

# Lobular Carcinoma In Situ (LCIS) and Invasive Lobular Carcinoma:

## Old Story with New Concerns

6<sup>th</sup> Annual Breast Cancer Symposium  
October 18, 2024

Timothy M. D'Alfonso, MD  
Chief of Breast Pathology  
Northwell Health

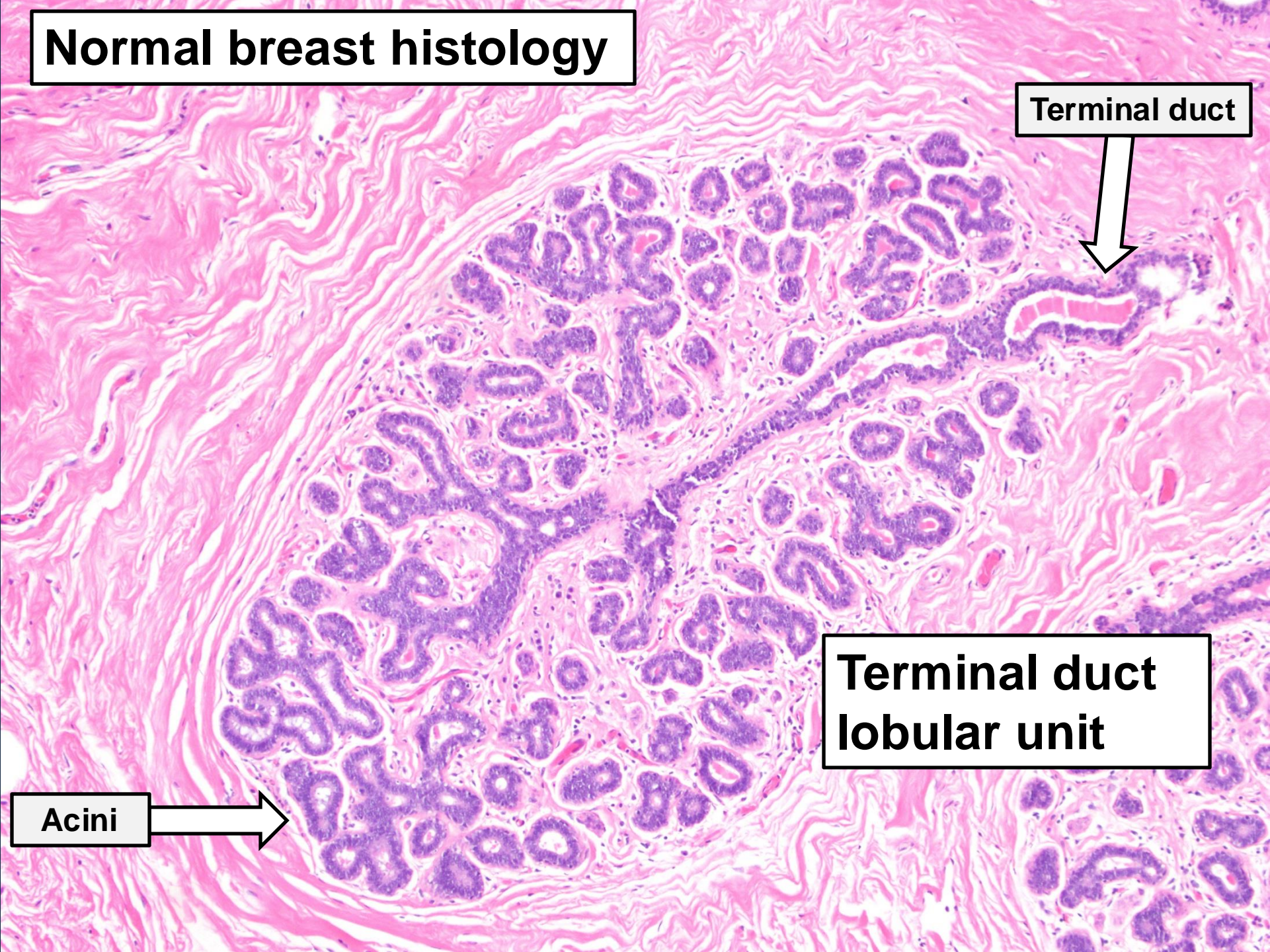


## For this session...

- **LCIS**
  - **Histopathologic features/classification**
  - **Clinical management**
- **Invasive lobular carcinoma**
  - **Distinction from invasive carcinoma, NST (ductal)**
  - **Pathologic classification**



# Normal breast histology



Terminal duct



Terminal duct lobular unit

Acini





**LOBULAR CARCINOMA IN SITU \***

**A RARE FORM OF MAMMARY CANCER**

**FRANK W. FOOTE, JR., M.D., and FRED W. STEWART, M.D.**

*(From the Pathological Laboratories of the Memorial Hospital, New York, N.Y.)*

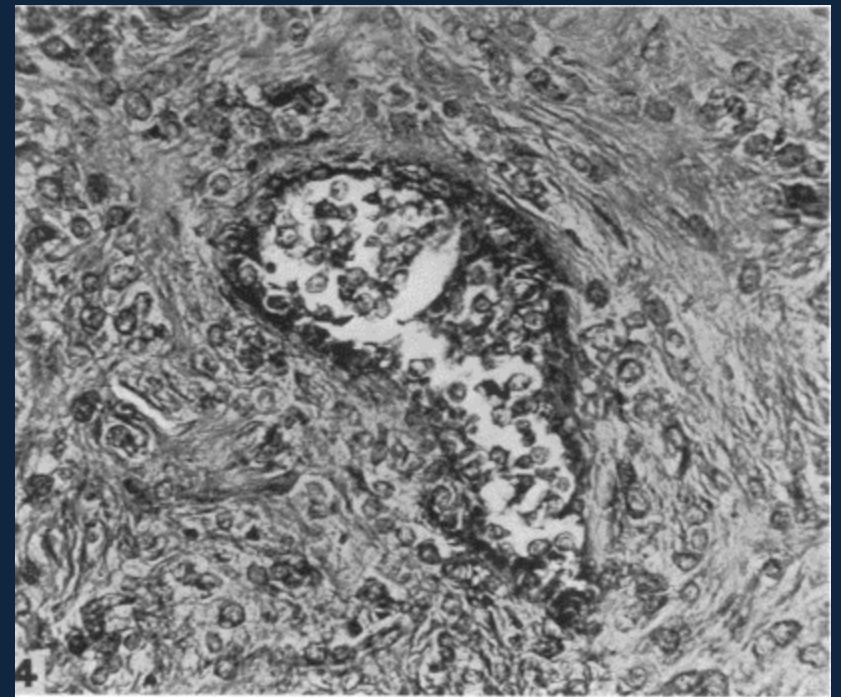
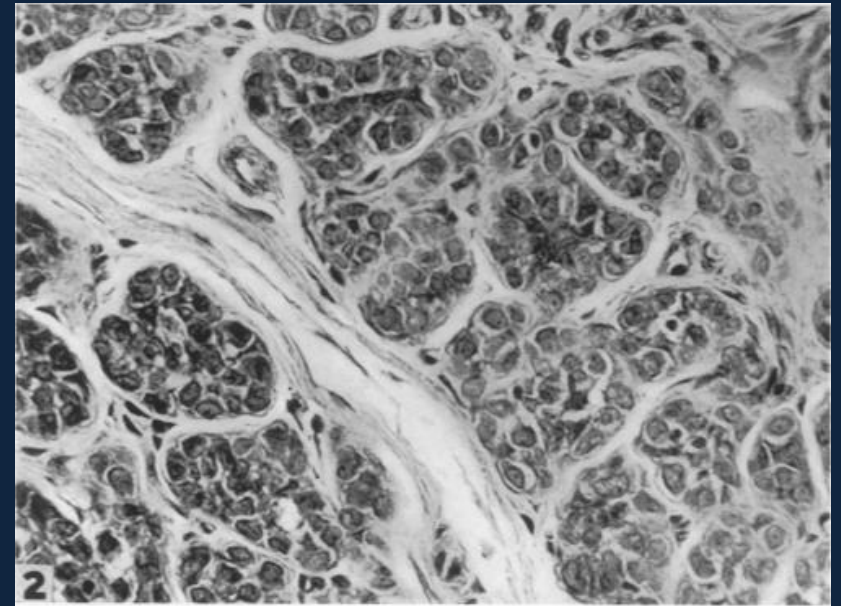
## Foote and Stewart, 1941

“lobular carcinoma in situ” and its infiltrative phase characterized by loss of cohesion of cells

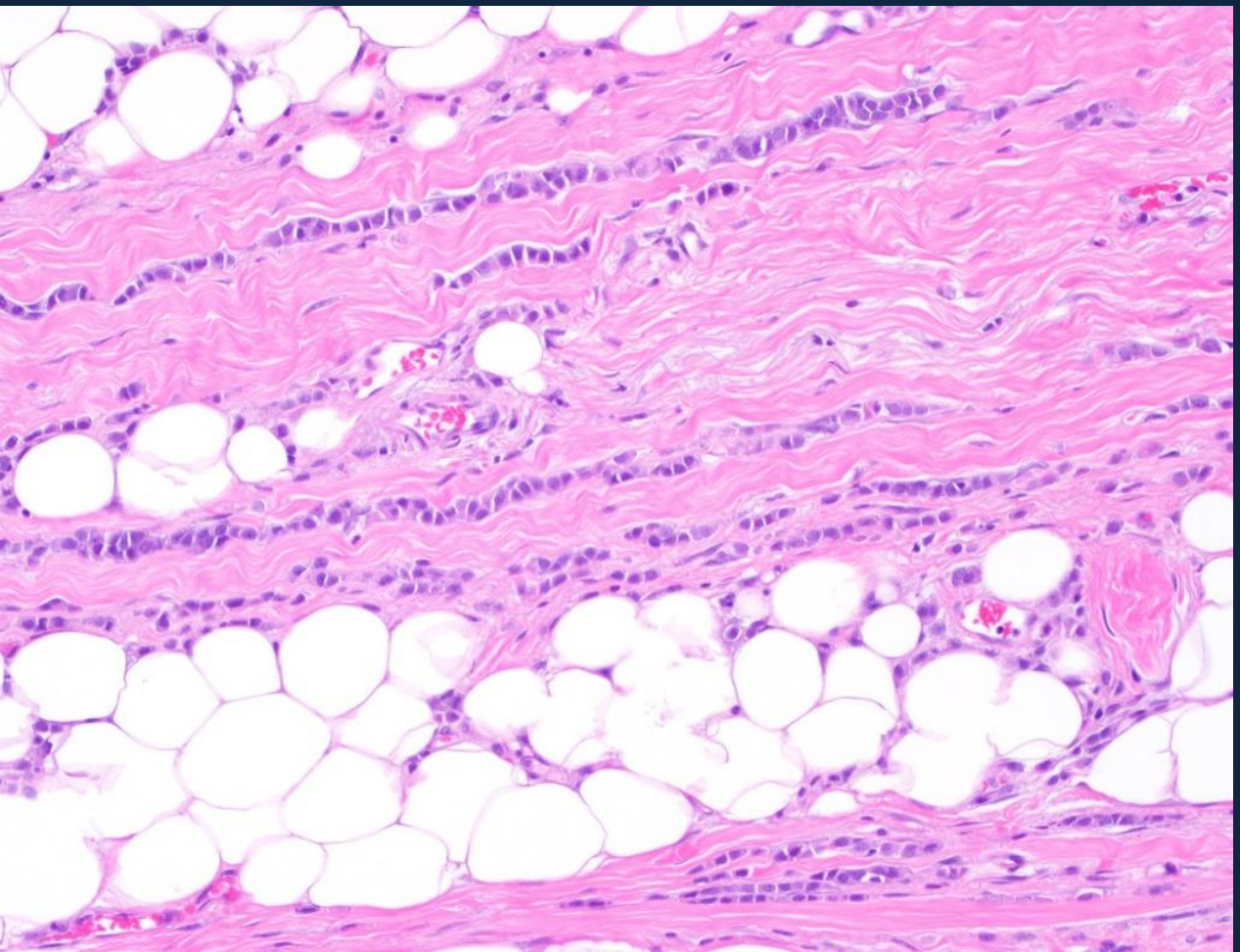
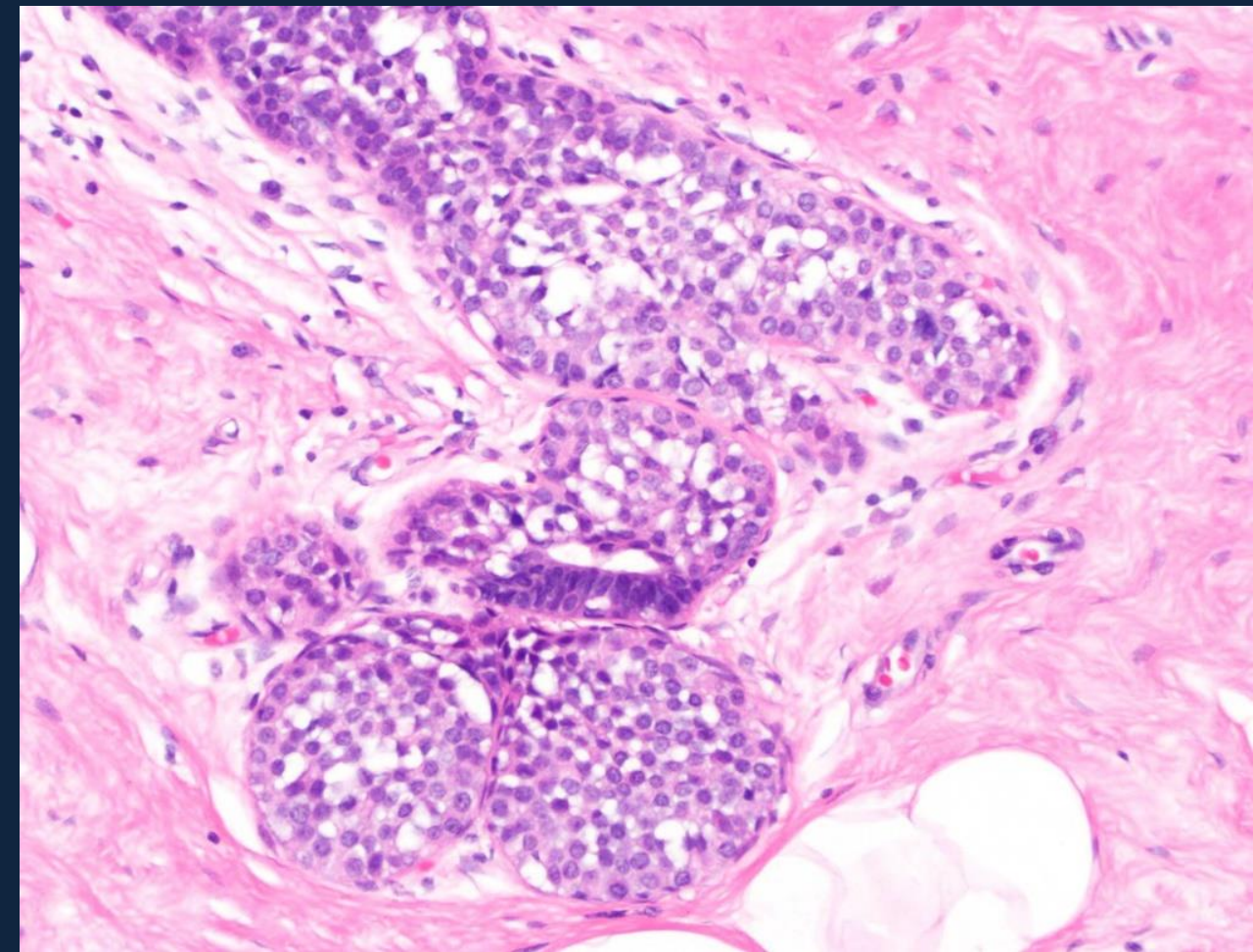
“pagetoid” growth

“disease of multiple foci”

“simple mastectomy is essential”







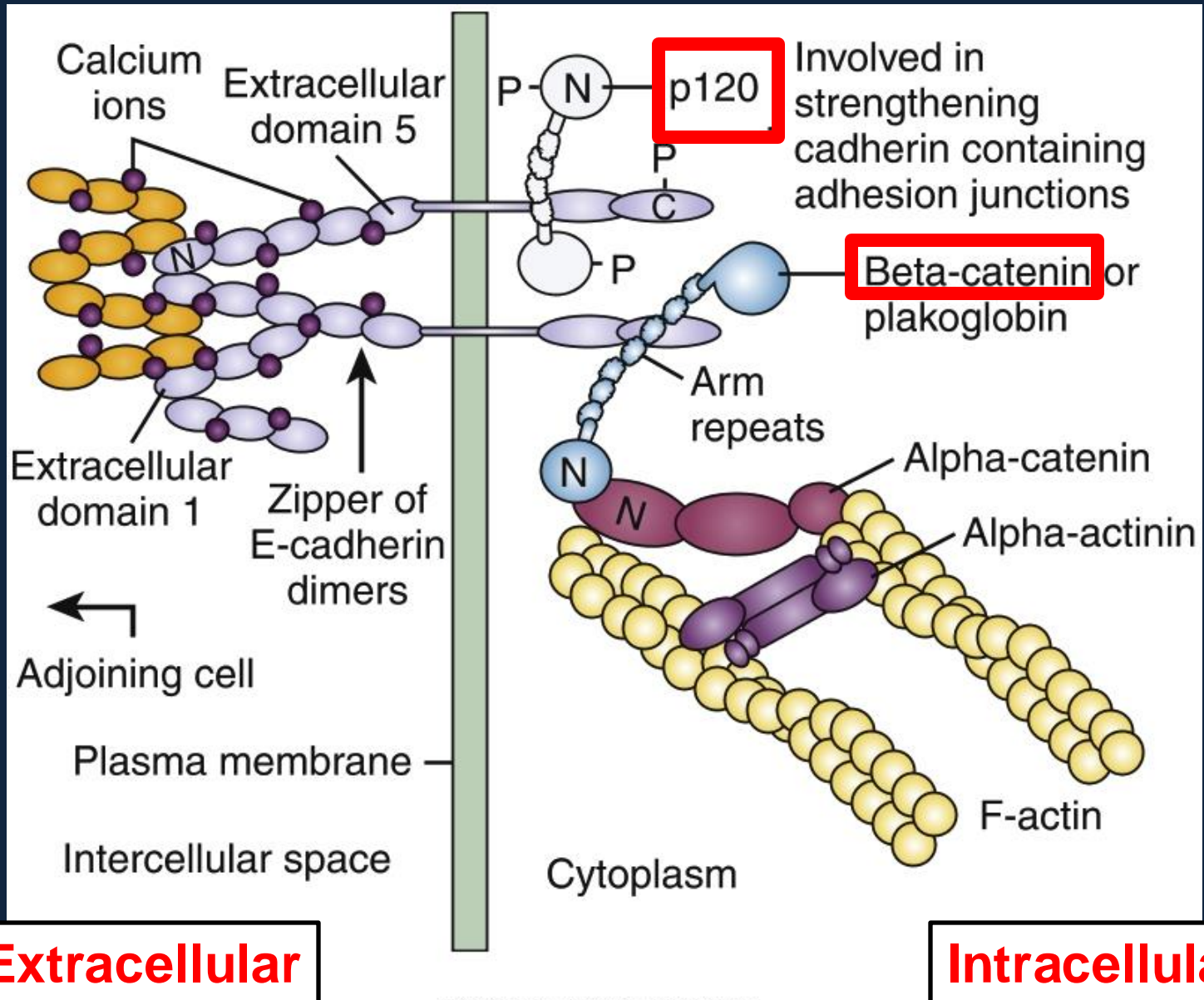
**Loss of E-cadherin expression is the defining feature of lobular lesions that leads to loss of cellular cohesion**

**E-cadherin is cell-to-cell adhesion protein encoded by *CDH1* (16q.22.1)**



# ***CDH1* alterations in lobular carcinoma**

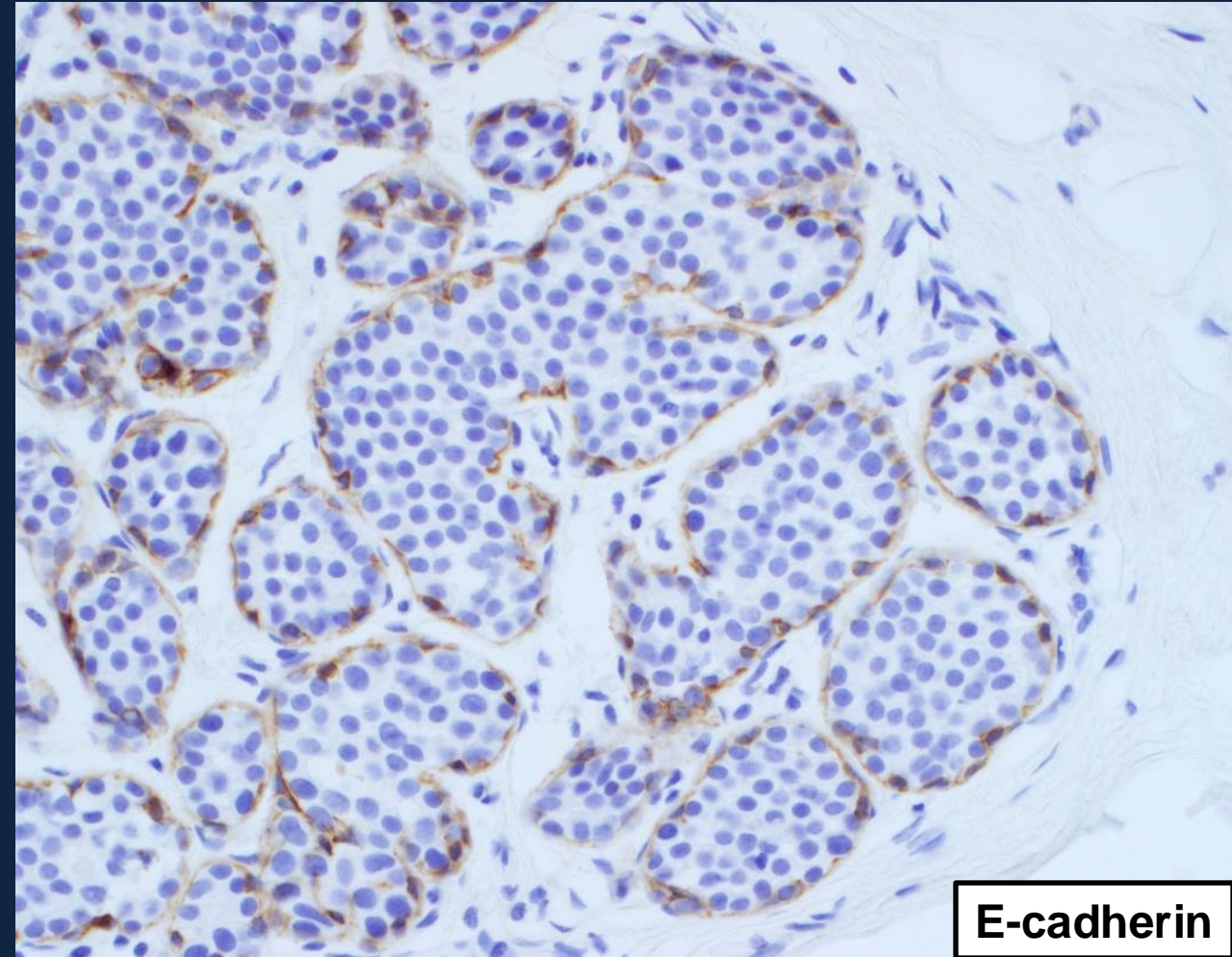
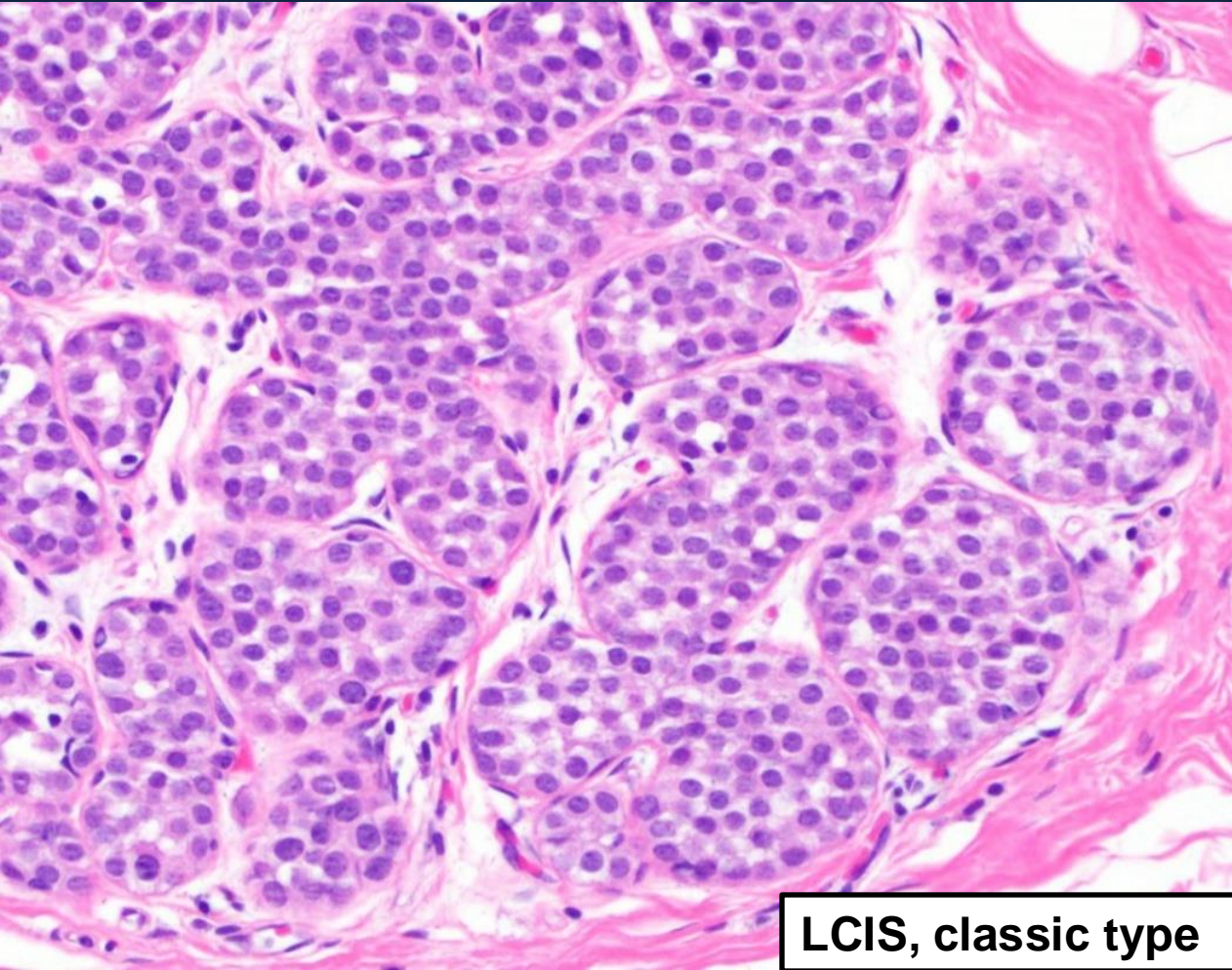
- **Biallelic inactivation of *CDH1* in majority (>80%)**
  - **Mutations**
  - **Deletions**
  - **Promoter methylation**
- **LCIS clonally related to co-existing ILC**



- Proteins we can stain by IHC:**
- E-cadherin
  - p120
  - Beta-catenin

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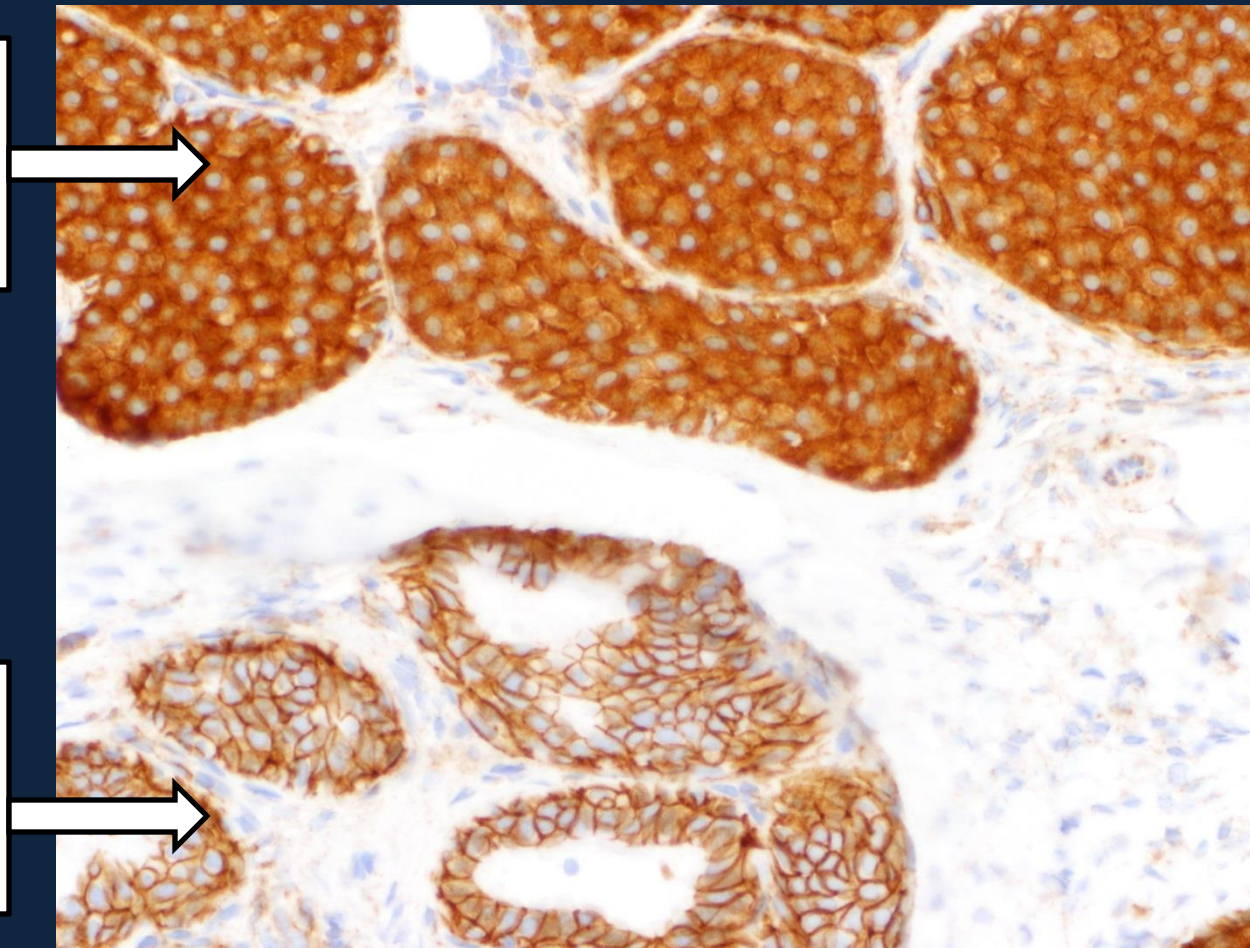






# Inactivation of E-cadherin results in accumulation of p120 in the cytoplasm

**LCIS –  
cytoplasmic  
staining with p120**



**Benign glands –  
membranous  
staining with p120**



# Lobular carcinoma in situ (LCIS)

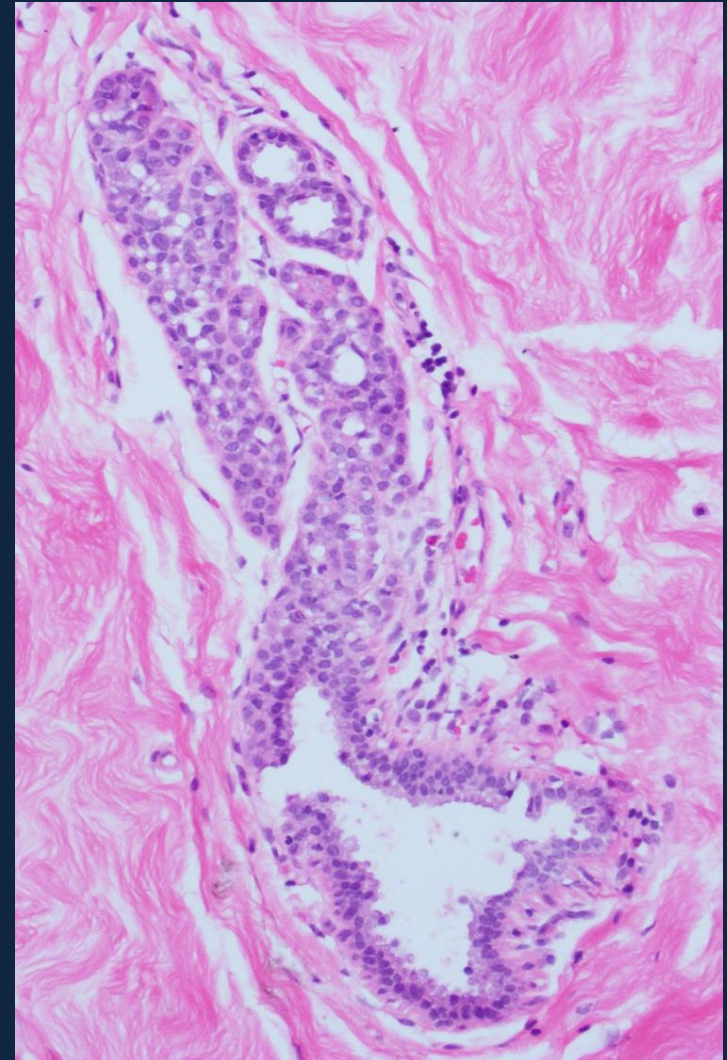
# Lobular carcinoma in situ (LCIS)

- Premenopausal (mean 45 yrs)
- Multicentric, bilateral
- Often incidental finding
- Marker for increase in risk of invasive cancer (8-10x)
- Non-obligate precursor to invasive carcinoma



# Atypical lobular hyperplasia (ALH)

- Less developed
- Distension of less than 50% acini in lobule
- Grouped with classic LCIS: “lobular neoplasia”



# LCIS – morphologic classification

## Classic

- Low to intermediate nuclear grade

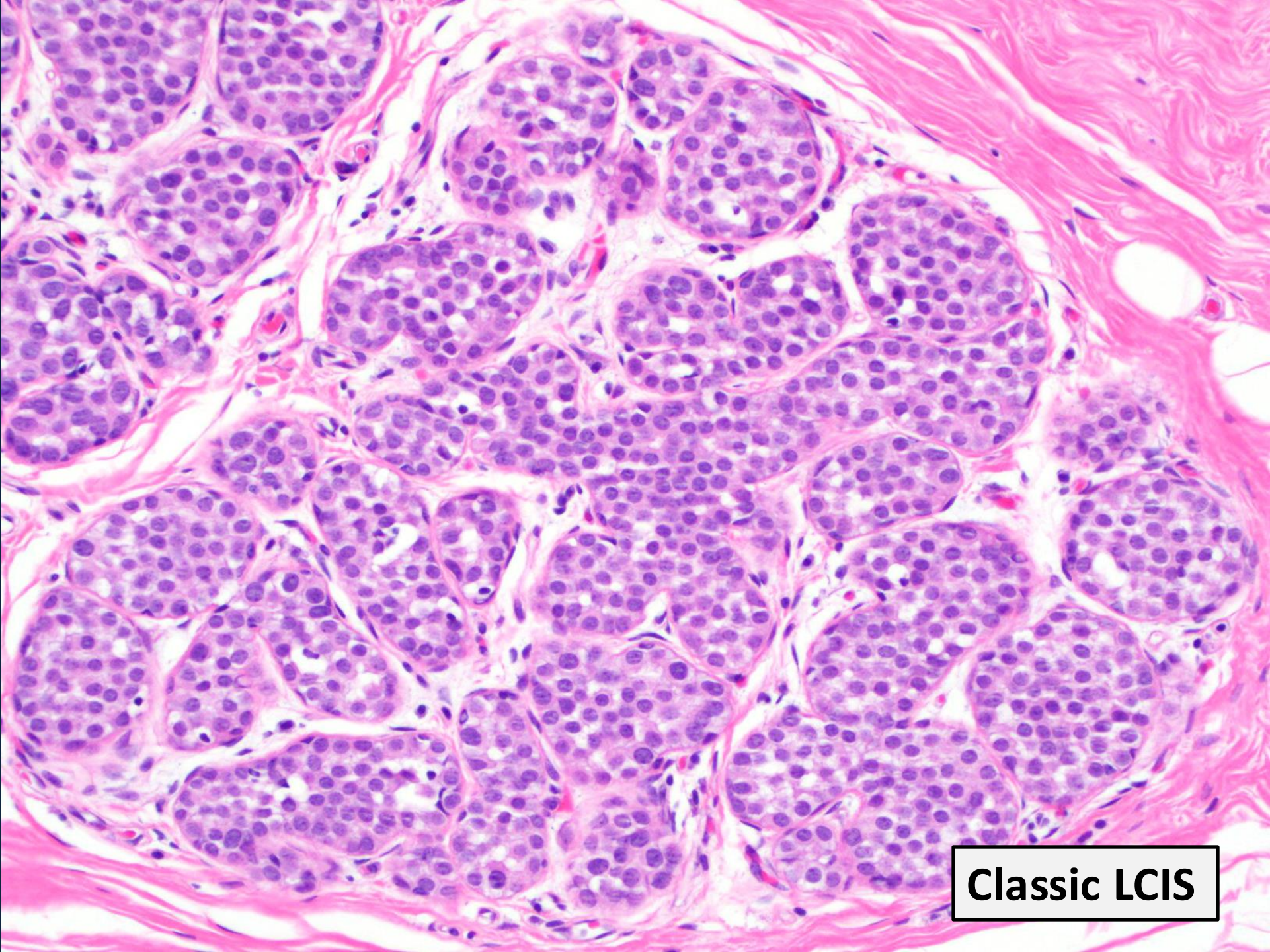
## Florid

- Low to intermediate nuclear grade
- Expansion of ducts (“macroacinar distension”)

## Pleomorphic

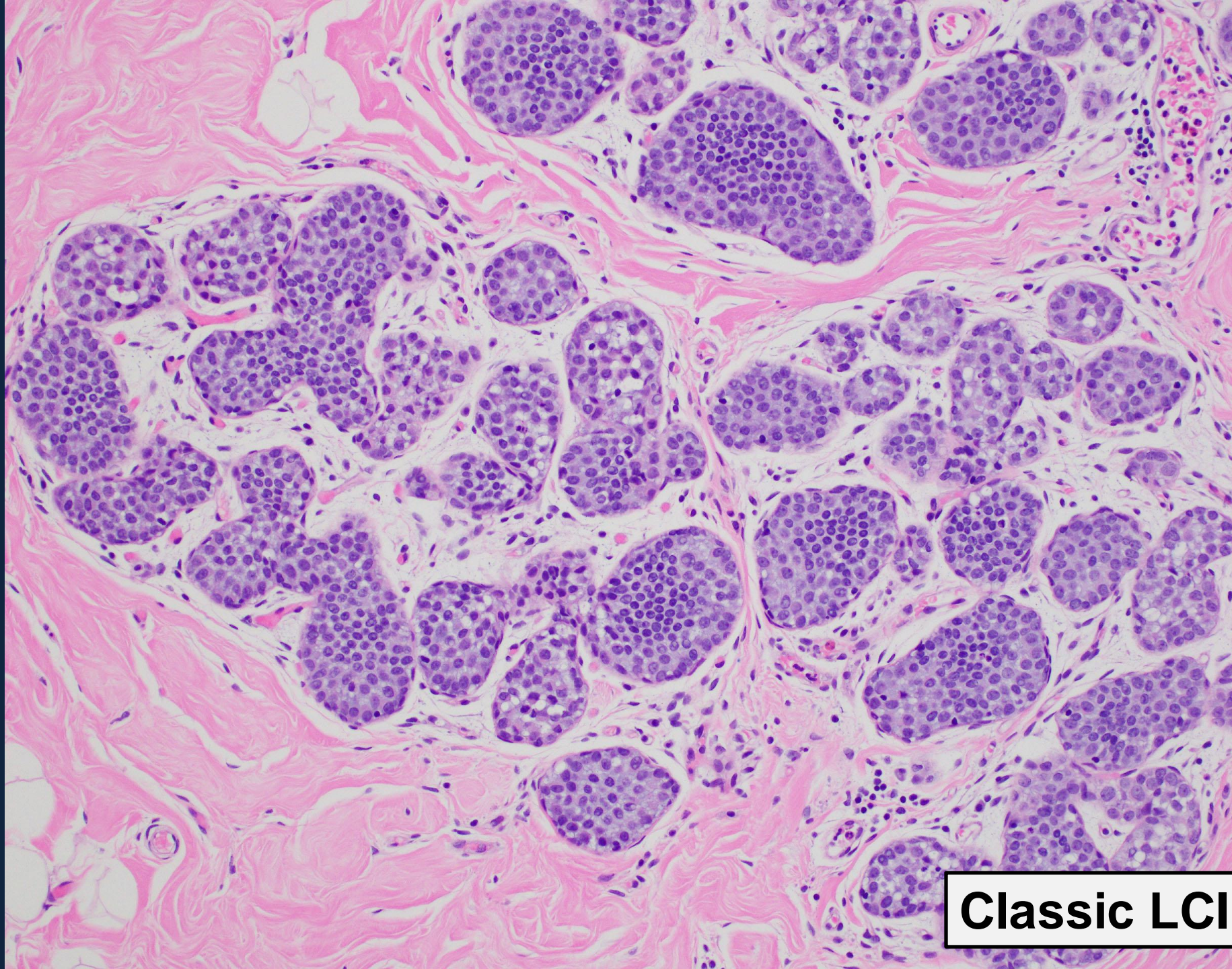
- High-grade cytology





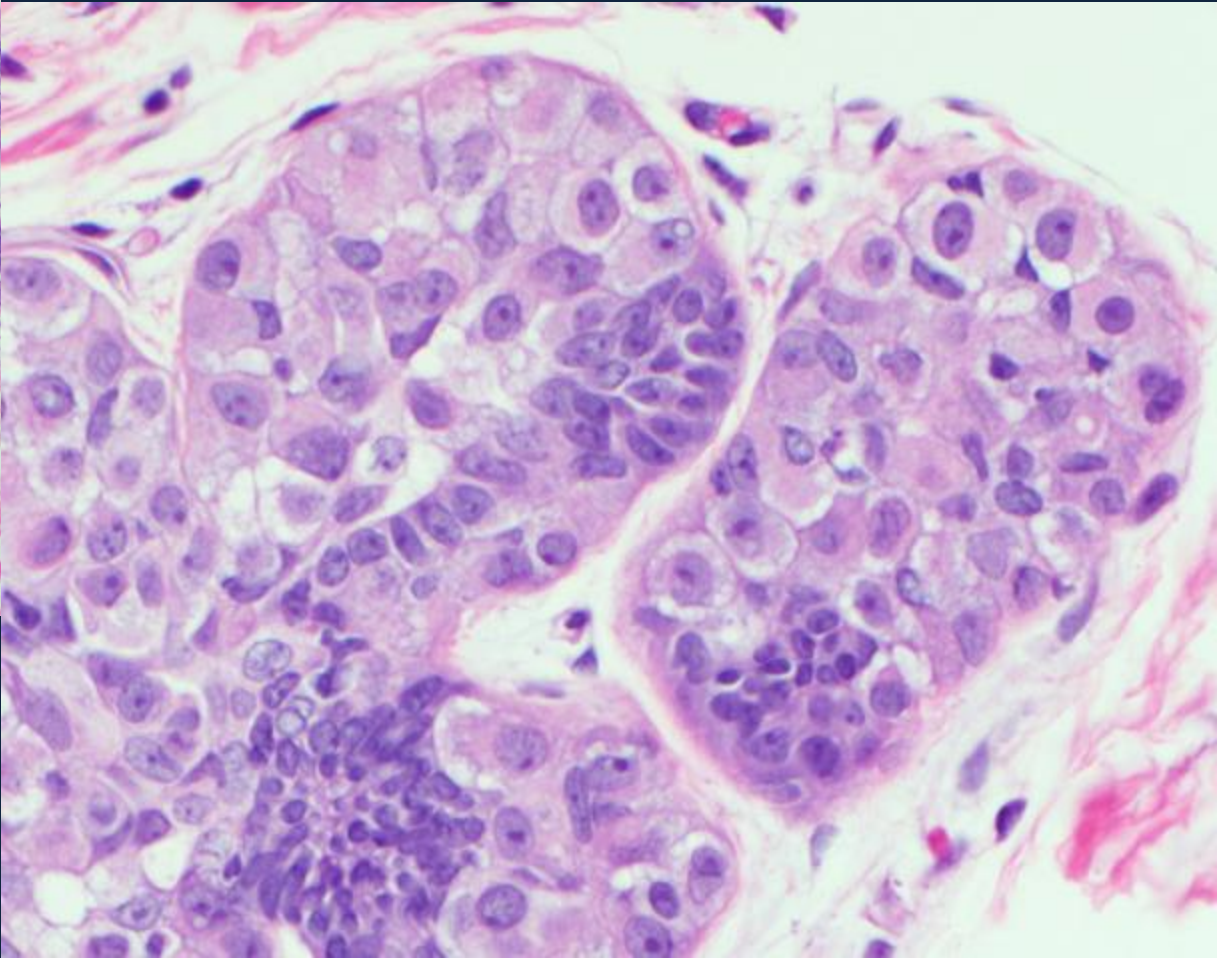
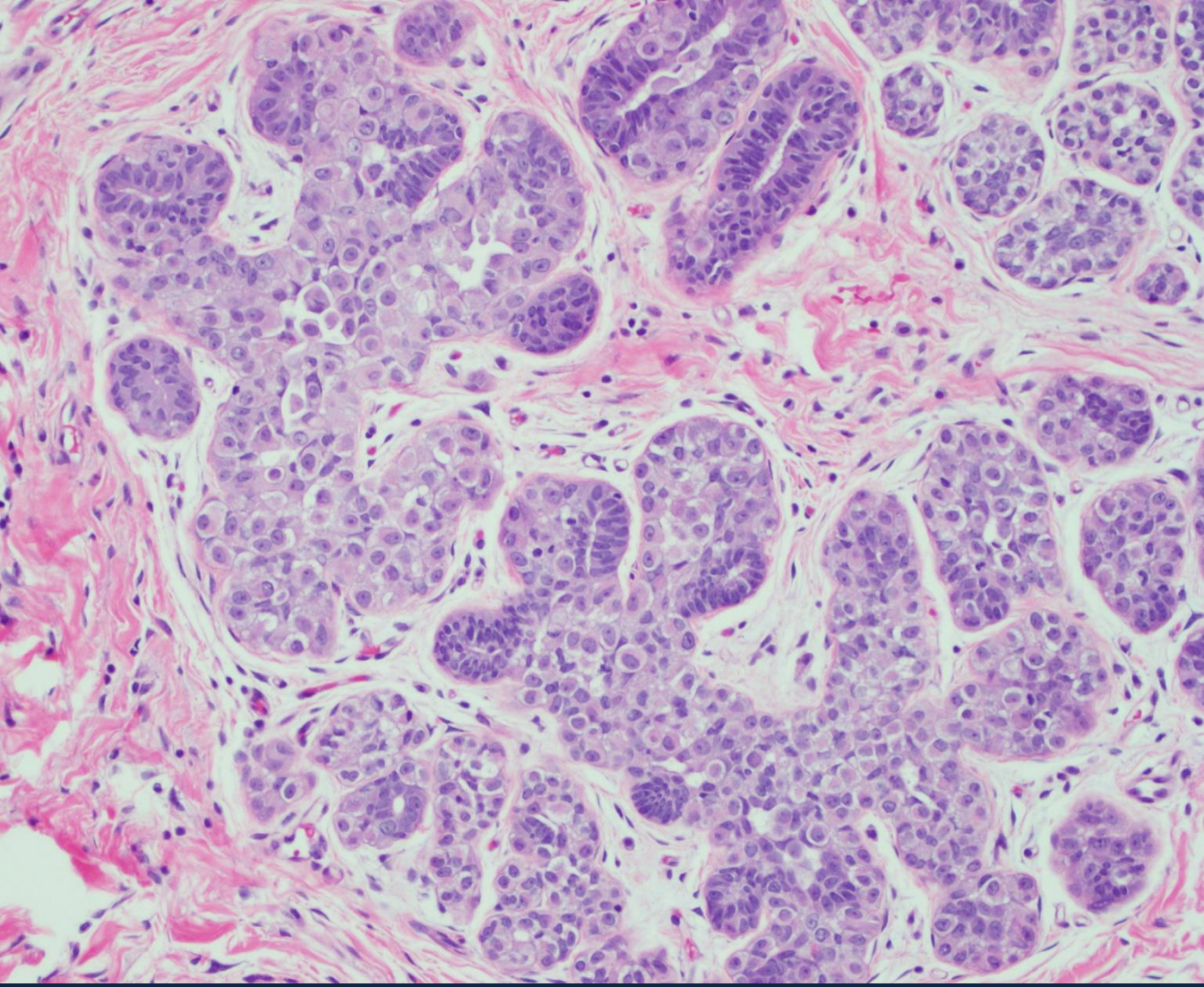
**Classic LCIS**





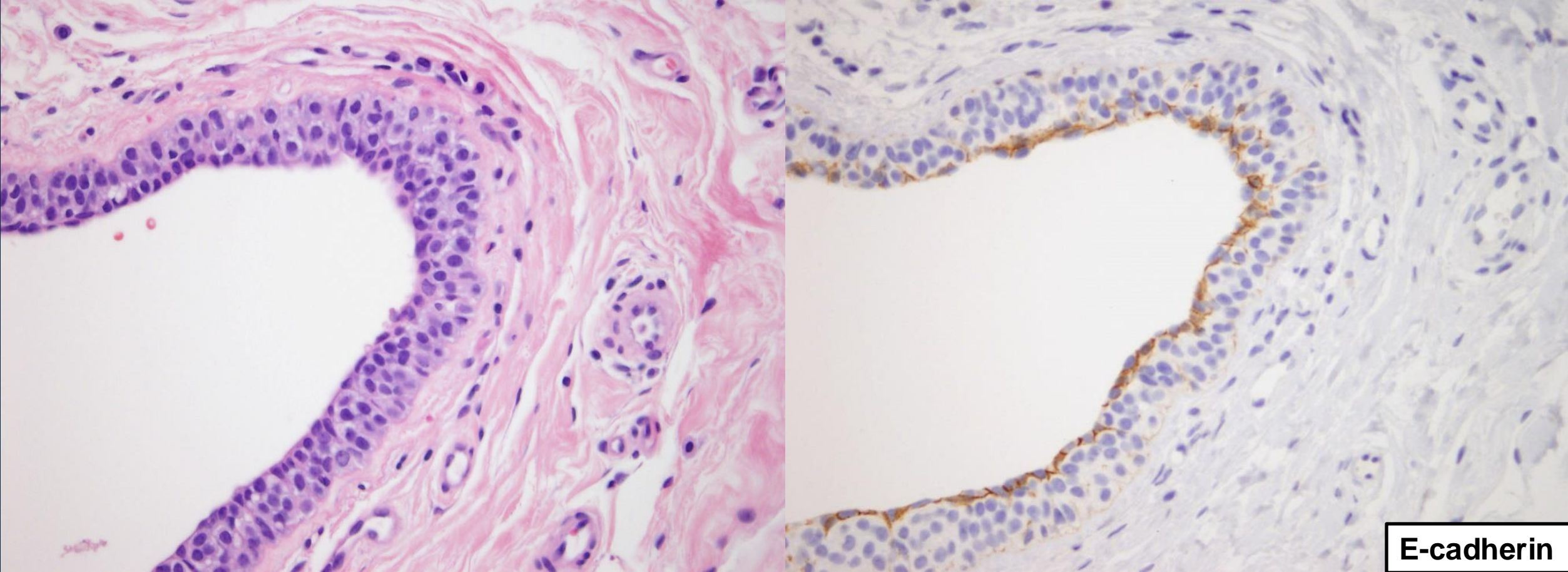
**Classic LCIS**





**Classic LCIS "type B" cells**





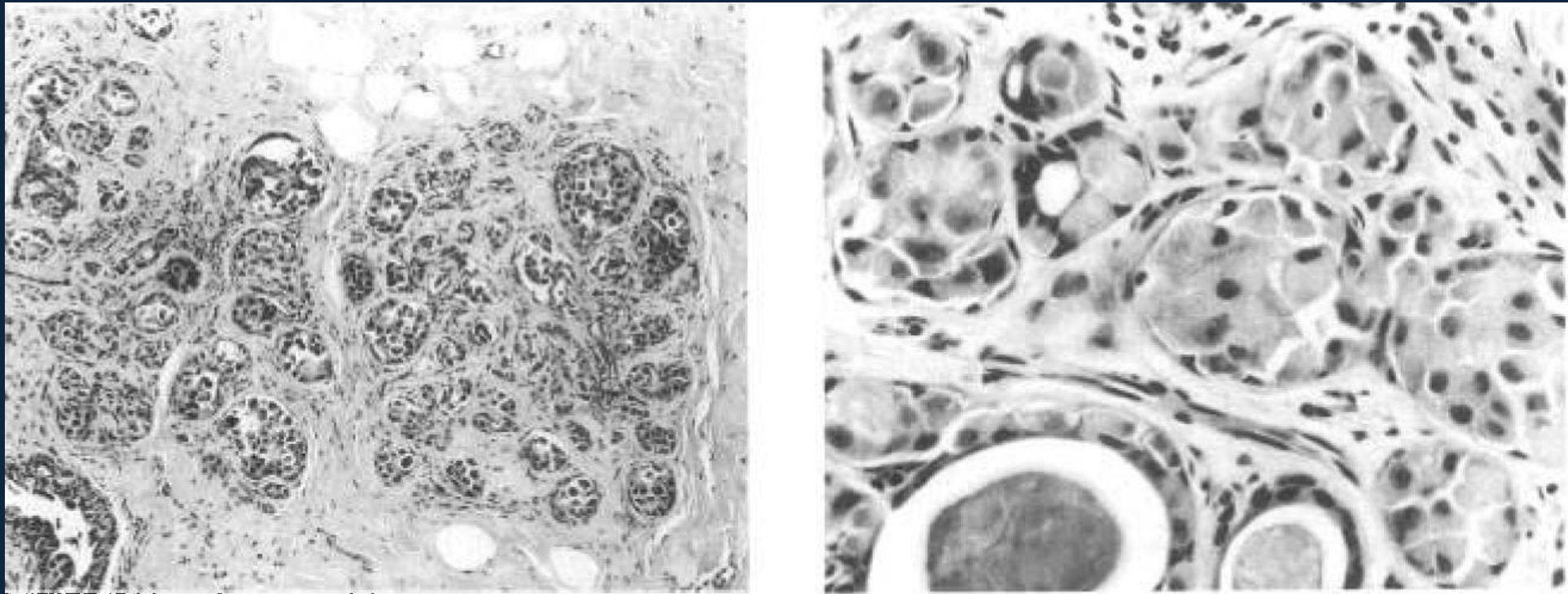
**Pagetoid growth**

**E-cadherin**



## *Pleomorphic Lobular Carcinoma In Situ*

Andra R. Frost, MD,\* Theodore N. Tsangaris, MD,†  
and Steven G. Silverberg, MD\*



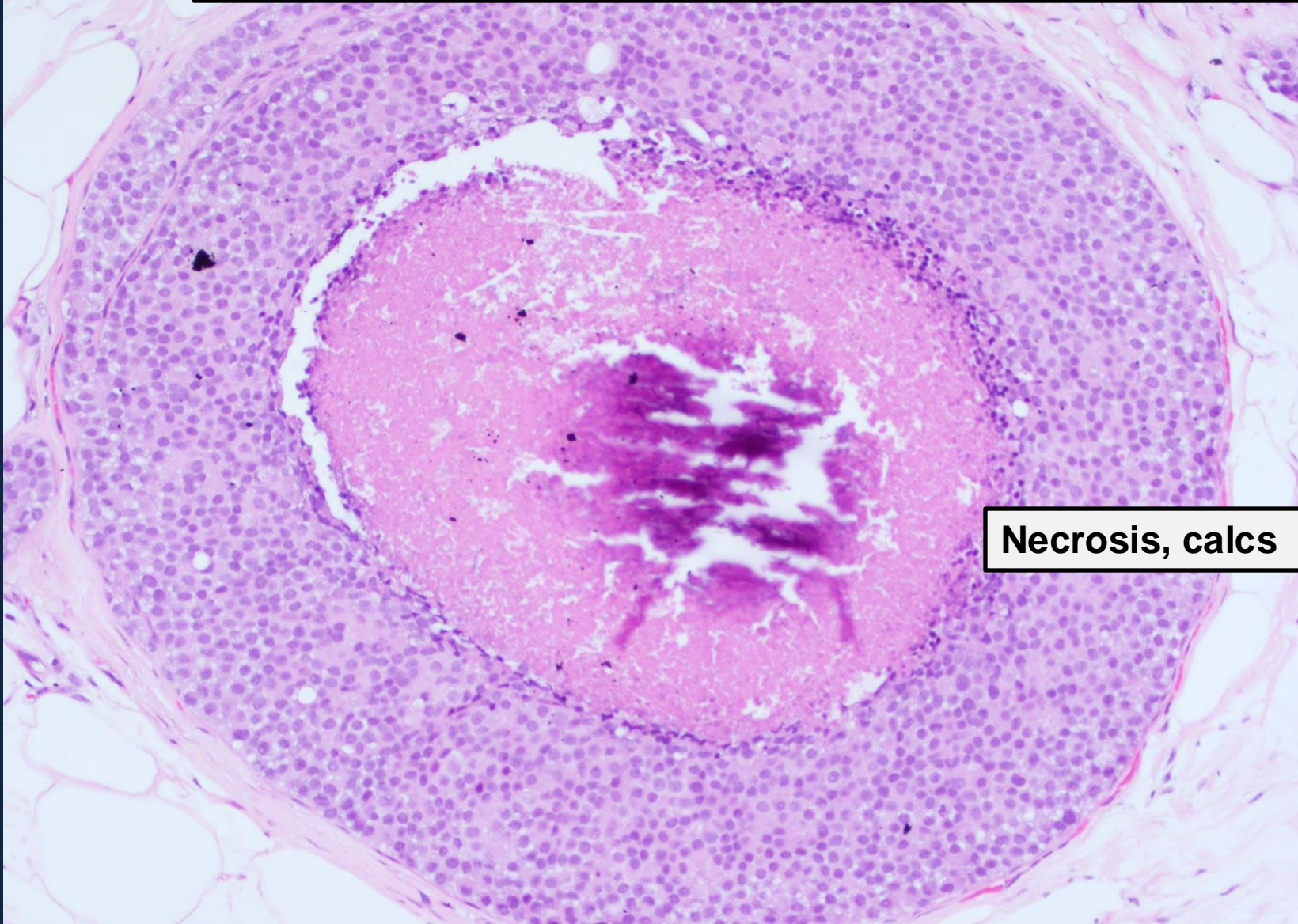
**“...The in situ carcinoma was cytologically identical to the infiltrating carcinoma and was interpreted as the *in situ* counterpart of infiltrating pleomorphic lobular carcinoma.”**

# **A variety of terms have been used for non-classic LCIS**

- **Large cell LCIS**
- **LCIS with pleomorphic features**
- **Pleomorphic apocrine LCIS**
- **LCIS with comedonecrosis**
- **LCIS with massive acinar expansion**
- **Signet ring cell LCIS**

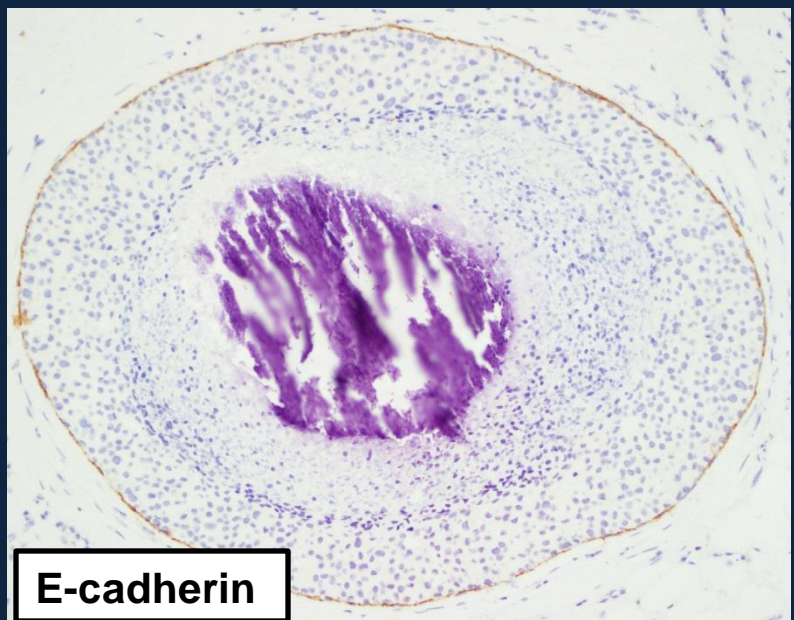


Expansion of ducts with low to intermediate grade LCIS cells



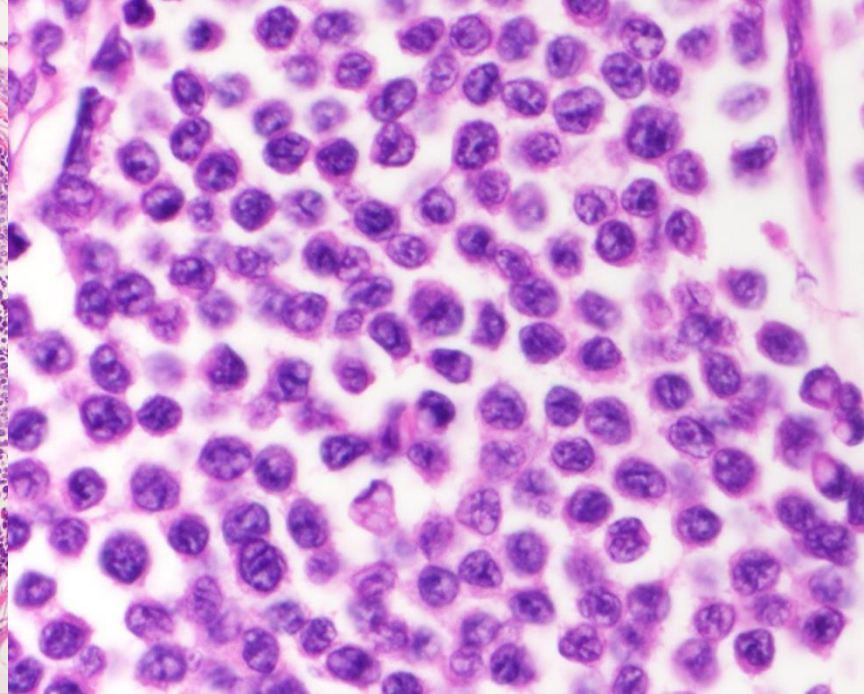
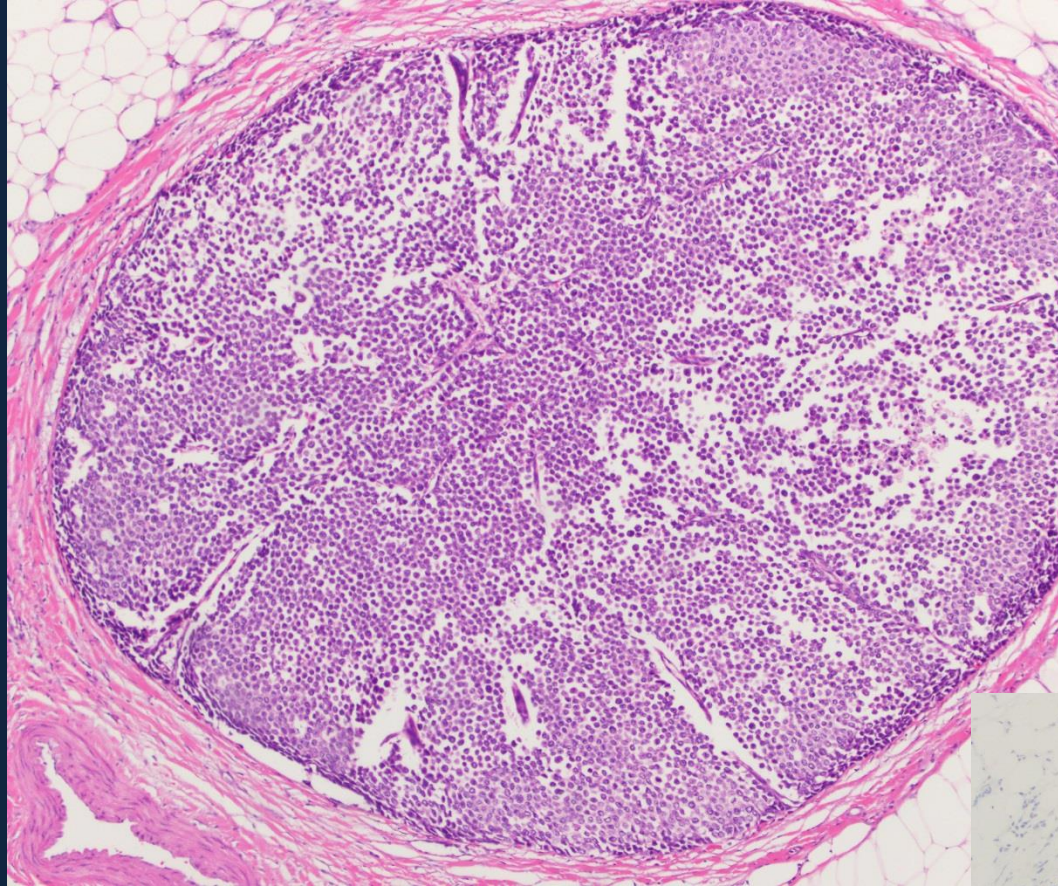
Necrosis, calcs

Florid LCIS



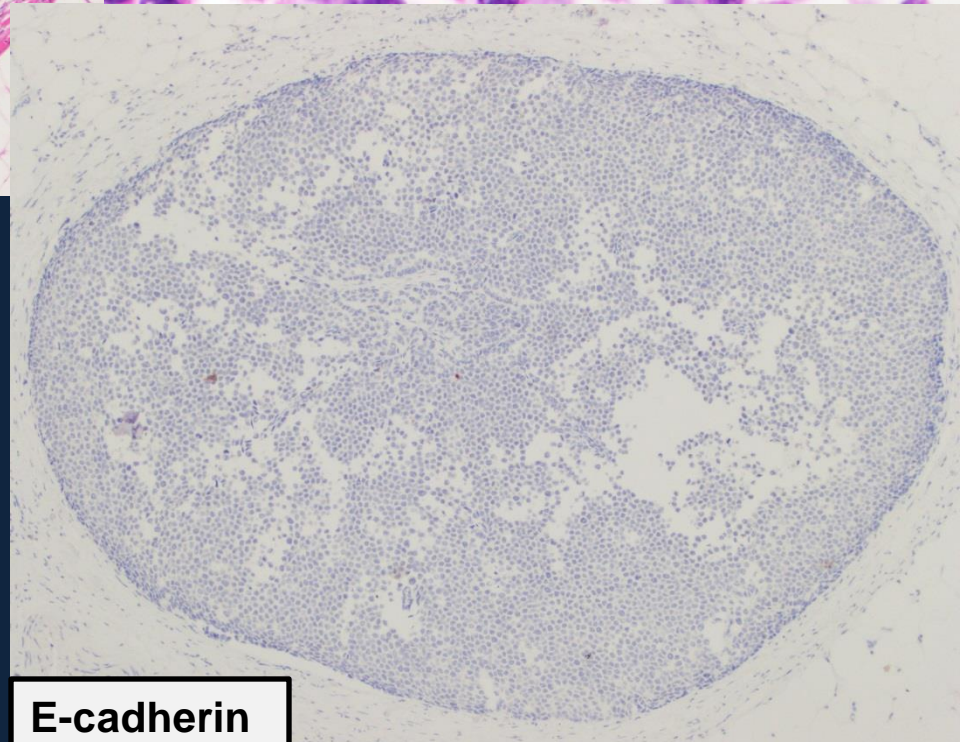
E-cadherin





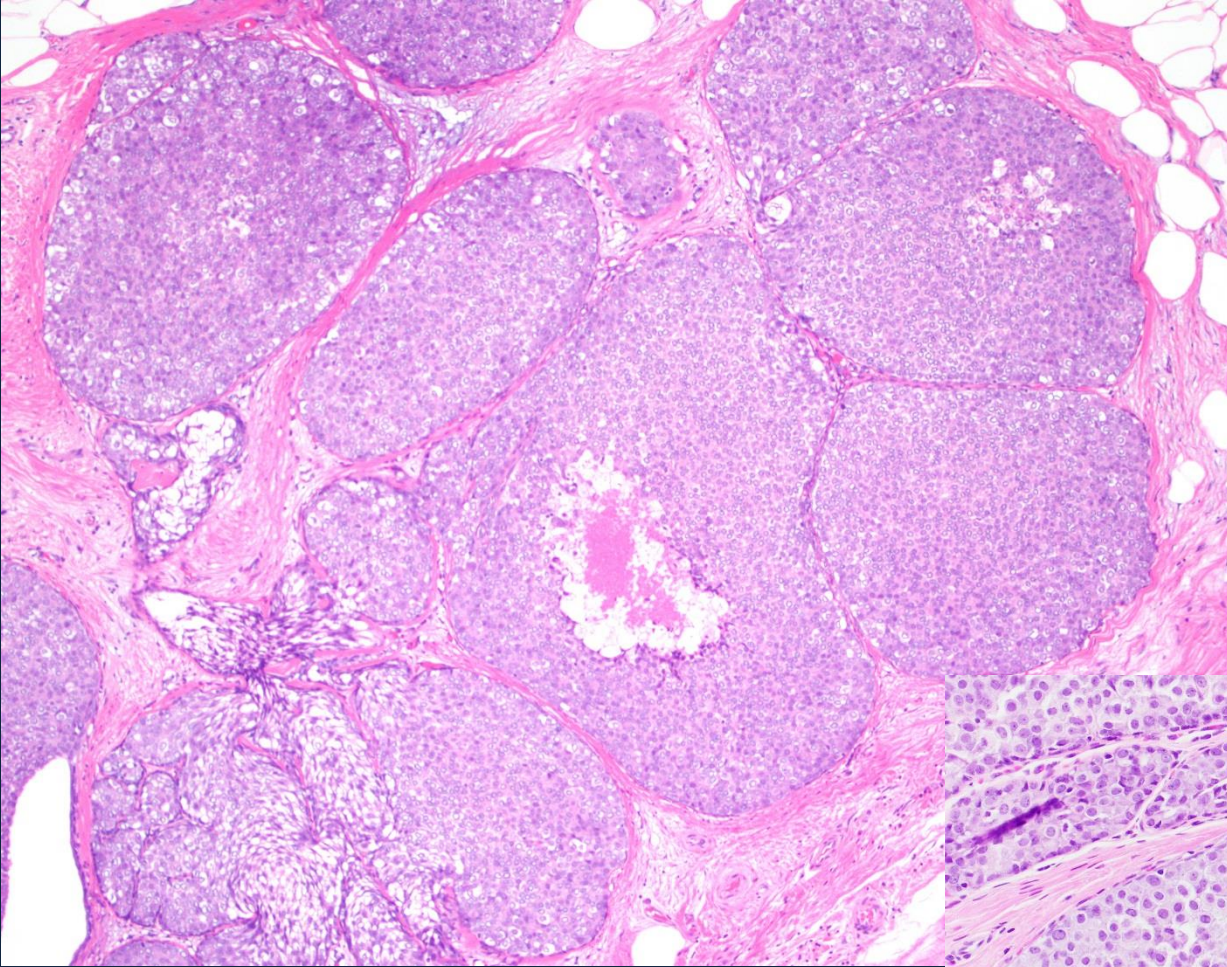
## Florid LCIS

Distension of ducts  
Low to intermediate-grade  
nuclei  
+/- necrosis and calcification



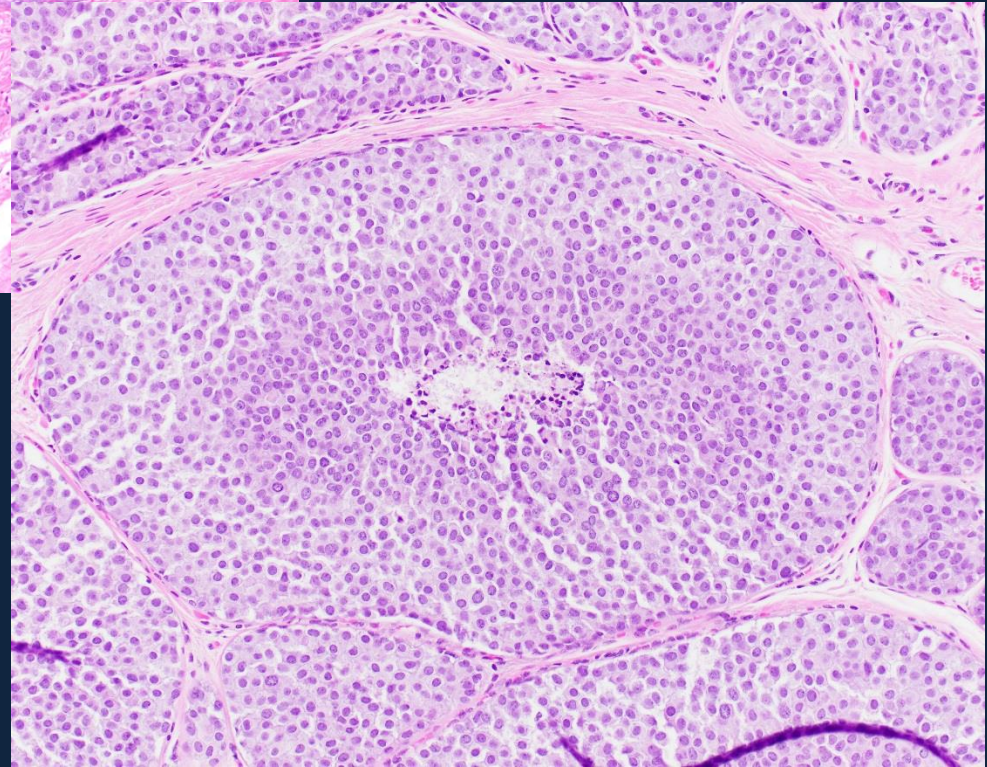
E-cadherin



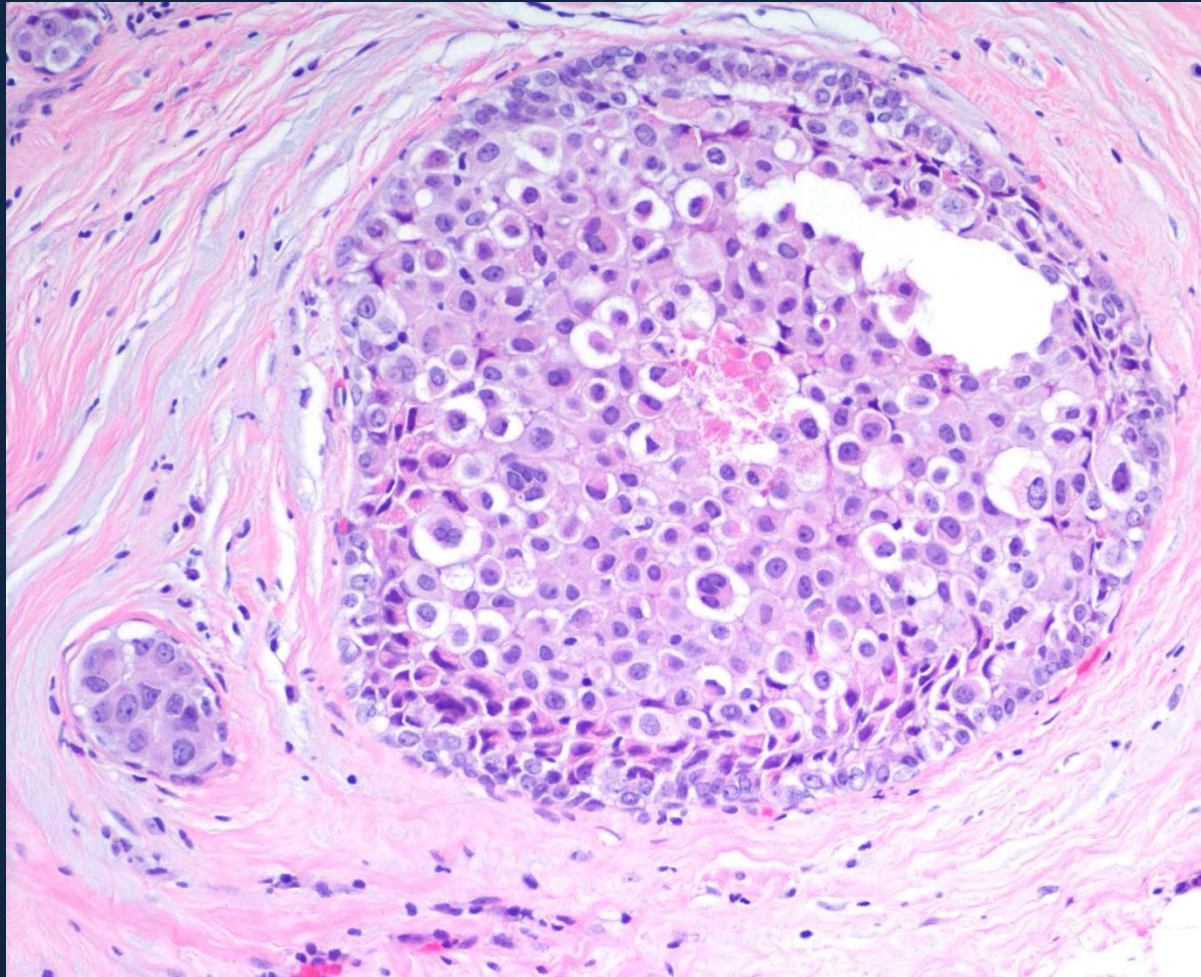


**Florid LCIS**

**Little to no intervening  
stroma between expanded  
ducts**

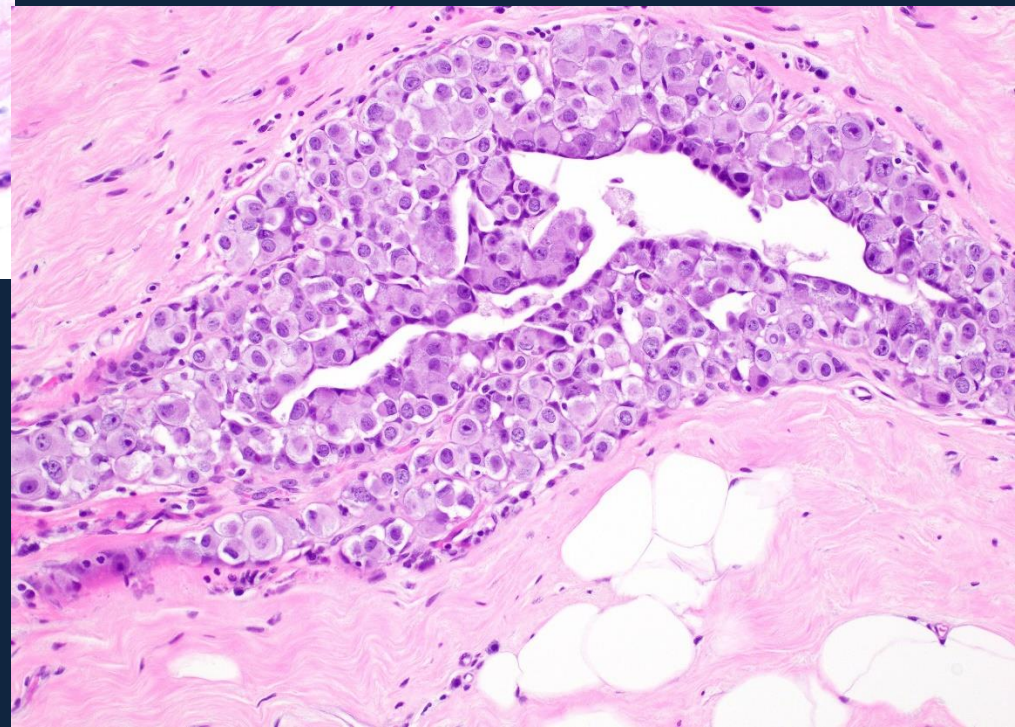




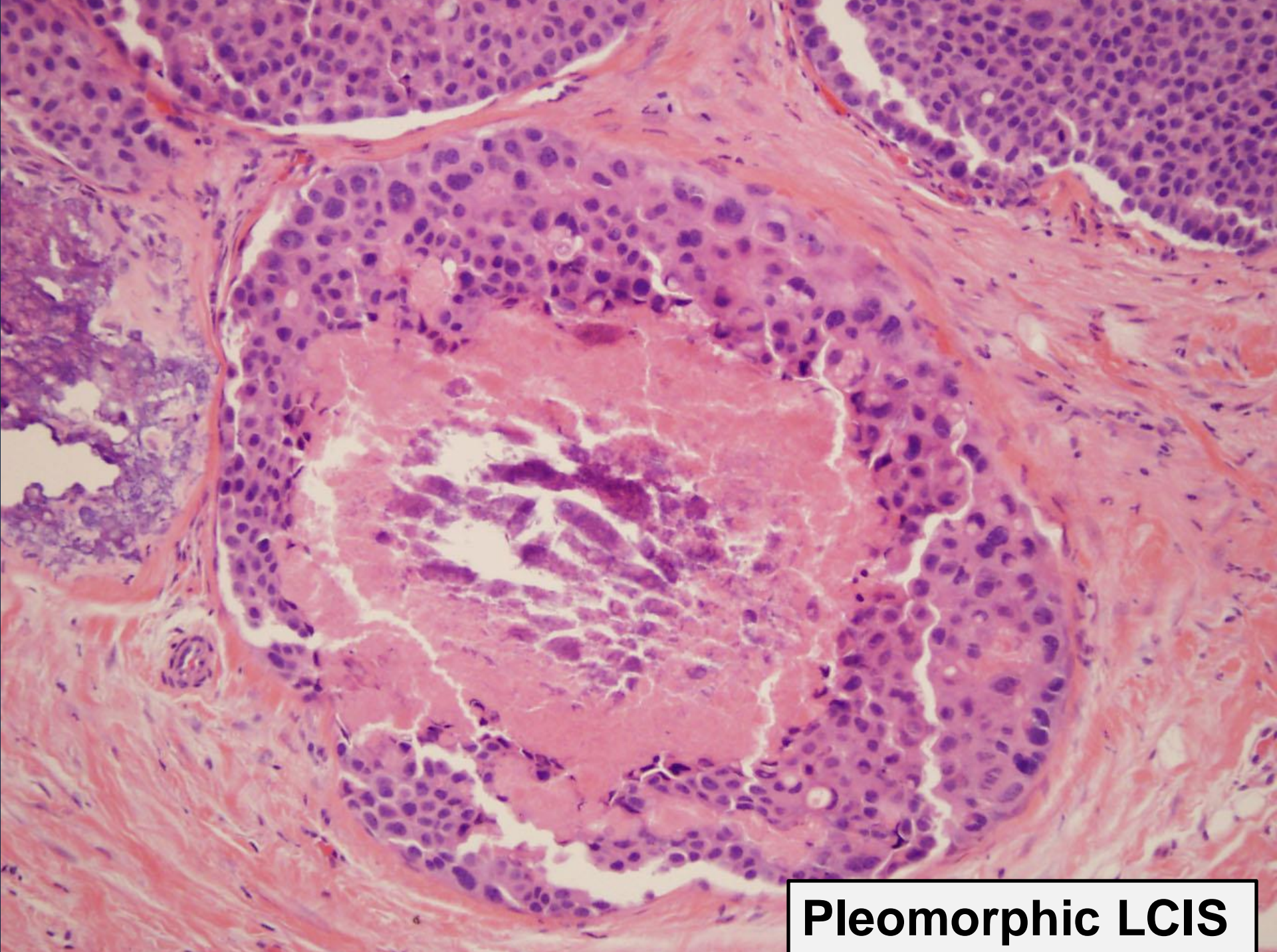


- High-grade nuclei
- Necrosis

**Pleomorphic LCIS**

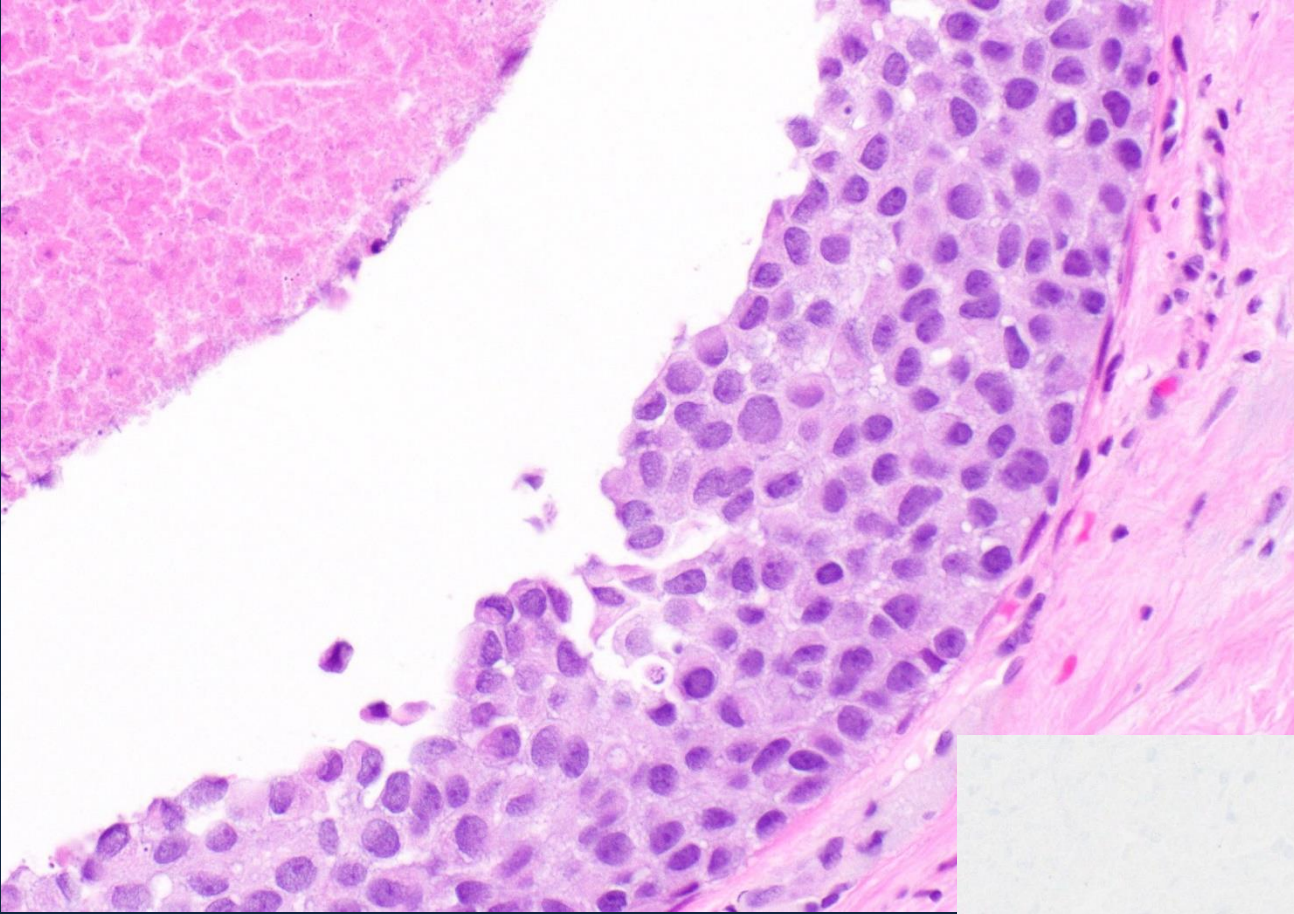




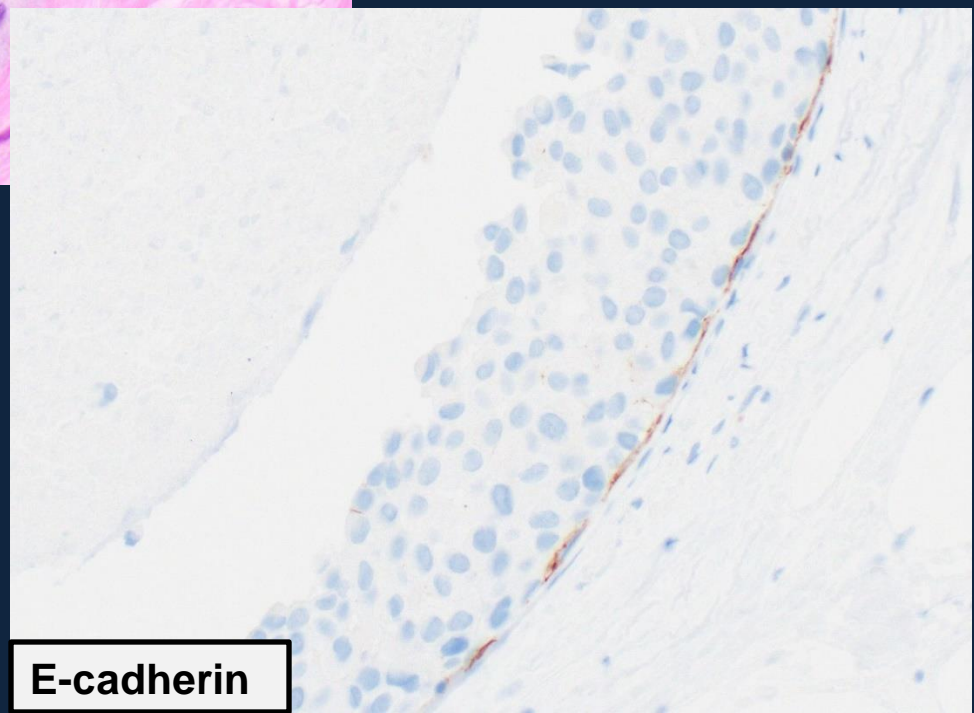


**Pleomorphic LCIS**





**Pleomorphic LCIS**



**E-cadherin**



# Clinical presentation

## Classic LCIS:

- Premenopausal, mean  $\approx$  45 yrs
- Incidental, less commonly bx'd due to calcs
- Multifocal, multicentric

## Florid and pleomorphic LCIS:

- Postmenopausal, mean  $\approx$  60 yrs
- Usually imaging target – calcs or mass
- Unifocal
- Commonly seen in association with classic LCIS

# Biomarker profile (stains not routinely performed)

## Classic LCIS:

- Virtually all ER-positive, HER2-negative

## Florid LCIS:

- Majority ER-positive, HER2-negative

## Pleomorphic LCIS:

- Majority ER-positive
- HER2 overexpression in about 20%, particularly apocrine type



# LCIS: Molecular features

## Classic LCIS:

- 16q loss, gain of 1q
- *CDH1* alterations
- *PIK3CA* mutations

## Florid LCIS:


- 16q loss, gain of 1q
- Greater genomic instability
- Increased copy number alterations

## Pleomorphic LCIS:

- 16q loss, gain of 1q
- Greater genomic instability
- Increased copy number alterations
- ***HER2* amplification**

*Mol Oncol* 2016;10(2):360-70  
*Hum Pathol* 2013;44(10):1998-2009  
*Breast Cancer Res* 2017;19(1):7  
*Mod Pathol* 2020;33(7):1287-1297

# Genomic profiling of pleomorphic and florid lobular carcinoma in situ reveals highly recurrent *ERBB2* and *ERRB3* alterations

Beth T. Harrison <sup>1</sup> · Faina Nakhlis<sup>2,3</sup> · Deborah A. Dillon<sup>1,3</sup> · T. Rinda Soong<sup>4</sup> · Elizabeth P. Garcia<sup>5</sup> · Stuart J. Schnitt<sup>1,3</sup> · Tari A. King<sup>2,3</sup>

**N=19: 17 pleomorphic, 2 florid**

- ***CDH1* mutations, 16q loss, 1q gain (lobular hallmarks)**
- **Recurrent *ERBB2* alterations – mutations (13), amplifications (6)**
- **Recurrent *PIK3CA*, *RUNX1*, *CBFB* mutations**



# **LCIS: Clinical questions**

**Excise when diagnosed in core biopsy?**

# **Incidence of Adjacent Synchronous Invasive Carcinoma and/or Ductal Carcinoma In-situ in Patients with Lobular Neoplasia on Core Biopsy: Results from a Prospective Multi-Institutional Registry (TBCRC 020)**

Faina Nakhlis, MD<sup>1,8</sup>, Lauren Gilmore, MD<sup>2</sup>, Rebecca Gelman, PhD<sup>1</sup>, Isabelle Bedrosian, MD<sup>4</sup>, Kandice Ludwig, MD<sup>5</sup>, E. Shelley Hwang, MD<sup>6</sup>, Shawna Willey, MD<sup>7</sup>, Clifford Hudis, MD<sup>3</sup>, J. Dirk Iglehart, MD<sup>1,8</sup>, Elizabeth Lawler, BA<sup>1</sup>, Nicole Y. Ryabin, BS<sup>1</sup>, Mehra Golshan, MD<sup>1,8</sup>, Stuart J. Schnitt, MD<sup>9</sup>, and Tari A. King, MD<sup>10</sup>

- **Prospective with central path review**
- **Diagnosis of lobular neoplasia in core bx**
- **Rad-path concordance in all cases**
- **BIRADS 4 or lower**
- **Upgrade: 1 of 74 (1.4%)**
  - **DCIS**



## **Comparison of Outcomes for Classic-Type Lobular Carcinoma In Situ Managed with Surgical Excision After Core Biopsy Versus Observation**

Regina Matar, MD<sup>1</sup>, Varadan Sevilimedu, MBBS, DrPH<sup>2</sup>, Anna Park, PA<sup>1</sup>, Tari A. King, MD<sup>3,4</sup>, and Melissa Pilewskie, MD<sup>1</sup>

**n= 312 w/ classic LCIS in core**

- 54% - excision w/o upgrade
- 46% - observation

**No diff. in breast cancer development between groups**

**No diff. in 5-year cancer development between concordant LCIS group and observation group**

## **Classic LCIS:**

### **Upgrade on excision s/p core biopsy**

- Upgrade rates range from 1-35%
- Lower upgrade rates (1-4%) with rad-path concordance and incidental LCIS/ALH
- Upgrades small ER+ cancers, often incidental



# Should classic LCIS be excised?

- Routine excision of incidental ALH/LCIS on core bx not indicated
- Multidisciplinary approach necessary
- Pts should undergo excision when:
  - Associated atypical hyperplasia
  - Radiologic-pathologic discordance
  - Residual mammographic abnormality after core bx

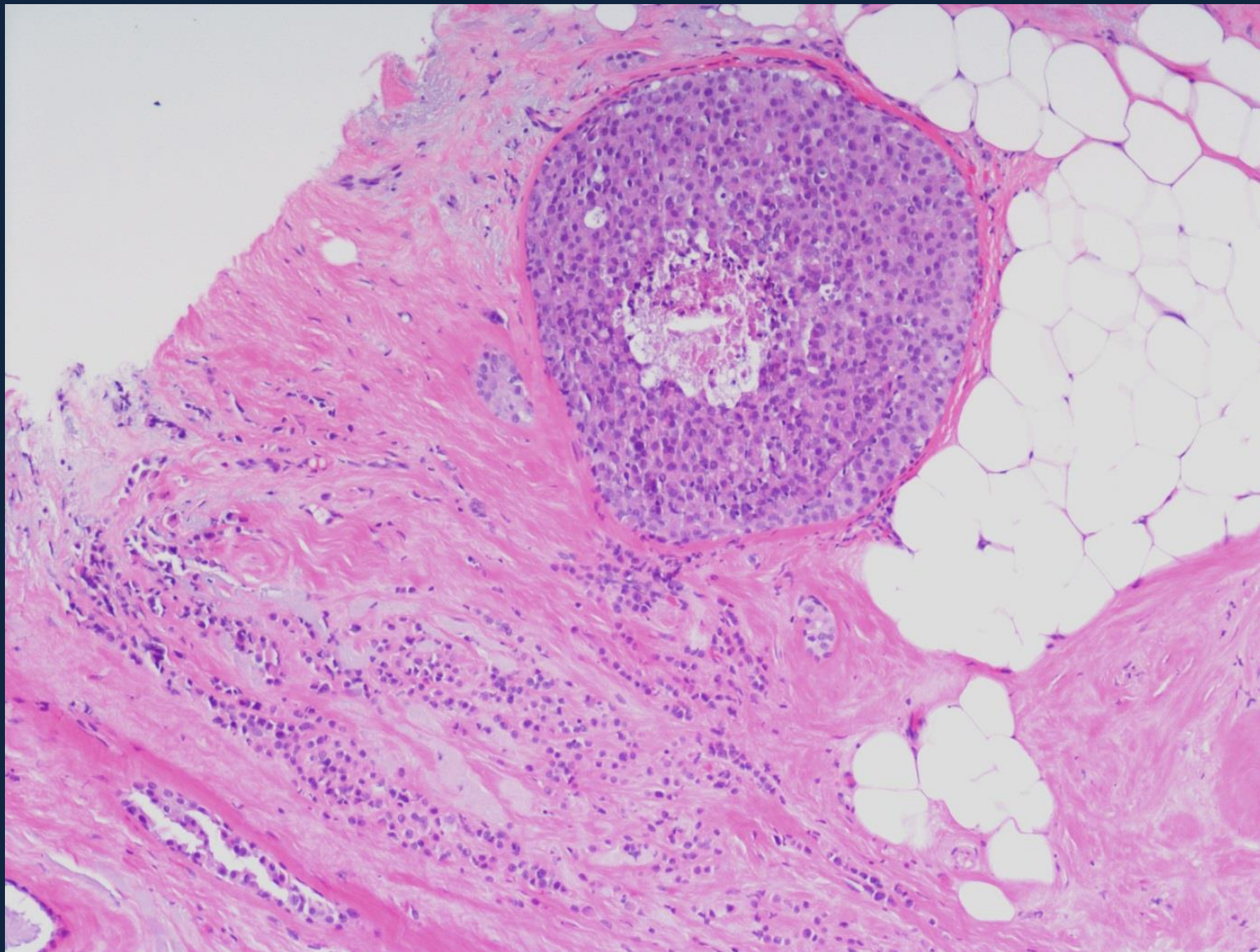
# Management issues for LCIS variants

Excise after core biopsy diagnosis?

Re-excision of positive margins

Adjuvant radiation?





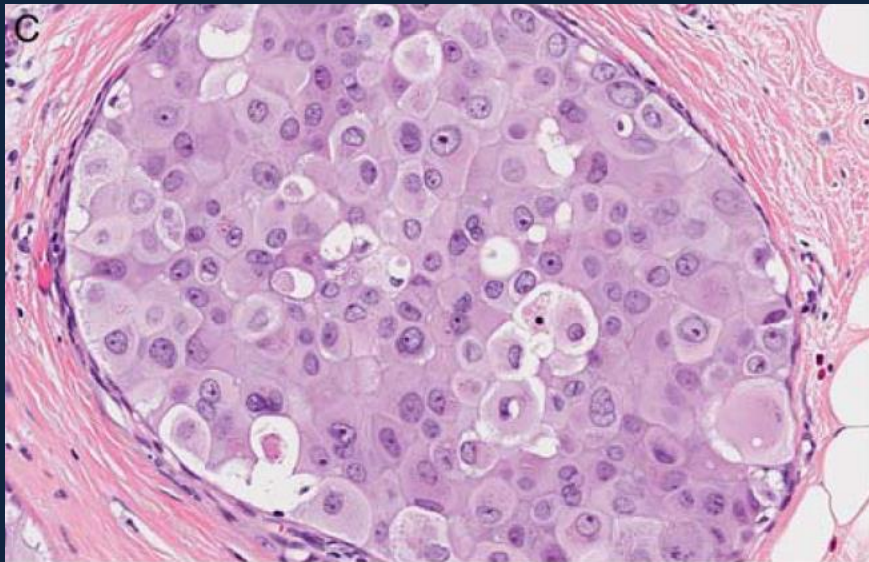
**LCIS variants (florid, pleomorphic) are frequently associated with invasive carcinoma**

# Pleomorphic and Florid Lobular Carcinoma in Situ Variants of the Breast

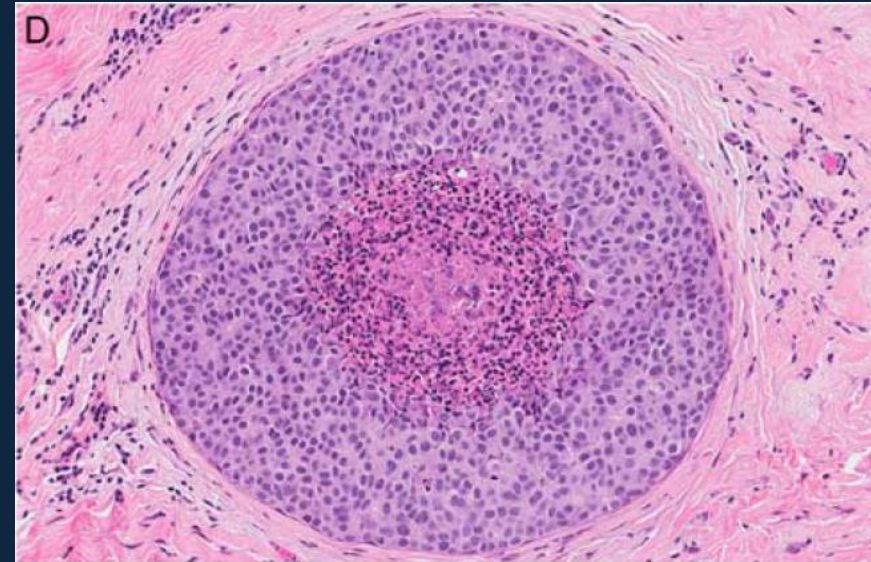
*A Clinicopathologic Study of 85 Cases With and Without Invasive  
Carcinoma From a Single Academic Center*

*Eliah R. Shamir, MD, PhD, Yunn-Yi Chen, MD, PhD, Tianming Chu, Melike Pekmezci, MD,  
Joseph T. Rabban, MD, MPH, and Gregor Krings, MD, PhD*

- **Pleomorphic + florid LCIS variants over 20-year period**
- **n = 85 (pleomorphic: n = 61, florid: n = 24)**
- **Overall, 77% were associated with invasive ca**
  - 84% were invasive lobular ca



**Apocrine pleomorphic LCIS**



**Florid LCIS**



Pleomorphic and Florid Lobular Carcinoma  
in Situ Variants of the Breast

*A Clinicopathologic Study of 85 Cases With and Without Invasive  
Carcinoma From a Single Academic Center*

*Elijah R. Shamir, MD, PhD, Yunn-Yi Chen, MD, PhD, Tianming Chu, Melike Pekmezci, MD,  
Joseph T. Rabban, MD, MPH, and Gregor Krings, MD, PhD*

**Pleomorphic LCIS (n=61):**

- **44 (77%) associated with invasive ca**
  - **64% pleomorphic ILC)**
  - **79% HR+, 14% HER2+ (5 of 6 apo PLCIS), 12% triple-negative**
- **Core bx: 3/8 (38%) cases upgraded: 1 PILC, 1 ILC**

**Florid LCIS (n=24):**

- **18 (75%) assoc. w/ invasive ca**
  - **95% classic ILC or mixed ductal-ILC**
  - **All HR+, one case (6%) HER2+, none triple-negative**
- **Core bx: 2/6 (33%) cases upgraded: 1 ILC, 1 DCIS**

# Evaluating the Rate of Upgrade to Invasive Breast Cancer and/or Ductal Carcinoma In Situ Following a Core Biopsy Diagnosis of *Non-classic* Lobular Carcinoma In Situ

Faina Nakhlis, MD<sup>1,5,6</sup>, Beth T. Harrison, MD<sup>2,5</sup>, Catherine S. Giess, MD<sup>3,5</sup>, Susan C. Lester, MD, PhD<sup>2,5</sup>, Kevin S. Hughes, MD<sup>4,5</sup>, Suzanne B. Cooney, MD<sup>4,5</sup>, and Tari A. King, MD<sup>1,5,6</sup>

- **76 cases pure non-classic LCIS (75 pts)**
- **61 (80%) biopsied for mammographic calcs**
- **27/76 (36%) showed upgrade**
  - **17 (63%) upgraded to invasive ca: 9 ILC, 5 IDC, 3 mixed**  
**Median size: 2 mm (range: 0.6 to 11 mm)**  
**15 (88%) HR+, 1 (6%) HER2+**
- **No clinical/imaging findings associated with upgrade**



References	NC-LCIS subtype	No. of excisions	No. of upgrades (%)
Georgian-Smith and Lawton <sup>10</sup>	P-LCIS	5	2 (40)
Lavoue et al. <sup>11</sup>	P-LCIS	10	3 (33)
Chivukula et al. <sup>12</sup>	PLCIS	12	3 (25)
Carder et al. <sup>13</sup>	P-LCIS	8	2 (25)
Sullivan et al. <sup>9</sup>	V-LCIS	11	4 (36)
	P-LCIS	17	3 (18)
Niell et al. <sup>14</sup>	P-LCIS	4	4 (100)
Meroni et al. <sup>15</sup>	P-LCIS	12	6 (50)
Flanagan et al. <sup>16</sup>	P-LCIS	21	11 (52)
Susnik et al. <sup>17</sup>	V-LCIS	15	4 (27)
Guo et al. <sup>18</sup>	P-LCIS	23	14 (60)
This report	CIS	19	4 (21)
	CIS/DLF	37	16 (43)
	V-LCIS	16	4 (25)
	P-LCIS	4	3 (75)
Total		214	83 (39)

*CIS* carcinoma  
lobular carcinoma  
*LCIS* non-cl

**Upgrade rates range from 18 – 100%**  
**Mean: 39%**

*CIS* pleomorphic  
in situ, *NC-*

**NCCN: Clinicians should consider complete excision with negative margins for non-classic LCIS (pleomorphic or florid LCIS) However, outcomes data regarding treatment of individuals with non-classic LCIS are limited, due in part to a paucity of histologic categorization of variants of LCIS.**

**The WHO Editorial Board recommends excision for both florid and pleomorphic LCIS diagnosed in a core biopsy.**



**Optimal management of patients with LCIS variants following excision is uncertain.**

**Few retrospective studies of small number of “pure” LCIS cases with variable inclusion criteria**

**Lack of uniform treatment, limited follow-up**

## Does Non-Classic Lobular Carcinoma In Situ at the Lumpectomy Margin Increase Local Recurrence?

Anna C. Beck, MD<sup>1</sup>, Solange Bayard, MD<sup>2</sup>, George Pitas, MD<sup>1</sup>, Varadan Sevilimedu, MBBS, DrPH<sup>3</sup>, M. Gabriela Kuba, MD<sup>4</sup>, Paula Garcia, MHA<sup>1</sup>, Monica Morrow, MD<sup>1</sup>, and Audree B. Tadros, MD, MPH<sup>1</sup>

### MSKCC study:

511 pts with non-classic LCIS (NC-LCIS) in lumpectomies with invasive carcinoma and/or DCIS

No difference in rates of IBTR or LRR based on margin status

XRT (86% of pts) associated with decreased IBTR and LRR



# Clinical Implications of Margin Involvement by Pleomorphic Lobular Carcinoma In Situ

Erinn Downs-Kelly, DO; Diana Bell, MD; George H. Perkins, MD; Nour Sneige, MD; Lavinia P. Middleton, MD

- N = 26, including 6 with T1mi or T1a invasive ca
- 4 pts (15%) received XRT
- PLCIS at margin in 6 cases, <2 mm from margin in 11 cases
- **1 (3.8%) recurrence** of PLCIS at lumpectomy site
  - Pt had positive margin at lumpectomy, no XRT

## Pleomorphic lobular carcinoma *in situ* of the breast: clinicopathological review of 47 cases

Thaer Khoury, Rouzan G Karabakhtsian,<sup>1</sup> David Mattson,<sup>2</sup> Li Yan,<sup>3</sup> Susanna Syriac, Fadi Habib, Song Liu<sup>3</sup> & Mohamed M Desouki<sup>4</sup>

Department of Pathology, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Buffalo, NY, USA, <sup>1</sup>Department of Pathology, Montefiore Medical Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, <sup>2</sup>Department of Radiation Medicine, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, <sup>3</sup>Department of Biostatistics, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Buffalo, NY, and <sup>4</sup>Department of Pathology, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, USA

- Local recurrence in **6 of 31 (19.4%)** pts with pure PLCIS
  - 4 invasive, 2 PLCIS
  - 2 had margins positive for PLCIS
  - All had BCT and XRT

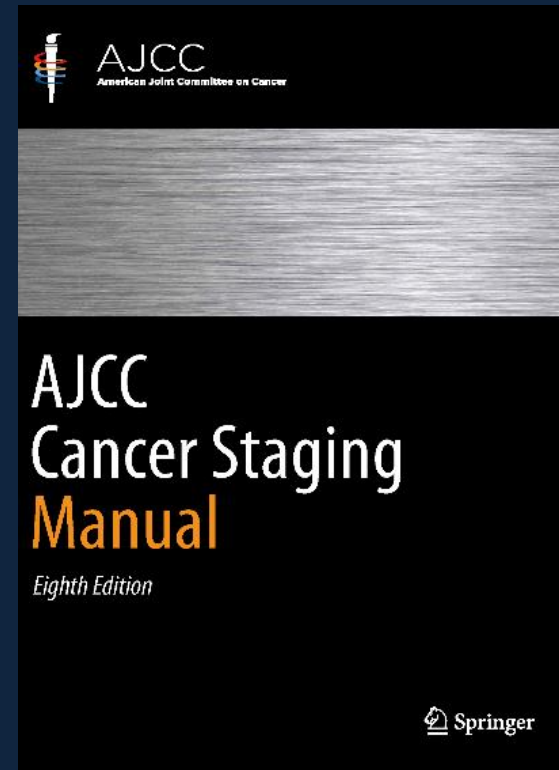
## Breast Surgeon's Survey: No Consensus for Surgical Treatment of Pleomorphic Lobular Carcinoma In Situ

### Survey of 351 breast surgeons

Would you re-excise pleomorphic LCIS at the margin?

- 53% no
- 24% always excise
- 23% sometimes excise

# Staging per AJCC



**LCIS, including pleomorphic and florid types,  
no longer staged as Tis in current 8<sup>th</sup> Edition**



# LCIS

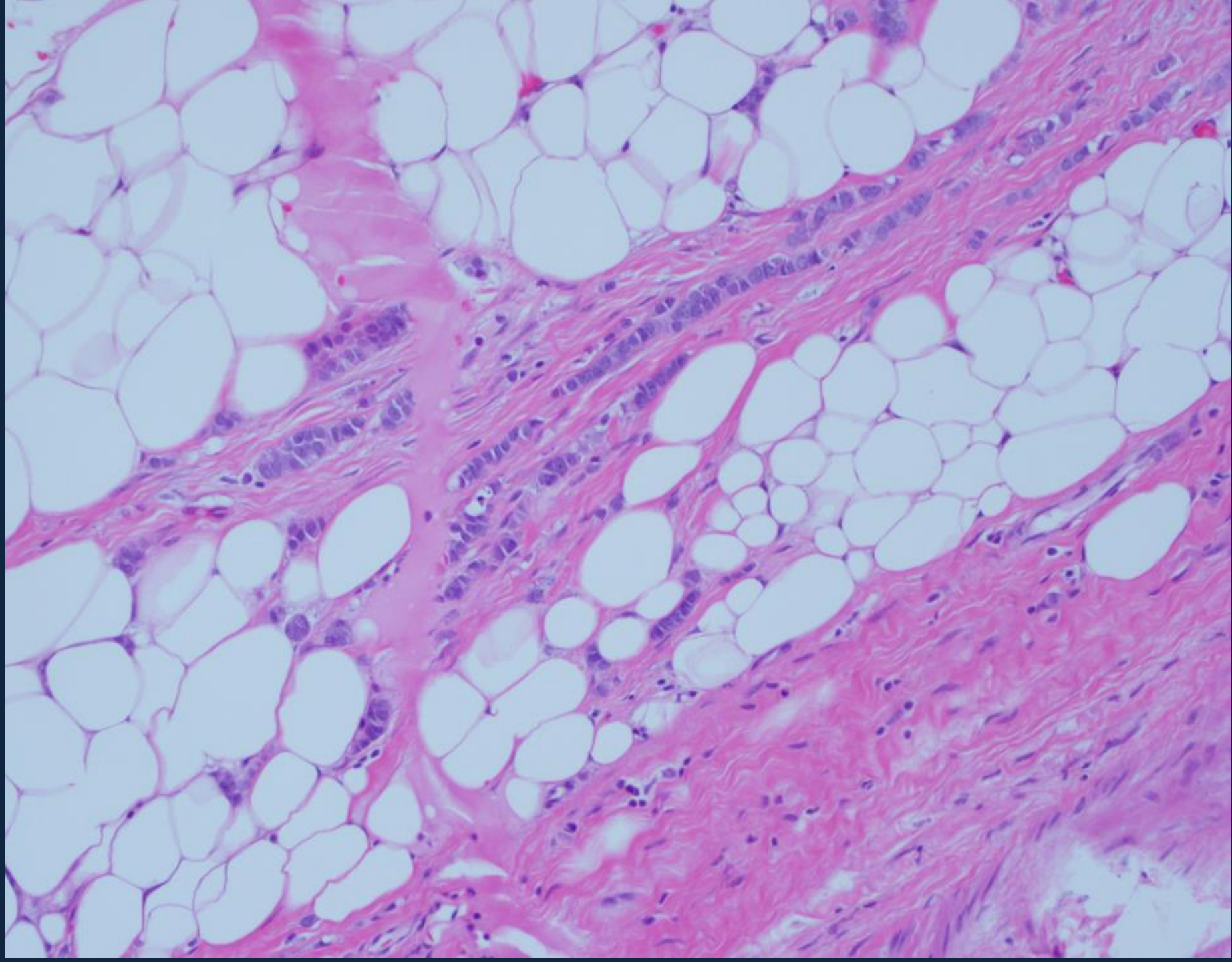
## Take home points...

- **Classic LCIS is morphologically and genetically different from variant (florid, pleomorphic) LCIS**
- **Classic LCIS in core bx does not require excision in most cases**
- **Pleomorphic LCIS (high-grade) and florid LCIS (expansion of ducts with classic-type cells) require excision**

# LCIS

## Take home points...

- **Local recurrence rates for LCIS variants vary (0-57%)**
- **Uncertain impact of positive margins on recurrence, no consensus on surgical management of margins or what is adequate margin**
- **Insufficient data to support adjuvant radiation**



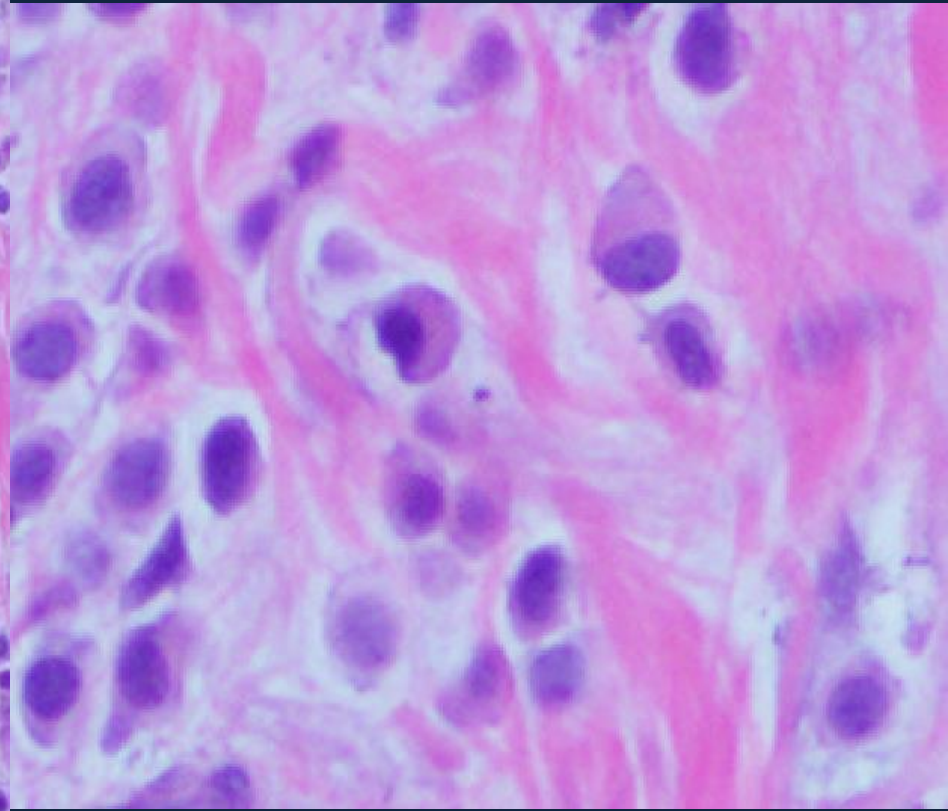
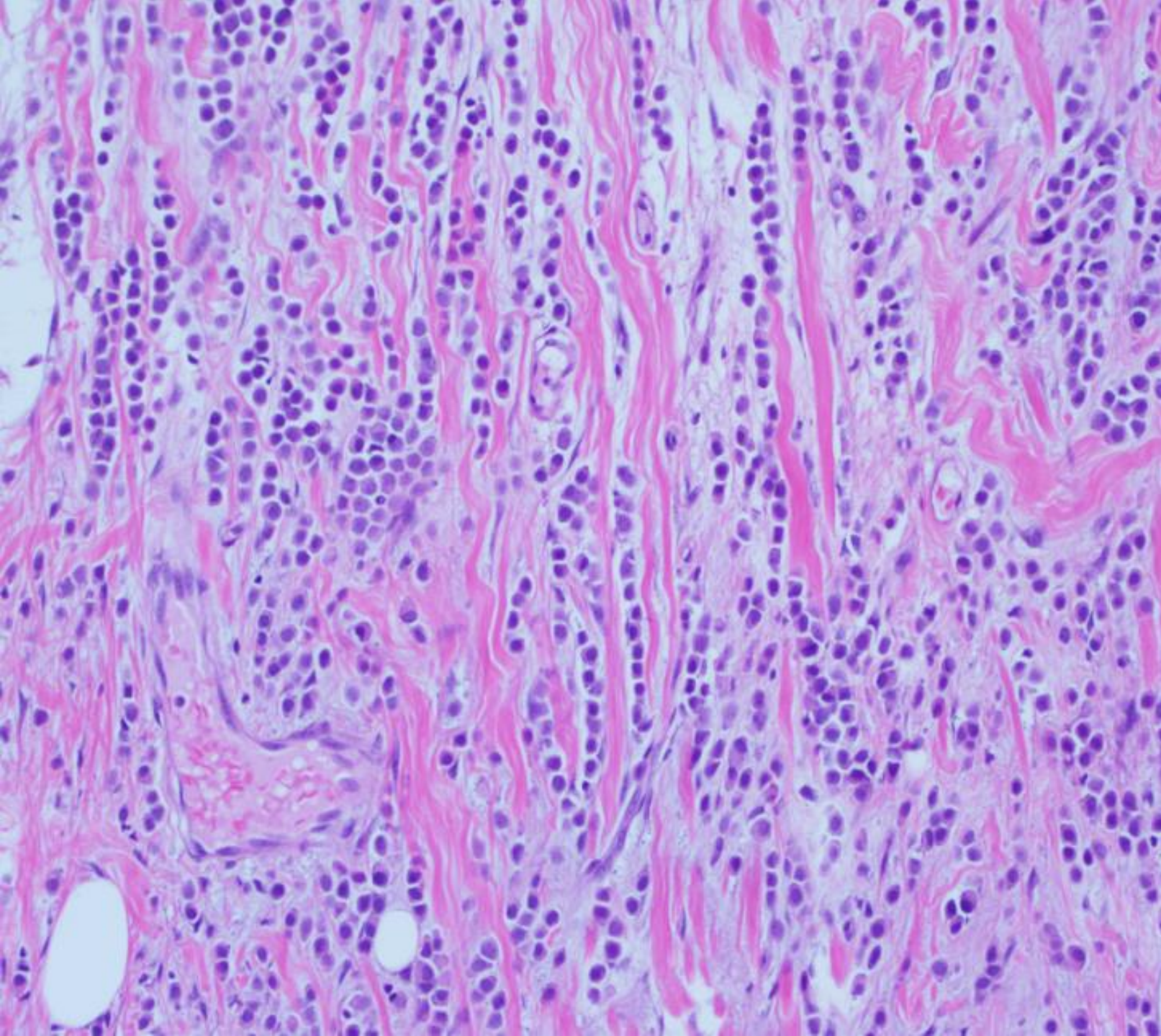


# **Invasive lobular carcinoma (ILC)**

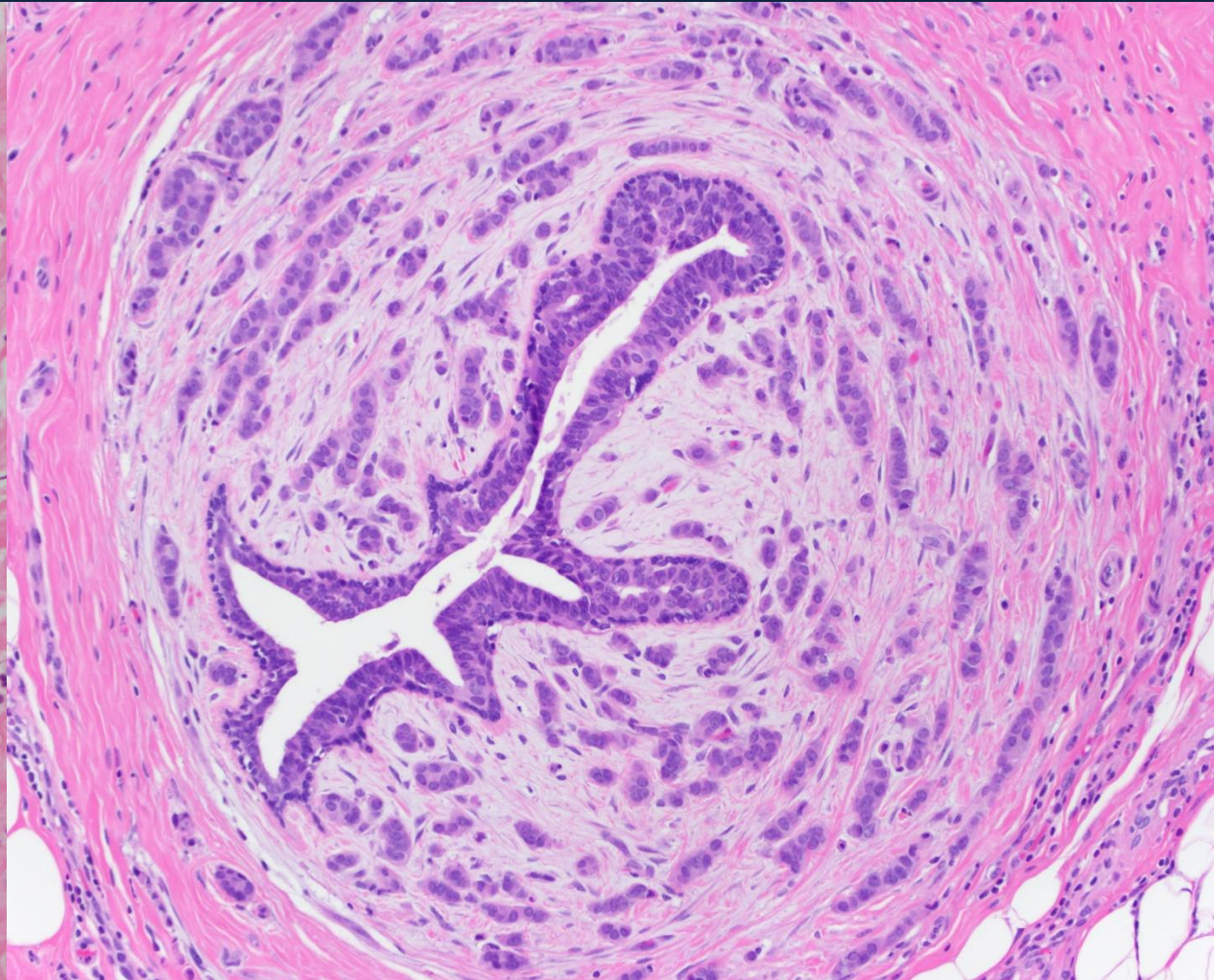
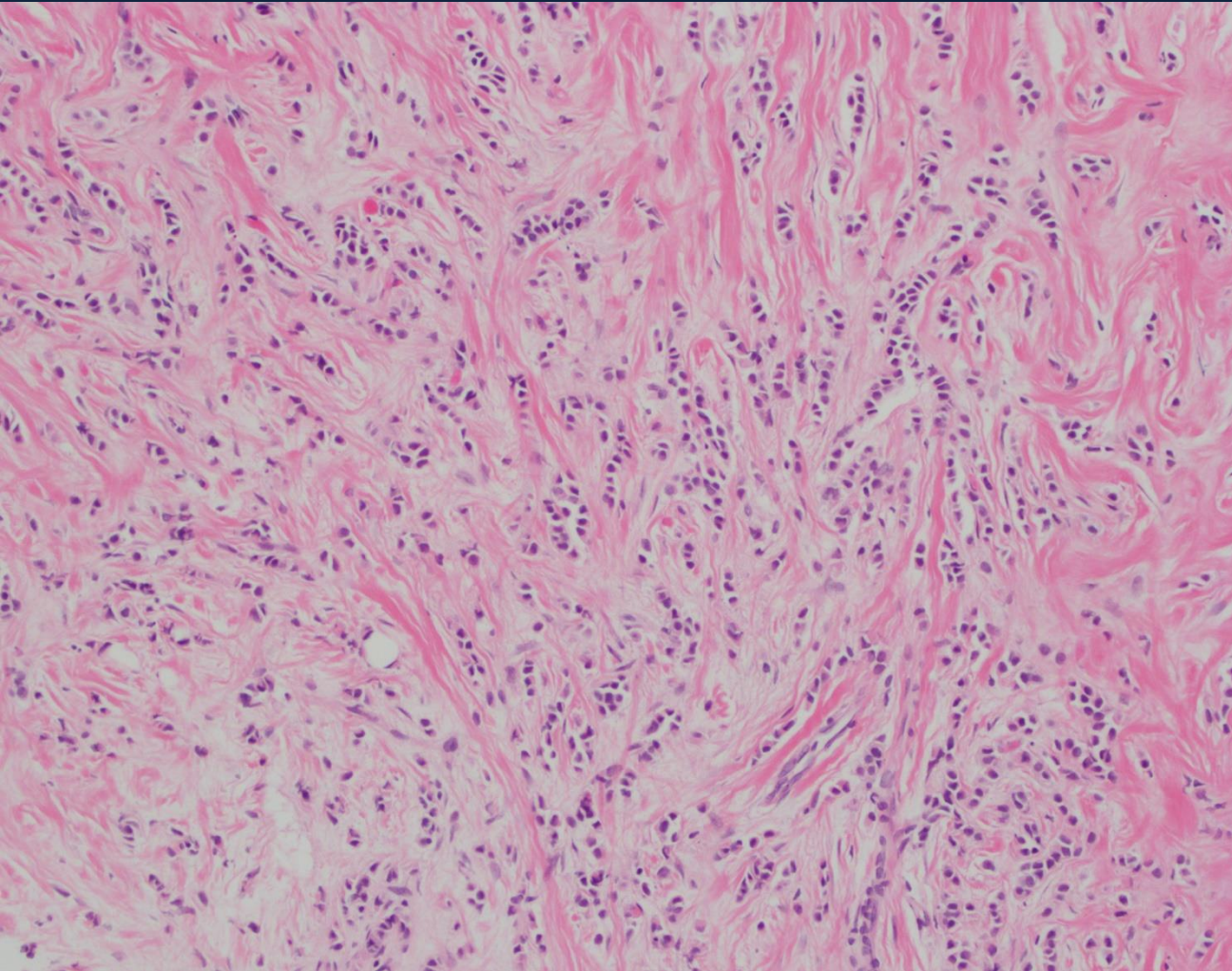
# Invasive lobular carcinoma - overview

- **Most common special type, approx. 10- 15% of invasive breast carcinomas**
- **Classic and variant morphologies**
- **Loss of E-cadherin expression, loss of cellular cohesion**

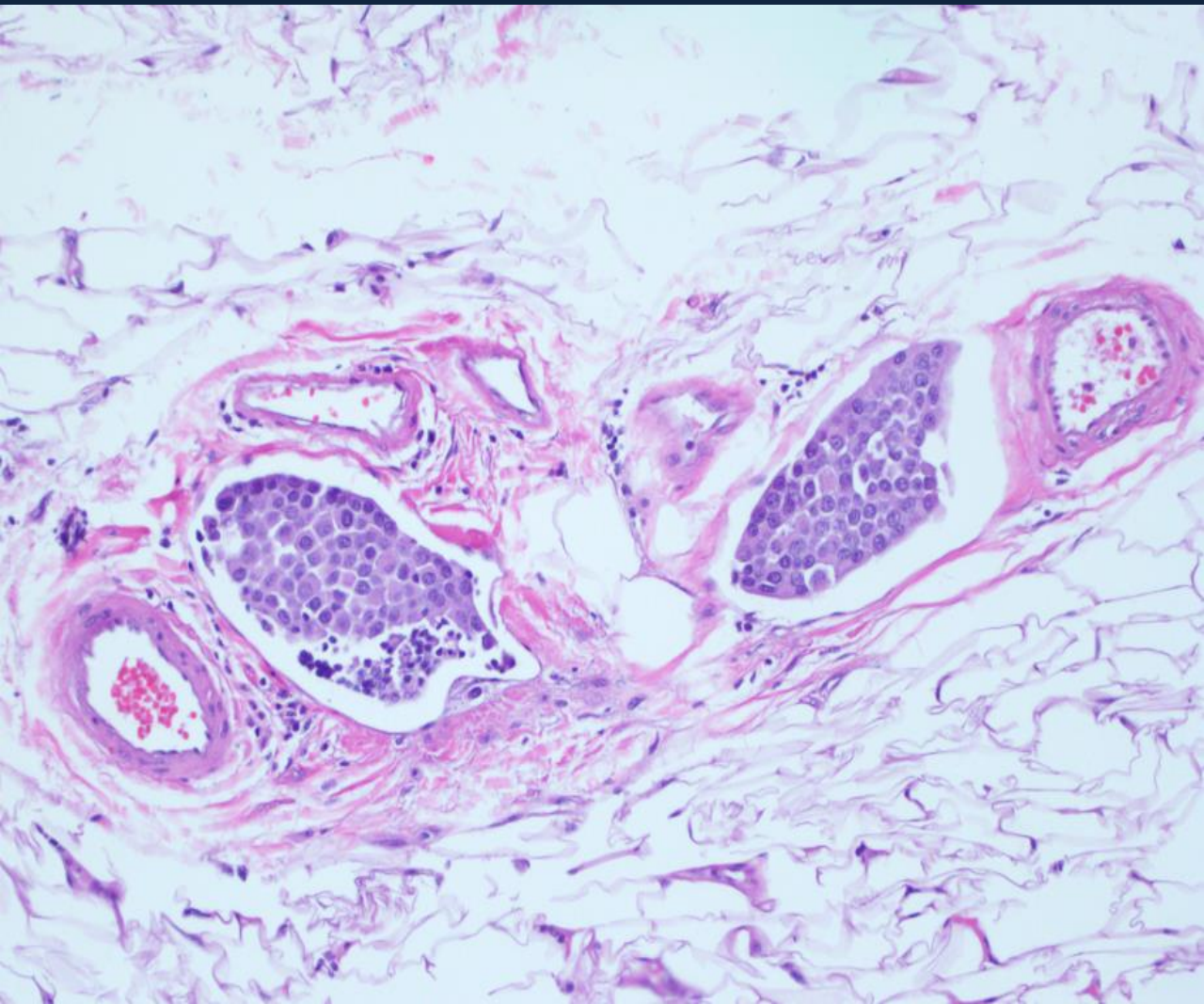
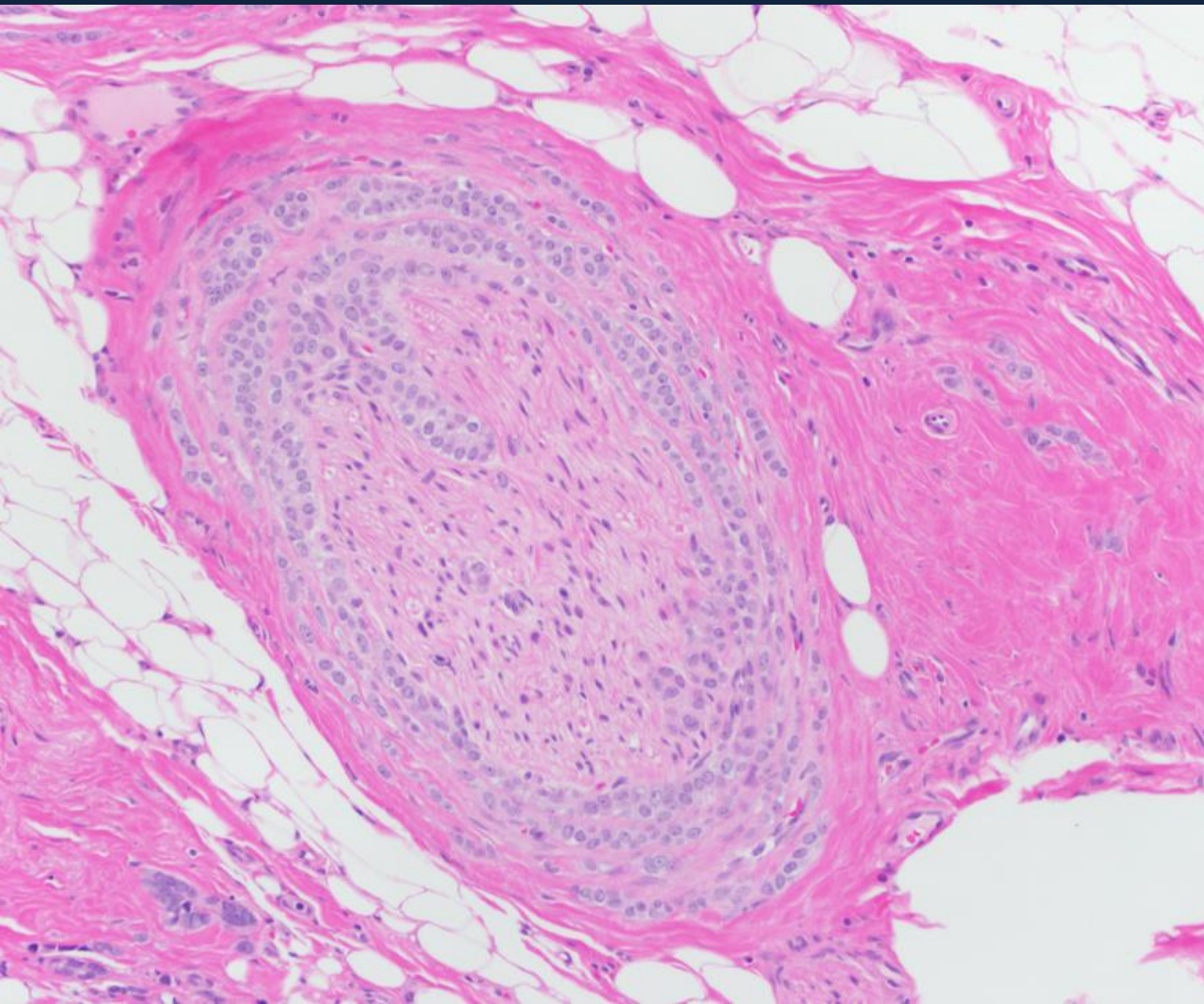










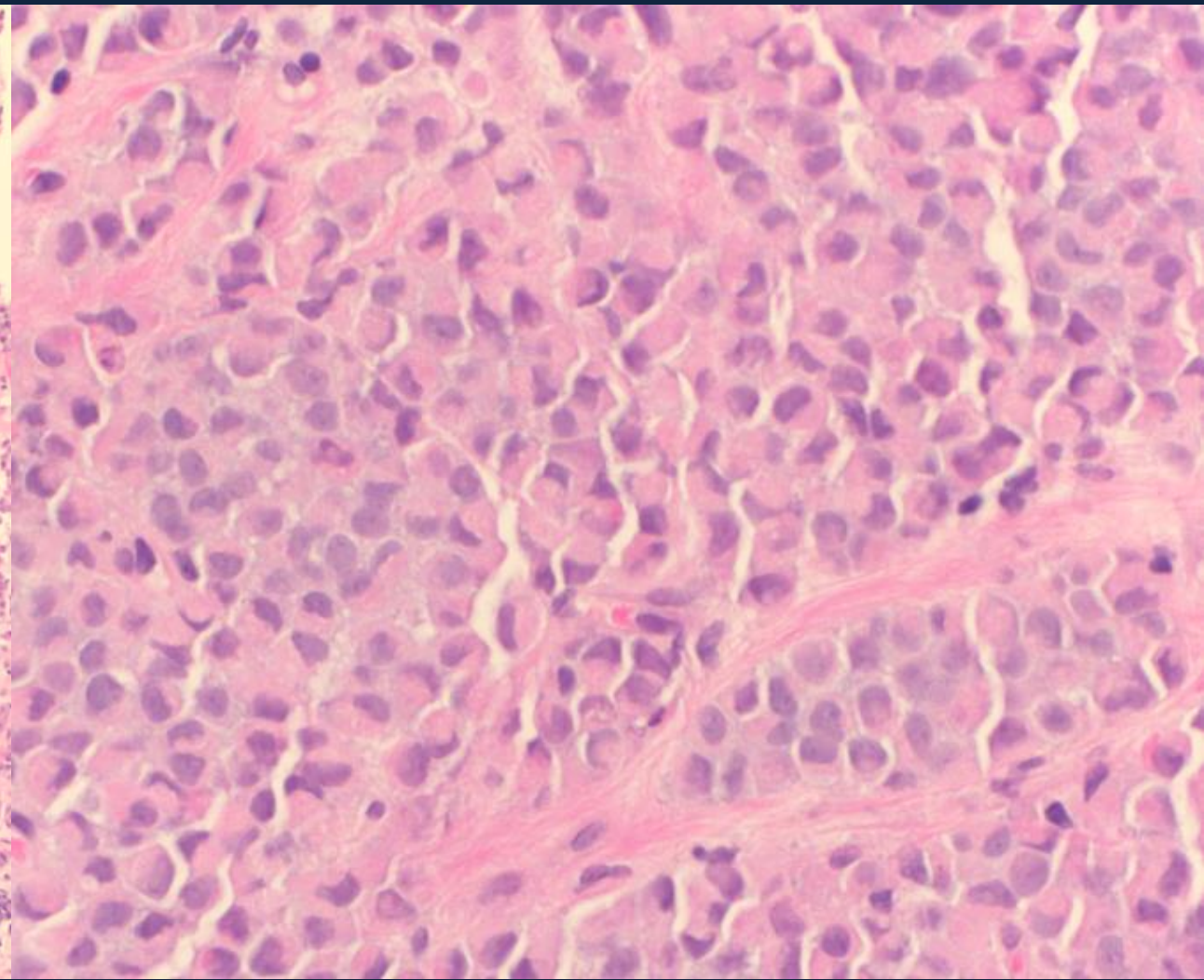
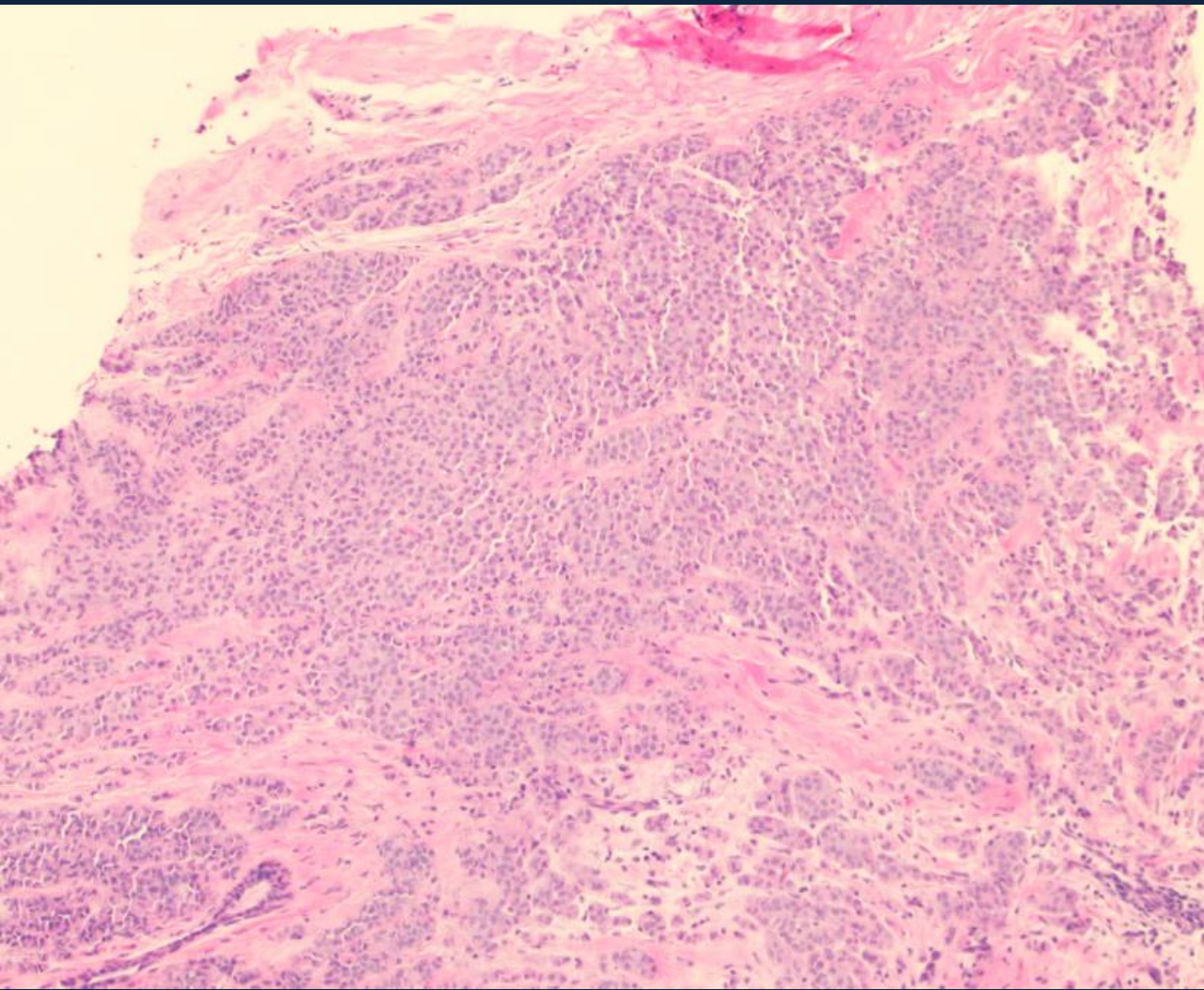


# Growth patterns

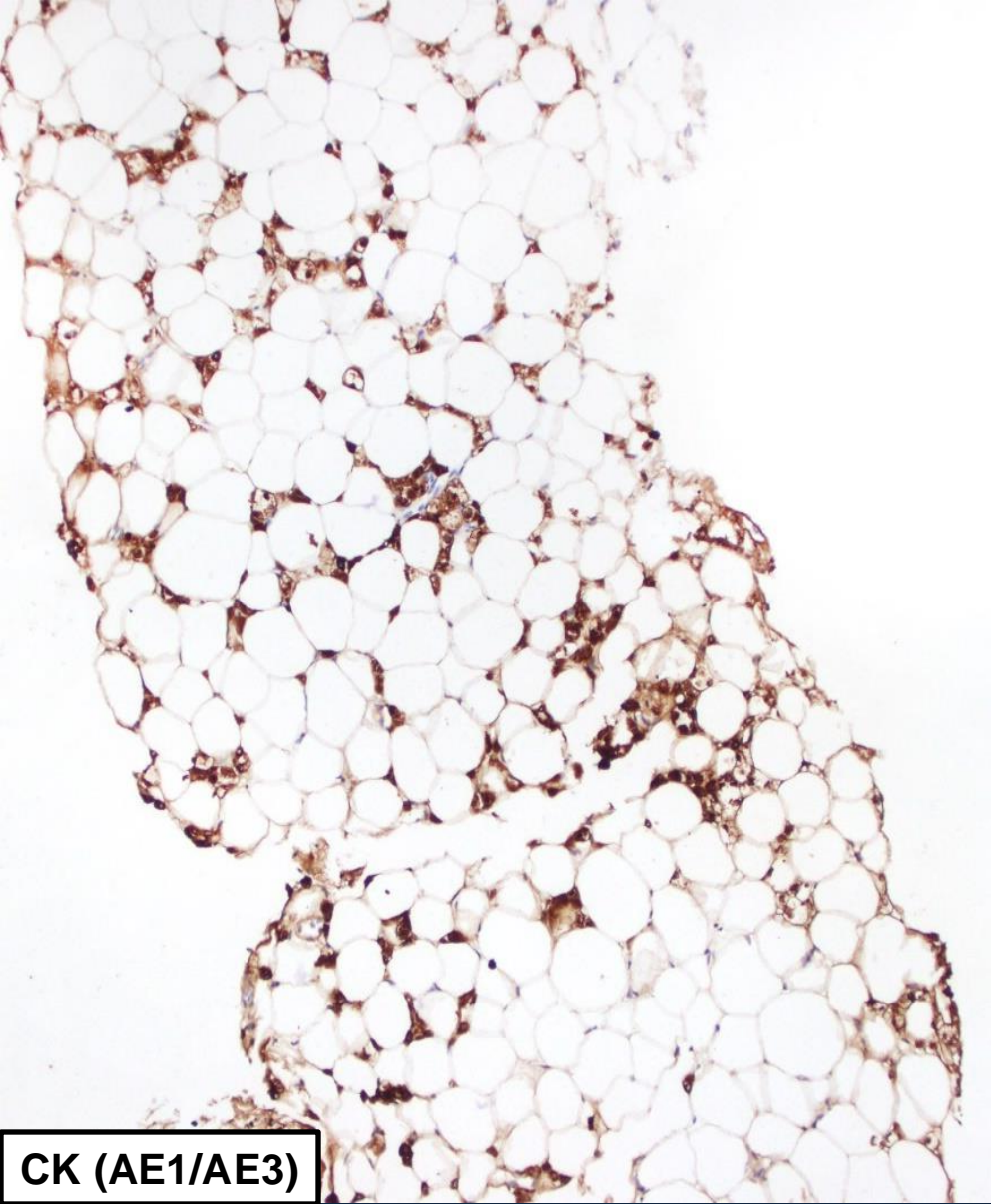
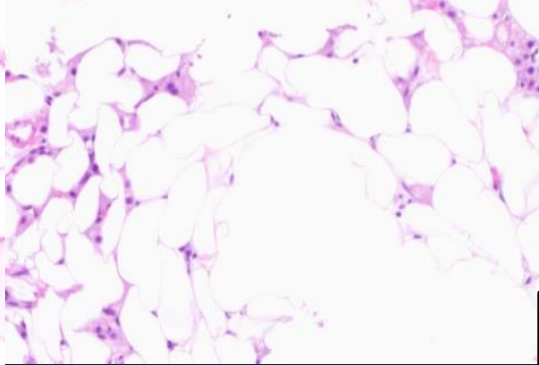
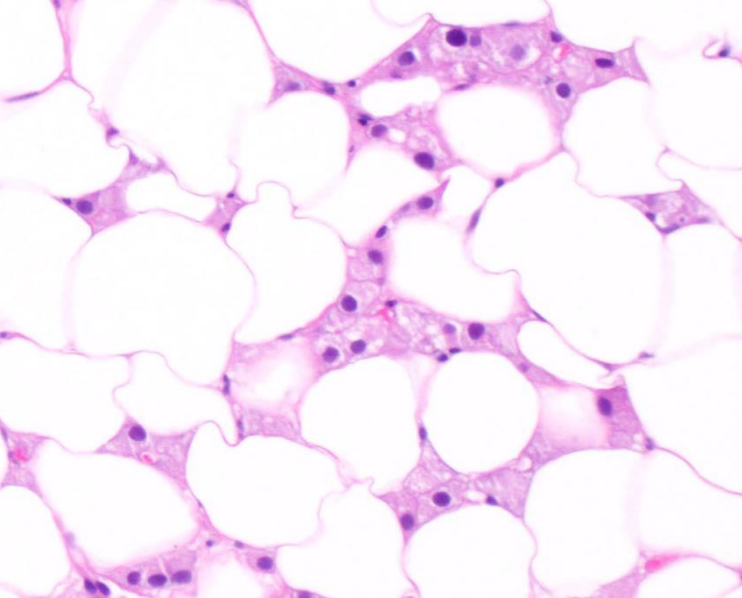
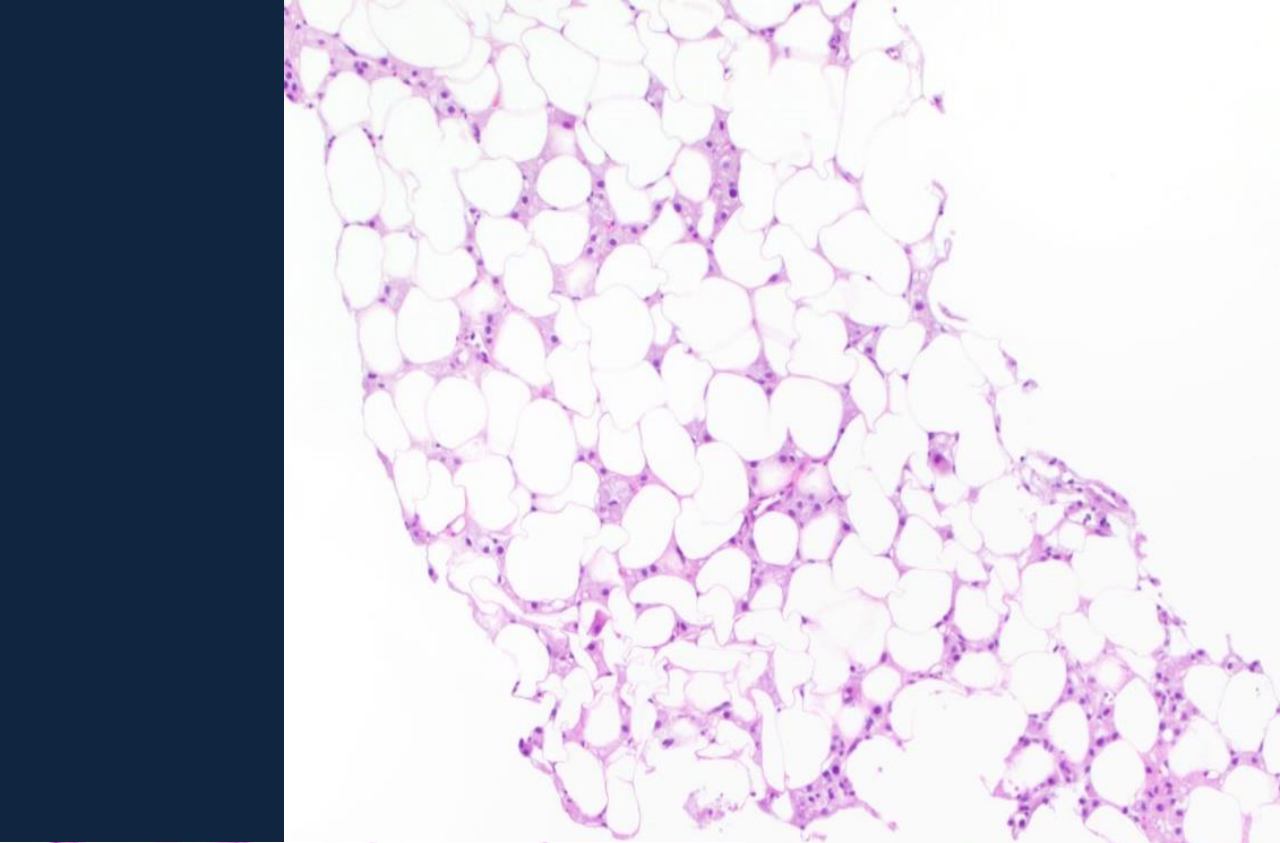
- **Classic**
- **Solid**
- **Alveolar**
- **Pleomorphic**
- **Mixed**
- **With extracellular mucin**

**\*All may exhibit signet ring and/or apocrine features**



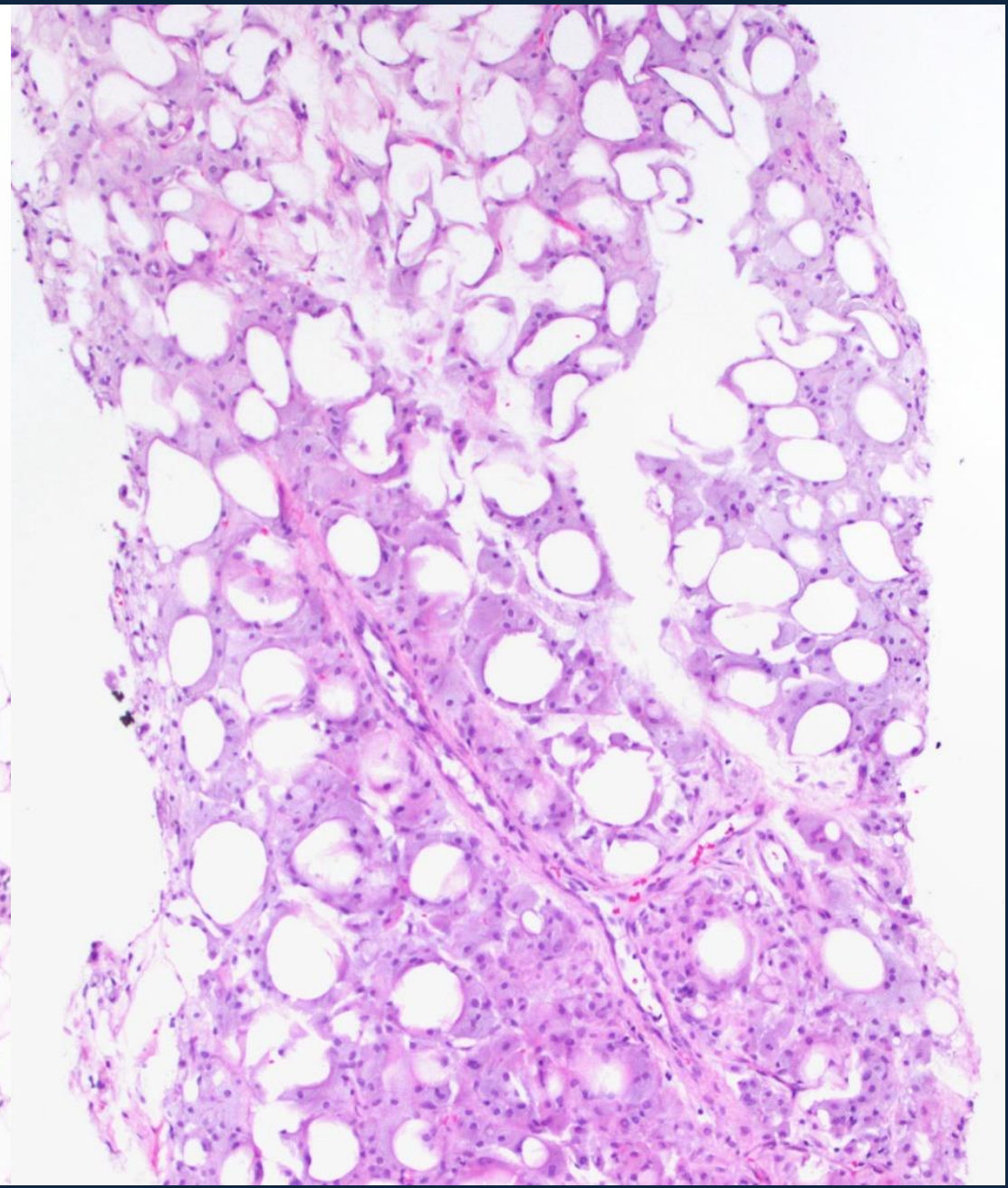
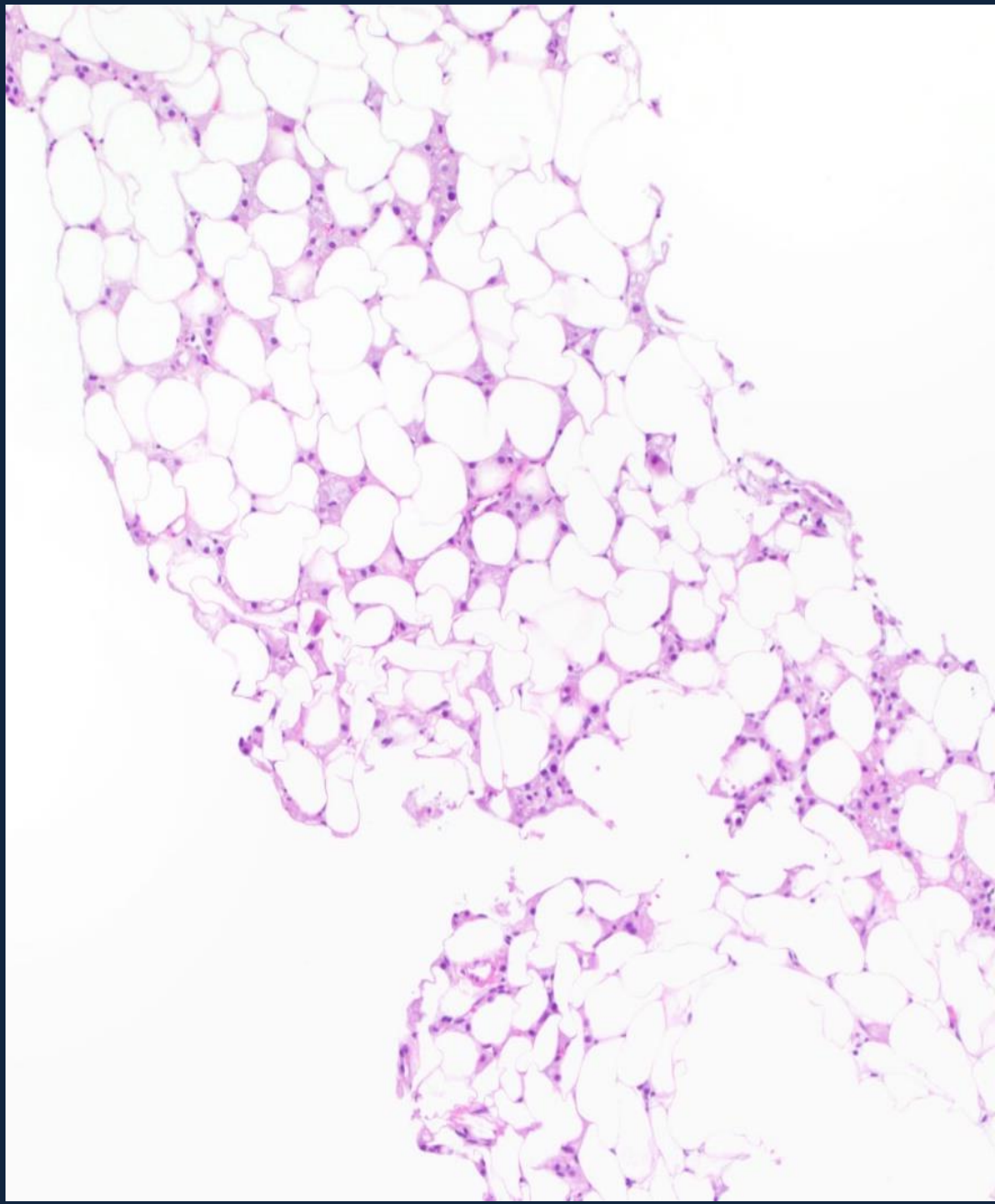






CK (AE1/AE3)







# Classic type invasive lobular carcinoma diagnostic criteria

**WHO:**

**“Invasive carcinoma composed of dispersed or linear dyscohesive cells with low to intermediate nuclear grade morphology and low mitotic count”**

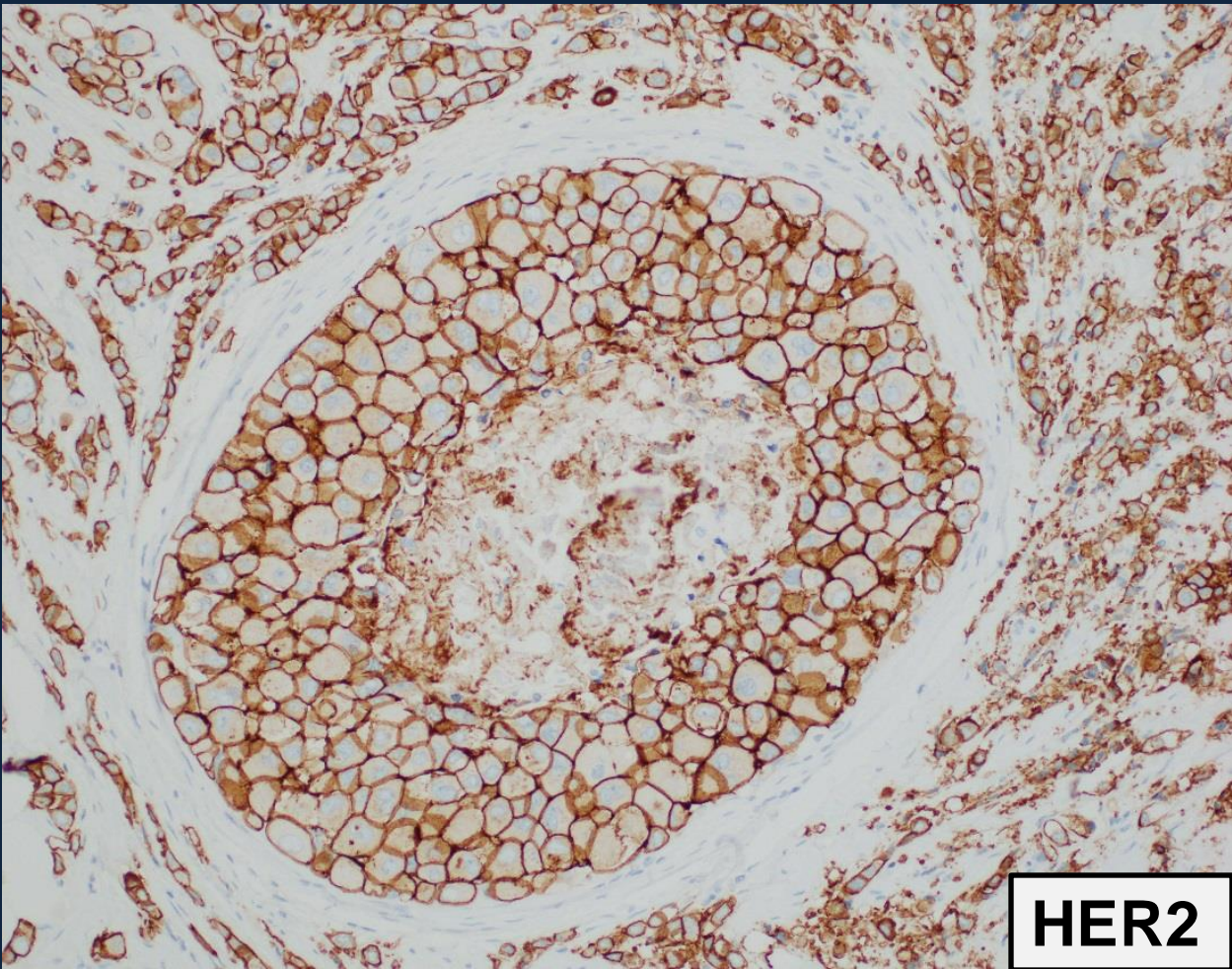
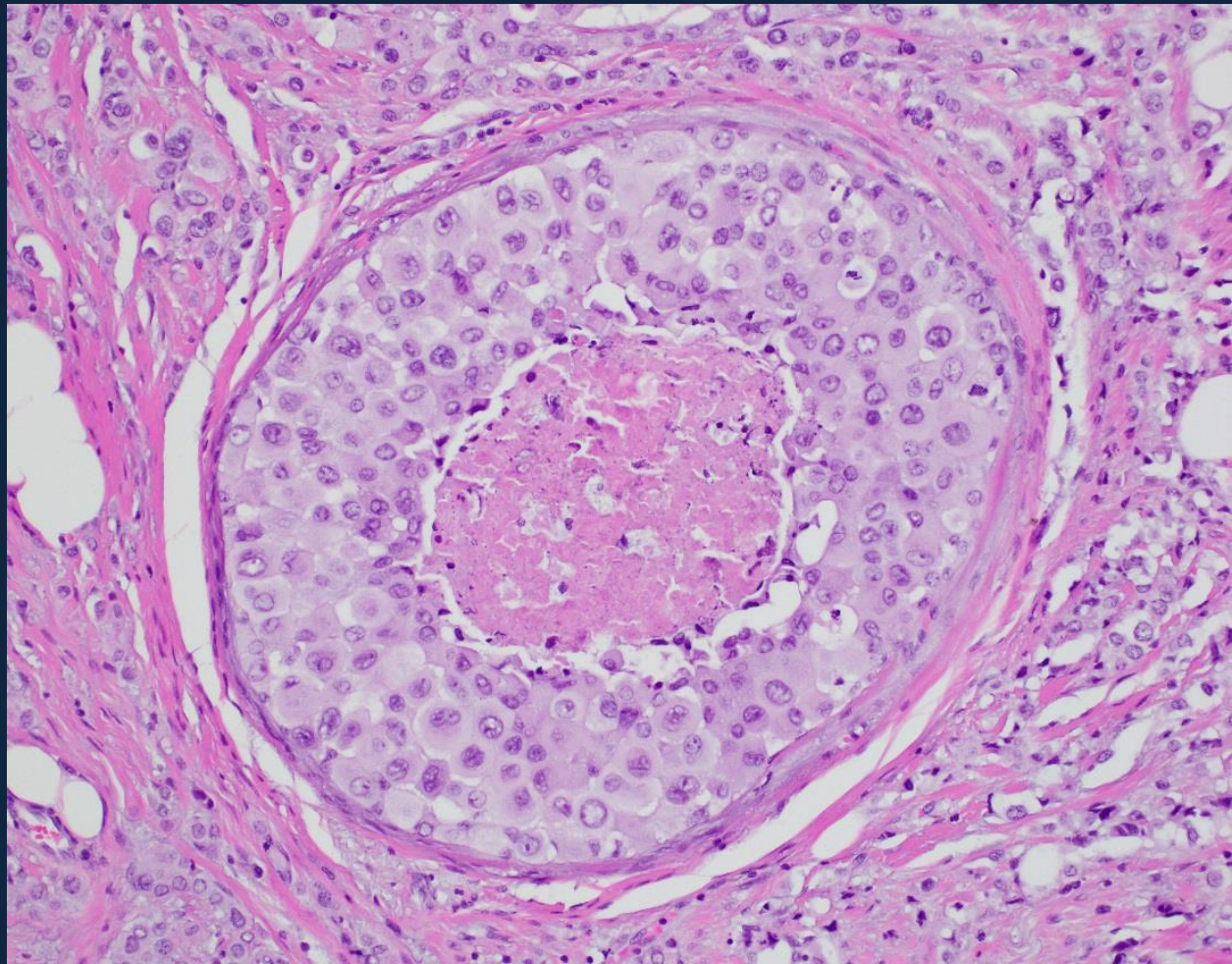
**\*E-cadherin loss not necessary for diagnosis**



# Invasive lobular carcinoma biomarker profile

- Most (>90%) ER-positive and HER2-negative
- Triple-negative and HER2-positive tumors uncommon and seen in pleomorphic and/or apocrine ILC





**HER2**

**Pleomorphic invasive lobular carcinoma and LCIS with apocrine differentiation**



# It is important for us to classify a tumor as lobular?

- Older age
- Better differentiated, more frequently ER-positive
- Less frequent lymphovascular invasion
- Less frequent downstaging after NAC
- Higher risk of late (>10 years) distant recurrence
- Different patterns of metastatic spread

*J Clin Oncol* 2008;26(18):3006-14.

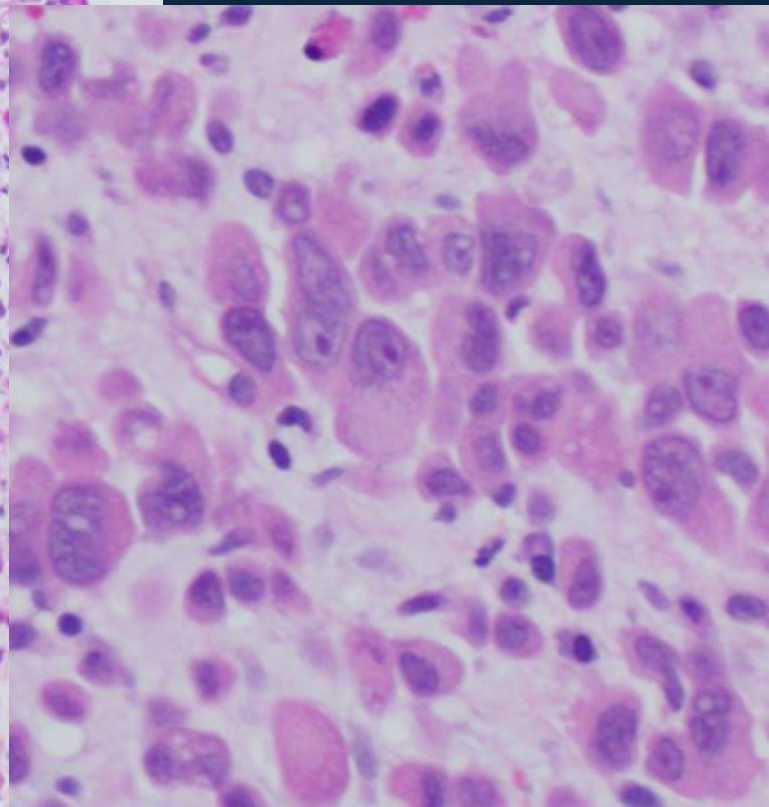
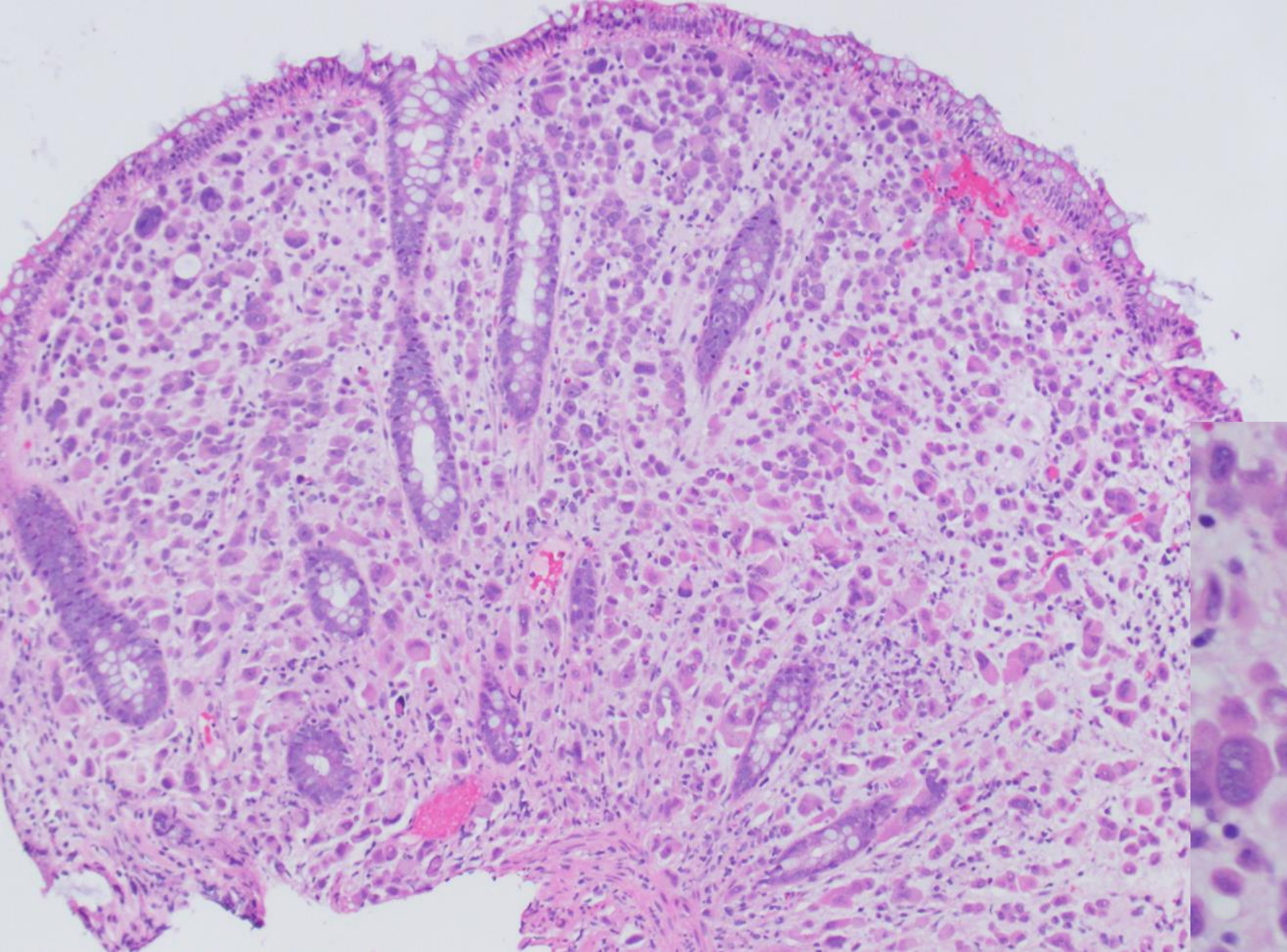
*Eur J Cancer* 2004;40(3):336-341.

*Br J Cancer* 2013;108(2):285-91.

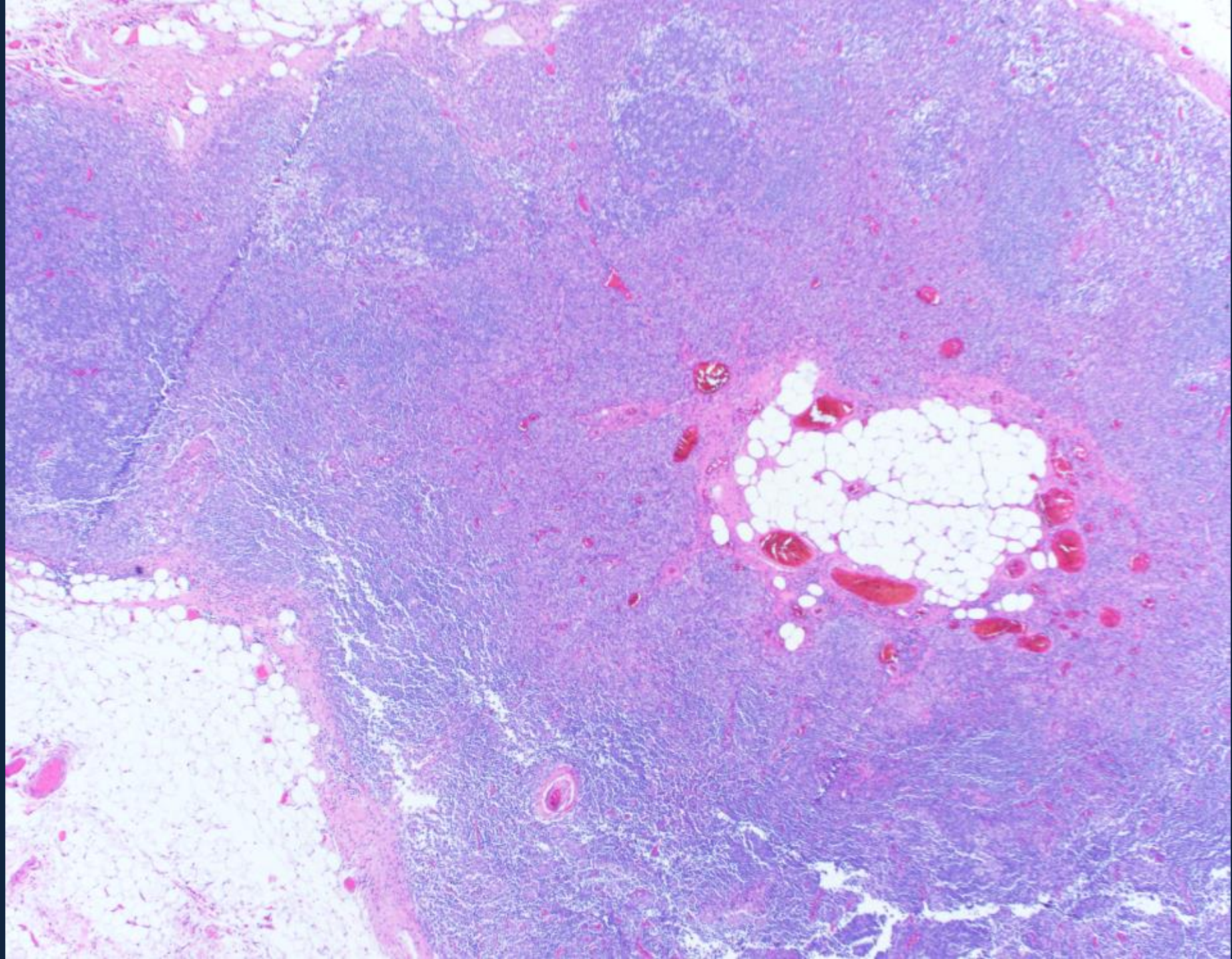
# Metastasis of lobular carcinoma

- Lower frequency of axillary lymph node involvement
- Higher frequency of GI tract, serosal surfaces, meninges, ovary, skin

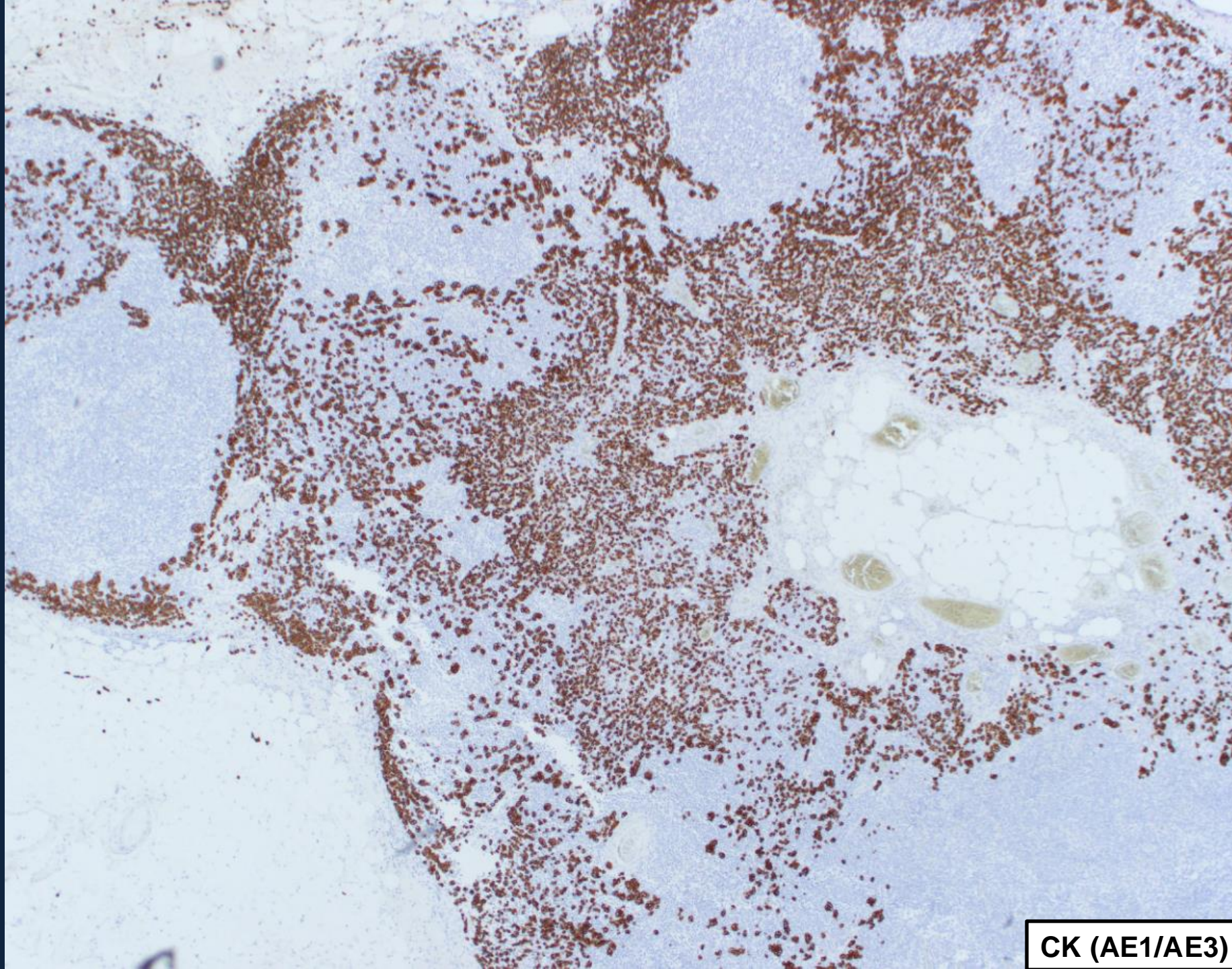






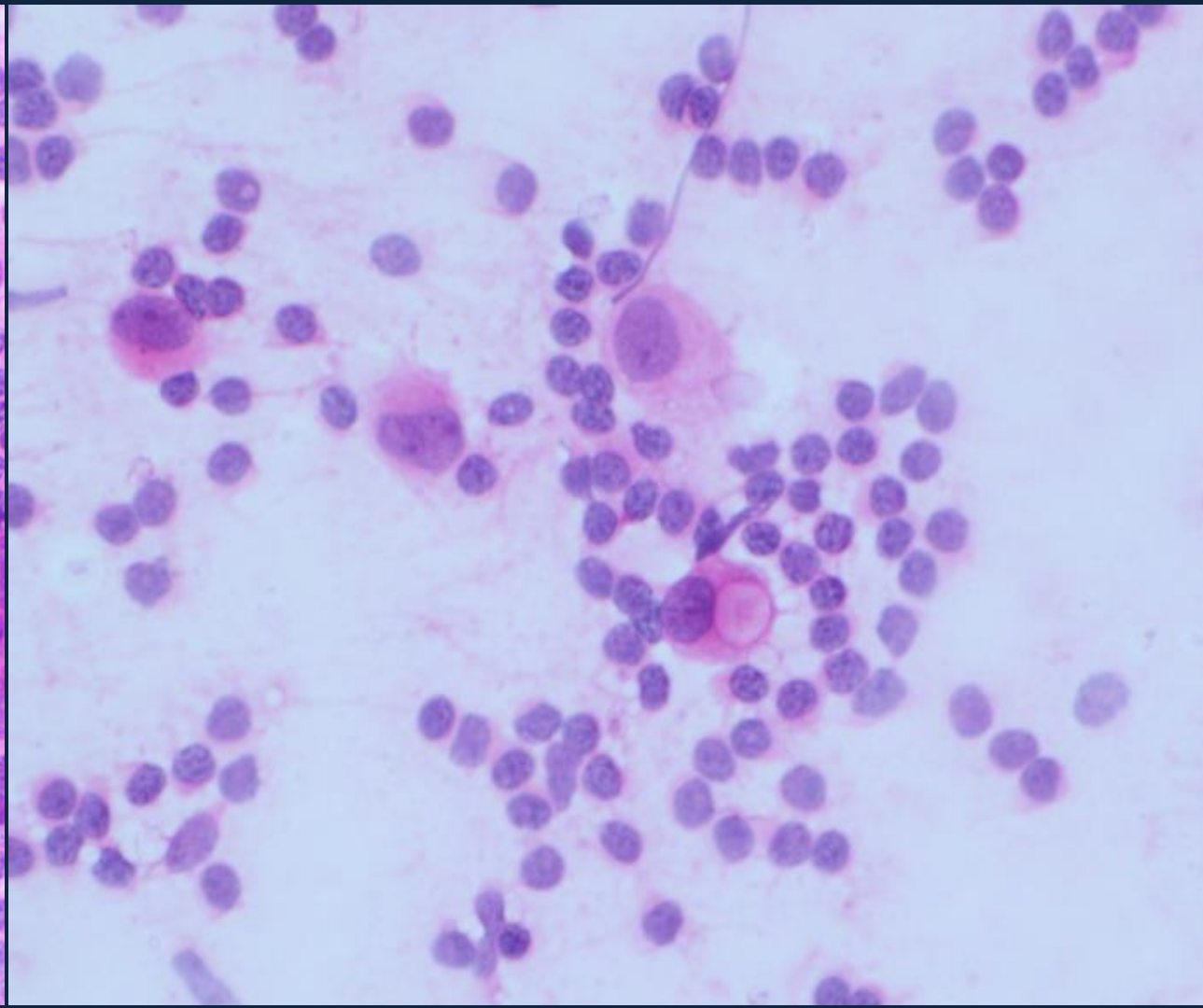
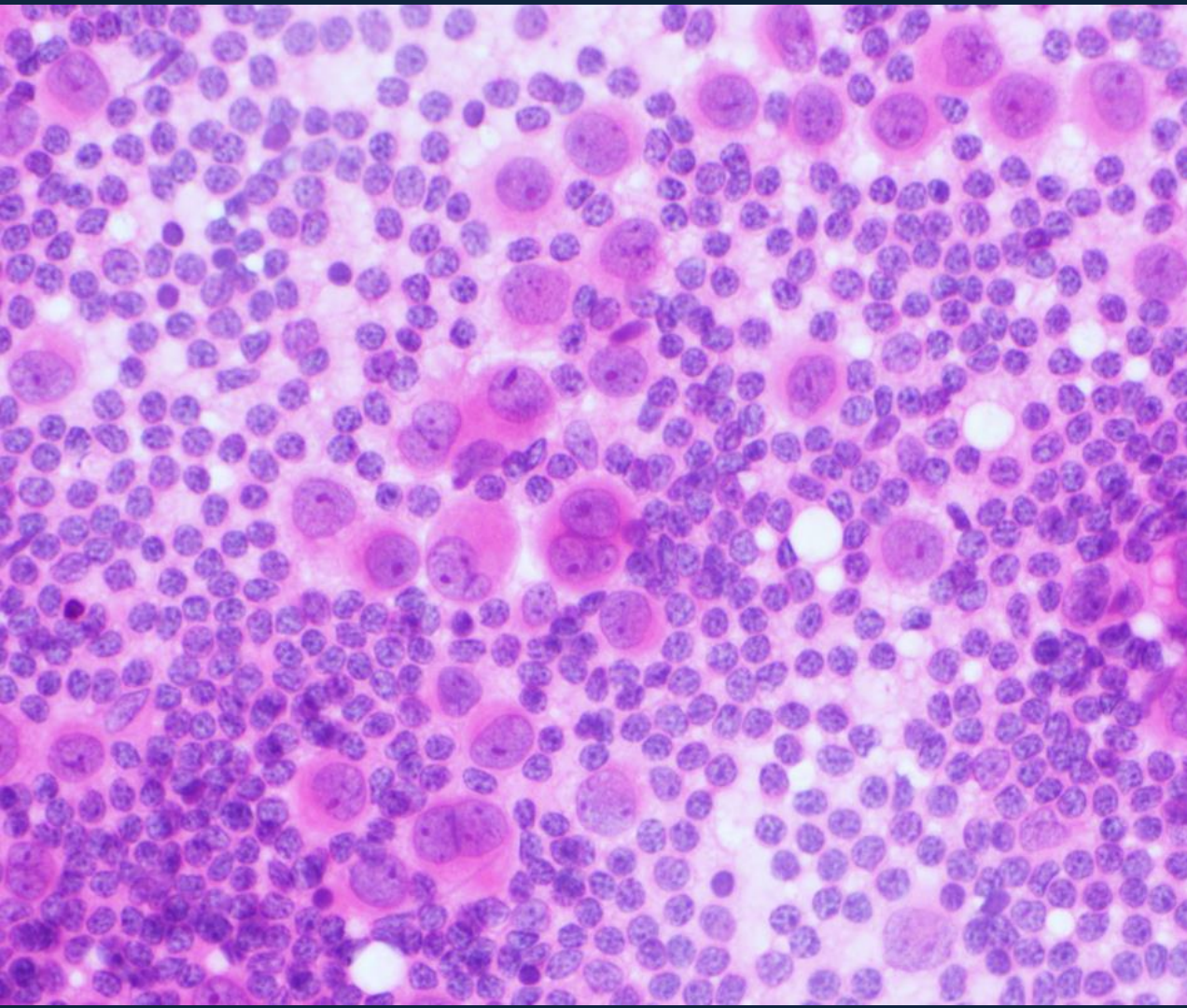






CK (AE1/AE3)





# Interobserver agreement for ILC diagnosis

- **Lack of standardization**
- **Variable E-cadherin staining and interpretation**
- **Variable use of other markers (p120, beta catenin)**
  
- **Need better agreement to study ILC in clinical trials**


























## Results of a worldwide survey on the currently used histopathological diagnostic criteria for invasive lobular breast cancer

Maxim De Schepper<sup>1,27</sup>, Anne Vincent-Salomon<sup>2,27</sup>, Matthias Christgen<sup>3,27</sup>, Karen Van Baelen<sup>1</sup>, François Richard<sup>1</sup>, Hitoshi Tsuda<sup>4</sup>, Sasagu Kurozumi<sup>5</sup>, Maria Jose Brito<sup>6</sup>, Gabor Cserni<sup>7</sup>, Stuart Schnitt<sup>8</sup>, Denis Larsimont<sup>9</sup>, Janina Kulka<sup>10</sup>, Pedro Luis Fernandez<sup>11</sup>, Paula Rodríguez-Martínez<sup>11</sup>, Ana Aula Olivar<sup>12</sup>, Cristina Melendez<sup>12</sup>, Mieke Van Bockstal<sup>13</sup>, Aniko Kovacs<sup>14</sup>, Zsuzsanna Varga<sup>15</sup>, Jelle Wesseling<sup>16</sup>, Rohit Bhargava<sup>17</sup>, Pia Boström<sup>18</sup>, Camille Franchet<sup>19</sup>, Blessing Zambuko<sup>20</sup>, Gustavo Matute<sup>21</sup>, Sophie Mueller<sup>3</sup>, Anca Berghian<sup>22</sup>, Emad Rakha<sup>23</sup>, Paul J. van Diest<sup>24</sup>, Steffi Oesterreich<sup>25</sup>, Patrick W. B. Derksen<sup>24,28</sup>, Giuseppe Floris<sup>26,28</sup> and Christine Desmedt<sup>1,28</sup>

- **52% use IHC (mainly E-cadherin) routinely to make a diagnosis of ILC; 3% never use IHC**
- **51% use additional IHC ( $\beta$ -catenin, p120-catenin) if lobular morphology but positive E-cadherin**
- **Variability in reporting histologic variants**

## A Genomics-Driven Artificial Intelligence-Based Model Classifies Breast Invasive Lobular Carcinoma and Discovers *CDH1* Inactivating Mechanisms

Fresia Pareja ; Higinio Dopeso ; Yi Kan Wang ; Andrea M. Gazzo ; David N. Brown ; Monami Banerjee ; Pier Selenica ; Jan H. Bernhard ; Fatemeh Derakhshan ; Edaise M. da Silva ; Lorraine Colon-Cartagena ; Thais Basili ; Antonio Marra ; Jillian Sue ; Qiqi Ye ; Arnaud Da Cruz Paula ; Selma Yeni Yildirim ; Xin Pei ; Anton Safonov ; Hunter Green ; Kaitlyn Y. Gill ; Yingjie Zhu ; Matthew C.H. Lee ; Ran A. Godrich ; Adam Casson ; Britta Weigelt ; Nadeem Riaz ; Hannah Y. Wen ; Edi Brogi ; Diana L. Mandelker ; Matthew G. Hanna ; Jeremy D. Kunz ; Brandon Rothrock ; Sarat Chandralapaty ; Christopher Kanan ; Joe Oakley ; David S. Klimstra ; Thomas J. Fuchs ; Jorge S. Reis-Filho 

- AI algorithm to classify ILC based on ground truth of tumor genomics (*CDH1* bi-allelic mutations)
- Detects ILCs with bi-allelic *CDH1* mutations and alternative *CDH1* inactivating alterations



# **Invasive lobular carcinoma**

## **Take home points...**

- **Heterogenous special type of invasive carcinoma**
  - **Morphology**
  - **Genomic features**
  - **ER/PR/HER2**
  - **Clinical behavior, response to treatment**

# **Invasive lobular carcinoma**

## **Take home points...**

- **Heterogenous special type of tumor**
  - **Morphology**
  - **Genomic features**
  - **ER/PR/HER2**
  - **Clinical behavior, response to treatment**
- **Stricter histologic classification by pathologists necessary for clinical studies**
- **Further study of AI-based classification models expected**



**Thank you for your attention!**