*FUS::DDIT3*

*Diagnosis:*

*High grade Myxoid  
Liposarcoma*

- 5% of the tumour with cellular overlap, diminished myxoid matrix, less-apparent capillary vasculature, elevated nuclear grade, and increased mitotic activity.
- Significantly poorer prognosis

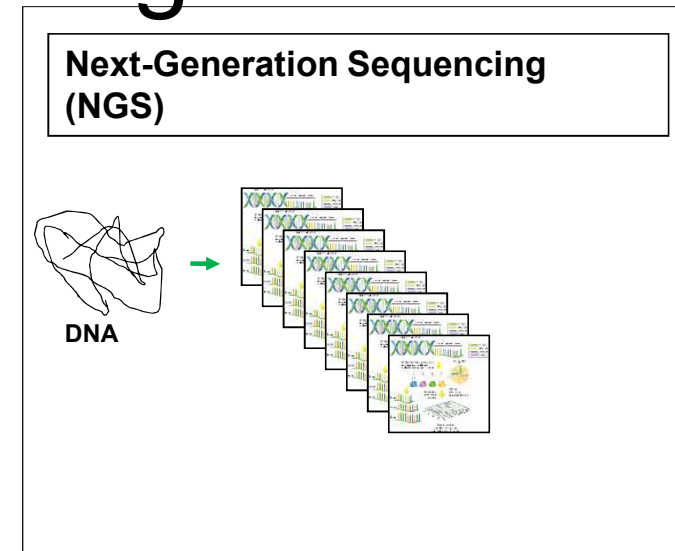


# Molecular/Cytogenetic Testing

## Next-generation sequencing (NGS)

Detects known and novel fusions with arbitrary breakpoints in DNA or RNA

Disadvantage: time consuming, costs



Fusions

120-4591-Samples-Solid / Name5\_55\_L001\_R1\_001

Search:

Strong Fusions & Oncogenic Isoforms | Low Confidence Fusions | All Results | New

Actions Classification Report Artifact Genes SS Reads %Reads Strong Break Type InFrame ITD

Classification	Report	Artifact	Genes	SS	Reads	%Reads	Strong	Break	Type	InFrame	ITD
CGPs											
ALK_EJ_020_m1d_GSP2					572	64.34	True	chr2:42491871;chr2:29446394	Fusion	True	N/A
ALK_EJ_021_S2_R_0_GSP2					572	64.34	True				

Showing 1 to 2 of 2 entries

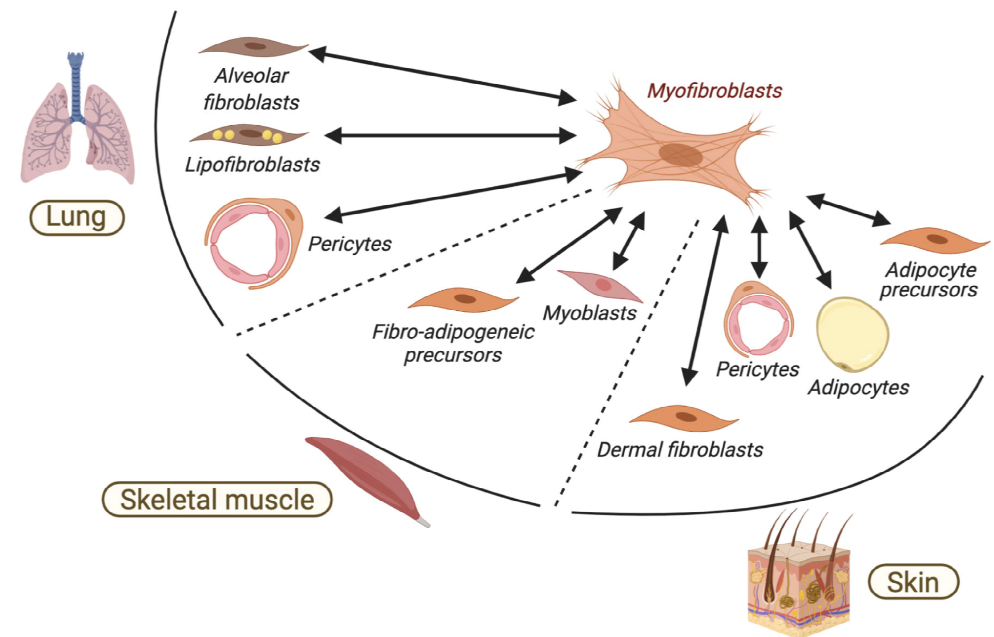
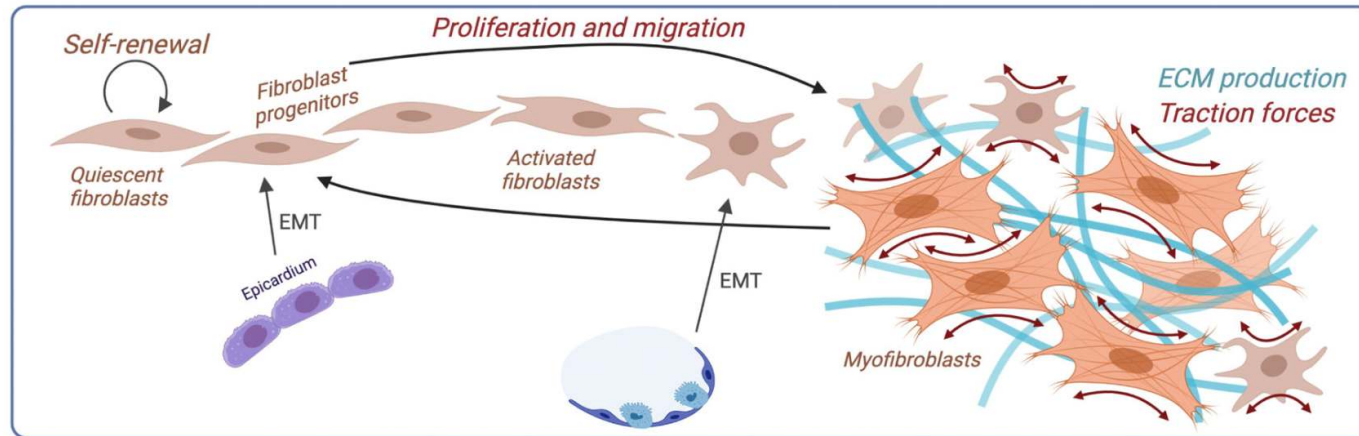
Show: 25 entries

Export Data (CSV) Download Source (TSV)

# Myofibroblastic Tumors



- Myositis ossificans and fibro-osseous pseudotumour of digits
- Ischaemic fasciitis
- Elastofibroma
- Fibrous hamartoma of infancy
- Fibromatosis colli
- Juvenile hyaline fibromatosis
- Inclusion body fibromatosis
- Fibroma of tendon sheath
- Desmoplastic fibroblastoma
- Myofibroblastoma
- Calcifying aponeurotic fibroma
- EWSR1-SMAD3-positive fibroblastic tumour (emerging)
- Angiomyofibroblastoma
- Cellular angiofibroma
- Angiofibroma of soft tissue
- Nuchal-type fibroma
- Acral fibromyxoma
- Gardner fibroma
- Palmar fibromatosis and plantar fibromatosis
- Desmoid fibromatosis
- Lipofibromatosis
- Giant cell fibroblastoma
- Dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans
- Solitary fibrous tumour
- Inflammatory myofibroblastic tumour
- Low-grade myofibroblastic sarcoma
- Superficial CD34-positive fibroblastic tumour
- Myxoinflammatory fibroblastic sarcoma
- Infantile fibrosarcoma
- Adult fibrosarcoma
- Myxofibrosarcoma
- Low-grade fibromyxoid sarcoma
- Sclerosing epithelioid fibrosarcoma

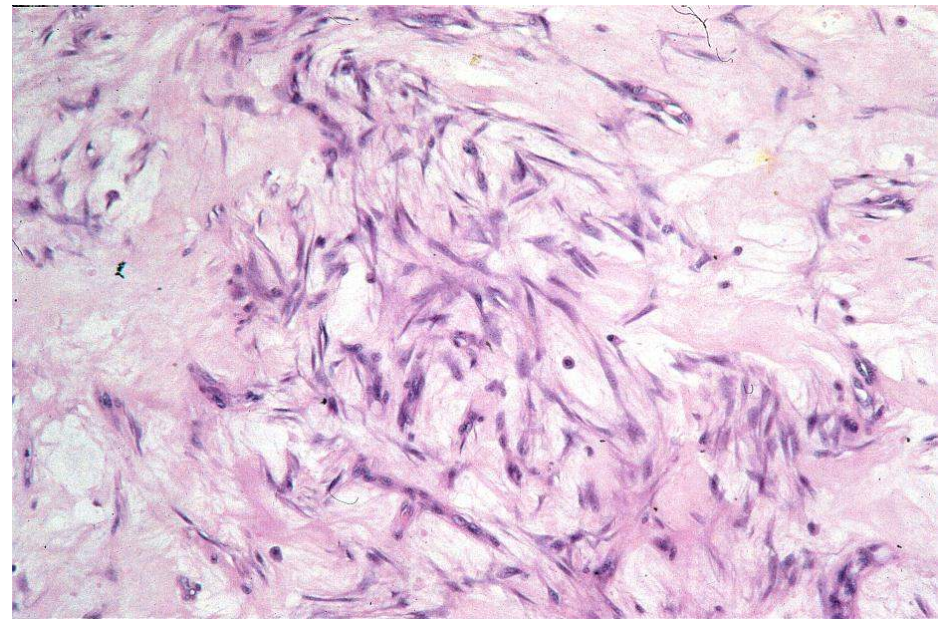
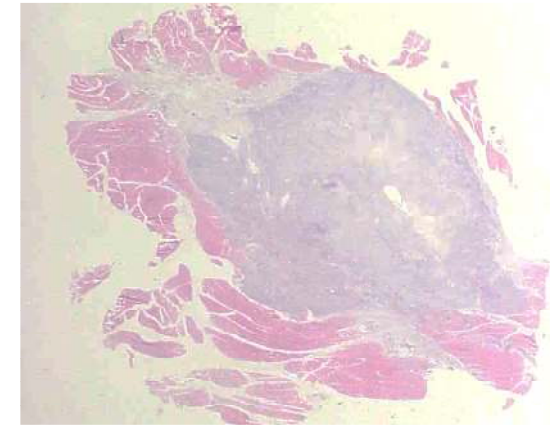
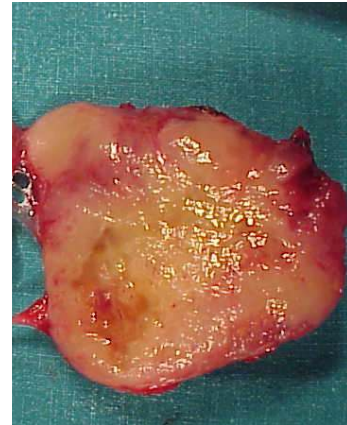


## Nodular Fasciitis

Self-limiting mesenchymal neoplasm that usually occurs in subcutaneous tissue.

It is composed of plump, uniform fibroblastic/myofibroblastic cells displaying a tissue culture–like architectural pattern,

Usually harbours *USP6* gene rearrangement



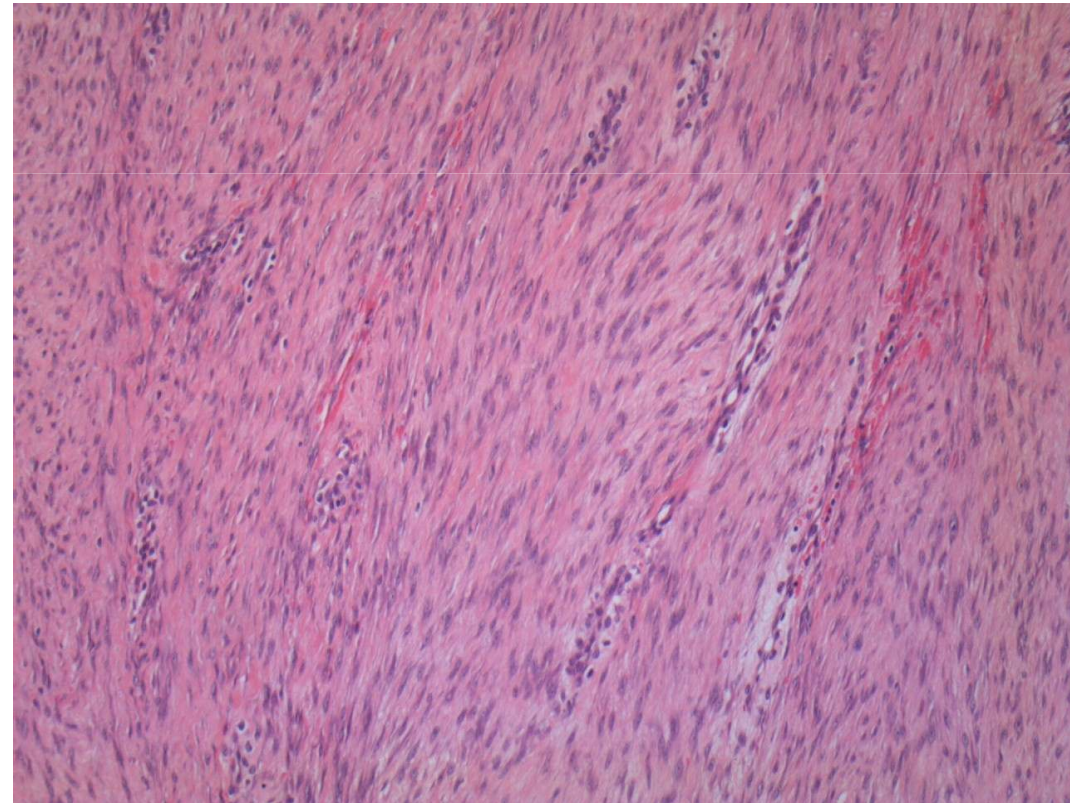
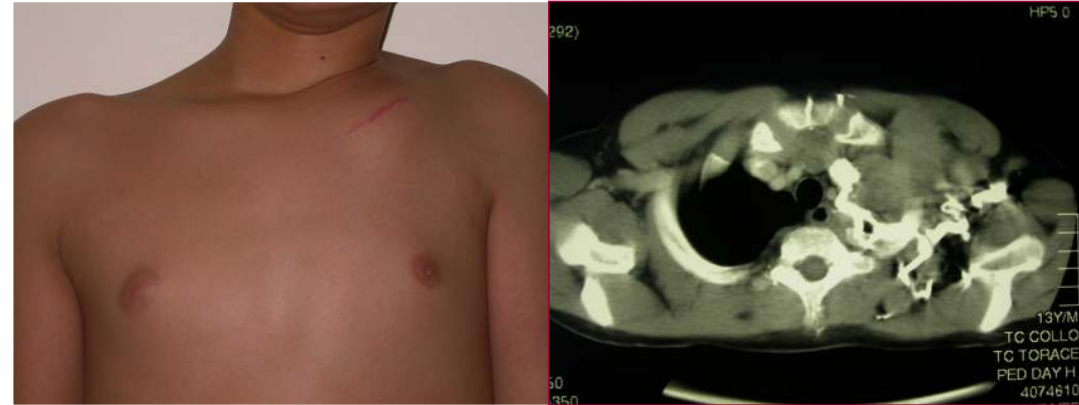
# Desmoid Fibromatosis

Locally aggressive but non-metastasizing deep-seated (myo)fibroblastic neoplasm with infiltrative growth and **propensity for local recurrence (especially after incomplete resection).**

Site: extremities (30–40%), retroperitoneum or abdominal cavity (15%), abdominal wall (20%), chest wall (10–15%). Other sites: head and neck, paraspinal region, flank

Molecular findings:

- Sporadic: 90–95% point mutations in the gene that encodes  $\beta$ -catenin (CTNNB1)
- Gardner syndrome: germline mutations in the APC tumour suppressor gene





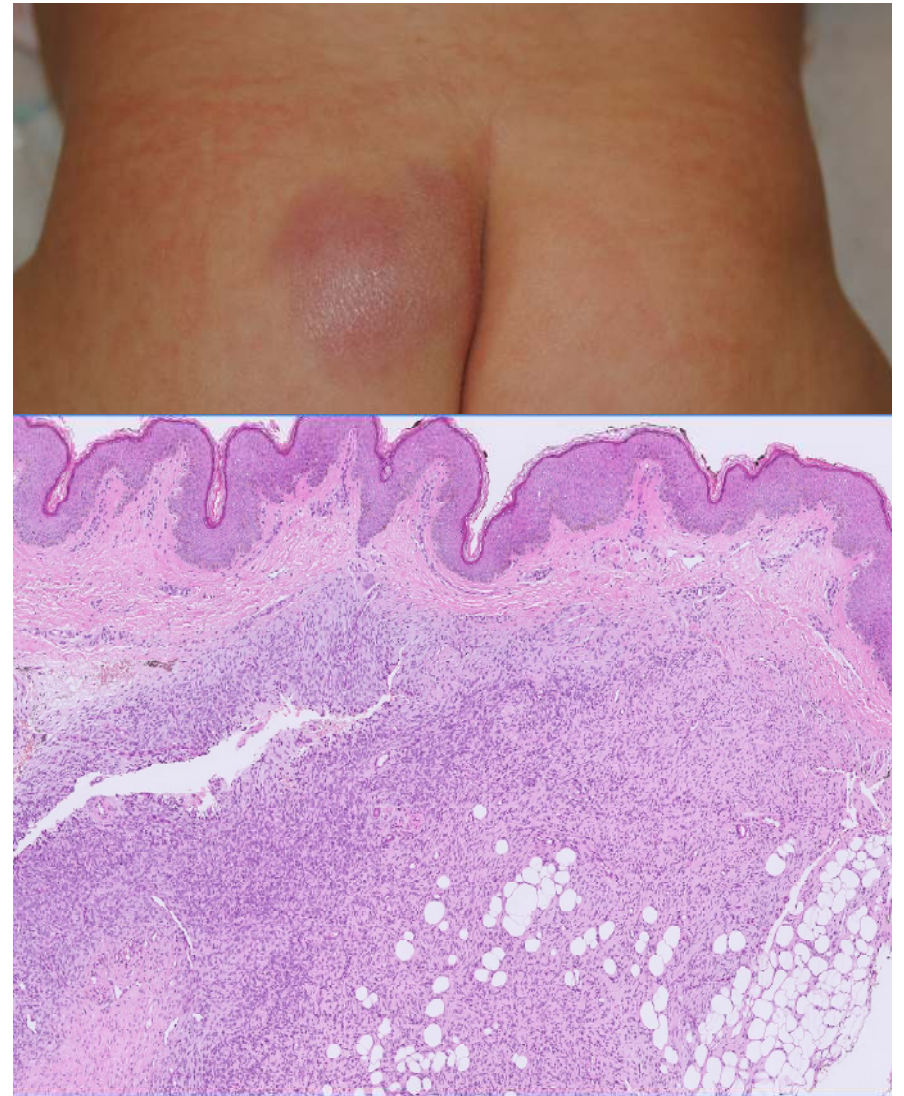
# Dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans

1/100.000, rare in children (6% of all DFSP)  
Pts are young/adults; more frequently male

Slow growing, firm, nodular dermal/subcutaneous mass, often present years before diagnosis in the trunk, extremities, less frequently head and neck

Histology: Infiltration of dermis and subcutis. cytologically uniform spindled tumour in storiform, whorled, or cartwheel growth patterns. Cytological atypia is minimal and mitotic activity is low.

Recurrence rate 1-9% (20-50% in adults), Rare mets



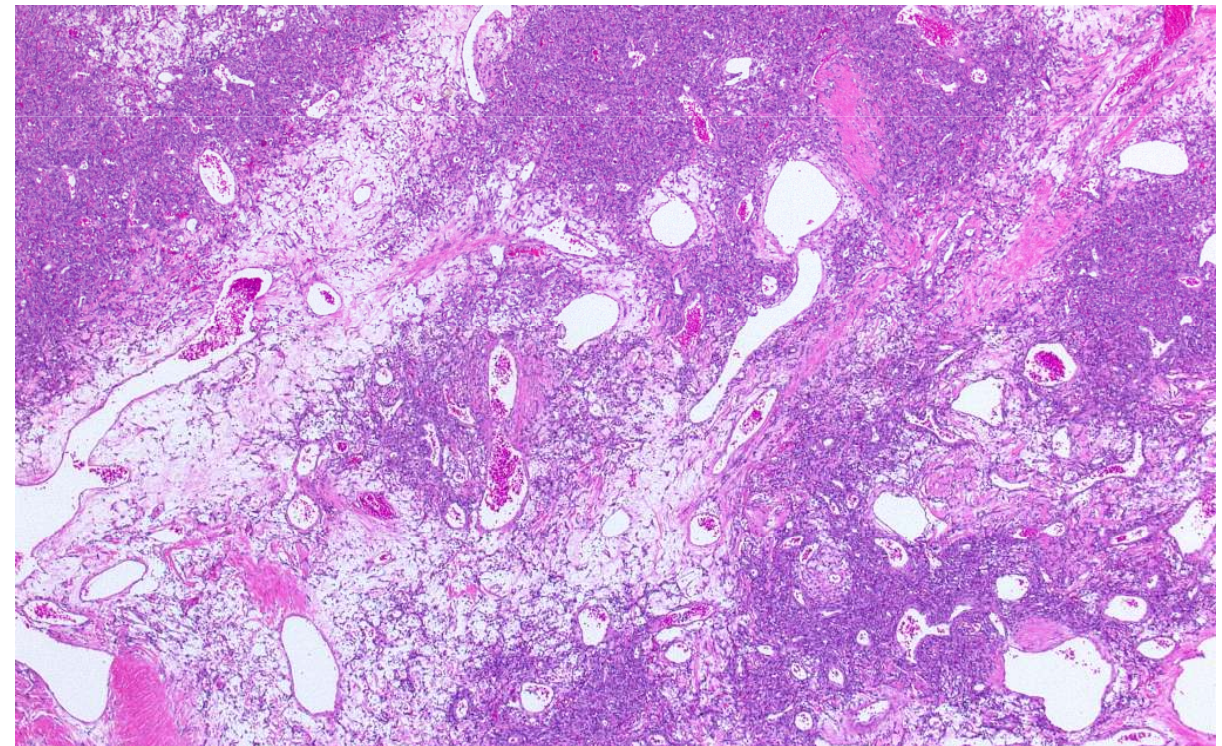
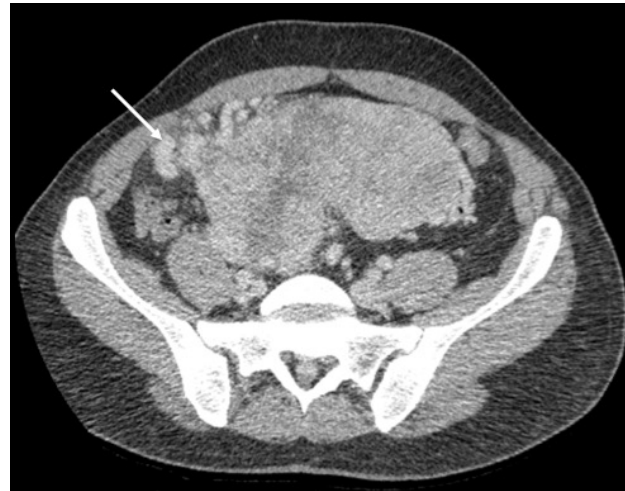
# Solitary Fibrous Tumor

Adults

Localization: any anatomical site, including superficial and deep soft tissues (80-90%) and visceral organs

Slow-growing, painless masses.  
Paraneoplastic syndromes: Doege–Potter syndrome, severe hypoglycaemia or (more rarely) acromegaloid changes due to tumour production of IGF2

prominent, branching, thin-walled, dilated (staghorn) vasculature and NAB2-STAT6 gene rearrangement.



## Smooth muscle tumours

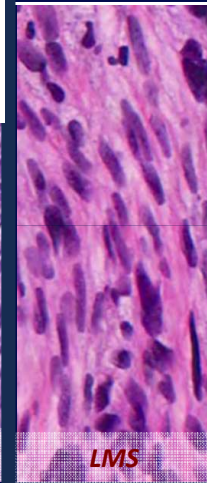
Leiomyoma

EBV-associated smooth muscle tumour

Inflammatory leiomyosarcoma

Leiomyosarcoma

Smooth  
muscle



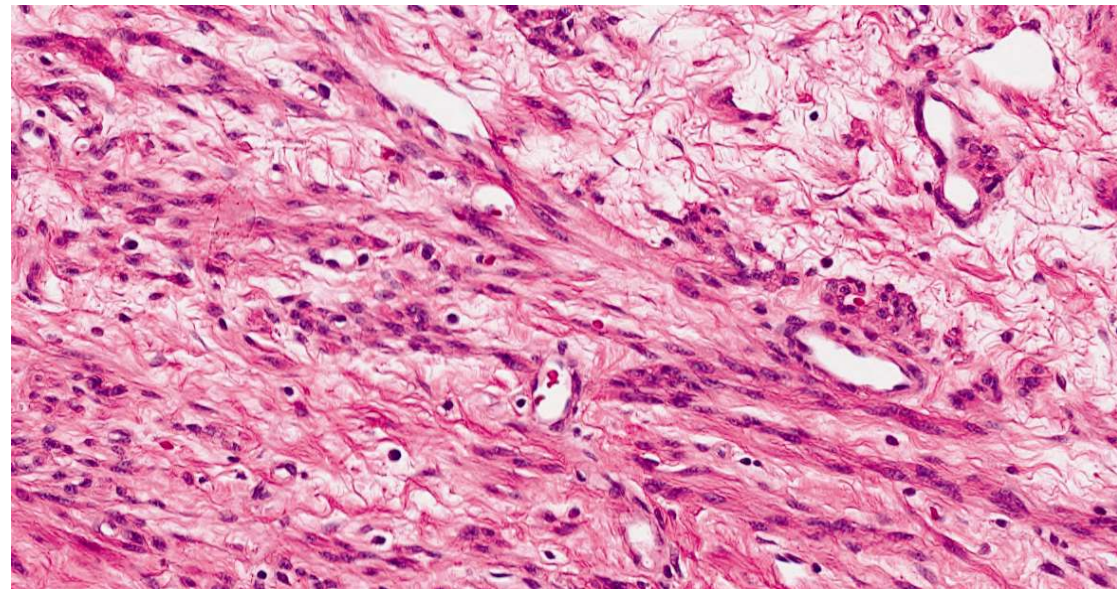
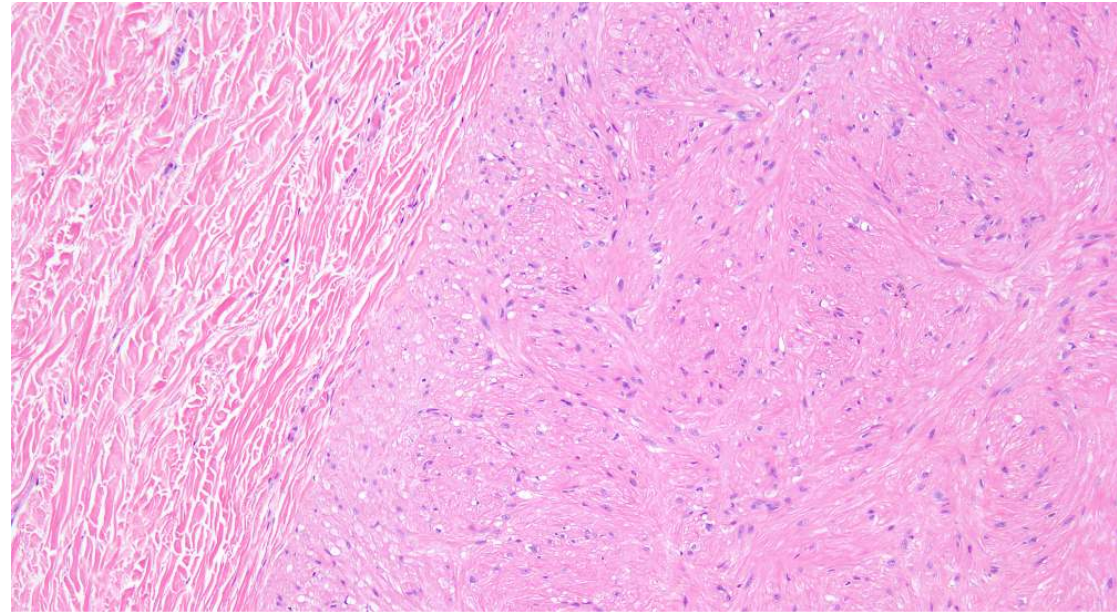
# Leiomyoma

Benign smooth muscle tumour of somatic soft tissue  
Middle-aged adults,

**Cutaneous** (from wall of blood vessels (vascular leiomyoma) or erector hair follicle muscle (pilar leiomyoma))

**Deep soft tissue:** retroperitoneal  
with no sex difference  
omentum, mesentery, and peritoneal surface, inguinal region  
Although usually solitary, retroperitoneal tumours may be multiple

Histology:  
Cells that closely resemble normal smooth muscle cells with eosinophilic cytoplasm and uniform blunt-ended, cigar-shaped nuclei. arranged in intersecting fascicles.



# Leiomyosarcoma (LMS)

**Definition:** A malignant neoplasm composed of cells showing smooth muscle differentiation.

**Site:** Soft tissue (extremities, retroperitoneum, abdomen/pelvis, and trunk, large blood vessels (inferior vena cava, the large veins of the lower extremity))

**Epidemiology:** 7<sup>th</sup> decade, 11% of all soft tissue sarcomas

Women constitute the majority of patients with retroperitoneal and inferior vena cava LMSs

**Prognosis:** aggressive neoplasms with local recurrences and distant metastases.

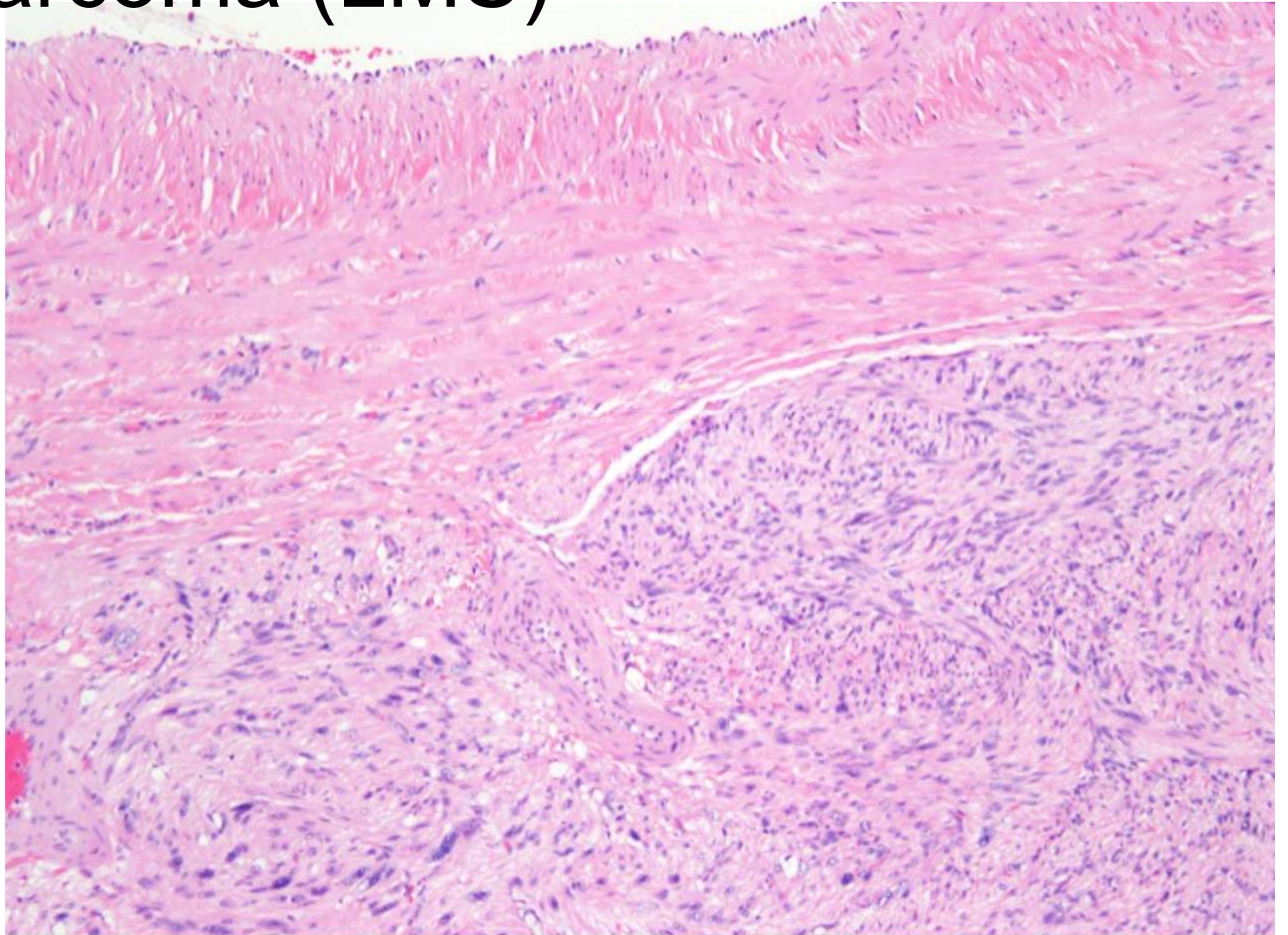
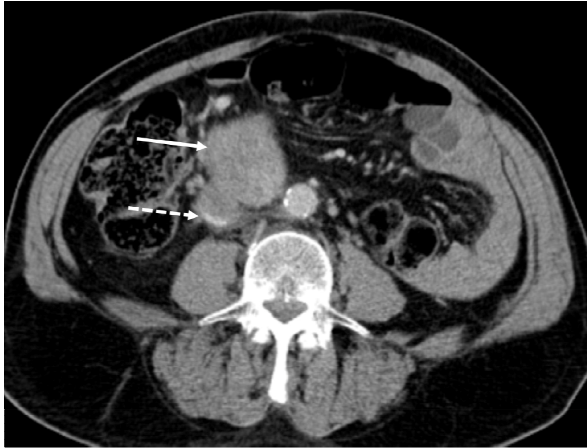
Prognostic factors: histological grade, tumour location and size

Retroperitoneal LMSs often fatal; typically large (> 10 cm), difficult or impossible to excise with clear margins

Non-retroperitoneal LMSs are generally smaller, more amenable to local control, and better prognosis. intramuscular rather than subcutaneous related to increased metastasis and poorer survival.

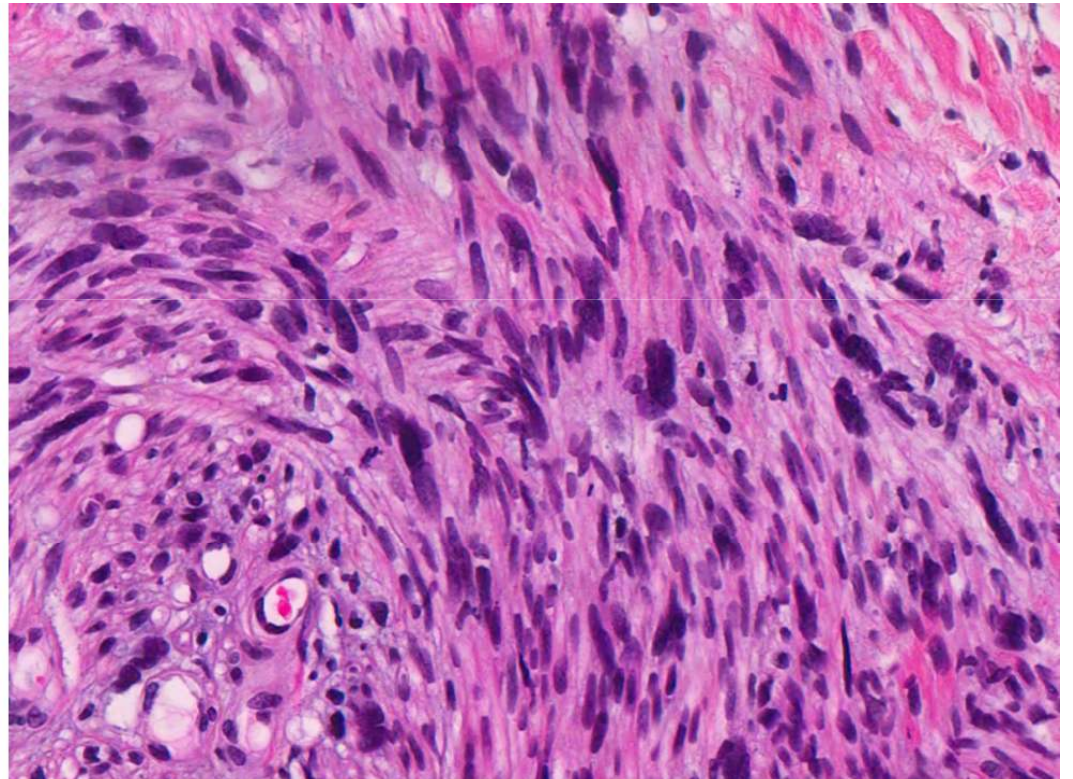
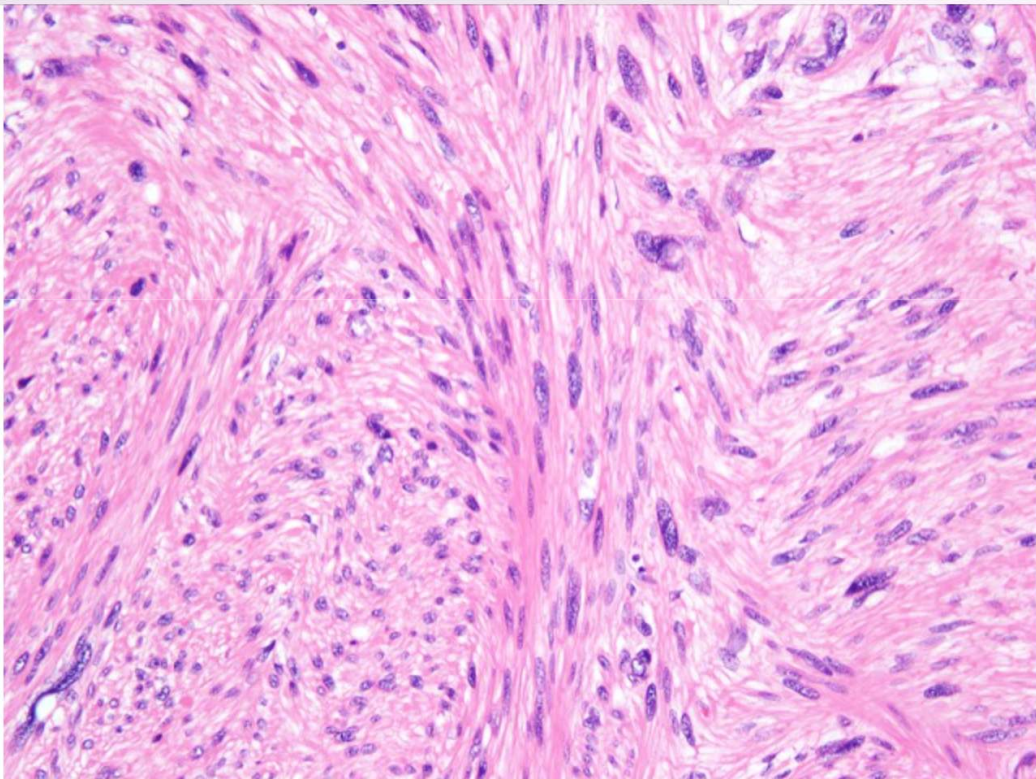
Metastases in lung, liver, and soft tissue, and more rarely in bone

# Leiomyosarcoma (LMS)



# Leiomyosarcoma (LMS)

<https://poboss.iarc.tr/submission.php?cnapid=100&subcnapid=100&page=4>



# Soft Tissue Sarcomas

## Skeletal muscle tumours

Rhabdomyoma

Embryonal rhabdomyosarcoma

Alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma

Pleomorphic rhabdomyosarcoma

Spindle cell / sclerosing rhabdomyosarcoma

Ectomesenchymoma

## Gastrointestinal stromal tumour

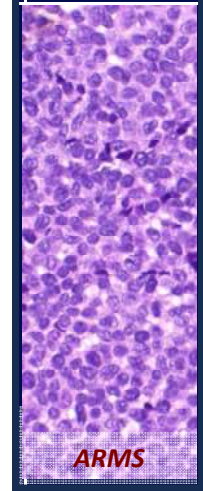
Gastrointestinal stromal tumour

## Chondro-osseous tumours

Soft tissue chondroma

Extraskeletal osteosarcoma

Skeletal  
muscle





# Rhabdomyosarcoma

Most frequent pediatric sarcoma

Malignant mesenchymal tumor with morphologic and/or immunophenotype of embryonal skeletal muscle

Prognosis related to:

Histology/Molecular features underlying RMS

Site

- Favorable (GU, non VP; Orbit; Head/neck non PM)
- Unfavorable (GU-VP, Extremities, Head/neck PM)

Age

Size

Stage (IRS)

Rabdomiosarcoma: istologia, aspetti molecolari e biologici

## Rhabdomyosarcoma: Definition

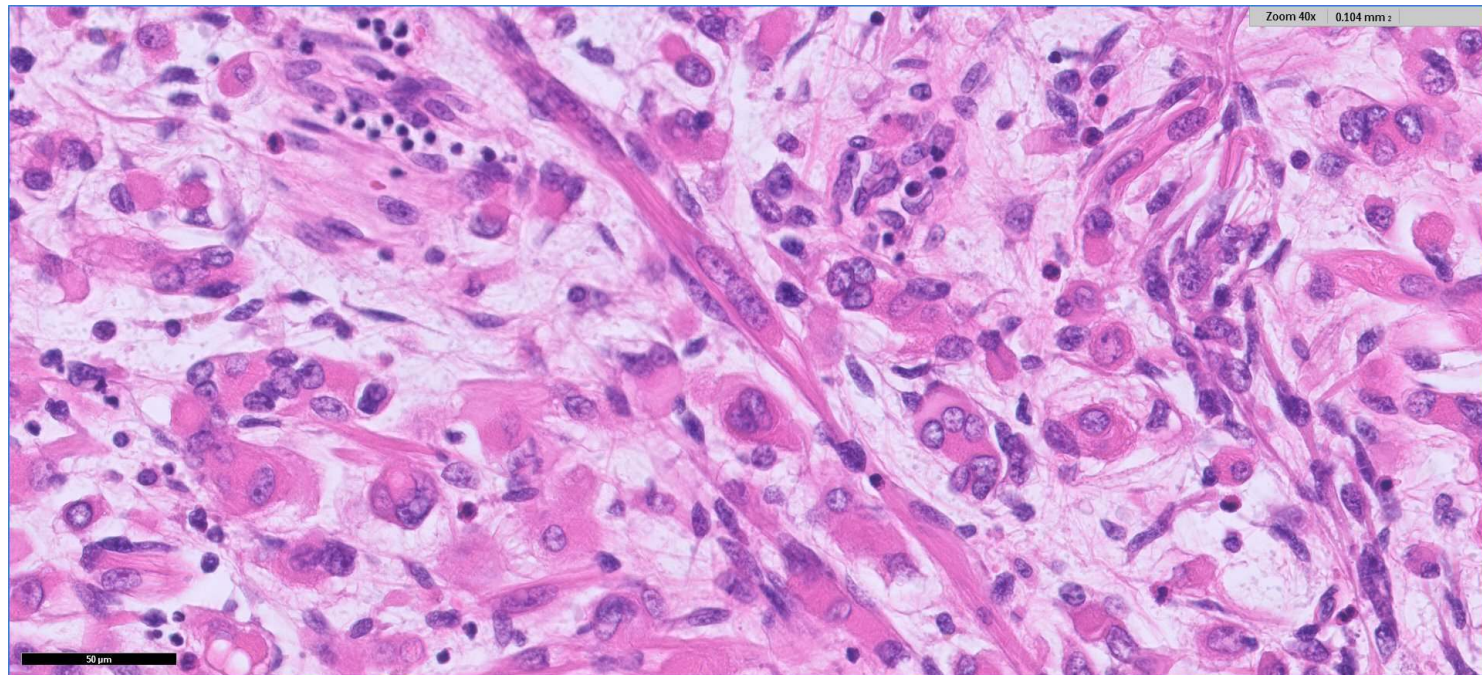
General Features

Classification

Histotypes

RMS in Tumor  
predisposition  
syndromes

Malignant mesenchymal tumor with morphologic and/or immunophenotypic features of embryonal skeletal muscle



Rabdomiosarcoma: istologia, aspetti molecolari e biologici

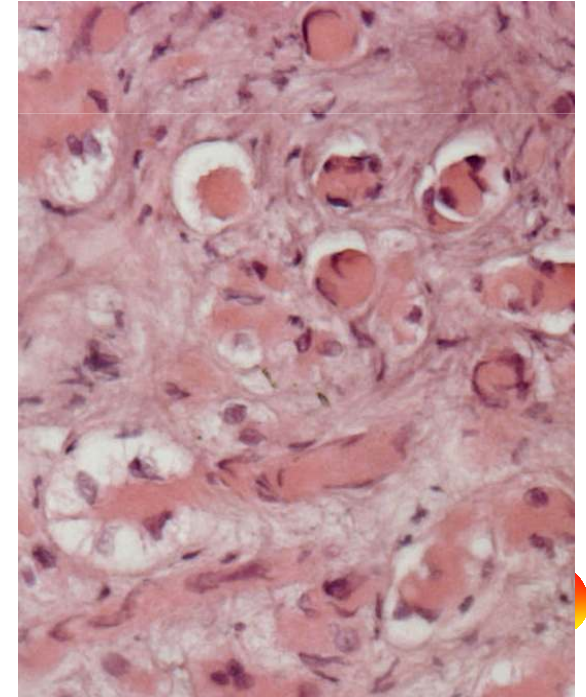
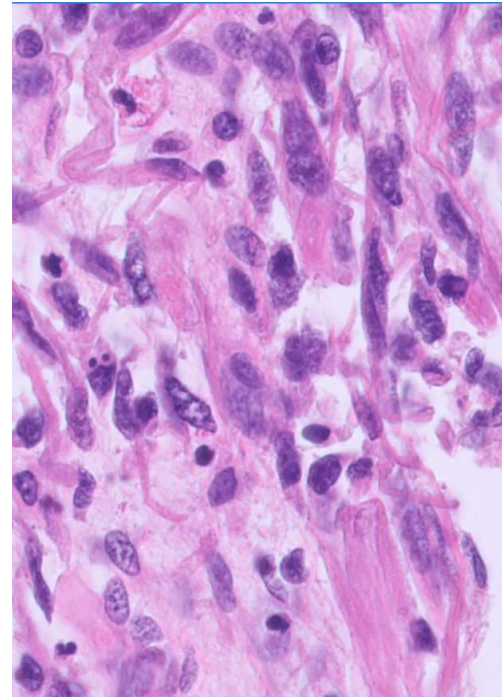
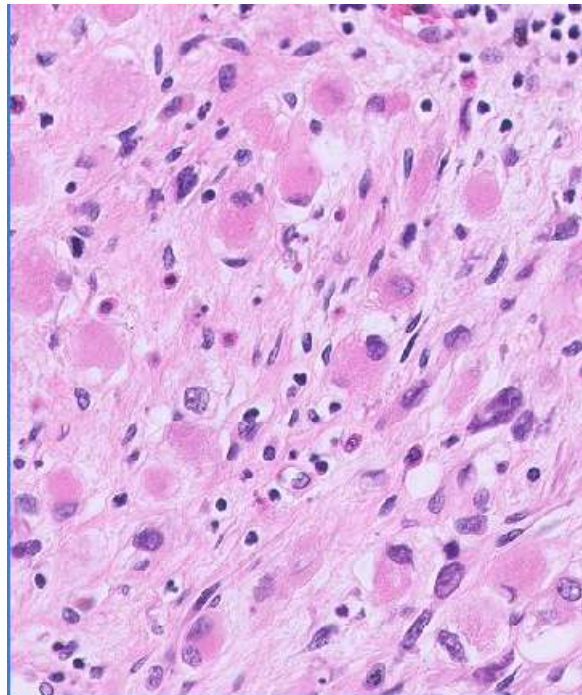
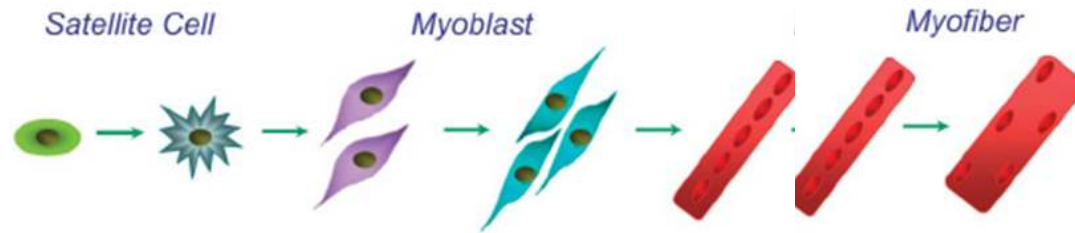
# Rhabdomyosarcoma reproduces skeletal muscle development

General Features

Classification

Critical Issues

RMS in Tumor predisposition syndromes



# Rhabdomyosarcoma: Immunophenotype

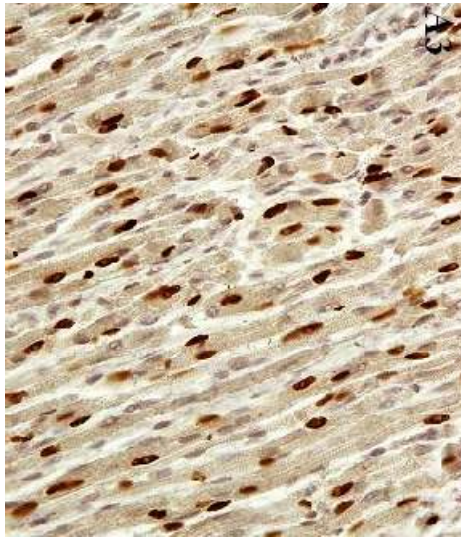
General Features

Classification

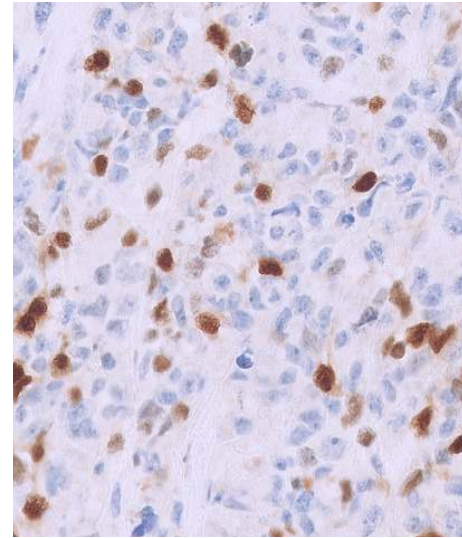
Critical Issues

RMS in Tumor  
predisposition  
syndromes

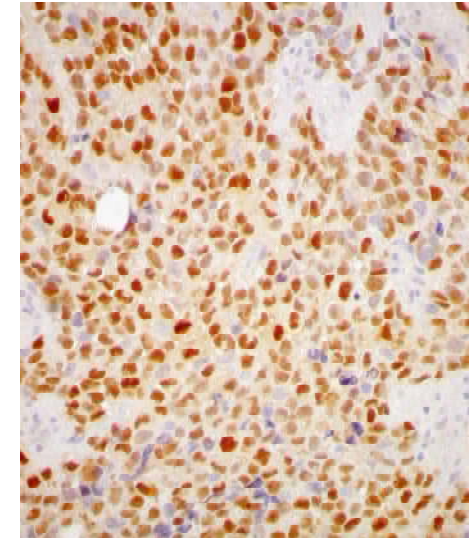
## Transcription Factors



Normal skeletal Muscle



Rhabdomyosarcoma



# Rhabdomyosarcoma: Immunophenotype

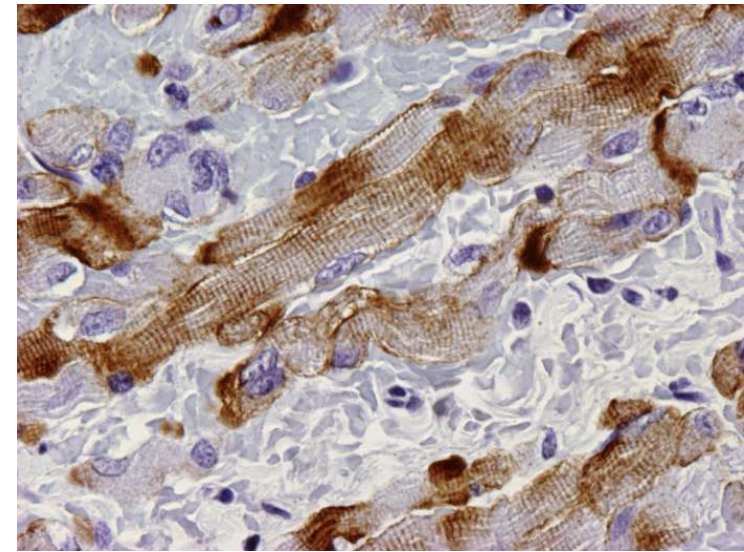
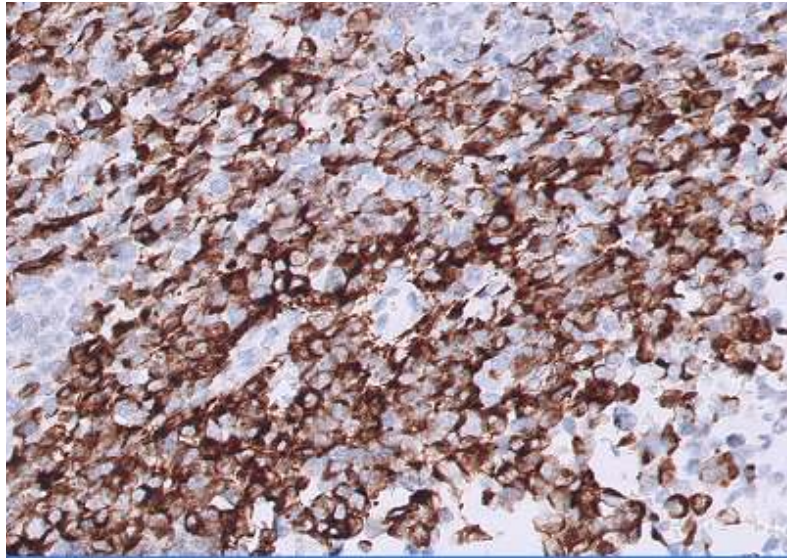
General Features

Classification

Critical Issues

RMS in Tumor  
predisposition  
syndromes

Intermediate Filaments: Desmin



..... — Desmina —



## Rhabdomyosarcoma: WHO Classification 5<sup>th</sup> Edition

General Features

Classification

Histotypes

RMS in Tumor  
predisposition  
syndromes

<b>HISTOLOGY*</b>	Age (yr)	Site
<b>ERMS</b>	0-5 (18% >10)	Head/neck GU-tract. orbit, bile ducts, retroperitoneum
<b>SPINDLE/SCLEROSING RMS</b>	Infantile	back
	Older children, adults	head and neck, trunk and extremities
	Older children, adults	Bone, facial bones
<b>ARMS</b>	6.8-9	extremities, paraspinal, perineal, breast

\* Pleomorphic RMS are extremely rare in children



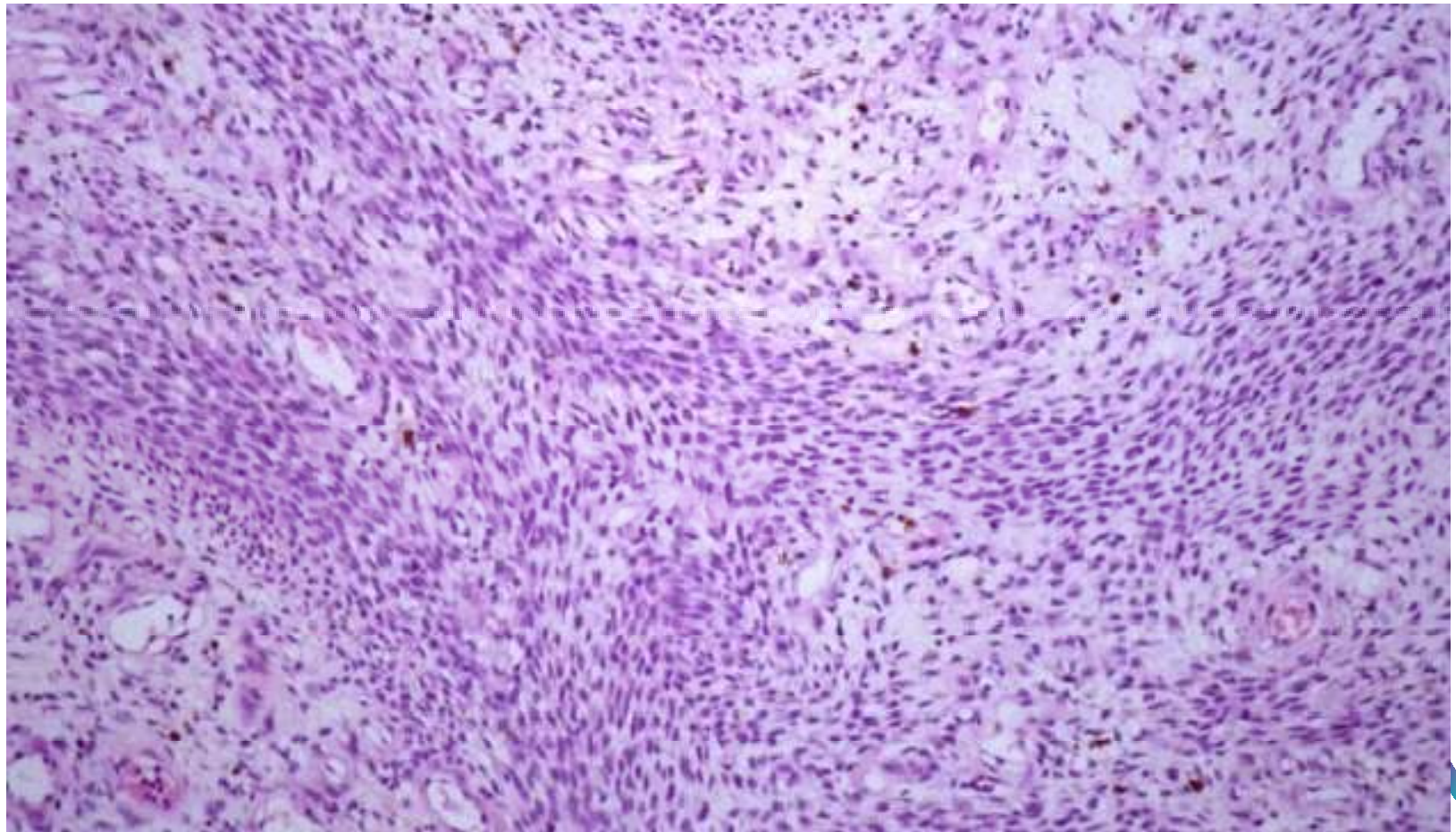
## Embryonal Rhabdomyosarcoma: histological Features

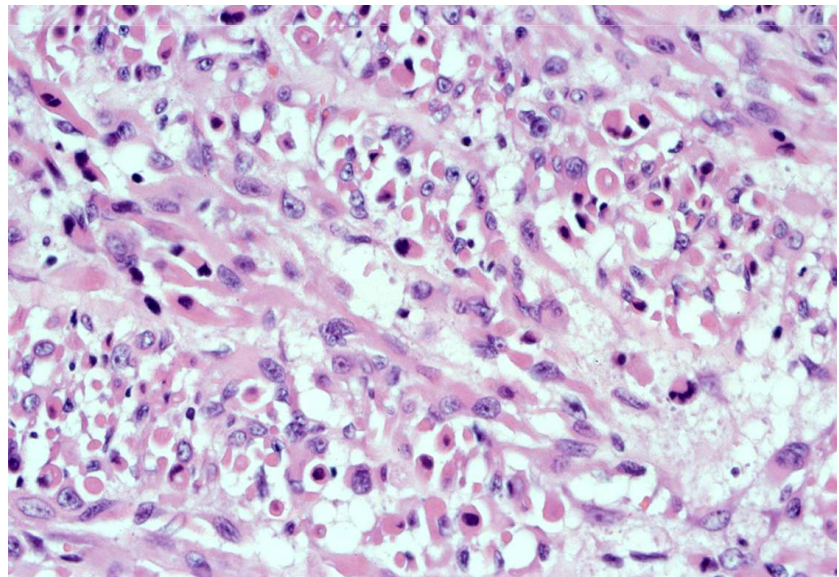
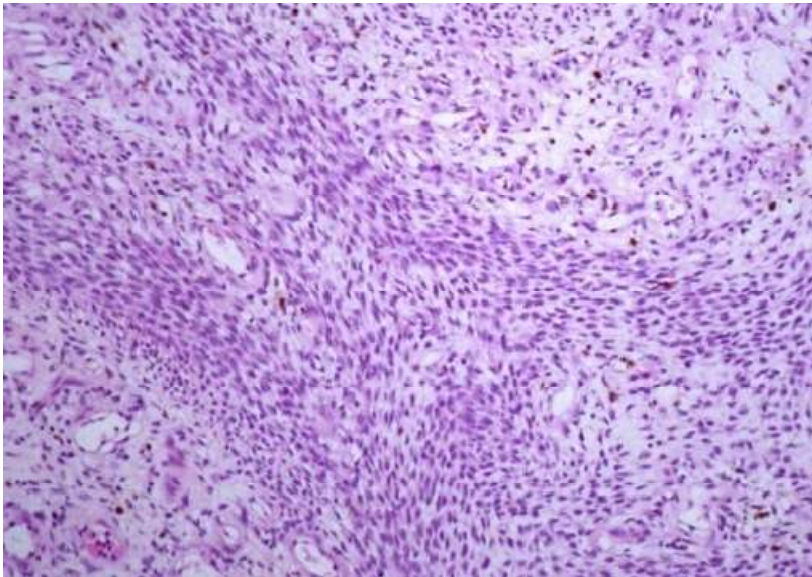
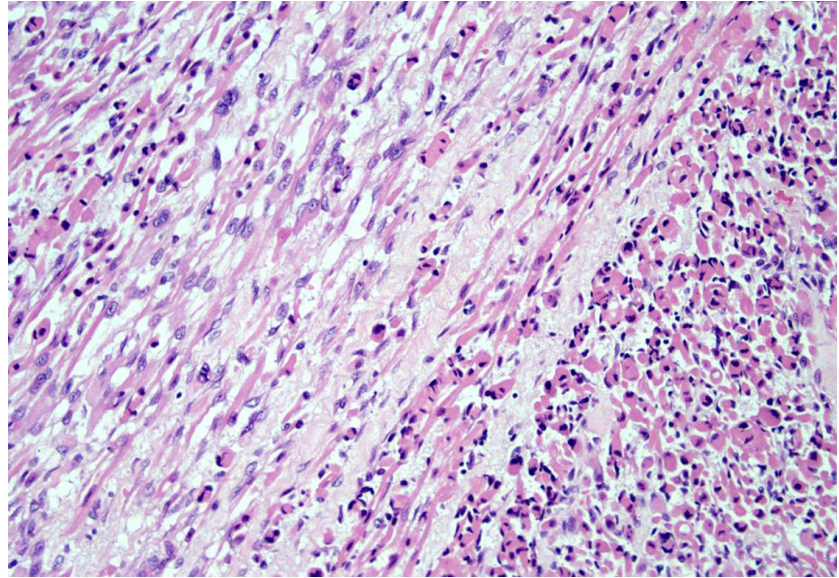
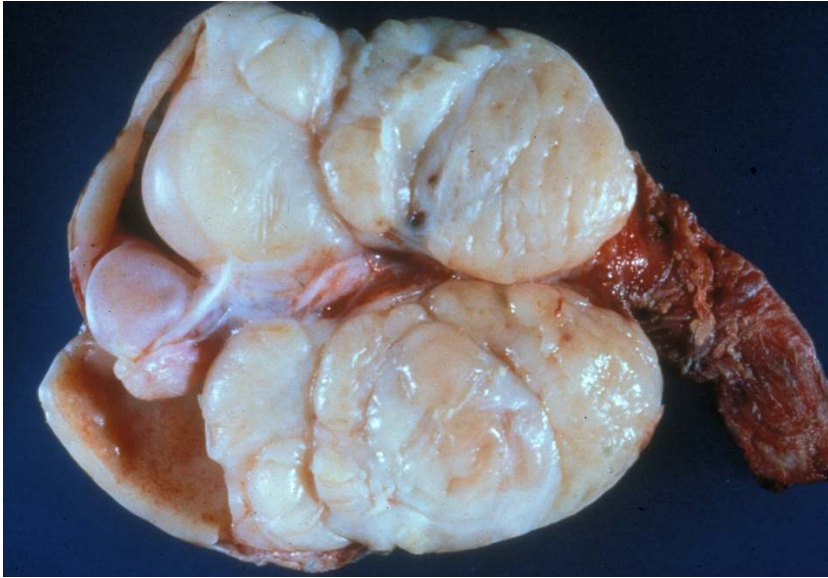
General Features

Classification

Histotypes

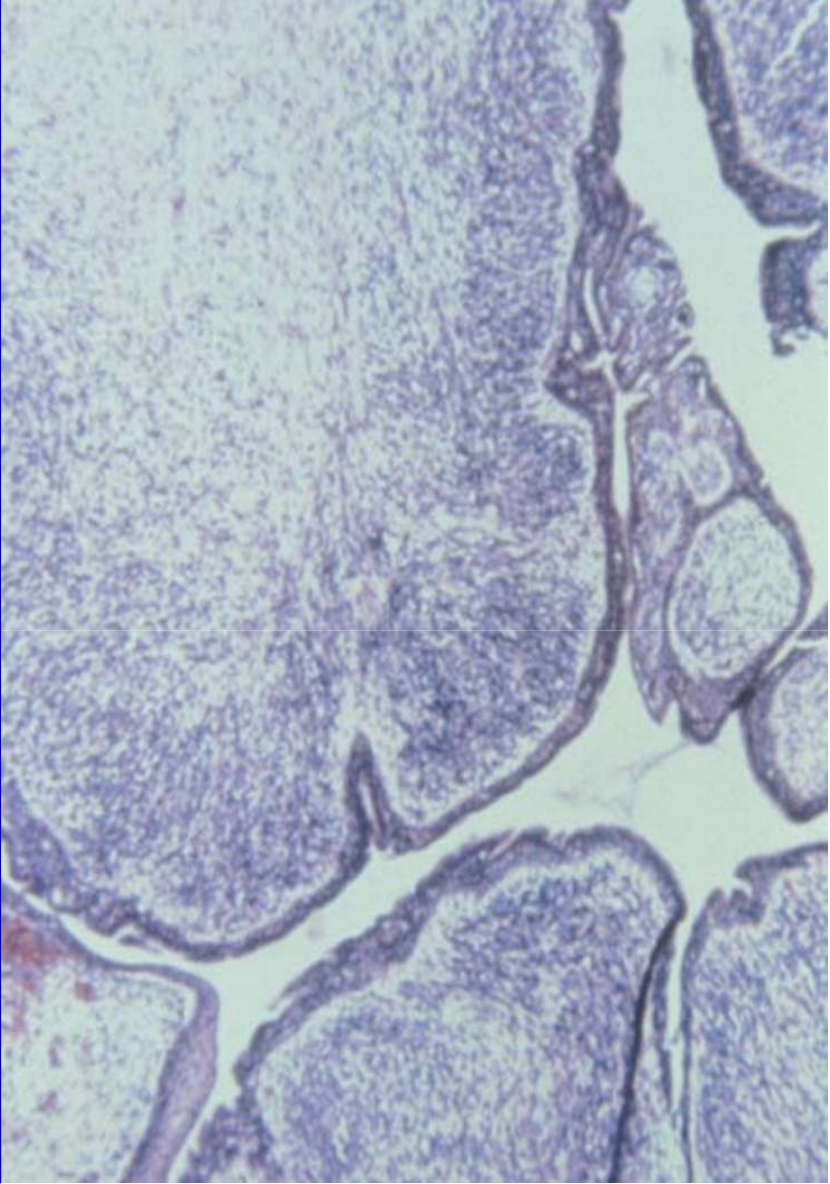
RMS in Tumor  
predisposition  
syndromes

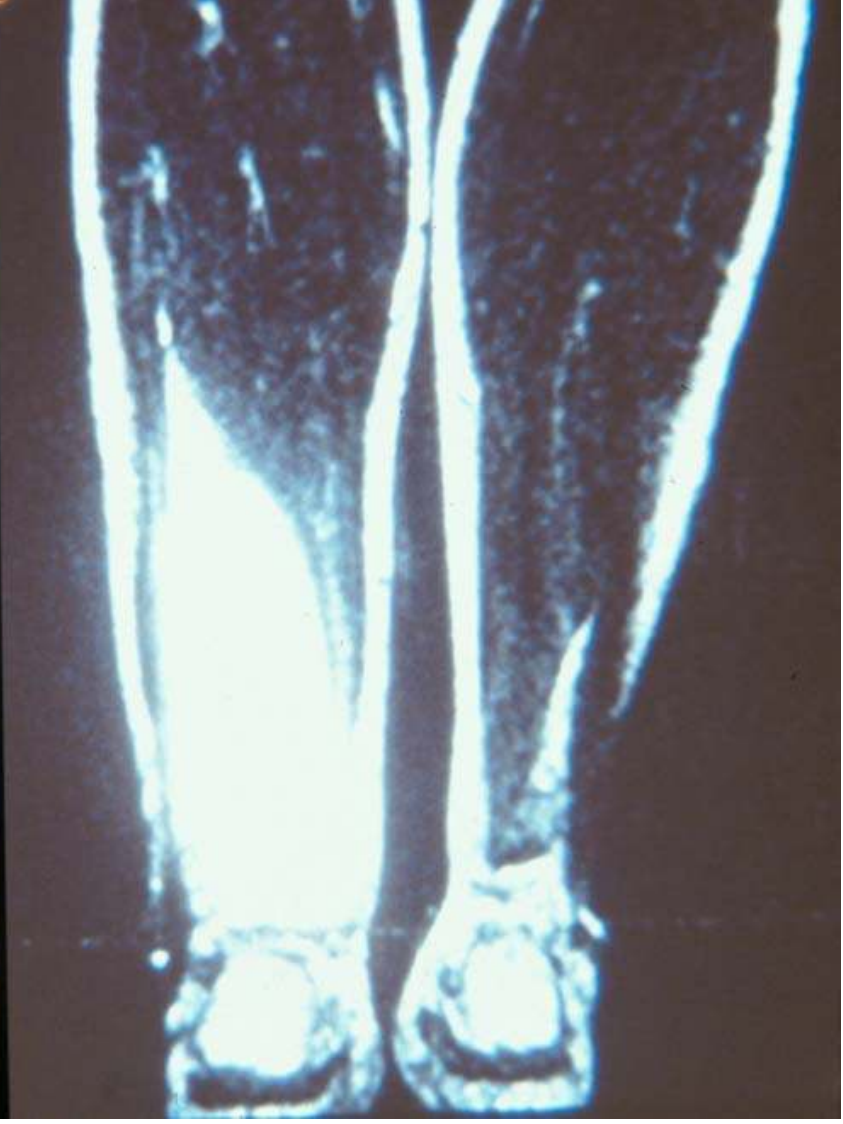




ERMS

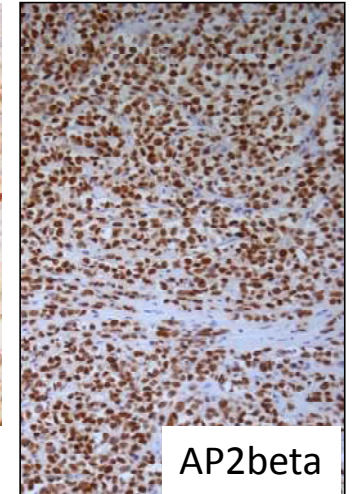
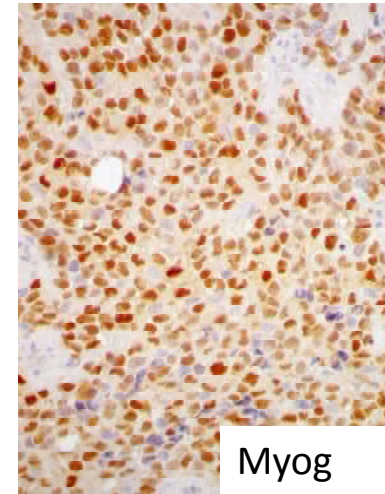
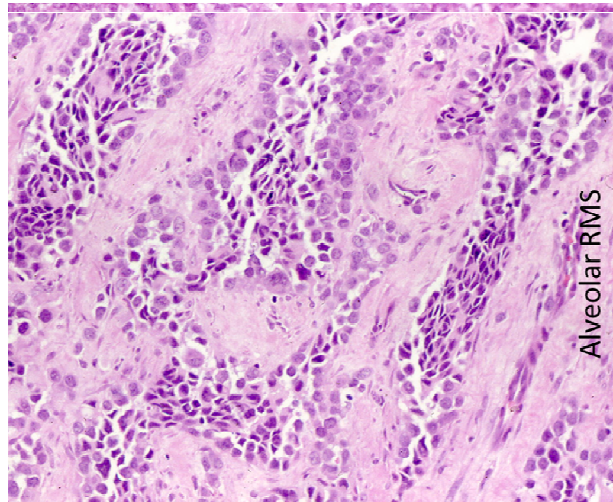
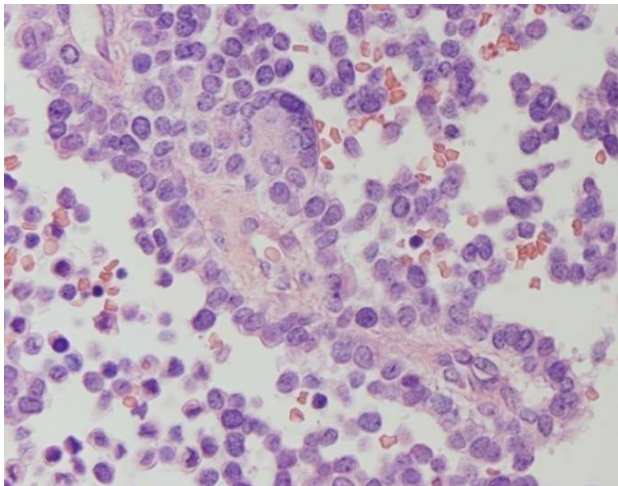






# Alveolar Rhabdomyosarcoma

HISTOLOGY	Age (yr)	Site	Prognosis	FUSIONS
ARMS	6.8-9	extremities, paraspinal, perineal, breast	Unfavorable	PAX3/7-FOXO1



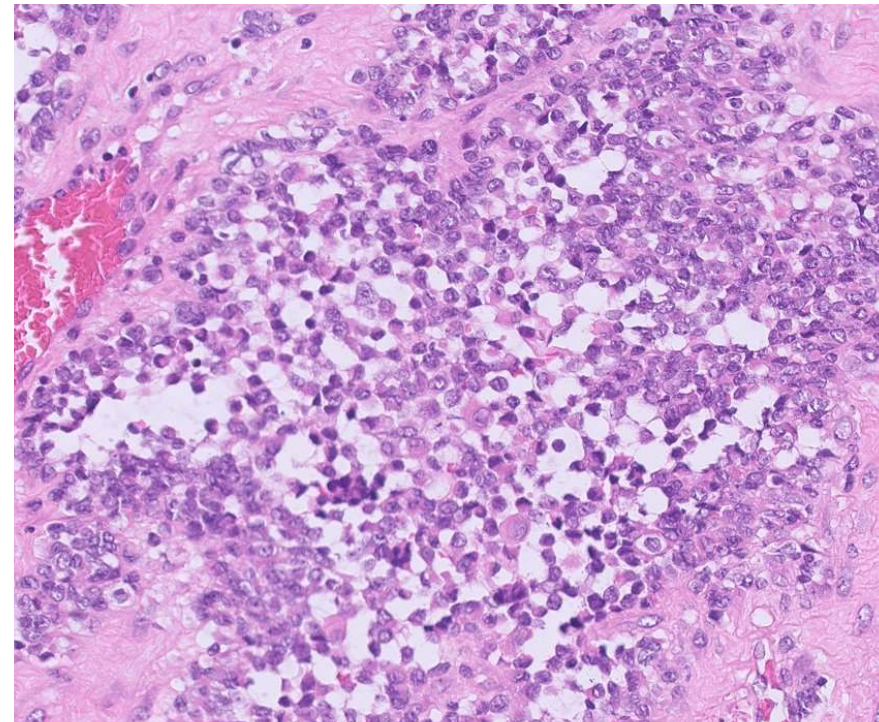
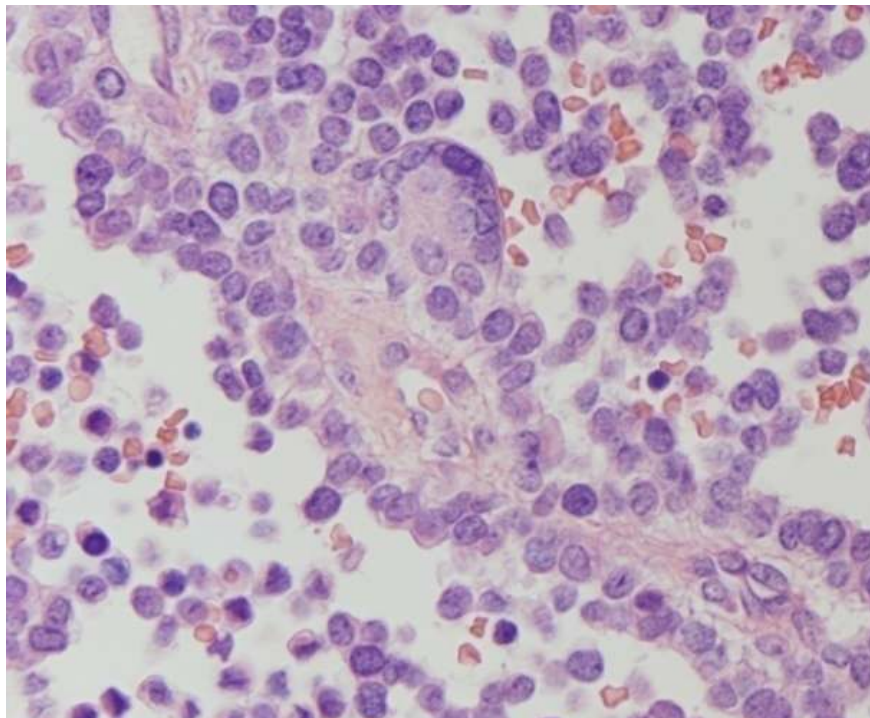
## Alveolar Rhabdomyosarcoma: histological Features

General Features

Classification

Histotypes

RMS in Tumor  
predisposition  
syndromes



# Spindle/Sclerosing RMS: Histology

General Features

Classification

Histotypes

RMS in Tumor predisposition syndromes

Age (yr)	Site	Prognosis	FUSIONS
Infantile (1)	back	Favorable	NCOA2, VGLL2 fusions
Older children, adults (2,3)	head and neck, trunk and extremities	poor	MyoD1 mut ((L122R) *)
Older children, adults	Bone, facial bones	poor	<i>FUS/EWSR1::TFCP2</i>

\*Associated alterations of PIK3CA (53%); deep deletions in CDKN2A (24%).

## Genomic Classification and Clinical Outcome in Rhabdomyosarcoma: A Report From an International Consortium

Jack F. Shern, MD<sup>1,2</sup>; Joanna Seife, PhD<sup>3</sup>; Elisa Izquierdo, MD<sup>4</sup>; Rajesh Patidar, MS<sup>5</sup>; Hsien-Chao Chou, PhD<sup>6</sup>; Young K. Song, PhD<sup>7</sup>; Marielle E. Yohs, MD, PhD<sup>8</sup>; Sivasith Sindriri, MS<sup>9</sup>; Jun Wei, PhD<sup>10</sup>; Xinyu Wen, MS<sup>11</sup>; Erin R. Rudzinski, MD<sup>12</sup>; Donald A. Barkauskas, PhD<sup>13</sup>; Tammy Lo, MPH<sup>14</sup>; David Hall, MS<sup>15</sup>; Corinne M. Linardic, MD, PhD<sup>16</sup>; Debbie Hughes, PhD<sup>17</sup>; Sabri Jamal, MS<sup>18</sup>; Meriel Jenney, MD<sup>19</sup>; Julia Chhabra, MD<sup>20</sup>; Rebecca Brown, MD<sup>21,22</sup>; Kristine Jones, PhD<sup>23</sup>; Bethinda Hicks, PhD<sup>24</sup>; Paola Angelini, MD<sup>25</sup>; Sally George, MD<sup>26,27</sup>; Louis Chesler, MD<sup>28</sup>; Michael Hubank, MD<sup>29</sup>; Anna Kelsey, MD<sup>30</sup>; Susanne A. Gatz, MD<sup>31</sup>; Stephen X. Skapek, MD<sup>32</sup>; Douglas S. Hawkins, MD<sup>33</sup>; Janet M. Shipley, PhD<sup>34</sup>; and Javed Khan, MD<sup>35</sup>

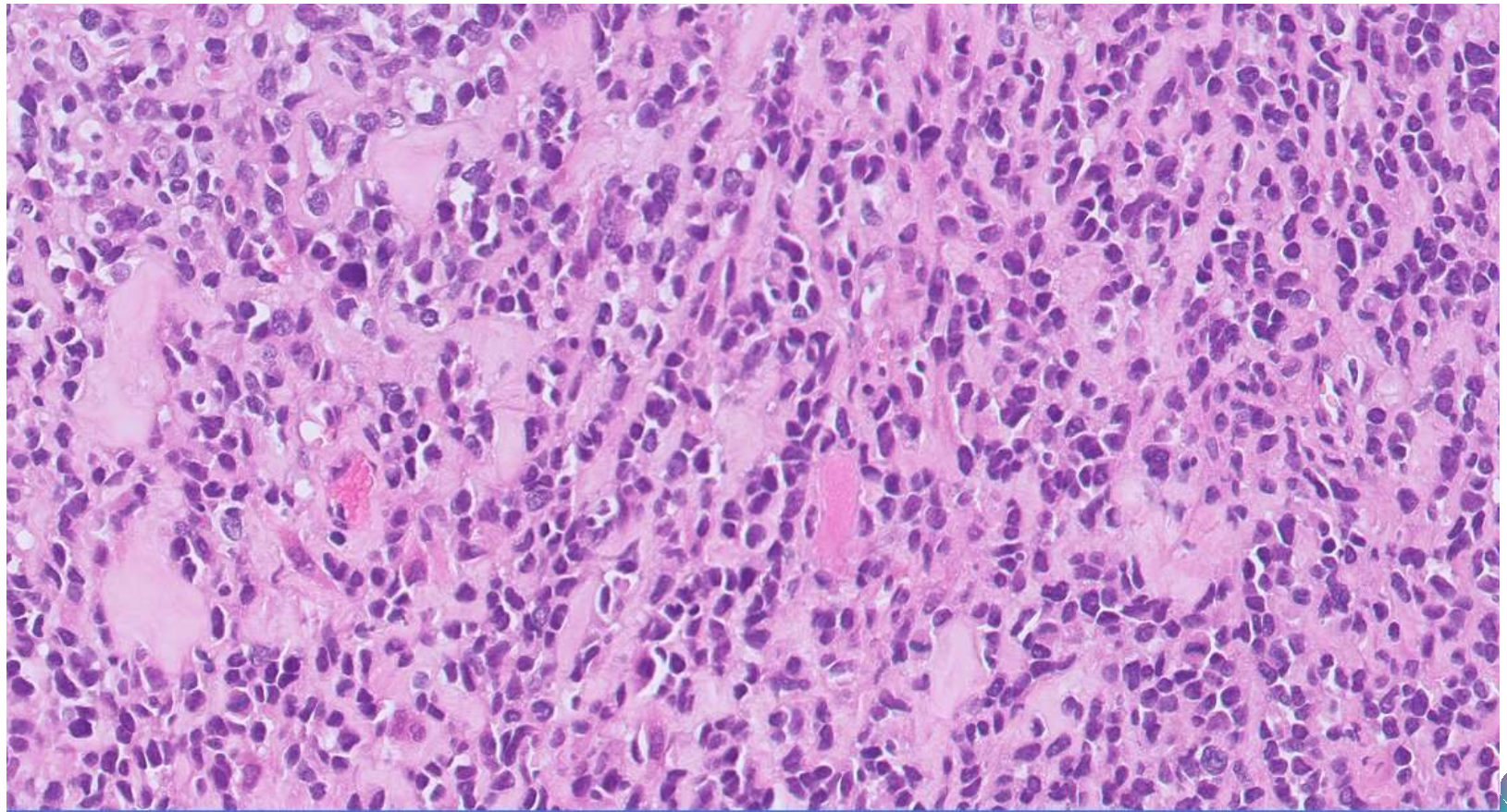
## Spindle/Sclerosing RMS: Histology

General Features

Classification

Histotypes

RMS in Tumor  
predisposition  
syndromes



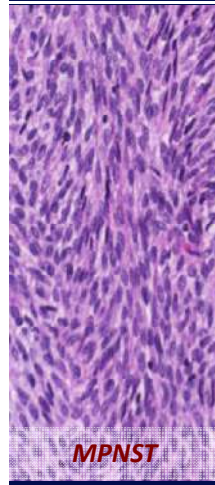
F, Abdominal Mass 14 yr: Sclerosing RMS with MyoD1 mut



## Peripheral nerve sheath tumours

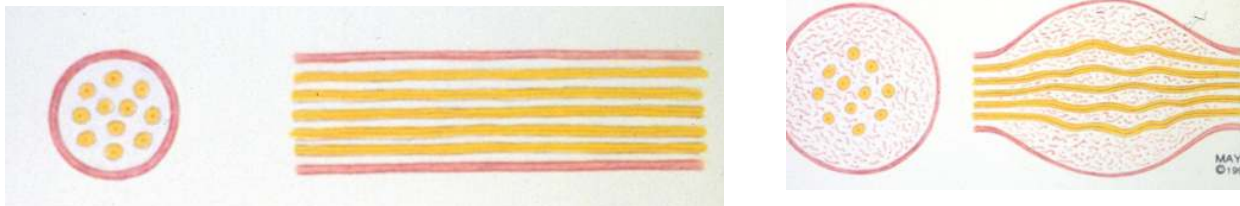
- Schwannoma
- Neurofibroma
- Perineurioma
- Granular cell tumour
- Dermal nerve sheath myxoma
- Solitary circumscribed neuroma
- Ectopic meningioma and meningotheial hamartoma
- Benign triton tumour / neuromuscular choristoma
- Hybrid nerve sheath tumour
- Malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumour
- Malignant melanotic nerve sheath tumour

## Peripheral nerve sheath



## NEUROFIBROMA

Benign peripheral nerve sheath tumor consisting of differentiated Schwann cells, perineurial-like cells, fibroblasts, mast-cells, residual myelinated and unmyelinated axons embedded in the extracellular matrix



Growth pattern: well-demarcated intraneural  
or diffuse infiltration of soft tissue at extraneural sites



## NEUROFIBROMA

### **Solitary NF**

Adulthood, broad anatomic location,  
non NF1 (deep lesions associated  
with NF1 and malignant change)

### **Multiple NF**

If associated with skin spots: NF1

### **Diffuse NF (NF1)**

1st – 3rd decades, trunk and head &  
neck, 10%, no malignant change

### **Plexiform NF (NF1)**

Children and young adults, head and  
neck, malignant change



# Neurofibromatosis

- NF1: 1/3500 newborn infants.
- Manifestations of NF1 highly variable, even in the same family:

Cafè-au-laits spots

Pigmented iris hamartoma (Lish nodules)

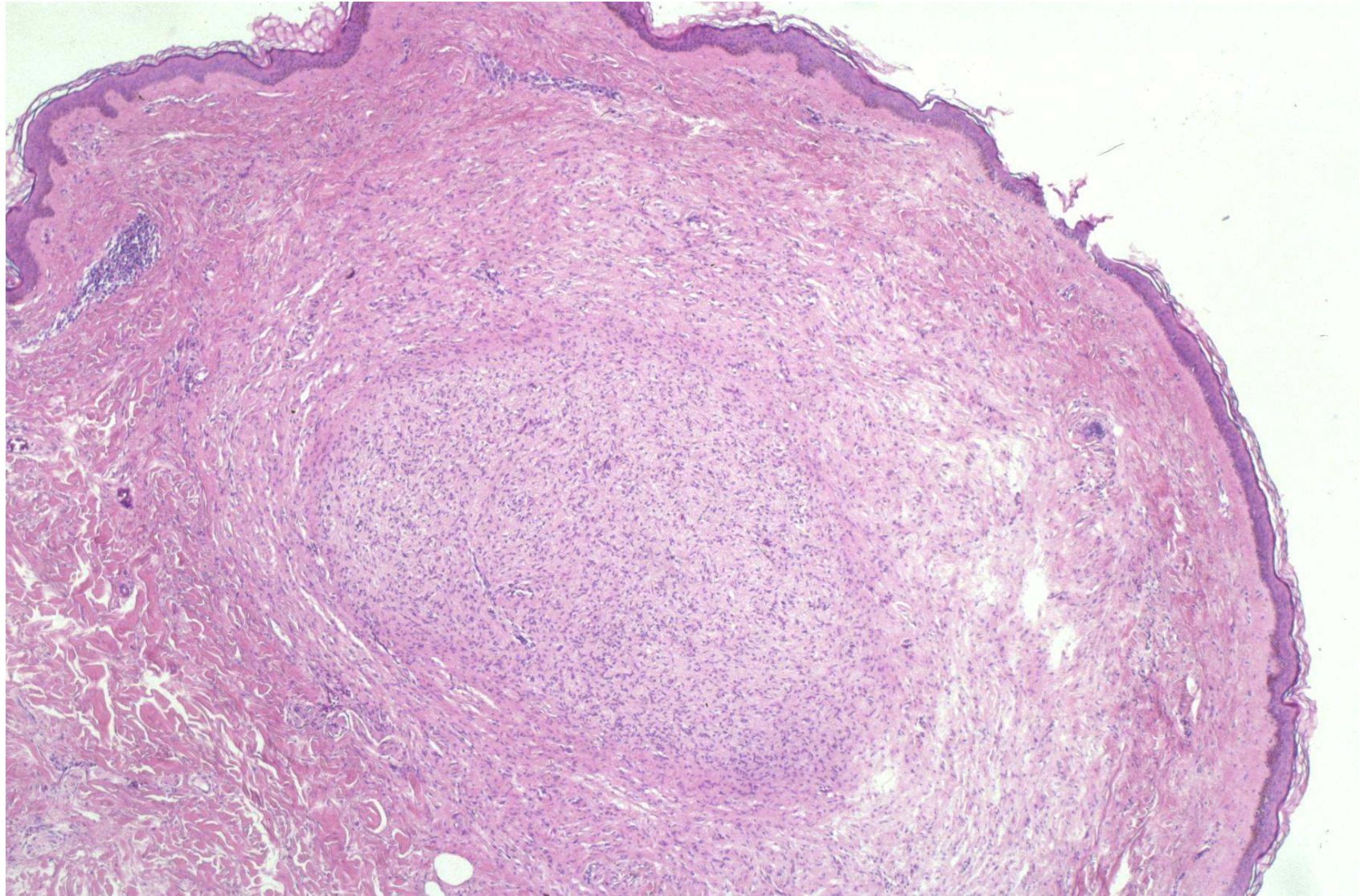
Neurofibromas (plexiform)

Gliomas

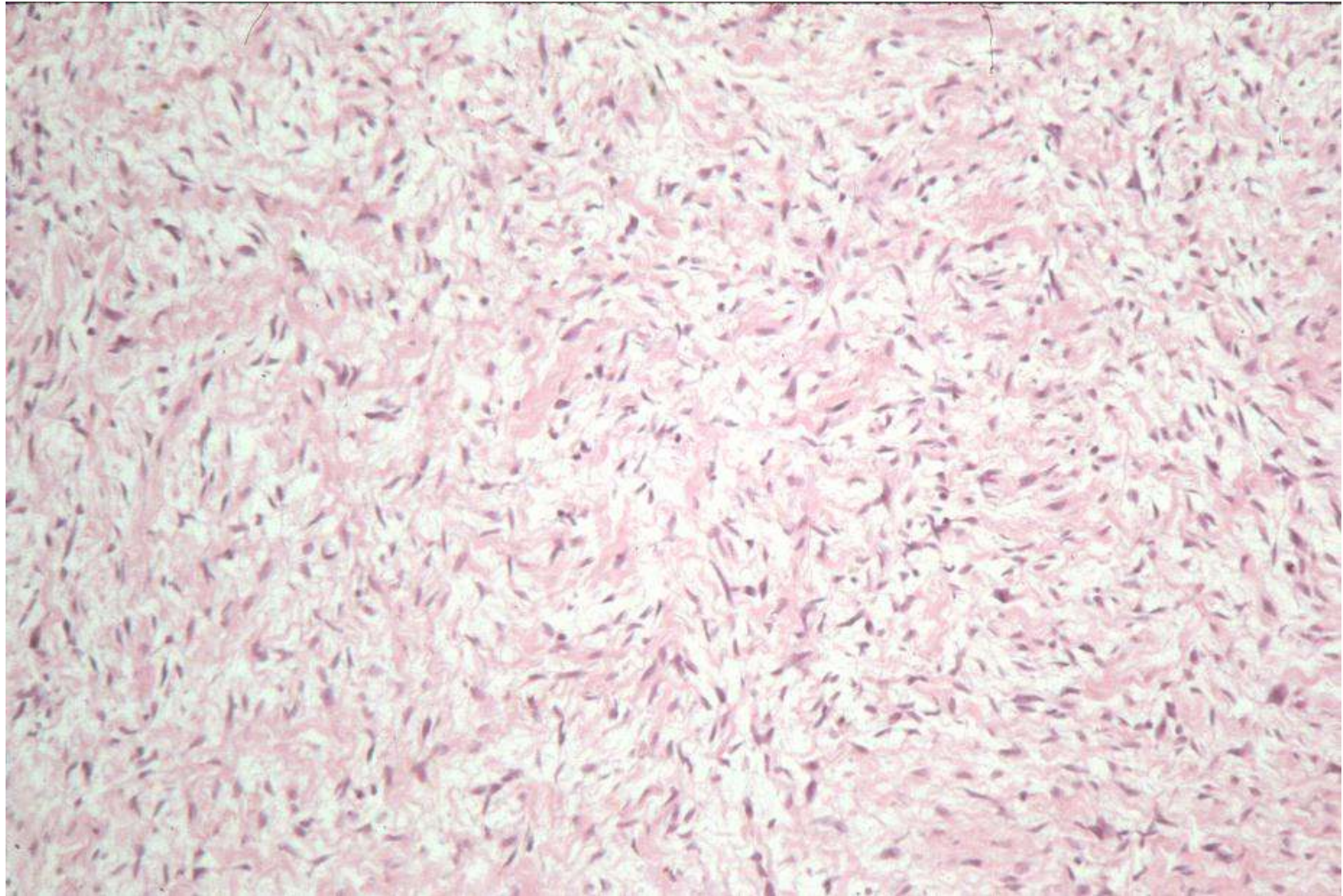
## Molecular Features

- Inactivation of one allele of neurofibromin 1 (NF1), a tumor suppressor gene (nonsense, missense or frameshift mutations, or mutations affecting RNA splicing)
- Complete deletion rare (5% of NF1)

-

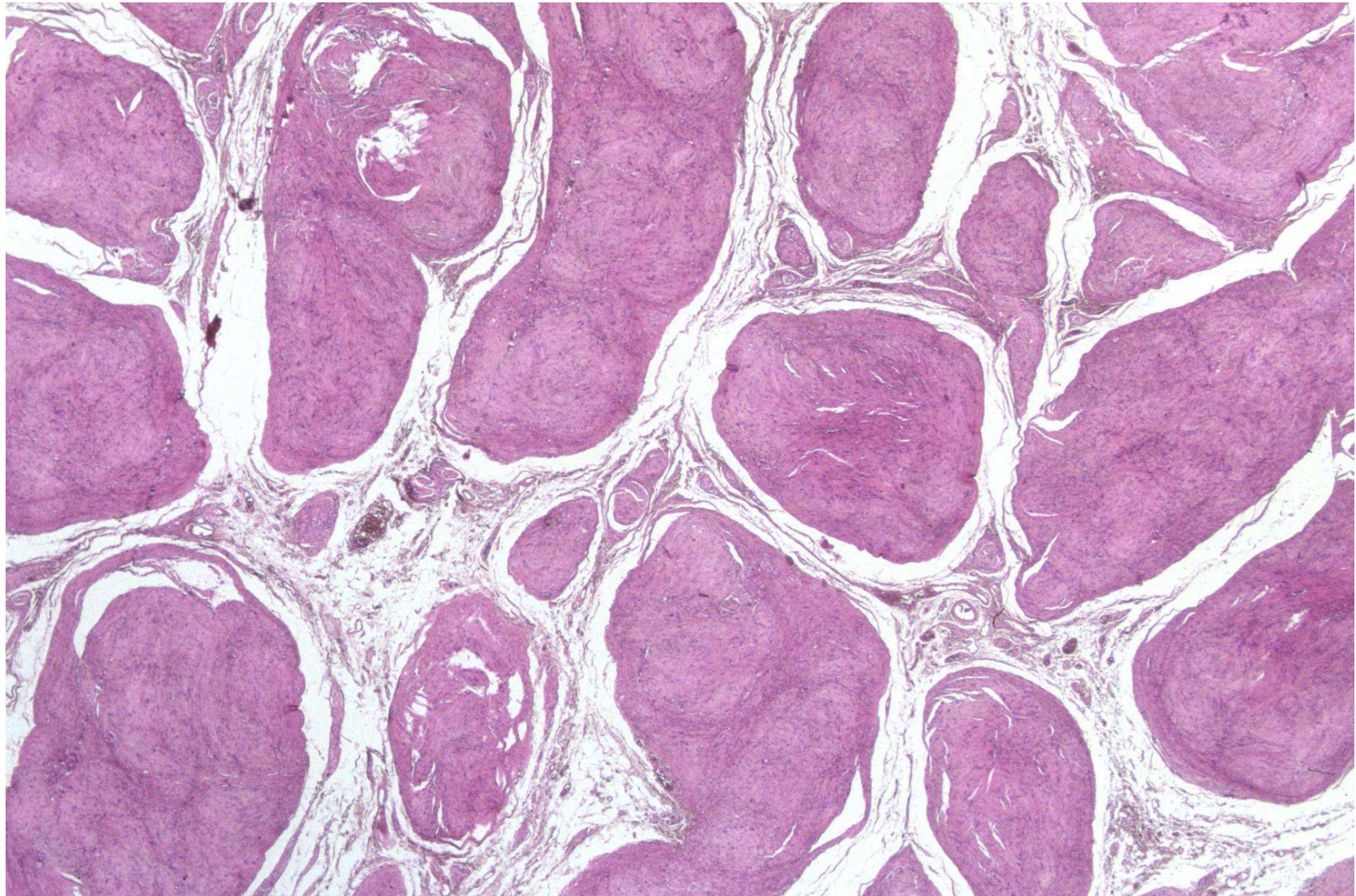


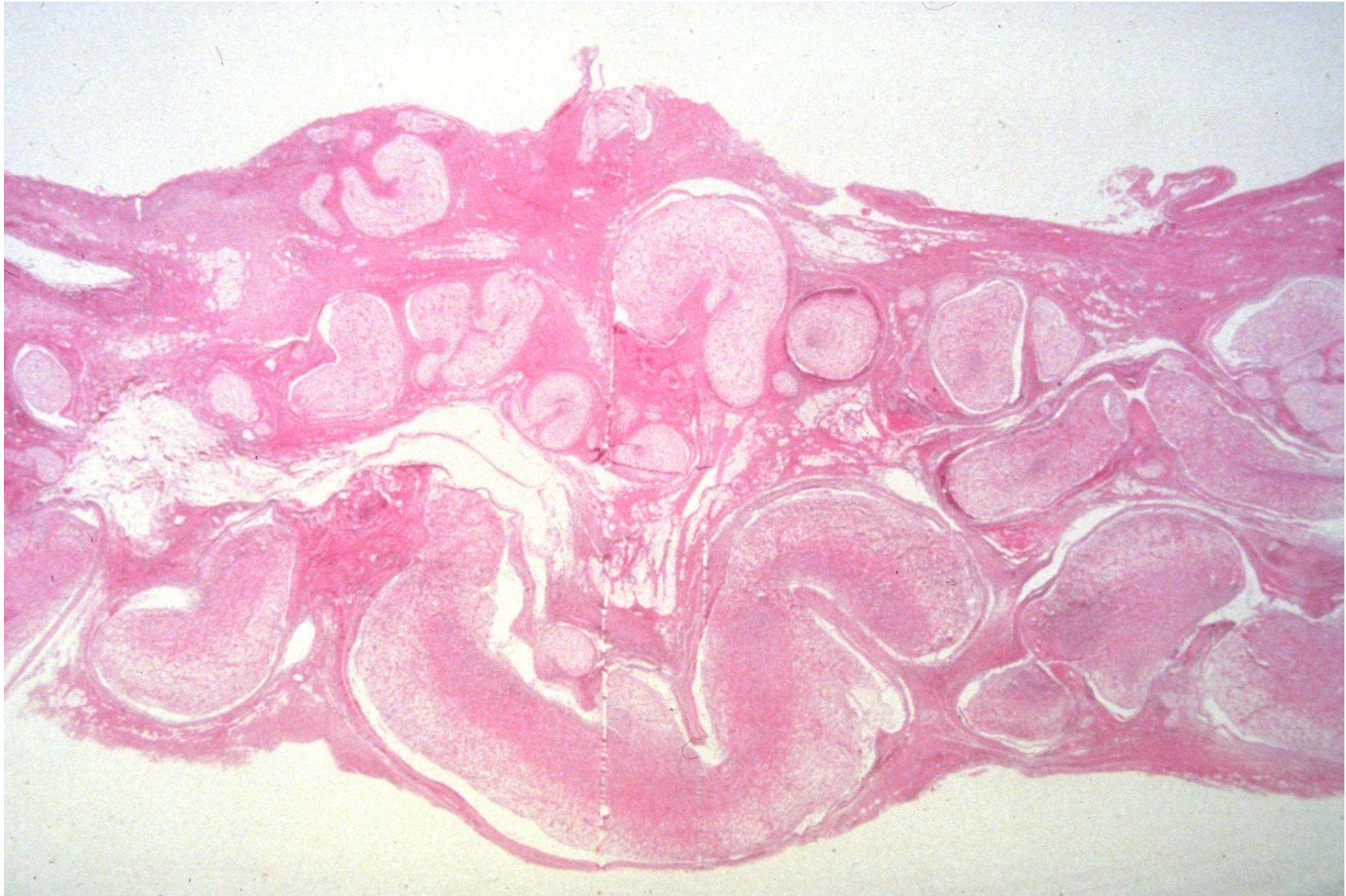
At superficial cutaneous sites, localized, pedunculated growths.





Plexiform neurofibroma in a major nerve trunk almost always associated with NF1. Generally involvement of numerous adjacent nerve fascicles or multiple components of a nerve plexus.





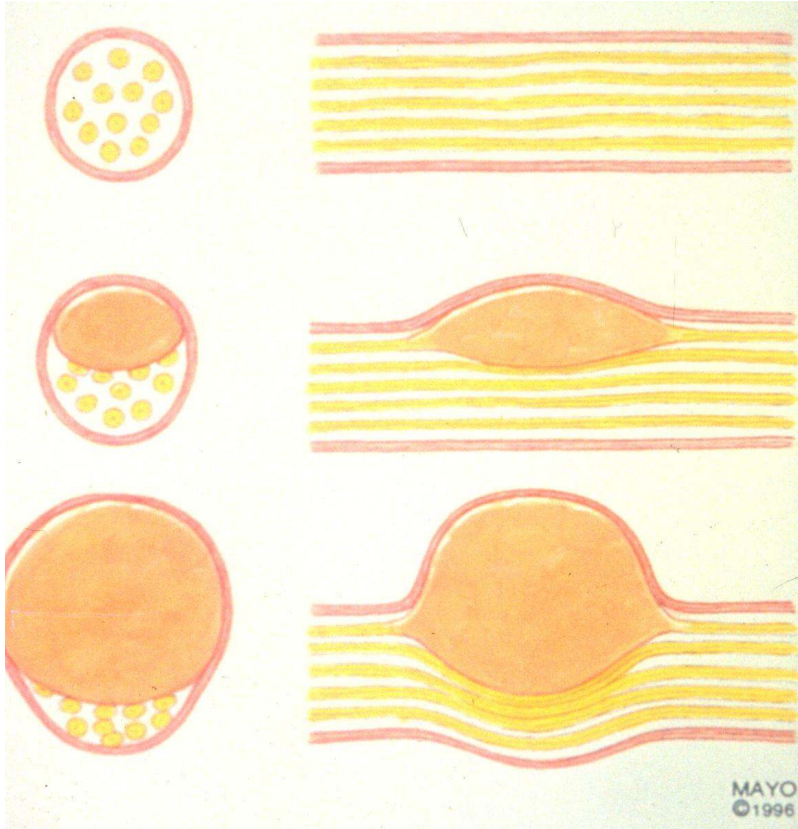
Admixture of areas resembling localized and diffuse-type neurofibromas. Plexiform neurofibroma has a potential for malignant degeneration, and

# Schwannoma

- Adulthood
- M = F
- Wide anatomic distribution
- Bilateral schwannomas of acoustic nerve = NF2 syndrome
- Malignant change exceptional



## Schwannoma

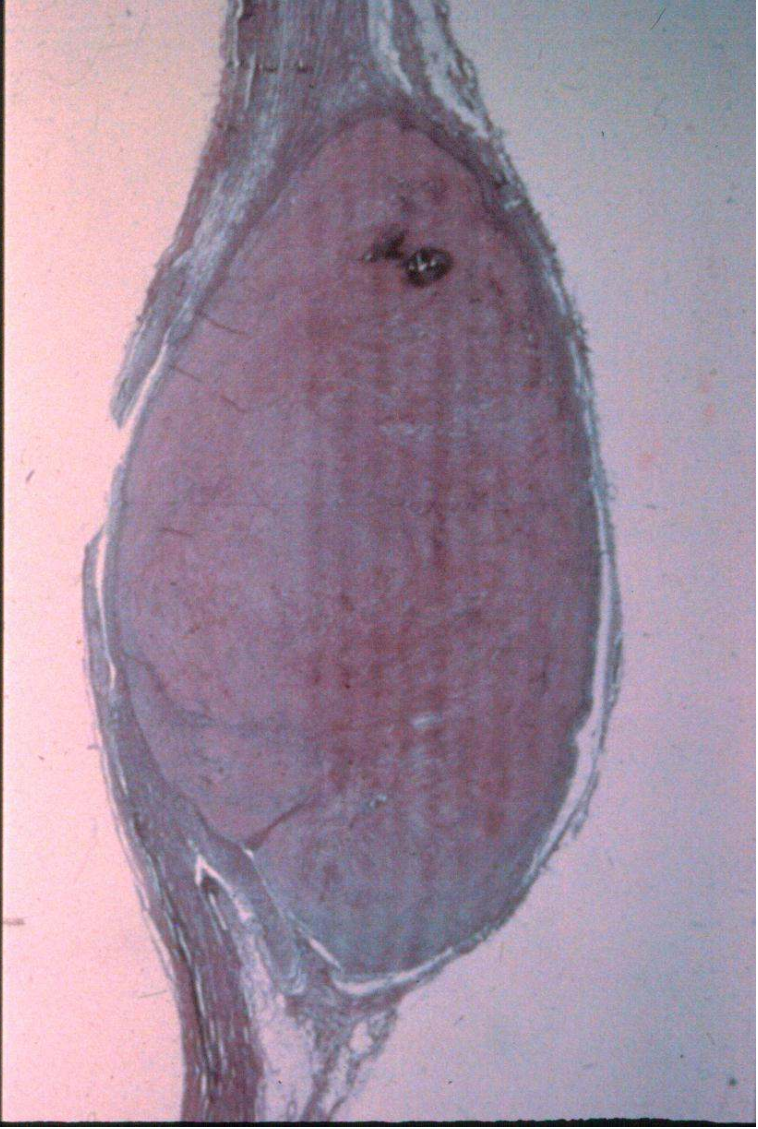
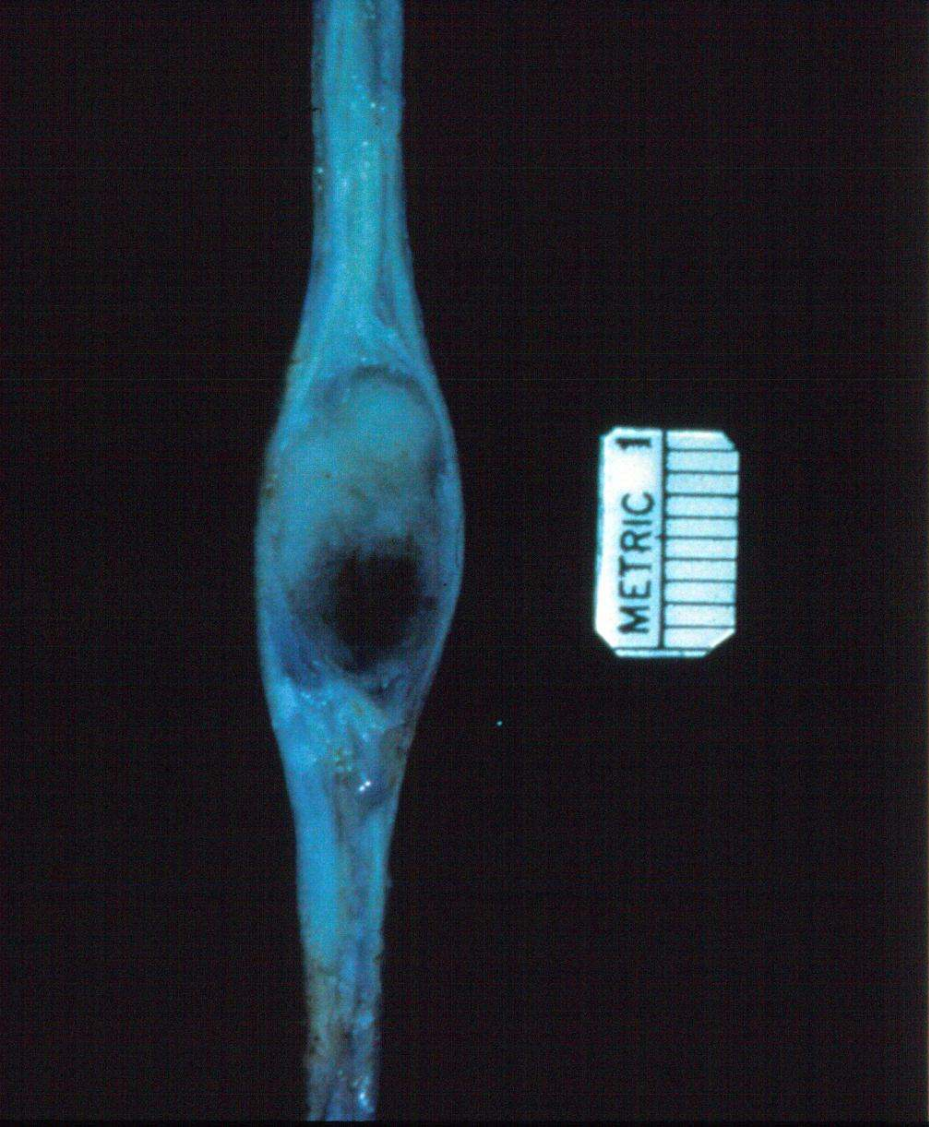


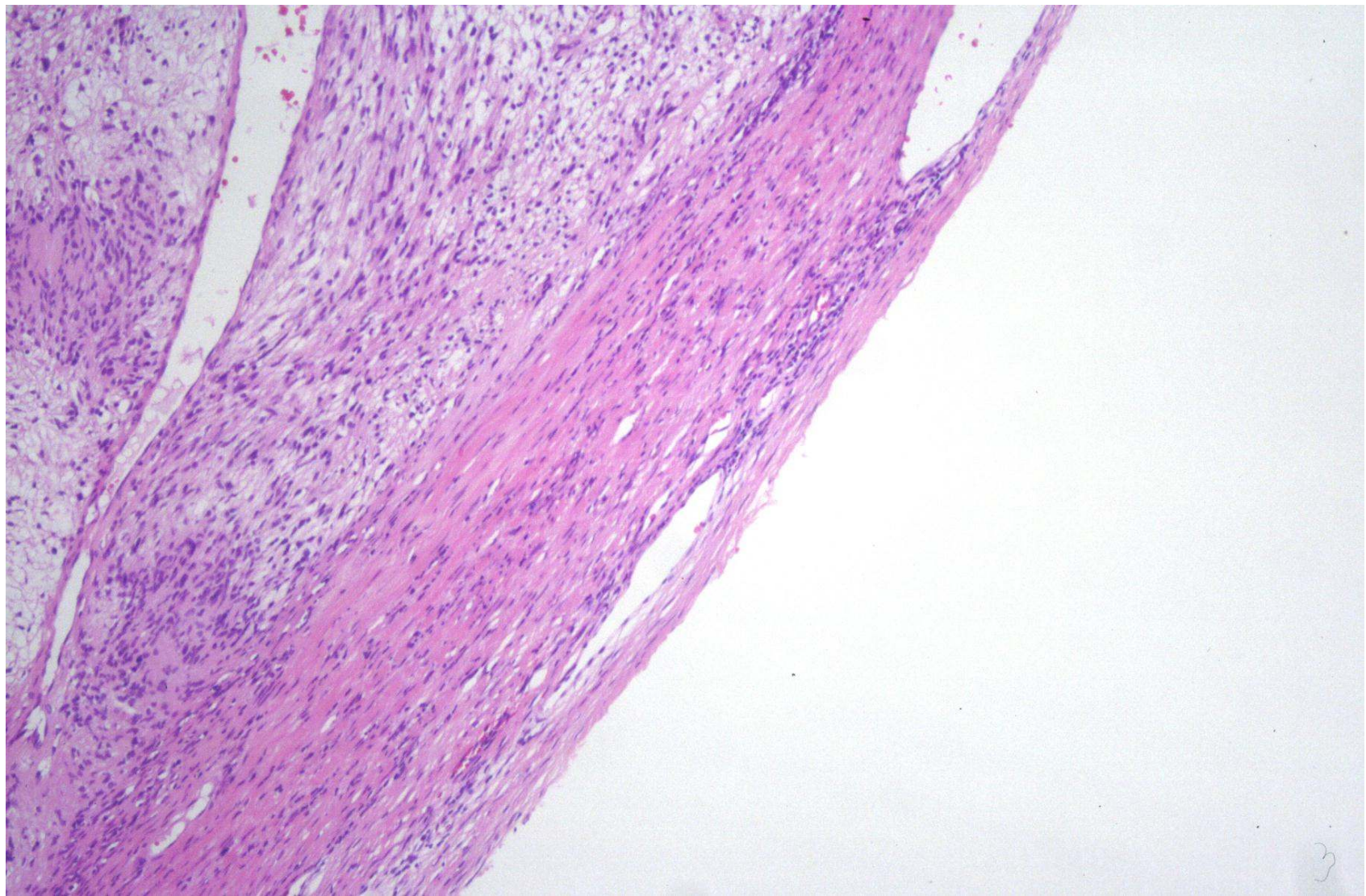
Encapsulated nerve sheath tumor, composed of well differentiated Schwann cells

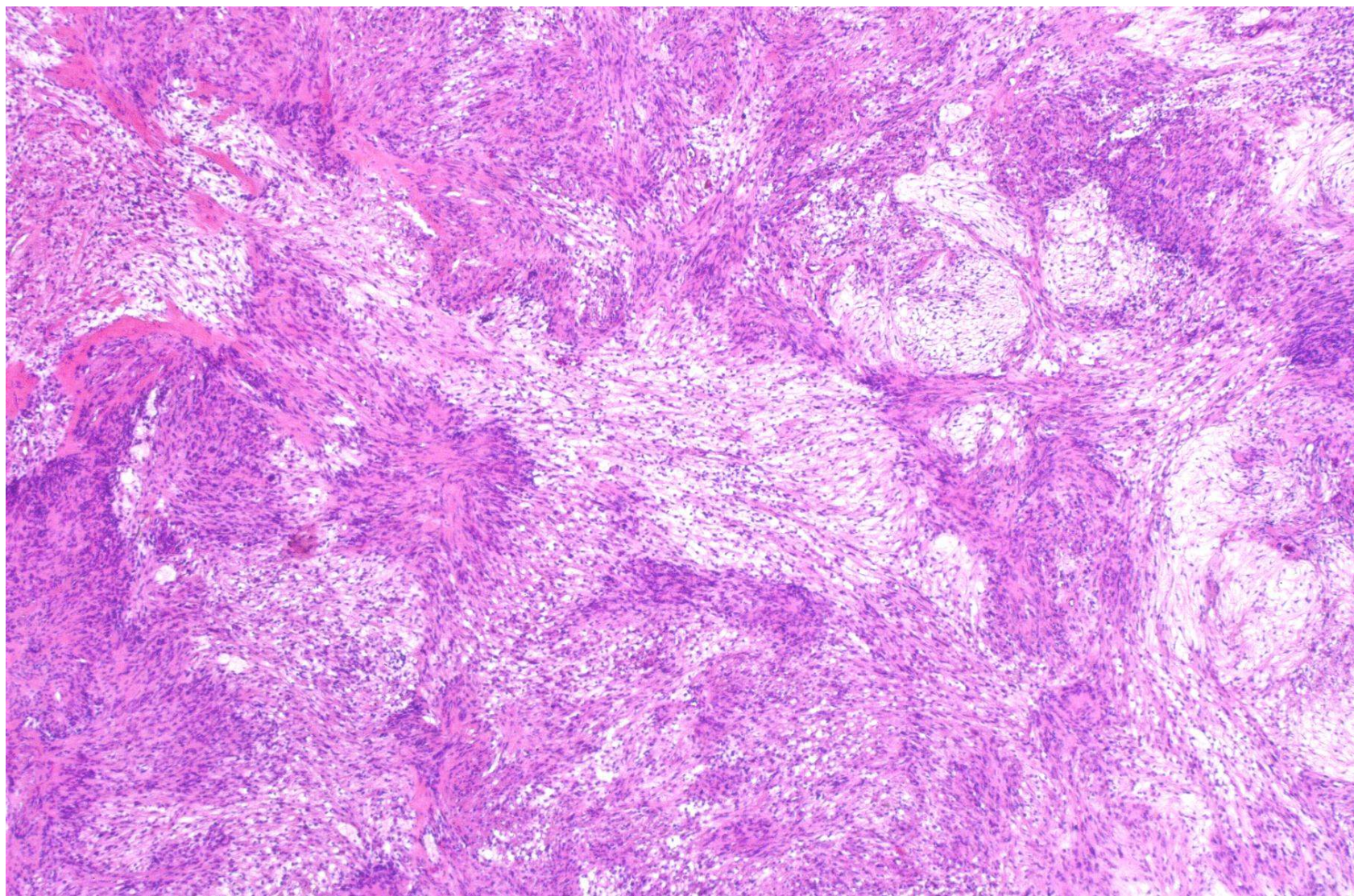
Biphasic with:

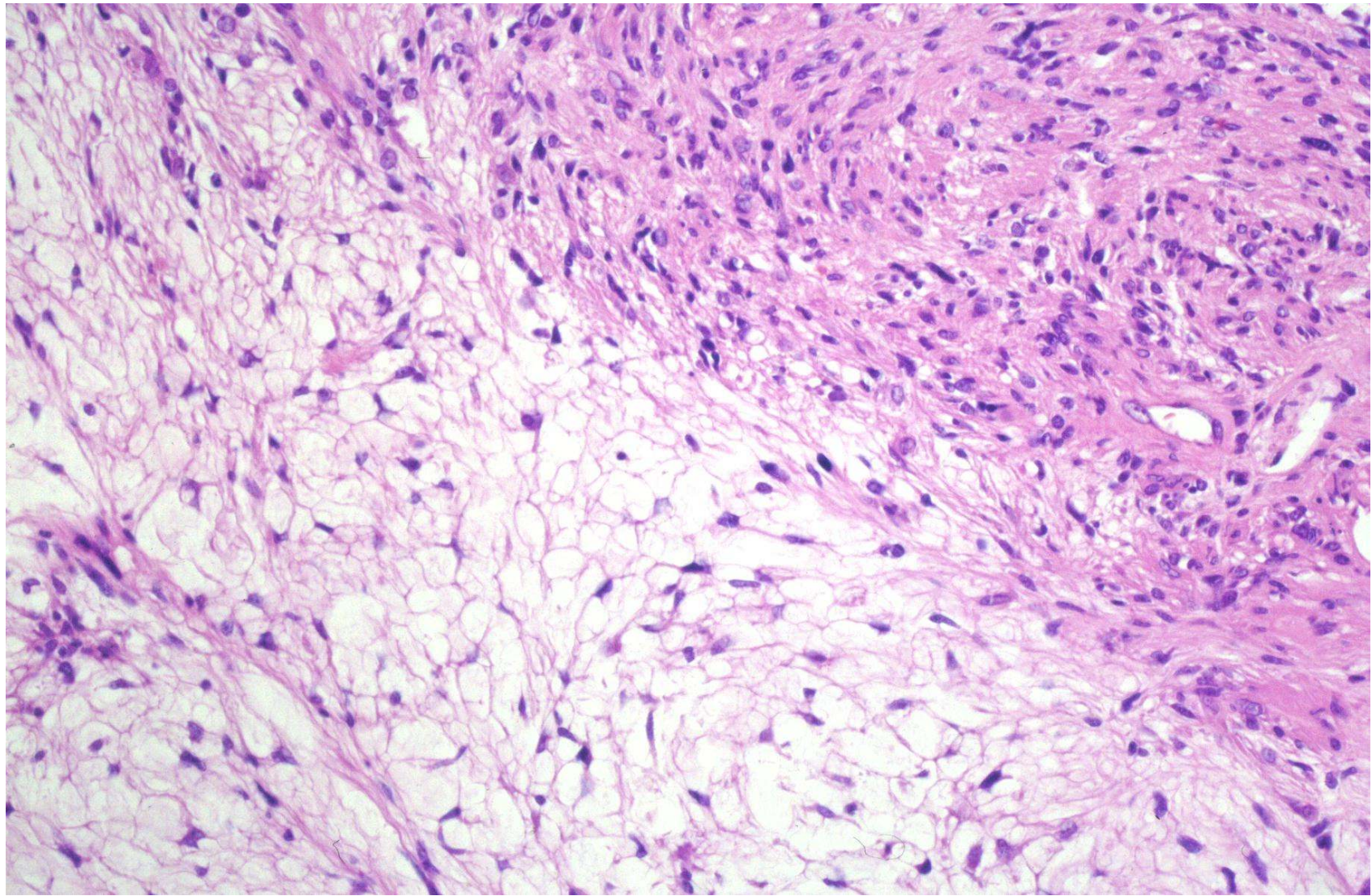
1-Compact cellular areas (Antoni A), occasional palisades (Verocay Bodies). Cytoplasmic nuclear inclusions

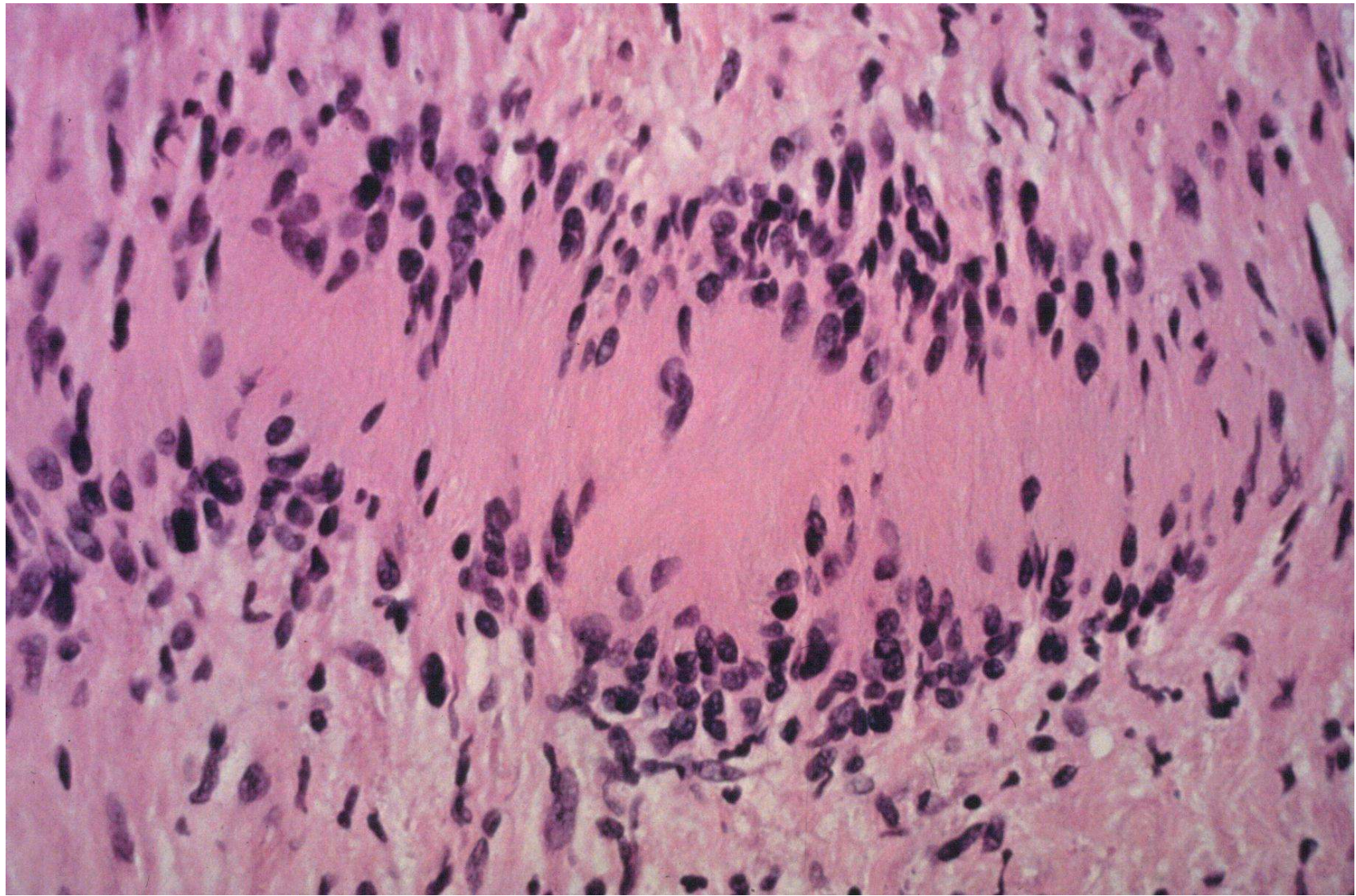
2-Hypocellular (Antoni B) areas

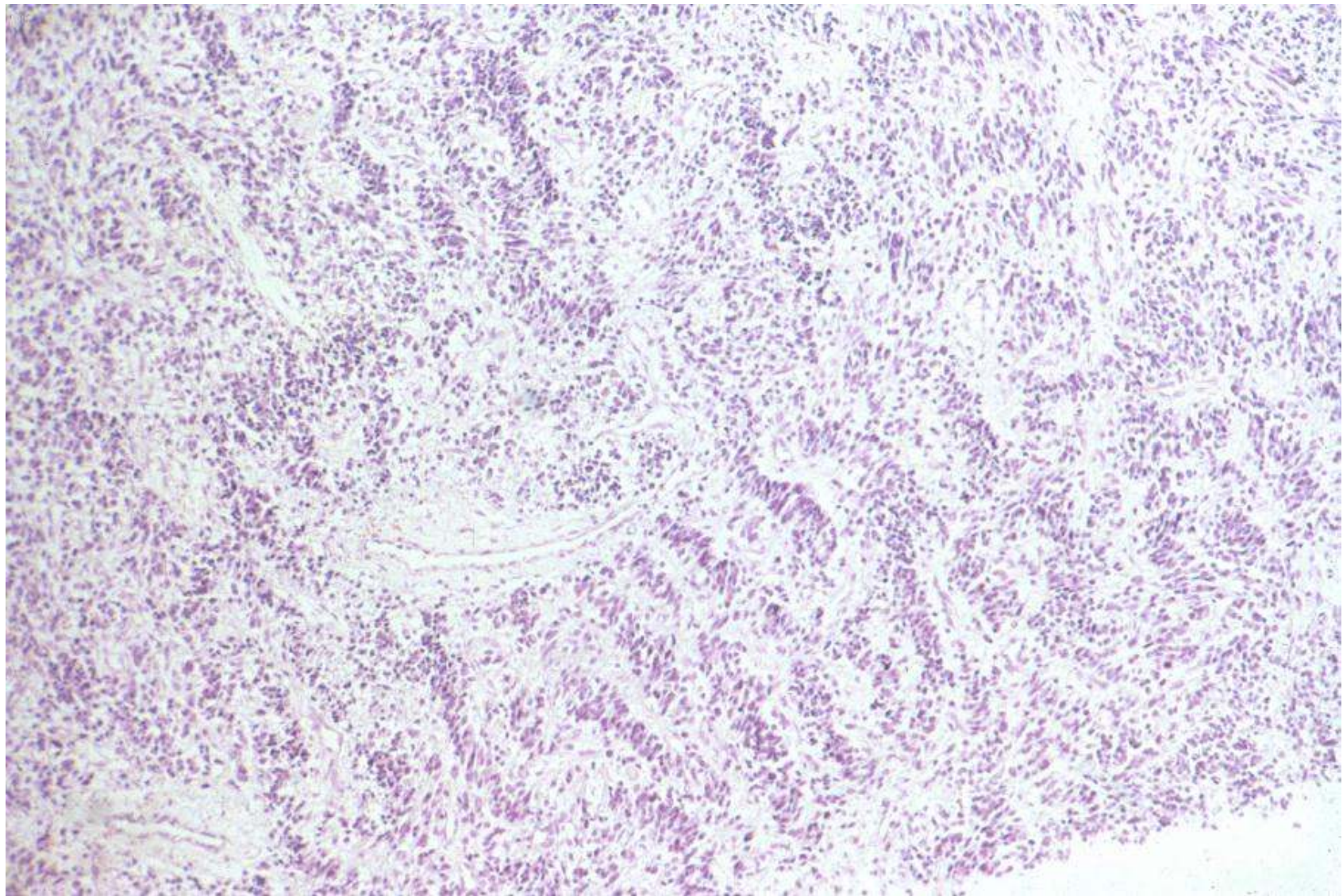






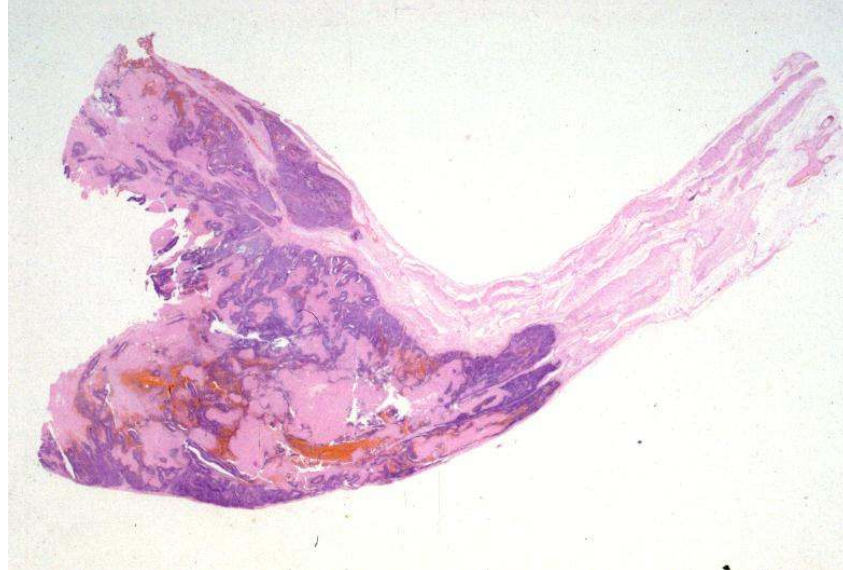






## MPNST: Definition (WHO 2022)

Malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumour (MPNST) is a spindle cell sarcoma arising from a peripheral nerve, or from a pre-existing benign nerve sheath tumour or in patients with neurofibromatosis type-1 (NF1). Outside these settings, the diagnosis is based on morphological, immunophenotypical, or molecular features suggesting Schwannian differentiation.





## MPNST: WHY A CHALLENGING DIAGNOSIS?

- The diagnosis of MPNST is not based on reproducible criteria
- NO specific morphologic features (e.g. rhabdomyoblasts or lipoblasts)
- NO highly specific and sensitive immunohistochemical markers
- NO recurrent genetic aberrations

# MPNST: Clinical Features

3% to 10% of all soft tissue sarcomas

50% in patients with neurofibromatosis type 1

10% radiation induced

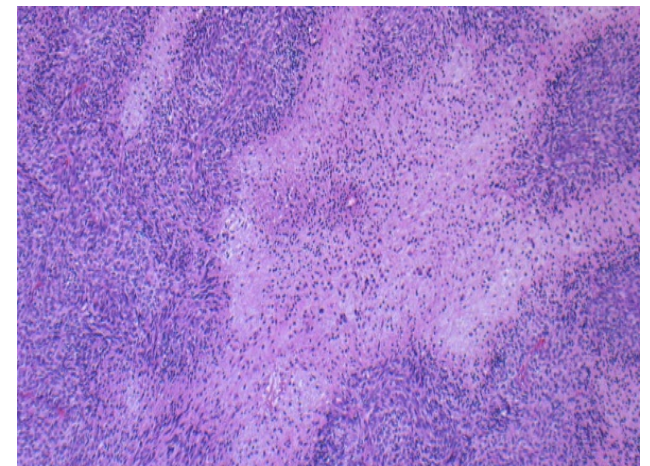
Remainders “sporadic” forms

Mean age: 30

Male/Female ratio: 1.2:1

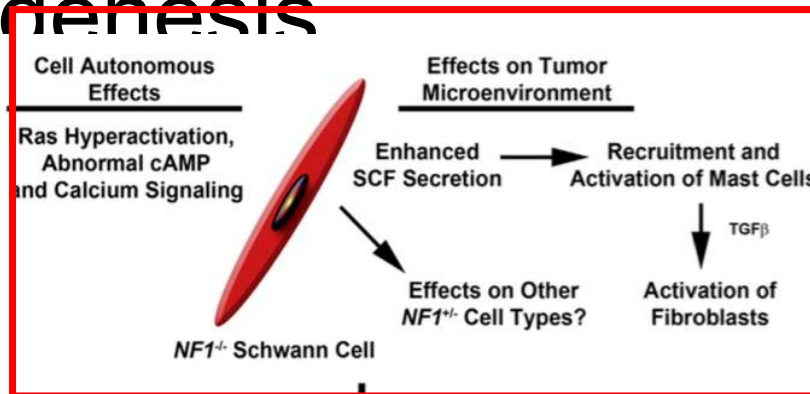
Site: trunk and extremities; less commonly MPNST affect the head and neck region

*Overall survival 5 yrs < 50%*



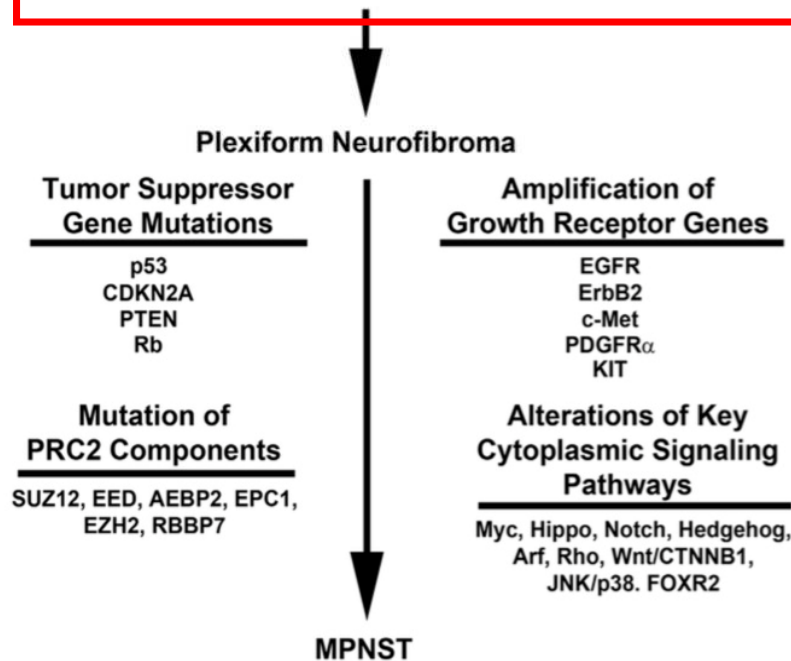
# Molecular Mechanisms in MPNST I

## genesis

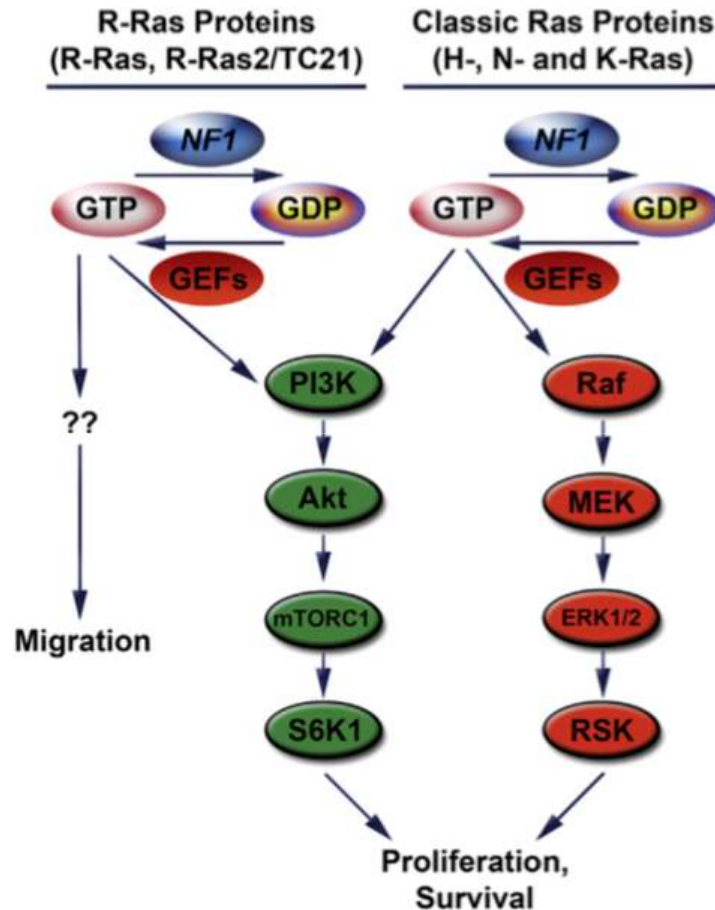


### NF1 loss: effect on Schwann cell:

Neurofibromin inactivates members of the Ras family both classic Ras (H-, N-, and K-Ras) and R-Ras (R-Ras, R-Ras2/TC21, and M-Ras) subfamilies.



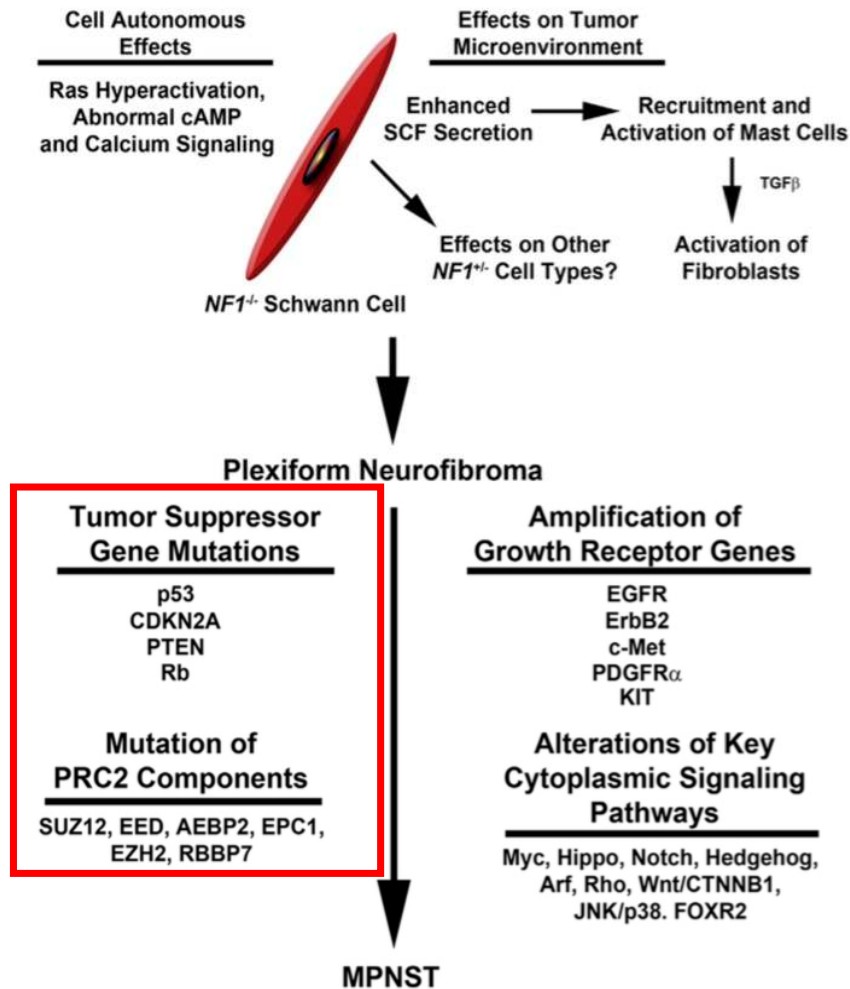
## Pathogenesis of Neurofibromas and MPNSTs



Multiple members of Classic Ras and R-Ras are simultaneously expressed and activated in MPNST.

Classic Ras and R-Ras proteins contribute to MPNST proliferation  
 Only classic Ras proteins promote the survival of MPNST, whereas R-Ras proteins drive their migration

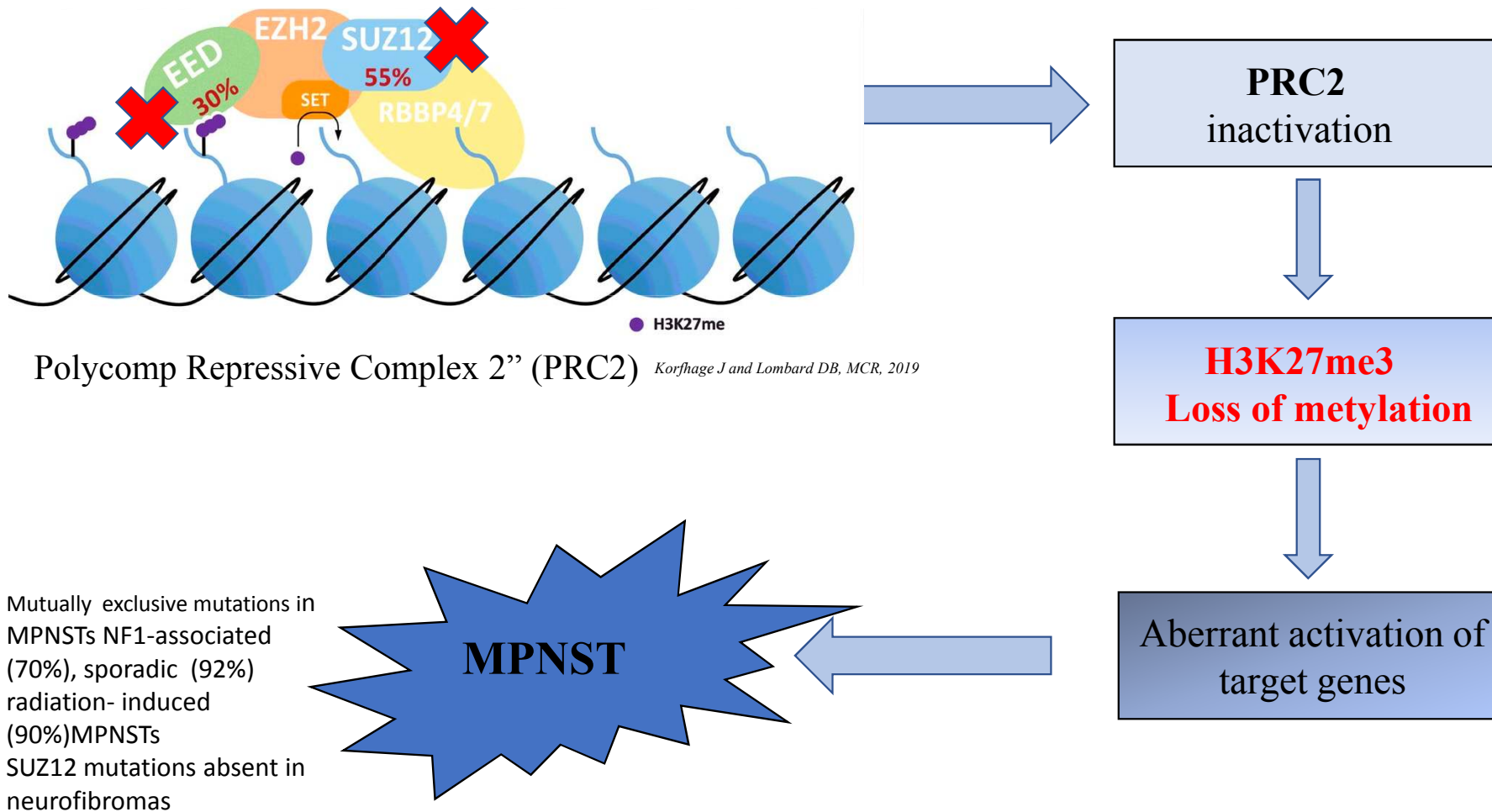
# Molecular Mechanisms in MPNST Genesis

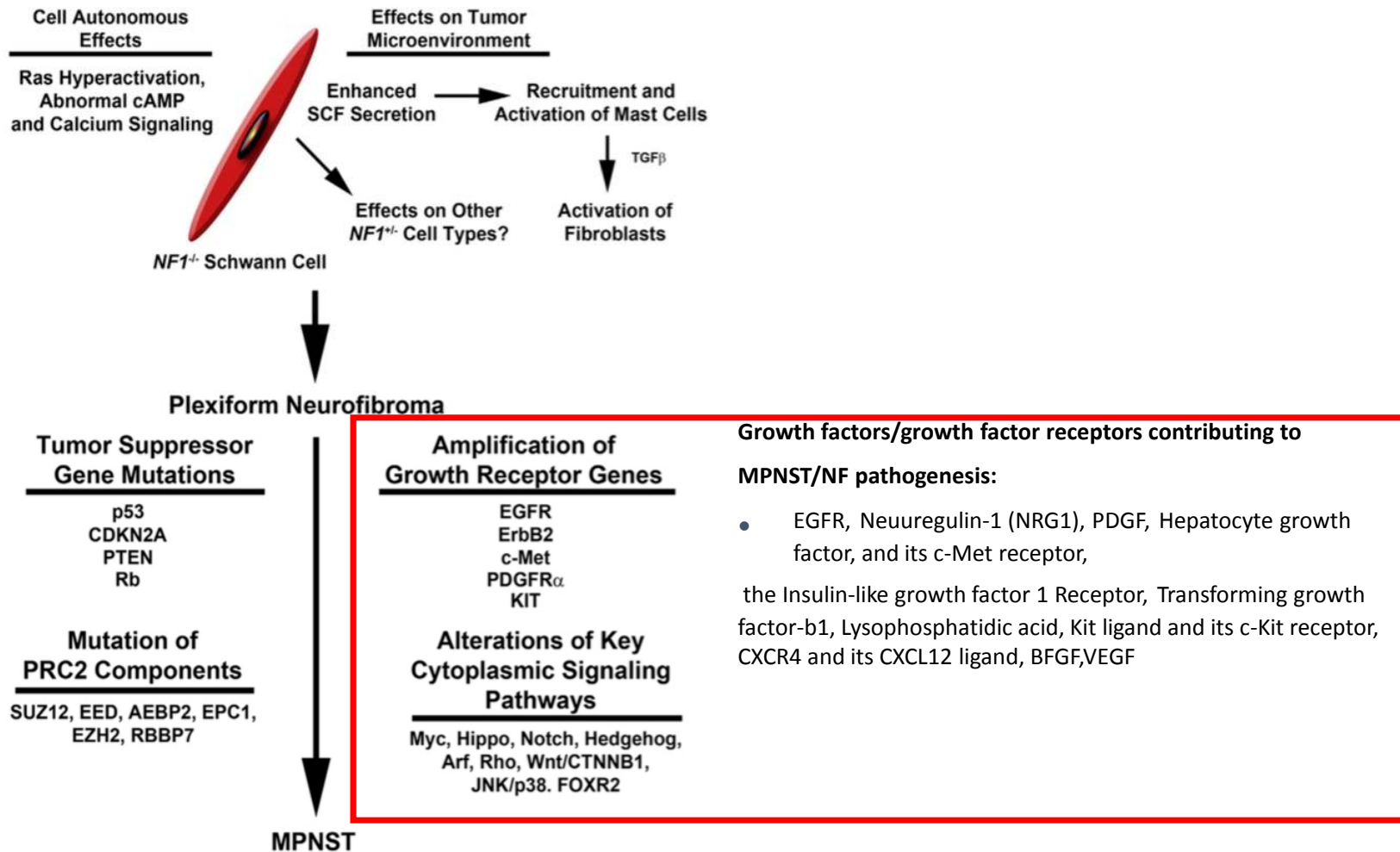


## Other genetic alterations:

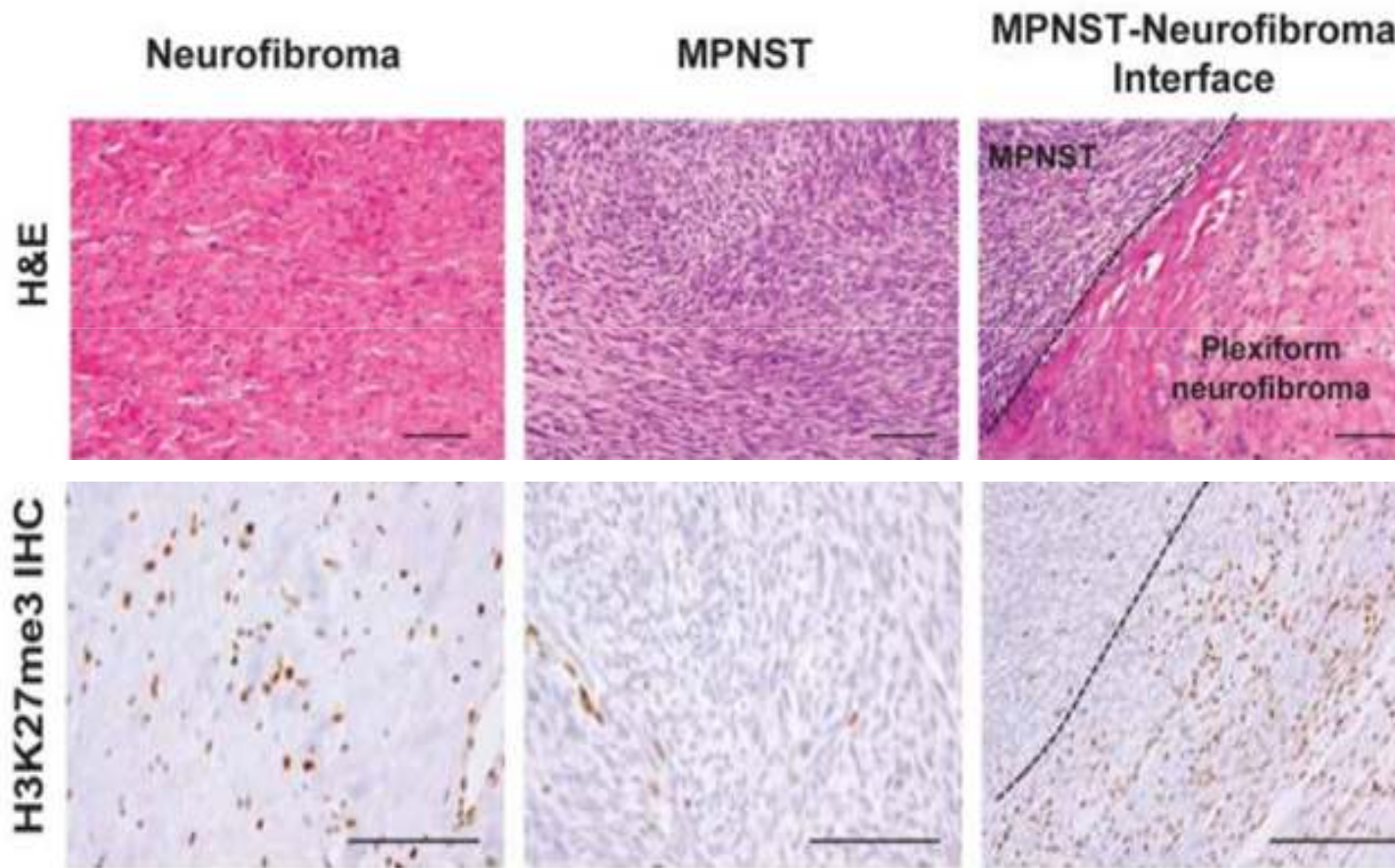
- CDKN2A mutations in up to 50% of MPNSTs. It encodes p16INK4A (which inhibits CDK4 and CDK6) and p19ARF, (that inhibits Mdm2, which tags p53 for proteasomal degradation).
- Deletions and other loss of function mutations of TP53 occur in up to 75% of MPNSTs.
- Inactivating mutations of SUZ12, a gene encoding a chromatin-modifying protein that forms part of polycomb repressive complex 2 (PRC2).

# Pathogenetic Mechanisms in MPNST





# MPNST: loss of H3K27me3: an important marker



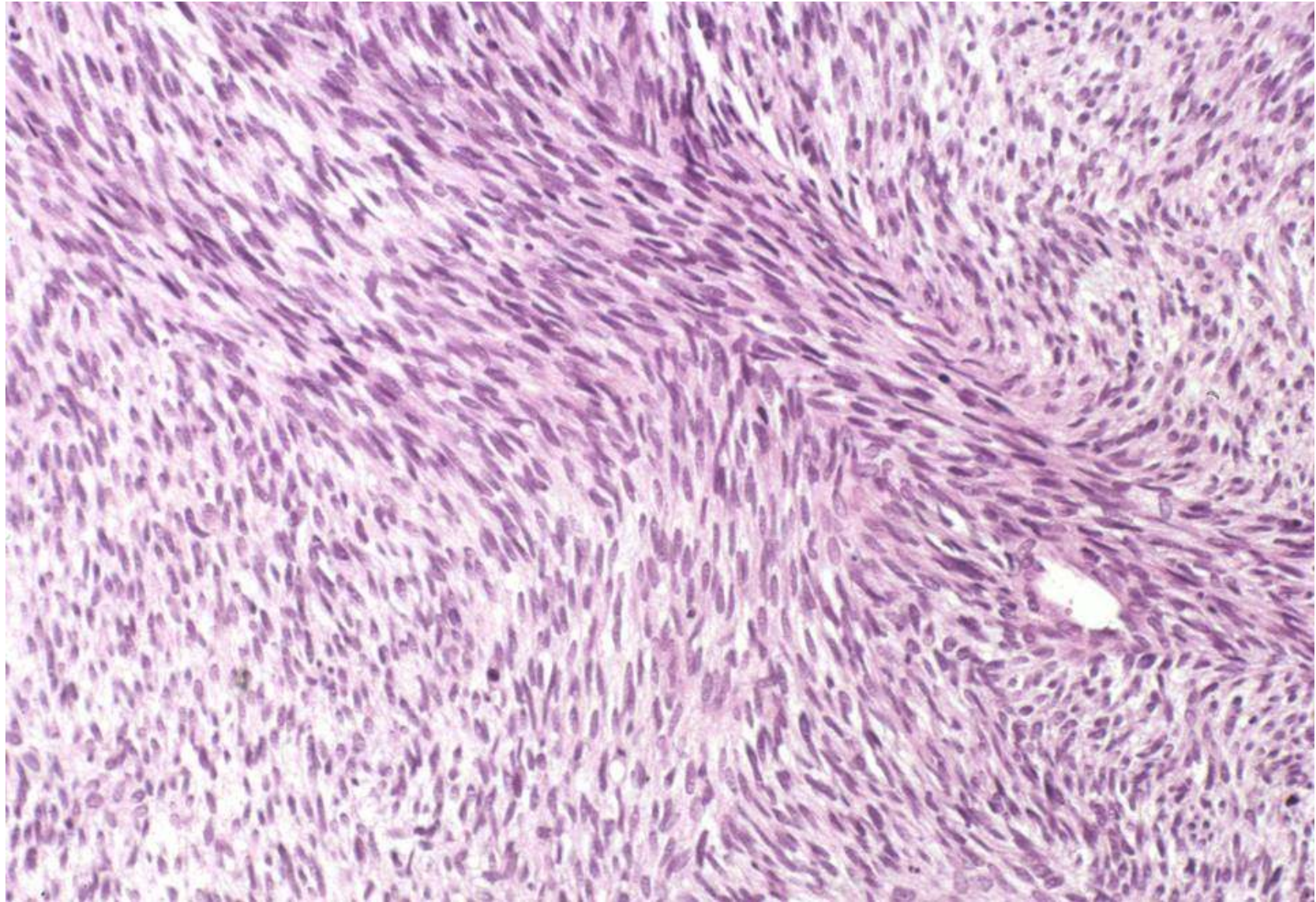
H3K27me3 lost in 34-84%

*Schaefer IM et al. Mod Pathol 2016*

*Lyskjær IJ et al. J Pathol 2020*

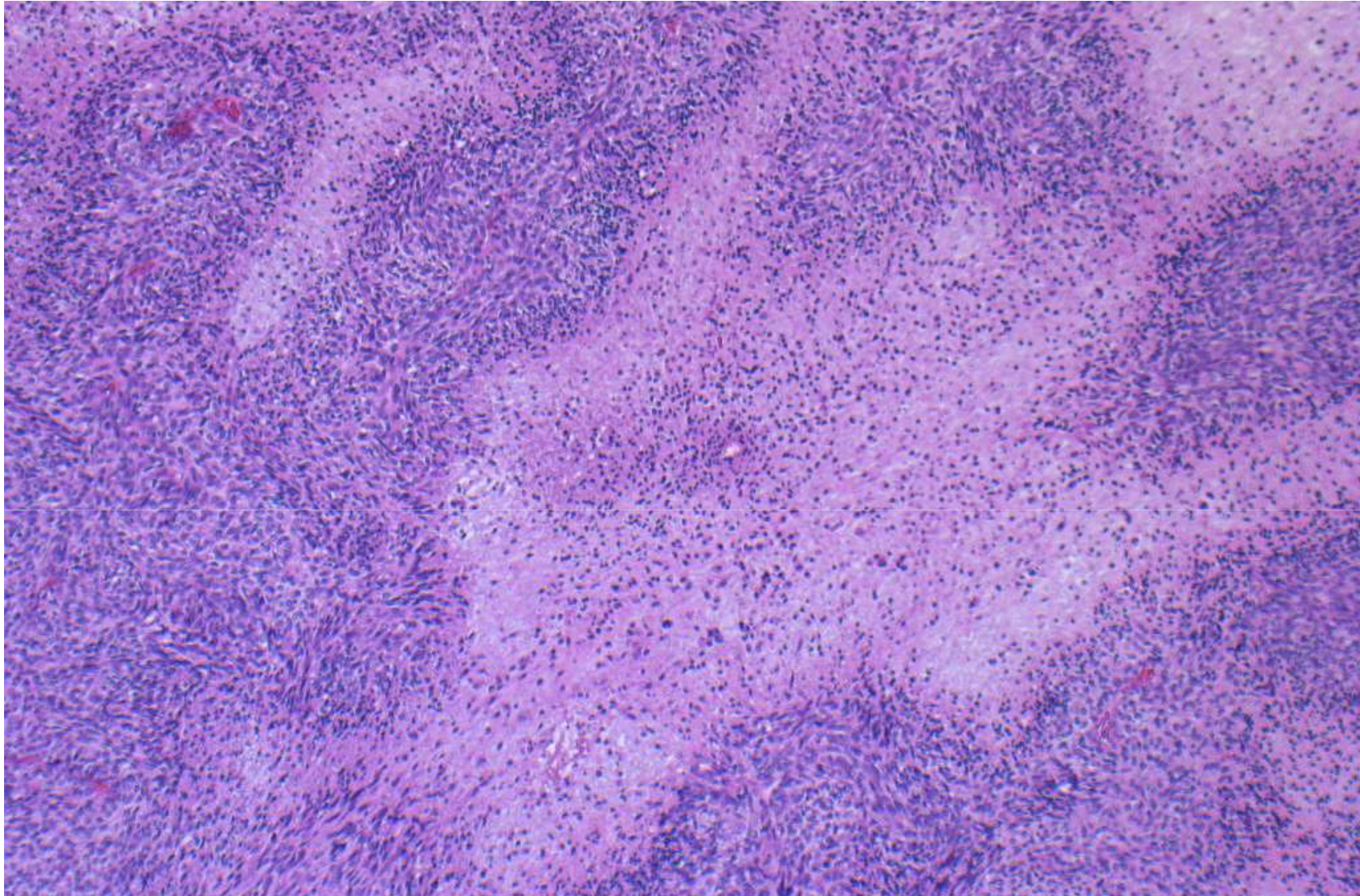
*Lee W et al. Nat Genet. 2014*



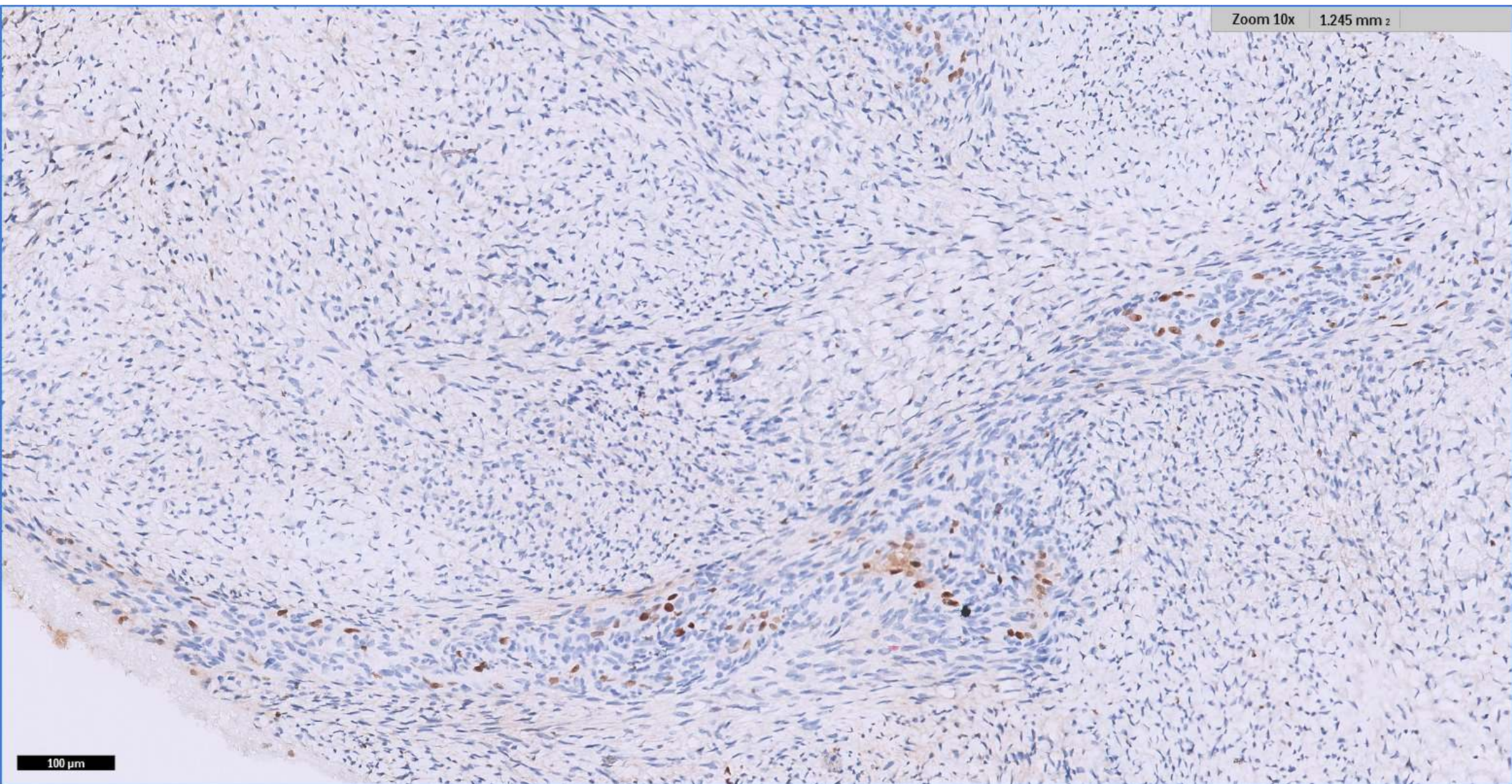


81

Uniform spindle cells with hyperchromatic, weavy, serpentine-like nuclei



Alternance of hyper/hypo cellular areas  
Palisade arrangement (around necrotic areas)



H3K27me loss (SOX10 and S100 -ve)

## Soft Tissue and Bone Tumours (5th ed.)

### Tumours of uncertain differentiation

- [Intramuscular myxoma](#)
- [Juxta-articular myxoma](#)
- [Deep \(aggressive\) angiomyxoma](#)
- [Atypical fibroxanthoma](#)
- [Angiomatoid fibrous histiocytoma](#)
- [Ossifying fibromyxoid tumour](#)
- [Myoepithelioma, myoepithelial carcinoma, and mixed tumour](#)
- [Pleomorphic hyalinizing angiectatic tumour of soft parts](#)

- [Ossifying fibromyxoid tumour](#)
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- [Pleomorphic hyalinizing angiectatic tumour of soft parts](#)
- [Haemosiderotic fibrolipomatous tumour](#)
- [Phosphaturic mesenchymal tumour](#)
- [NTRK-rearranged spindle cell neoplasm \(emerging\)](#)

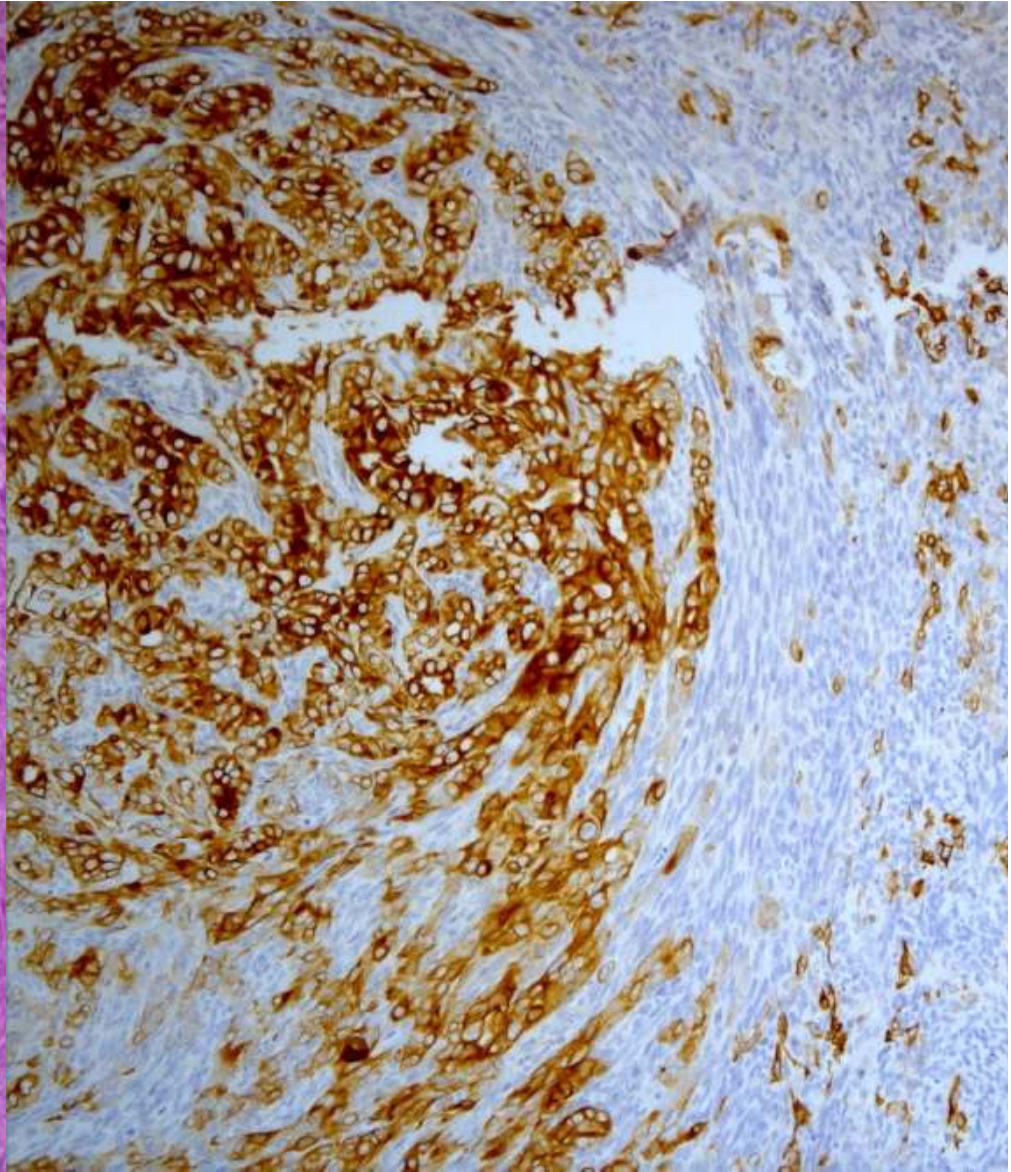
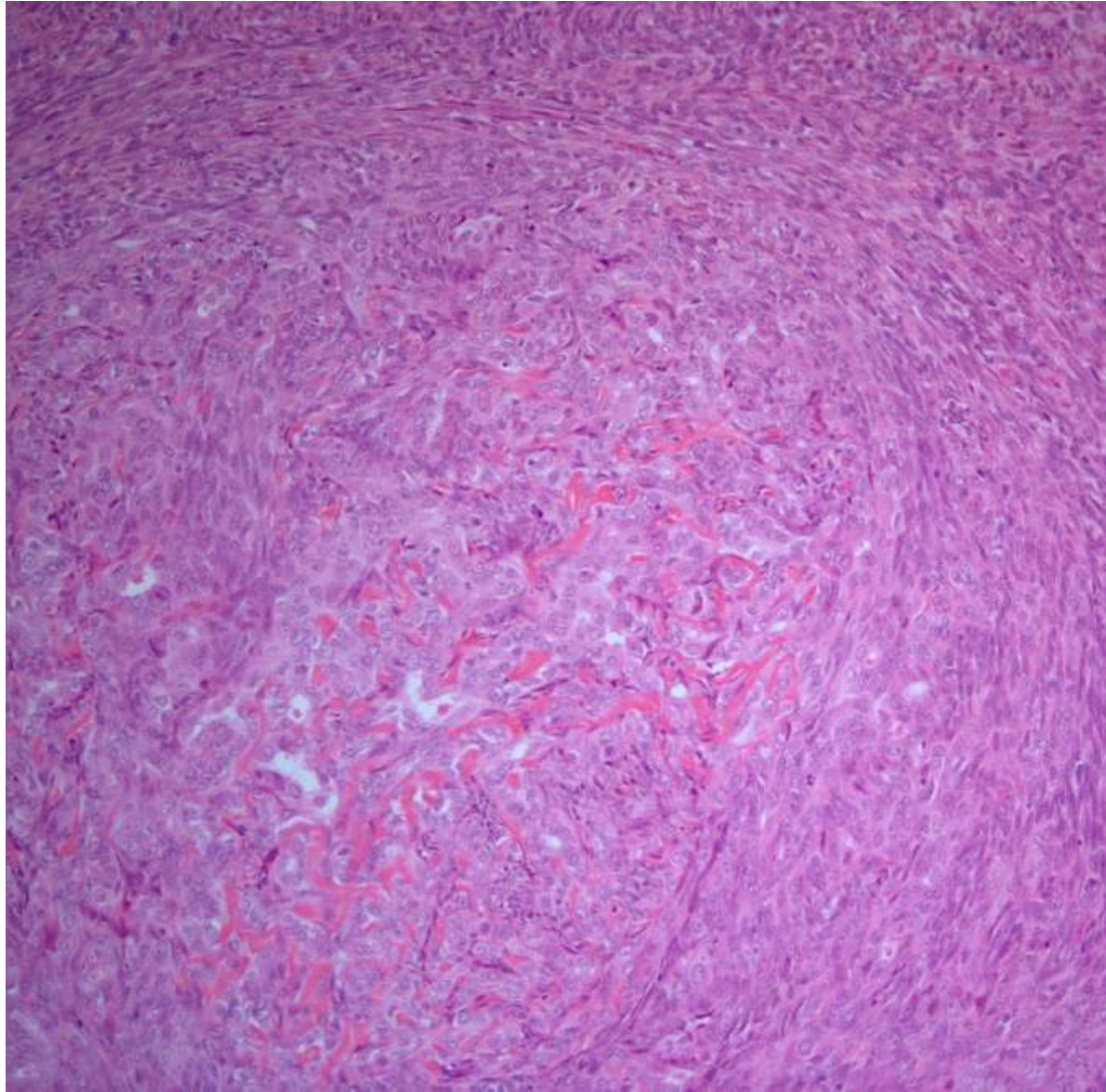
- [Synovial sarcoma](#)

- [Epithelioid sarcoma](#)
- [Alveolar soft part sarcoma](#)
- [Clear cell sarcoma of soft tissue](#)
- [Extraskeletal myxoid chondrosarcoma](#)
- [Desmoplastic small round cell tumour](#)
- [Extrarenal rhabdoid tumour](#)
- [PEComa](#)
- [Intimal sarcoma](#)
- [Undifferentiated sarcoma](#)

# Synovial sarcoma

- Mass with infiltrative borders
- The cut surface is firm; pink or gray;
- focal mucoid, necrotic, hemorrhagic, or cystic changes
- Calcification may be extensive
- Size from 1 cm to very large.
- Lymph node metastases possible





**Biphasic SS:** spindle and epithelial-like cells, with areas recapitulating gland formation anastomosing network of epithelial strands

# Synovial Sarcoma: immunohistochemical profile/Molecular Features

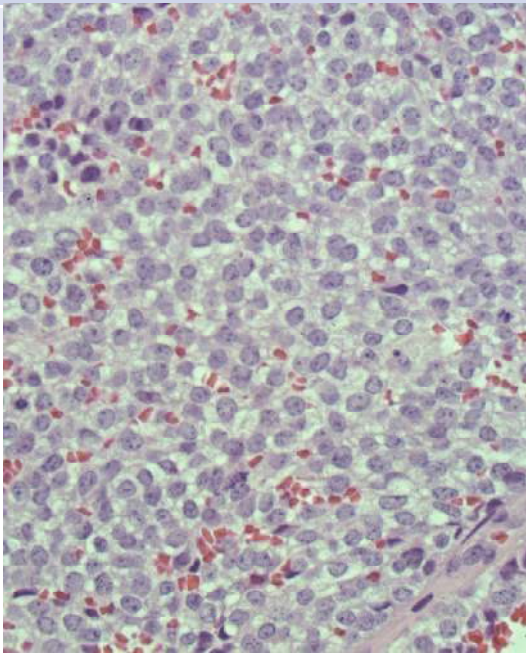
- **Cytokeratins** + patchy in spindle cells, diffuse in epithelial component
- Broad-spectrum cytokeratins AE1/AE3 and CAM5.2, keratins 7, 13, and 19
- **EMA+**
- TLE1+diffuse nuclear

## Molecular Features

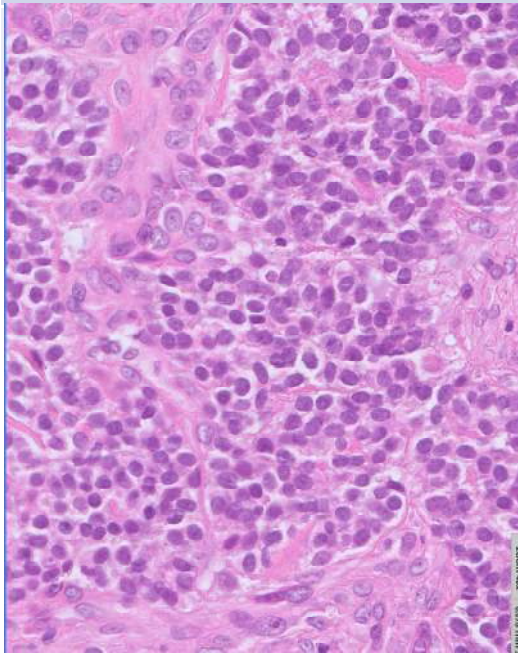
- Chromosomal t(X;18) translocation with transcripts: *SS18::SSX1*, *SS18::SSX2*, *SS18::SSX4*
- 5% alternative gene fusions (such as *SS18L1/SSX1*) or cryptic rearrangements.

## Undifferentiated Small Round Cell Sarcomas of Bone and Soft tissue

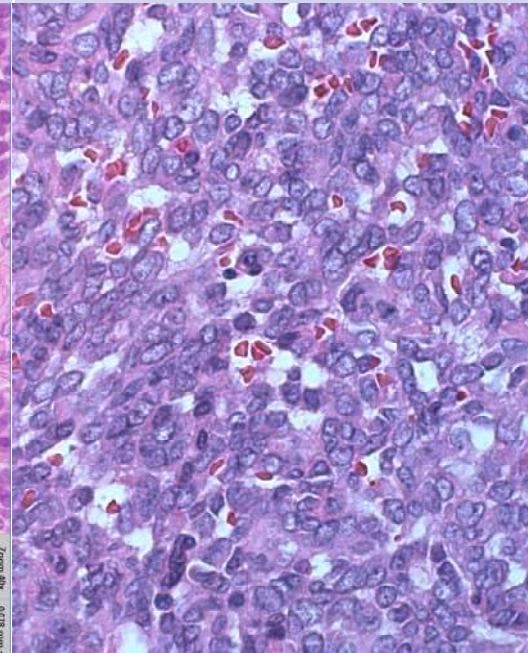
Ewing Sarcoma



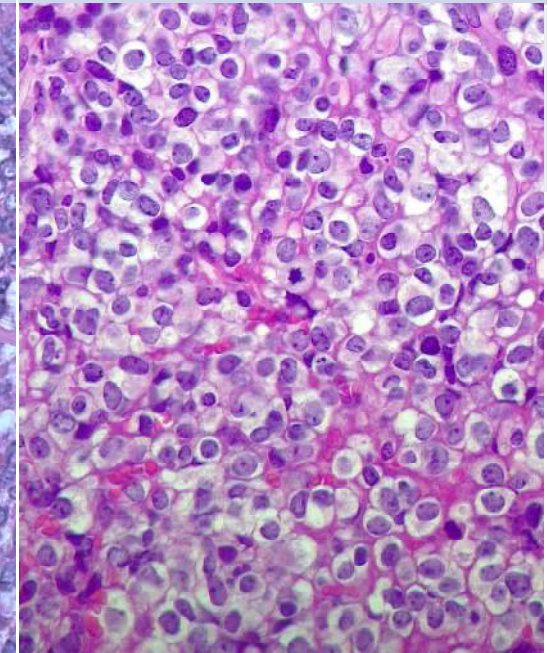
USRCS with EWSR1–non-ETS fusions



USRCS with **BCOR alterations**



USRCS with **CIC fusions**





# Ewing Sarcoma

Second most frequent bone malignancy  
Young adults (80% < 20 yr old)

## Site::

**Bone** (88%): lower extremities (41 %), Pelvis (26 %), chest wall (16 %), upper extremities (9 %), spine (6 %), foot, hand (3 %), skull (2 %)

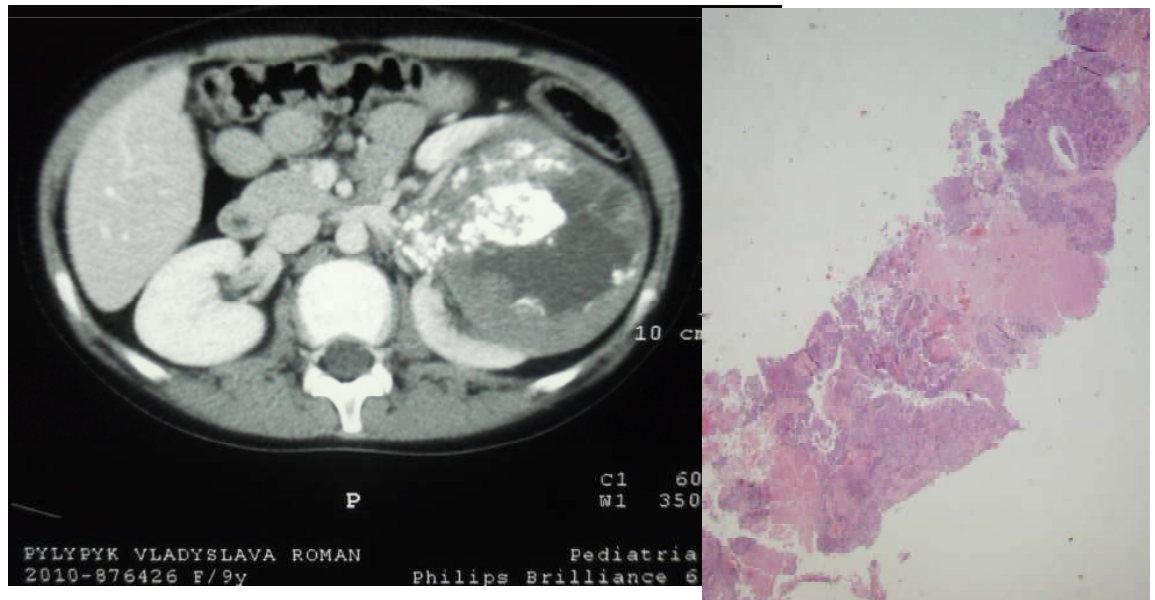
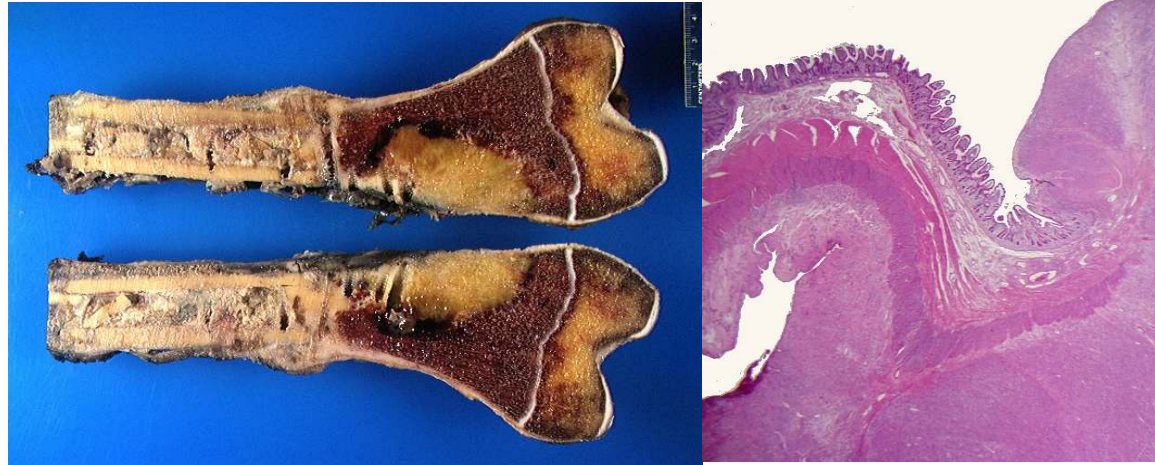
**Extra-osseous**( 12%): Soft tissues, Skin, Visceral

## Clinical features:

Pain, nerve trunk compression, fractures, fever

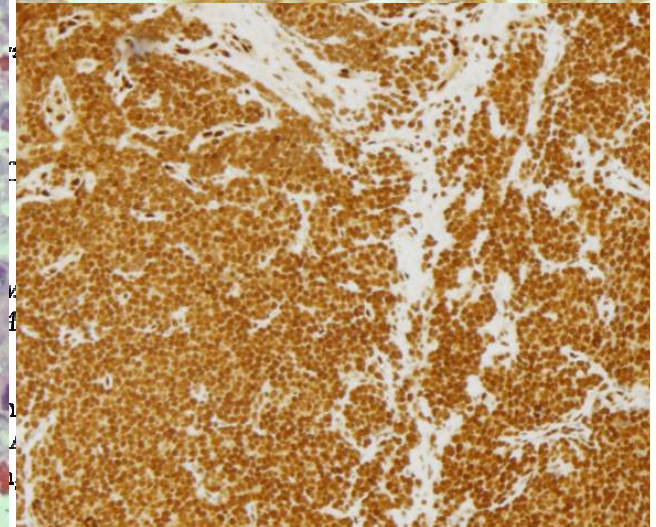
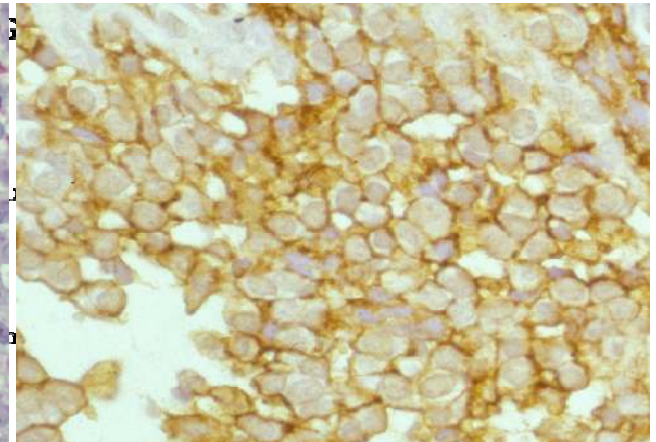
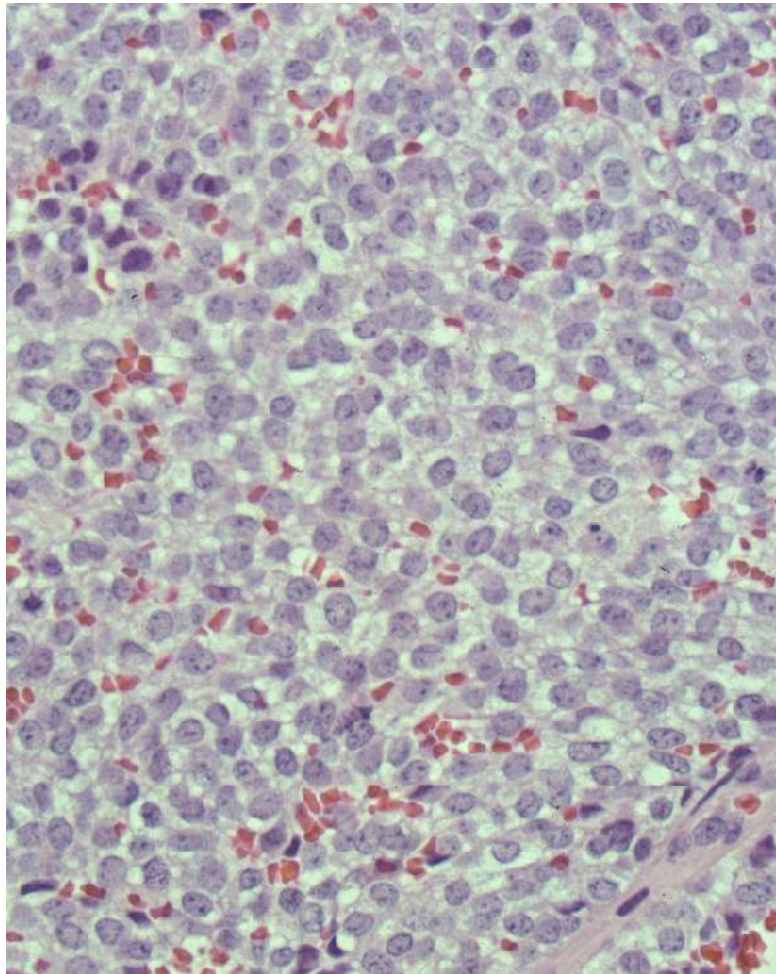
## Diagnosis:

CT, MRI,  
25 % metastatic at diagnosis



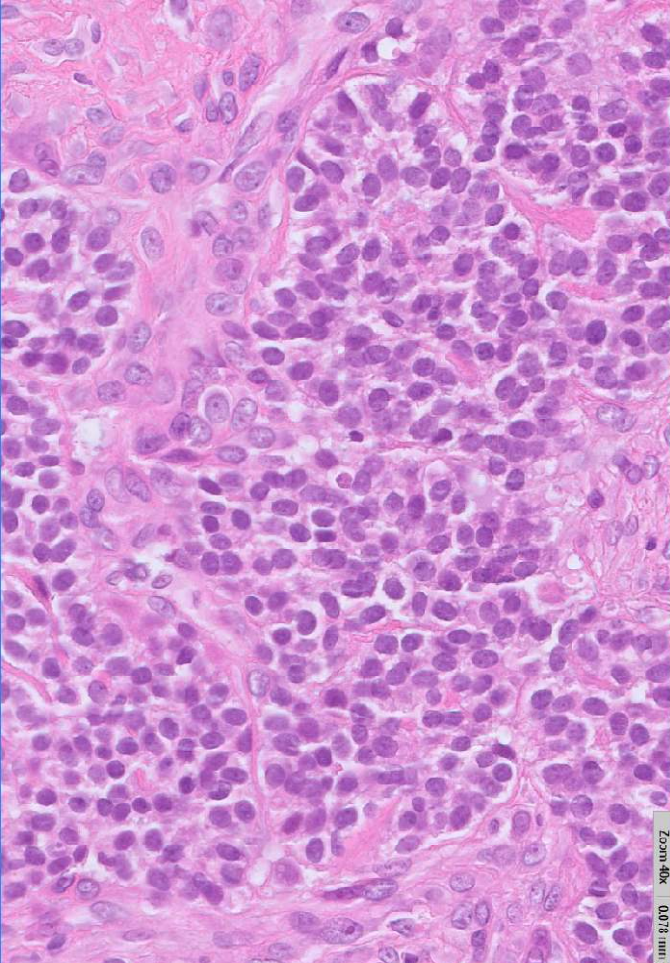
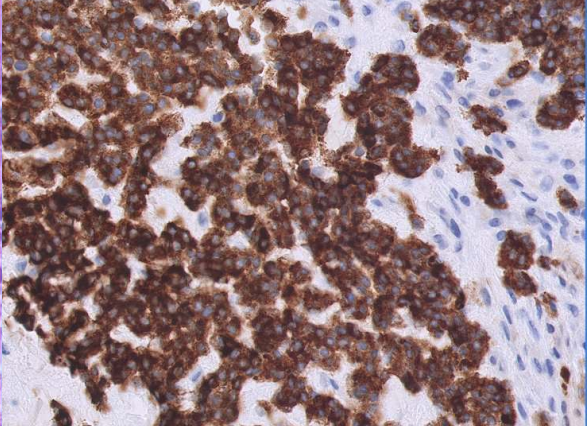
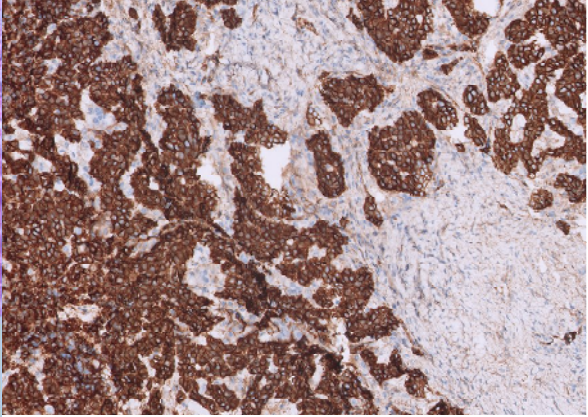
# Undifferentiated Small Round Cell Sarcomas

	Ewing Sarcoma
<b>Peak incidence</b>	20y
<b>Site</b>	88% bone 14% soft tissue parenchymal
<b>Cytology/Nuclear features</b>	Monotonous round cells, fine chromatin
<b>Pattern Stroma</b>	Solid, alveolar
<b>IHC</b>	CD99, NKX2-2, FLI1, ERG (in ERG fusion+)
<b>Molecular Features</b>	<i>EWSR1-FLI1</i> , <i>EWSR1-ERG</i> , <i>FUS-ERG</i>
<b>Molecular Detection Method(s) [if necessary]</b>	RT-PCR



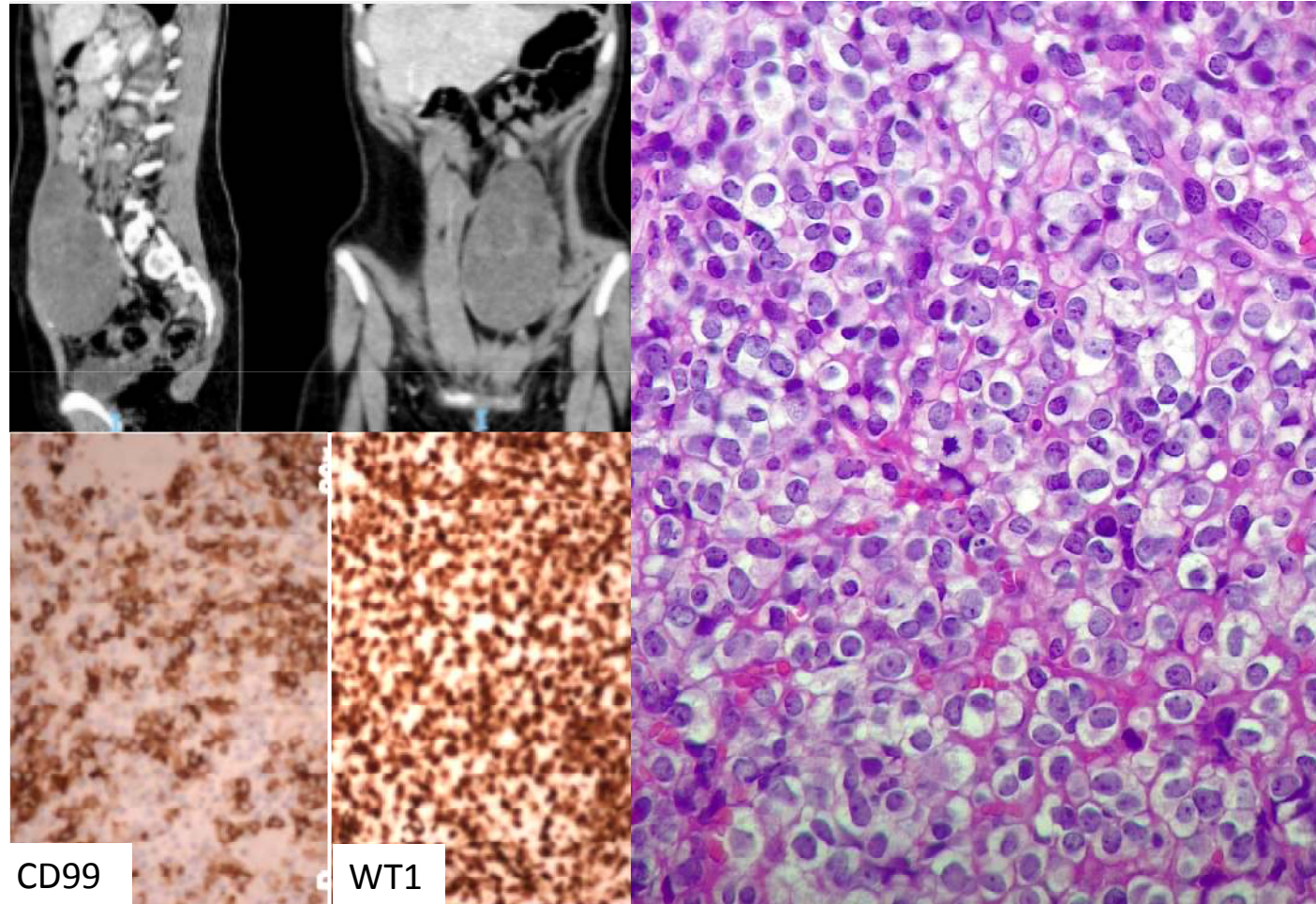
\*Additional alterations *STAG2*. mut (17%); *CDKN2A* (12%); *TP53* (7%, w *STAG2* and *TP53*, Loss of 16q, y 9p, gain 8, 1q, 2, 22)

# Undifferentiated Small Round Cell Sarcomas

	Round cell sarcomas with <i>EWSR1</i> -non-ETS fusions		
Peak incidence	young		
Site	long bones (metaphysis/diaphysis) Soft tissue (head/neck, chest wall).		
Cytology/Nuclear features	monotonous round cells Variations: pleomorphic cells, hyperchromatic/vesicular nuclei, small/prominent nucleoli		
Pattern	Cords/nests/trabeculae		
Stroma	Fibro (myxo)-hyaline stroma		
IHC	CD99 (diffuse in 50%), PAX7, NKX2-2, CK AE1/AE3, CD138 (f), AGGRECAN.		
Molecular Features	<i>EWSR1 (FUS)-NFATC2, EWSR1-PATZ1</i>		
Molecular Detection Method(s) [if necessary]	RNA sequencing panel (e.g. Archer)	EMA	
			CD99

# Undifferentiated Small Round Cell Sarcomas

	<b><i>CIC</i>-Rearranged Sarcoma</b>
<b>Peak incidence</b>	30-40 y
<b>Site</b>	Soft tissue (trunk, pelvis, extremities)
<b>Cytology/Nuclear features</b>	Round cells, eosinophilic cytoplasm. Vesicular, pleomorphic, nucleoli
<b>Pattern Stroma</b>	Solid, Myxoid, hyaline
<b>IHC</b>	CD99 (p), ETV4, WT1, (ERG, FLI1)
<b>Molecular Features</b>	<i>CIC-DUX4</i> , (rare 3' partners: <i>FOXO4</i> , <i>LEUTX</i> , <i>NUTM1</i> , <i>NUTM2A</i> )
<b>Molecular Detection Method(s) [if necessary]</b>	FISH or RNA sequencing panel (e.g. Archer)

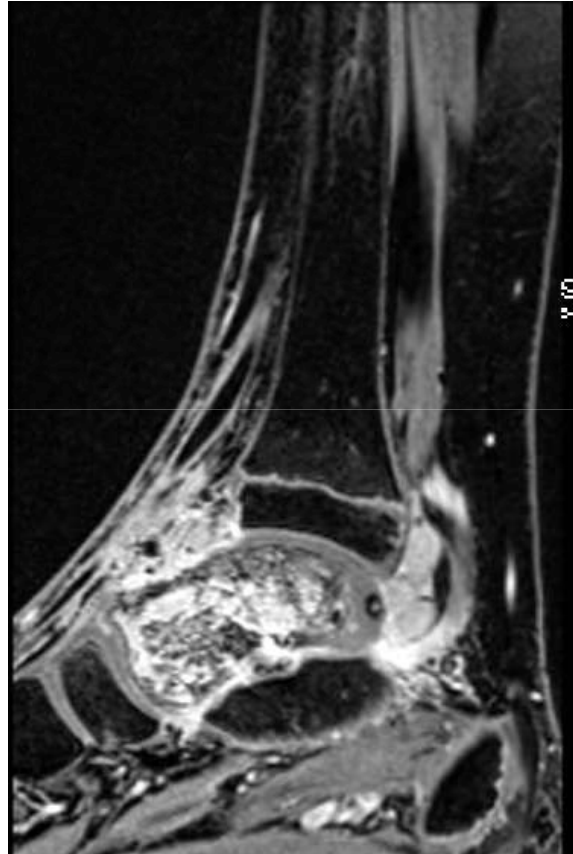


CD99

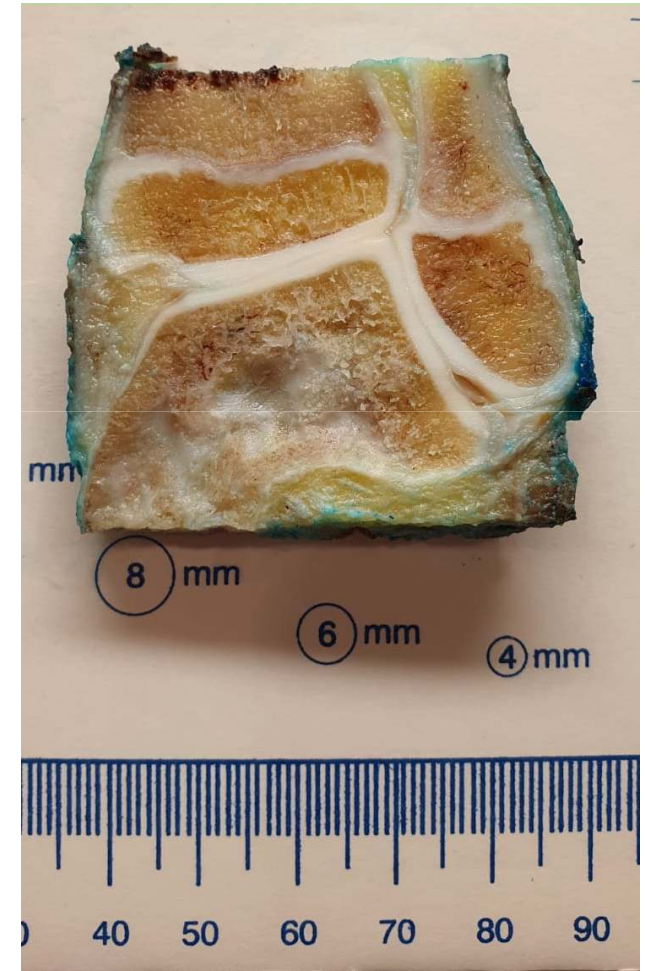
WT1

### 3. Undifferentiated small round cell sarcomas of bone and soft tissue

	Sarcoma with <i>BCOR</i> Genetic alteration
Peak incidence	90% <20y
Site	Pelvis, metadiaphysis long bones (lower extr)
Cytology/Nuclear features	Round-spindle cells Pale nuclei, fine chromatin, no nucleoli
Pattern Stroma	Solid, nested Scant or myxoid plexiform vascular pattern
IHC	CD99 (p), TLE1, <i>BCOR</i> , <i>CCNB3</i>
Molecular Features	<i>BCOR-CCNB3</i> , <i>BCOR-MAML3</i> , <i>ZC3H7B-BCOR</i> , <i>BCOR</i> ITD, <i>YWHAE</i> -rearranged
Molecular Detection Method(s) [if necessary]	FISH detects fusions only, may be cryptic RNA sequencing panel (e.g. Archer) ITD detectable by sequencing or PCR based assay

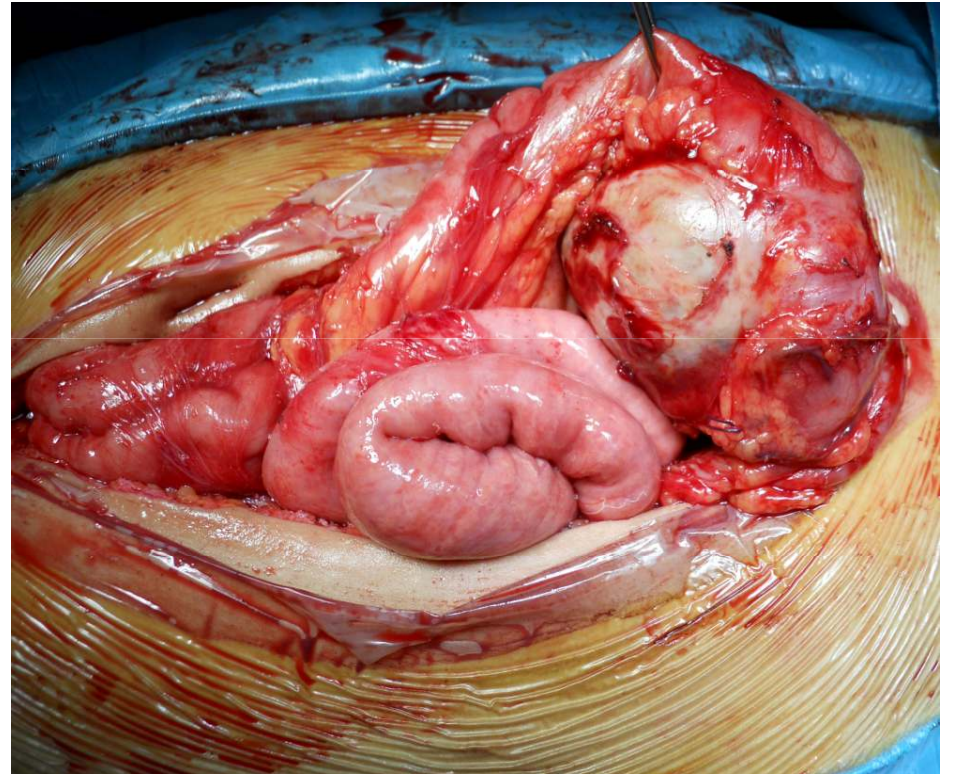


- Male, 7yr
- Mass of the left foot (astragalus bone), with extension to soft tissue (Surgical specimen after CT)

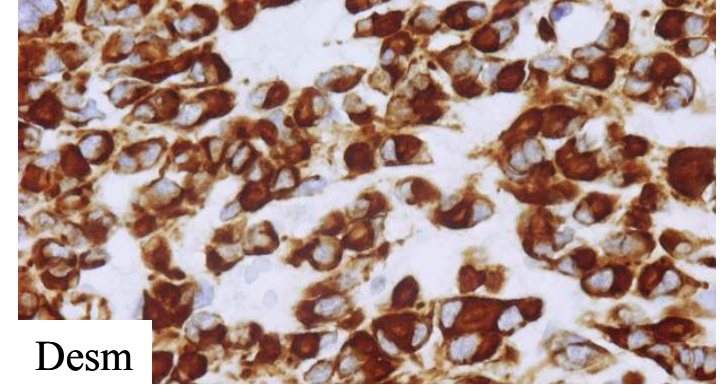
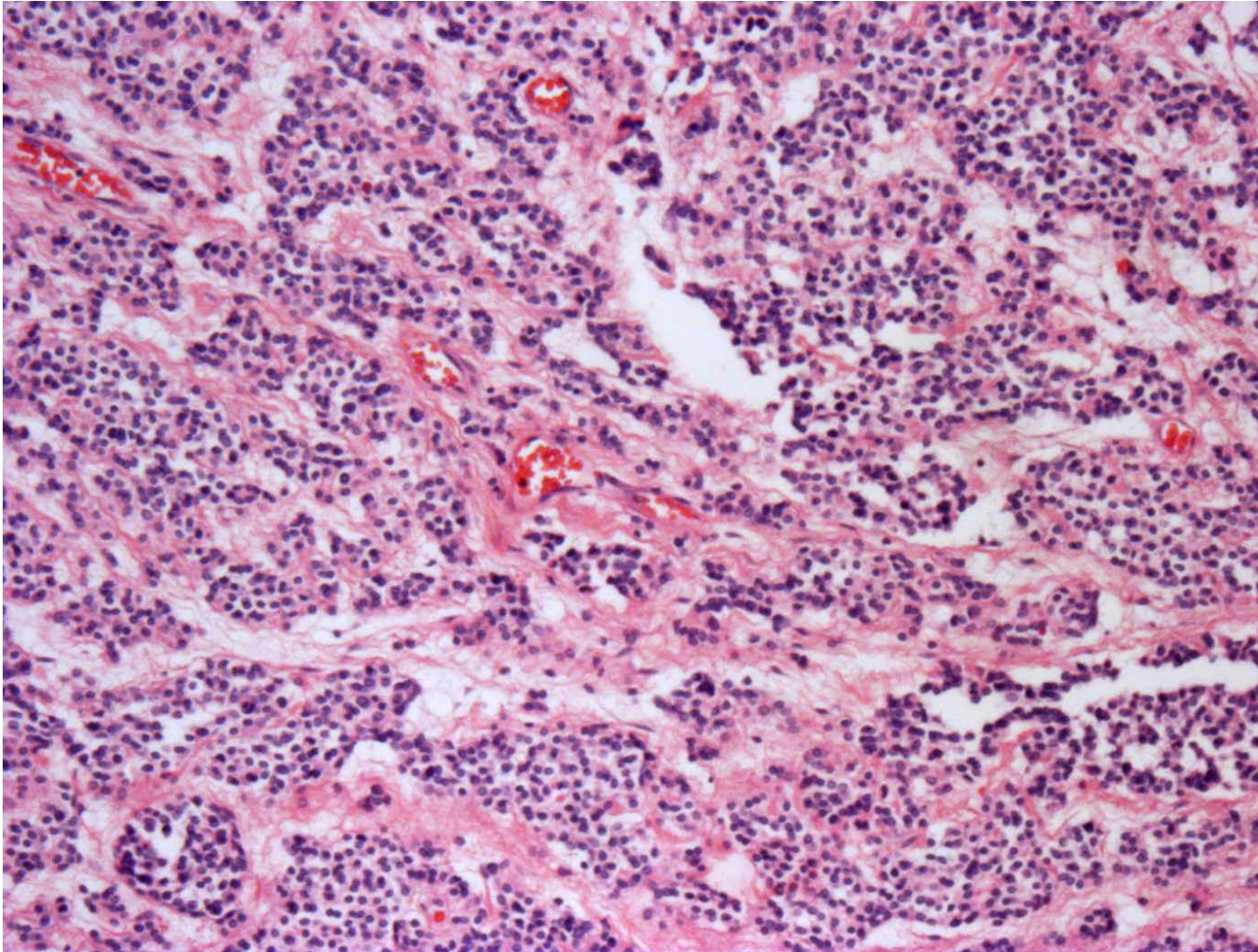


# Desmoplastic Small Round Cell Tumor

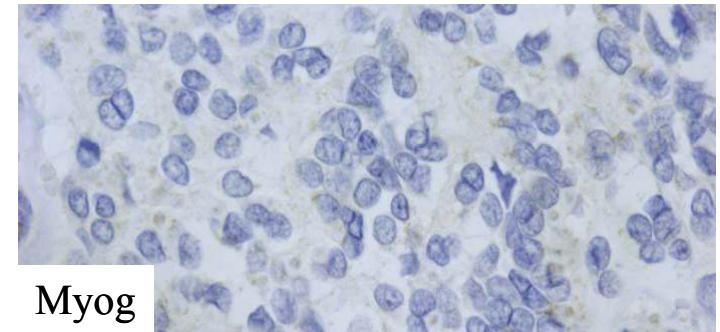
- Young adults
- Serosal surface of the abdominal cavity (90% of patients)
- At diagnosis usually intra-abdominal spread with lymph node involvement (50–80% of patients) and/or distant metastases (25%)



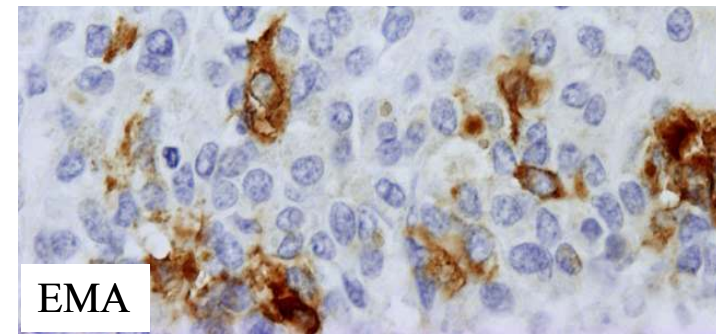
Desmoplastic Small round cell tumor



Desm



Myog



EMA

Fusion *EWSR::WT1*

# Small Round Blue Cell Tumors

(SRBCT)?

## Definition

Descriptive term, not a histologic category

## Small Roud Blue Cell Sarcomas

Undifferentiated Small Round Cell Sarcomas of Bone and Soft tissue

Rhabdomyosarcoma

DSRCT

## Malignant Tumors non Sarcomatous

Neuroblastoma

Lymphomas

Retinoblastoma





# Conclusions

# The evolution of surgical pathology

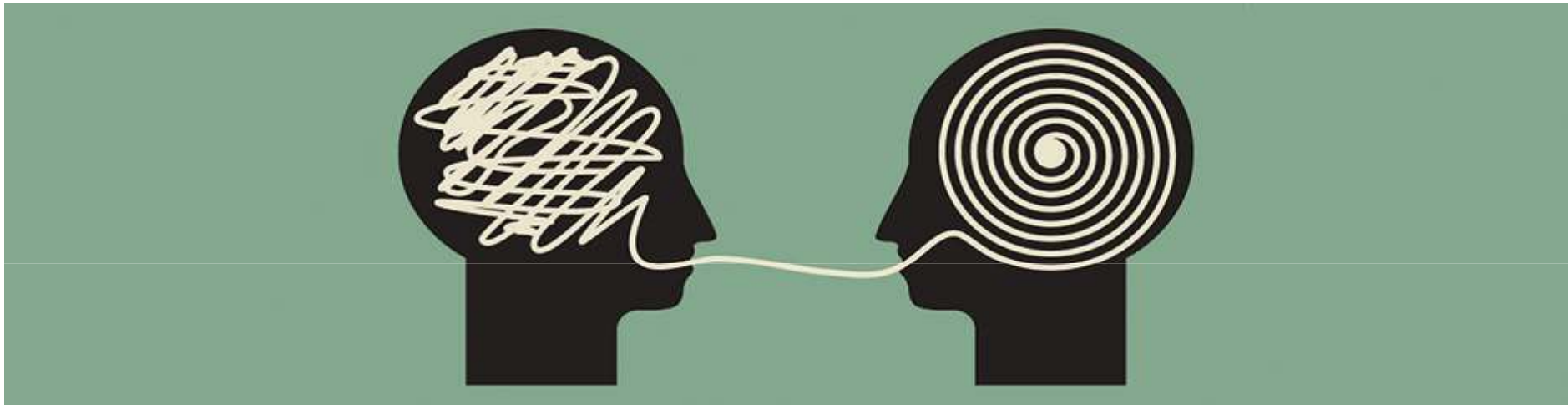
## From “Histologic diagnosis” to “Integrated Diagnosis”

	Morphology	Immunohistochemistry	Molecular testing/genetic
<b>Description</b>	<i>Microscopic analysis</i>	<i>AB conjugated to an enzyme, that can catalyse a colour-producing reaction once they bind to specific proteins</i>	<i>Molecular testing/genetic</i>
<b>Focus</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cytology (cell differentiation)</li> <li>Pattern</li> <li>Vascular network</li> <li>Stromal components</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intermediate filaments</li> <li>Transcription factors</li> <li>Mutated proteins (or loss of expression for mutation)</li> <li>Fusions</li> <li>Overexpression of proteins</li> </ul>	<p><b>Comparatively cheaper &amp; faster</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FISH (fusions, amplifications)</li> <li>RT-PCR (fusions, Mutations)</li> </ul> <p><b>High cost, long lead time</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NGS (Fusions, Mutations, Amplifications)</li> </ul>
<b>Cost &amp; Lead Time</b>	Low cost, Short lead time		High cost, Longer lead time



A multidisciplinary approach and a common language are essential for a correct diagnosis and an appropriate treatment

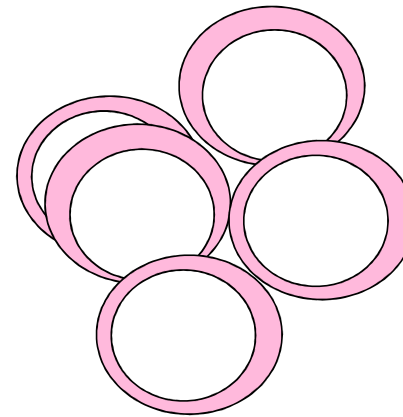
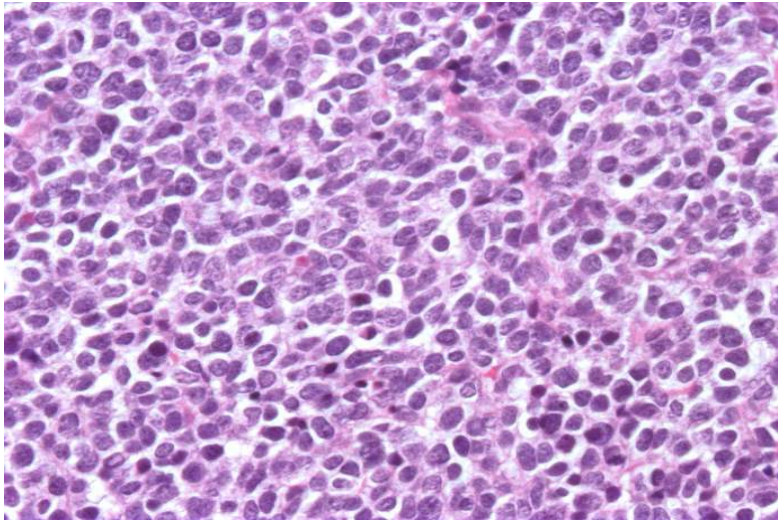
# A shared language means...



- Give the necessary information and know the steps deriving from it
- Avoid unnecessary information
- In case of a difficult diagnostic decision share doubts and certainties

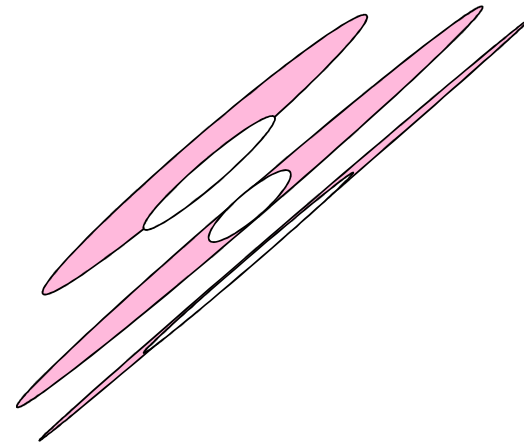
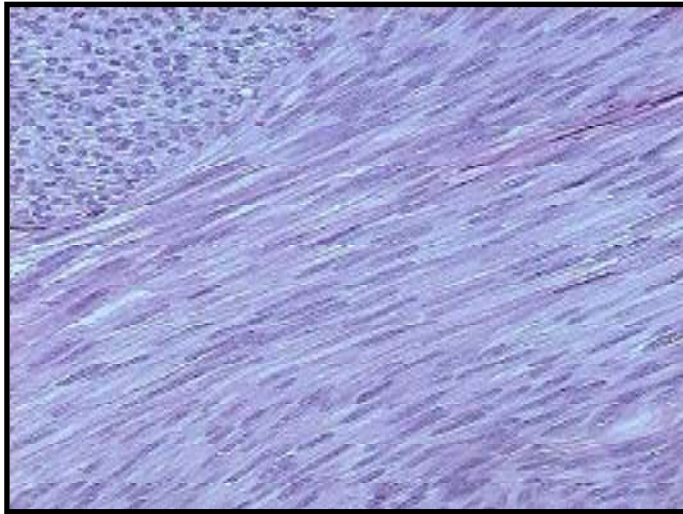
<b>Caratteristiche citologiche</b>

## Caratteristiche citologiche

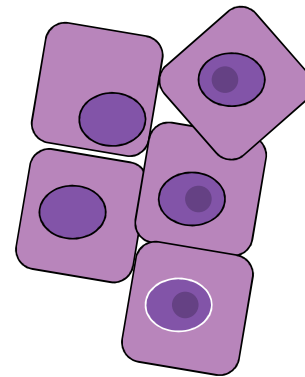
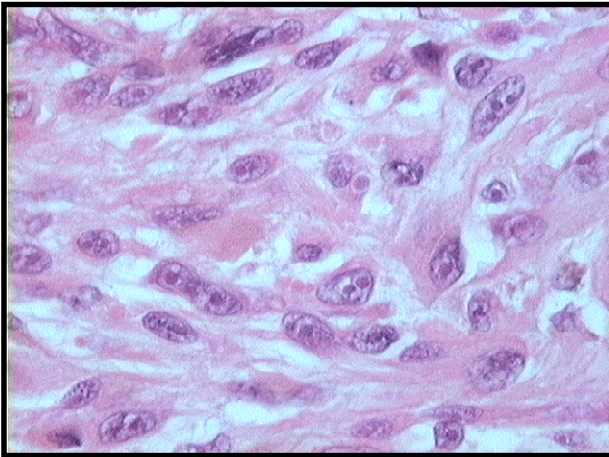


**Tumori a Piccole Cellule Rotonde  
dell'età pediatrica**

## Caratteristiche citologiche

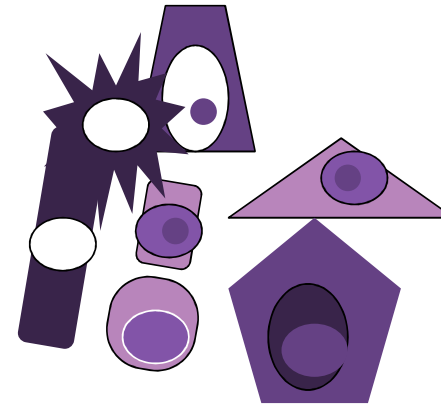
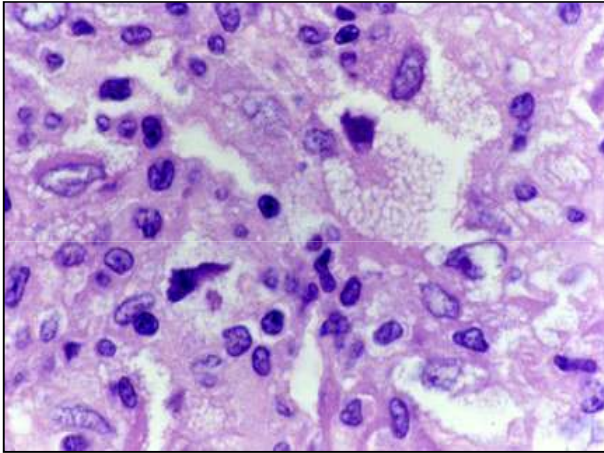


## Caratteristiche citologiche



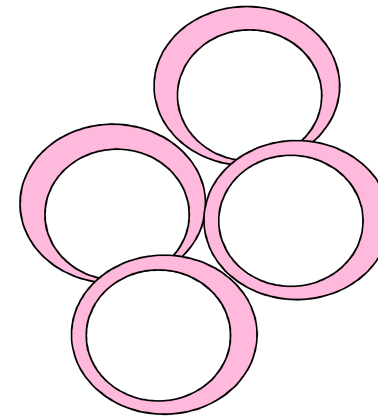
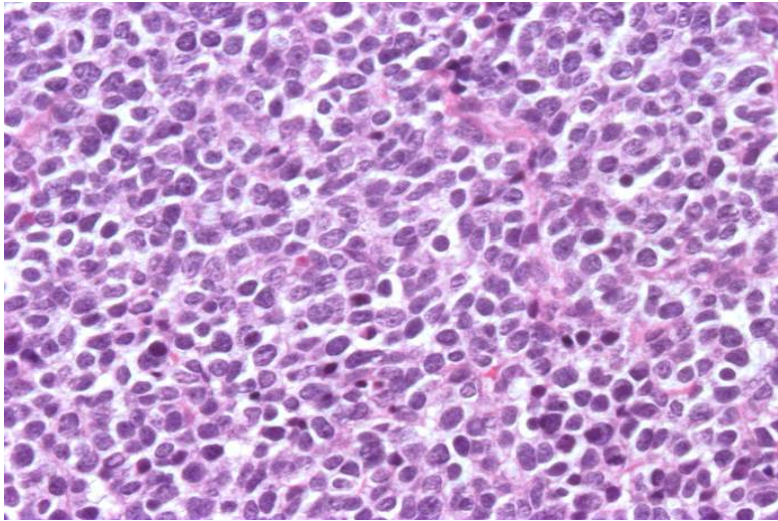


## Caratteristiche citologiche



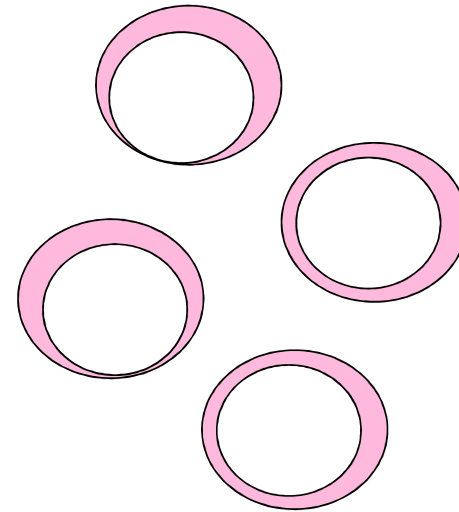
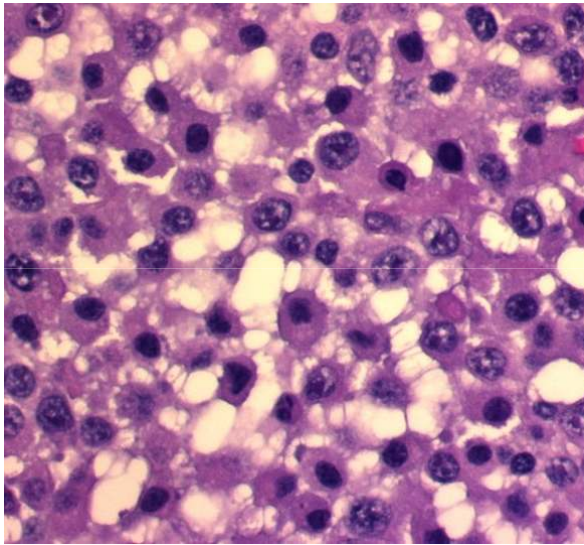


## Pattern di aggregazione cellulare

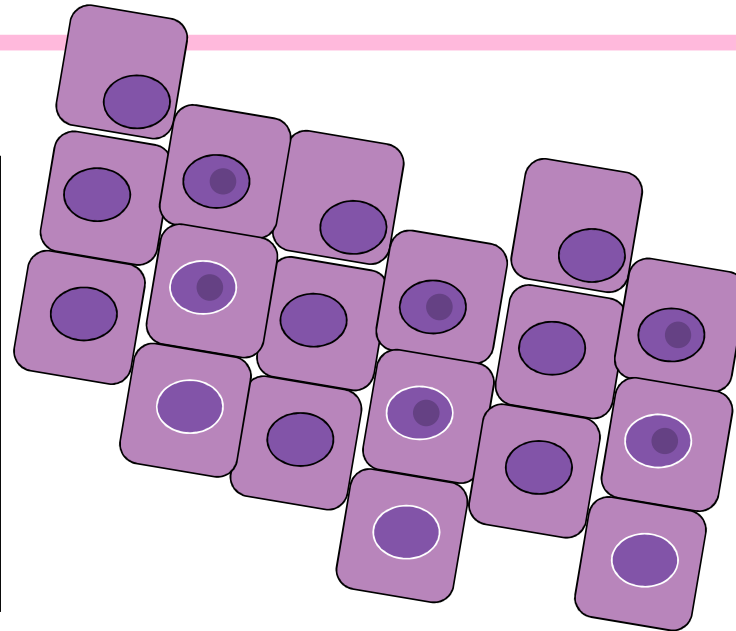
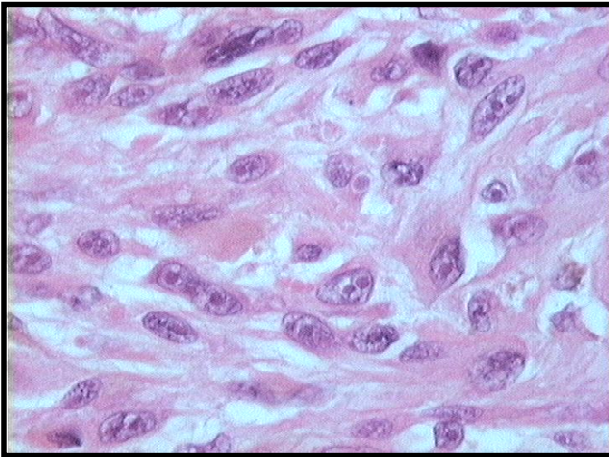


**Tumori a Piccole Cellule Rotonde  
dell'età pediatrica**

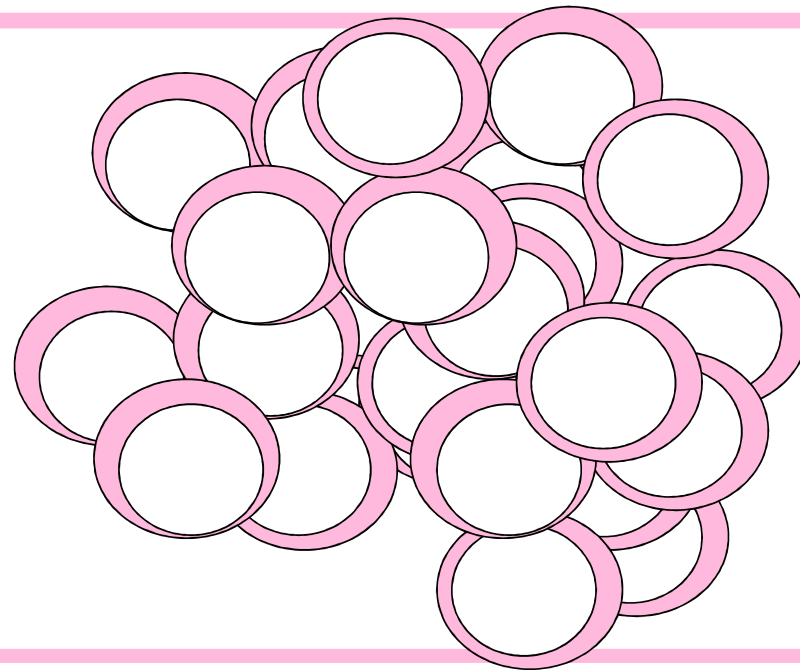
## Pattern di aggregazione cellulare



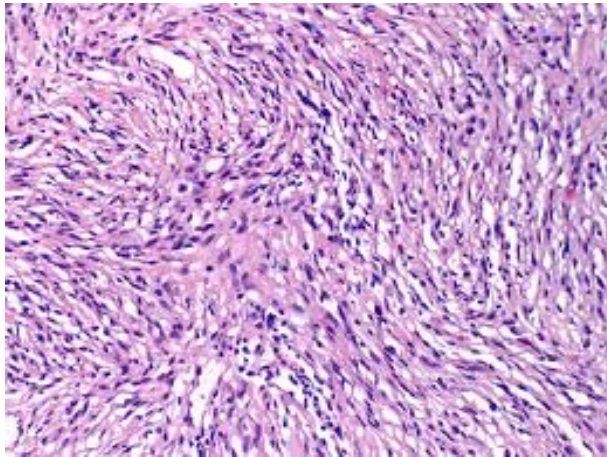
## Pattern di aggregazione cellulare



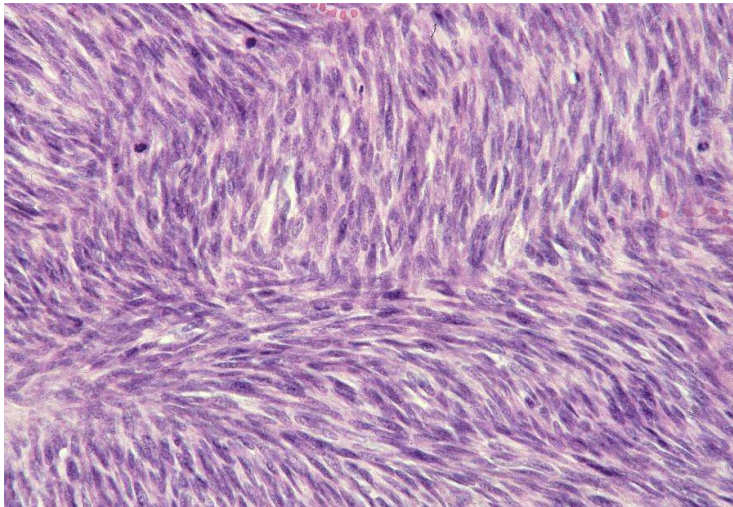
## Pattern di aggregazione cellulare



## Pattern di aggregazione cellulare

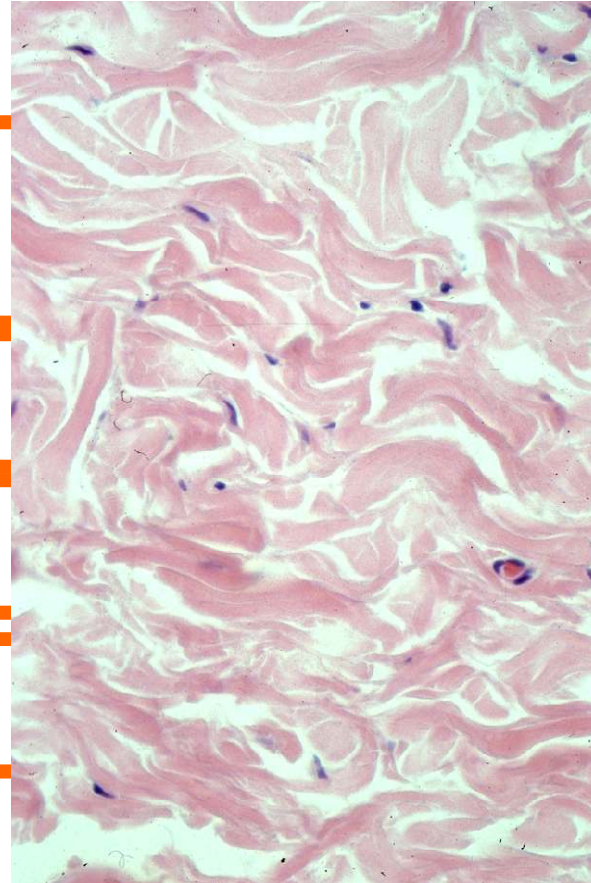


## Pattern di aggregazione cellulare





**Stroma intercellulare**



**Stroma intercellulare**

