

Columnar Cell Lesions, Flat  
Epithelial Atypia, Atypical Ductal  
Hyperplasia  
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# Objectives/Summary

- Columnar Cell Change
- Columnar Cell Hyperplasia
- Flat Epithelial Atypia (FEA)
- FEA and Outcomes Management
- Atypical Ductal Hyperplasia
- Low and High Grade Pathways

# Columnar Cell Alterations

# BACKGROUND

## Columnar Cell Lesions

- Distinct epithelial change in the TDLU.
- 80% microcalcifications-rounded.
- Most patients are >35 years of age



# Background

- Schimmelbusch (1892)
- Sasse (1897)
- Warren (1905)- "abnormal involution"
- Bloodgood(1906)- "adenoidcystic stage of senile parenchymatous hypertrophy"

# Background

- Wellings-1975: “hyperplastic unfolded lobules” - subgross examination of whole mount breasts.
- Sarnelli- 1980-”atypical lobules”-subgross whole mounts.
- Columnar Alteration with Prominent Apical Snouts (CAPSS) (Fraser, 1998)
- Atypical Cystic Lobules (Oyama, 1999)

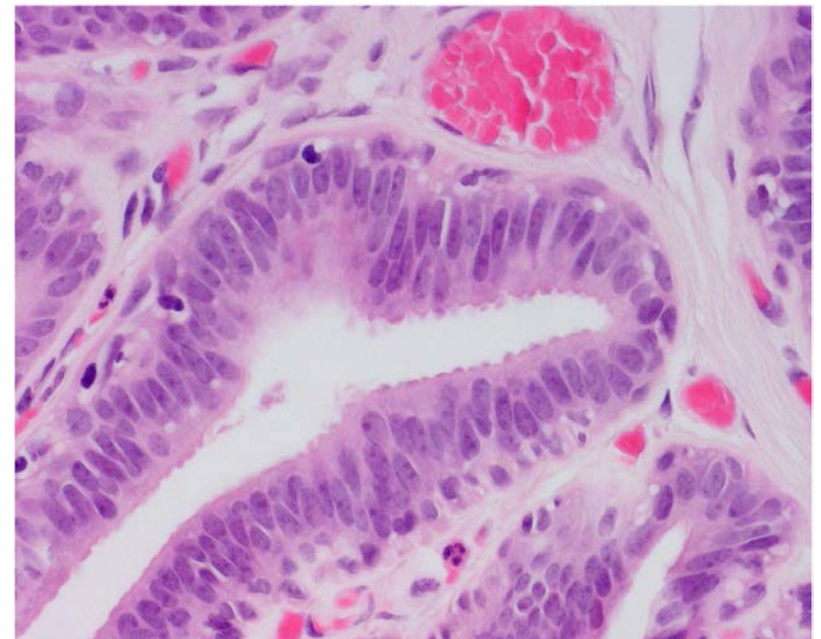
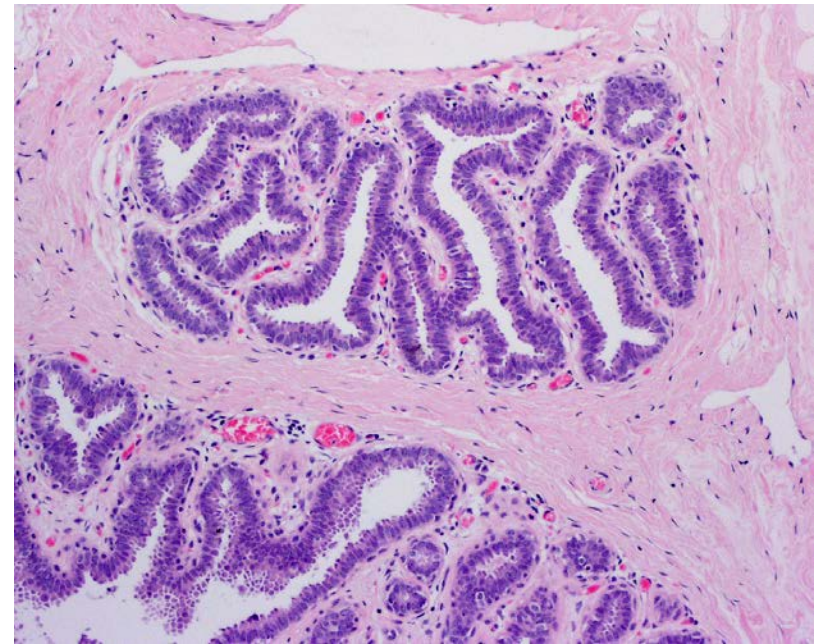
- Enlarged Lobular Units Columnar Alteration  
“ELUCA” (Page)
- Hyperplastic Enlarged Lobular Units “HELU”  
(Allred)

# Terminology

- Columnar Cell Change
- Columnar Cell Hyperplasia-CCH->2 cells
- Columnar Cell Change with atypia “flat epithelial atypia”
- Azzopardi “clinging carcinoma”

# Columnar cell lesions

- Spectrum of lesions characterised by
  - Enlargement of TDLUs
  - Columnar epithelial cells
  - Monomorphic nuclei
  - Varying degrees of atypia
    - Unremarkable
    - ADH-like nuclei
- ER +, PgR +
- HER2-
- Basal-keratins -
- Luminal A phenotype



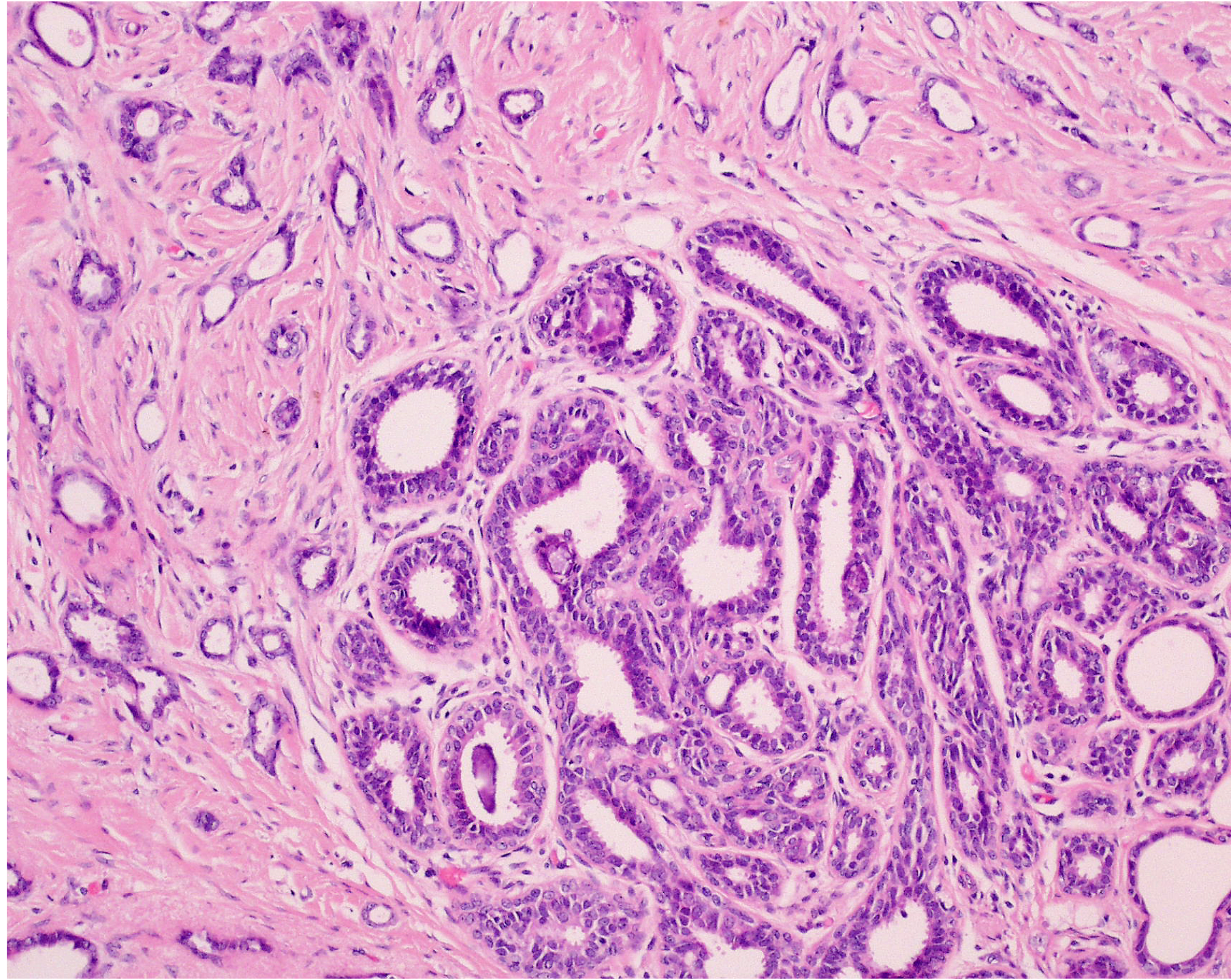
# Molecular alterations in columnar cell lesions of the breast

David J Dabbs, Gloria Carter, Mary Fudge, Yan Peng, Pat Swalsky and Sidney Finkelstein

- 10 microsatellite markers

	Normal	CCC	CCH	ACCH	DCIS	IC
Fractional mutation %	0%	0%	0-15%	0-20%	0-36%	0-40%
LOH at least 1 locus	0/10 (0%)	0/3 (0%)	2/3 (66%)	10/15 (66%)	10/10 (100%)	8/8 (100%)







## Columnar Cell Lesions of the Breast: The Missing Link in Breast Cancer Progression? *A Morphological and Molecular Analysis*

*Peter T. Simpson, PhD,\* Theo Gale, BSc,\* Jorge S. Reis-Filho, MD,\* Chris Jones, PhD,†  
Suzanne Parry, MSc,\* John P. Sloane, FRCPath,‡ Andrew Hanby, FRCPath,§  
Sarah E. Pinder, FRCPath,|| Andrew H. S. Lee, MRCPath,|| Steve Humphreys, FRCPath,¶  
Ian O. Ellis, FRCPath,|| and Sunil R. Lakhani, FRCPath\*##\*\**

## Genetic Abnormalities in Mammary Ductal Intraepithelial Neoplasia-Flat Type (“Clinging Ductal Carcinoma In Situ”)

*A Simulator of Normal Mammary Epithelium*

Farid Moinfar, M.D.<sup>1</sup>

Yan-Gao Man, M.D., Ph.D.<sup>1</sup>

Gary L. Bratthauer, M.S., MT (ASCP)<sup>1</sup>

Manfred Ratschek, M.D.<sup>2</sup>

Fattaneh A. Tavassoli, M.D.<sup>1</sup>

**BACKGROUND.** Mammary ductal intraepithelial neoplasia (DIN)-flat type (“clinging ductal carcinoma in situ [DCIS]”) generally is a subtle epithelial alteration characterized by one or a few layer(s) of atypical cells replacing the native epithelium. The “low power” appearance of DIN-flat type can be misinterpreted easily as “normal” because of the frequent absence of multilayered proliferation and often subtle



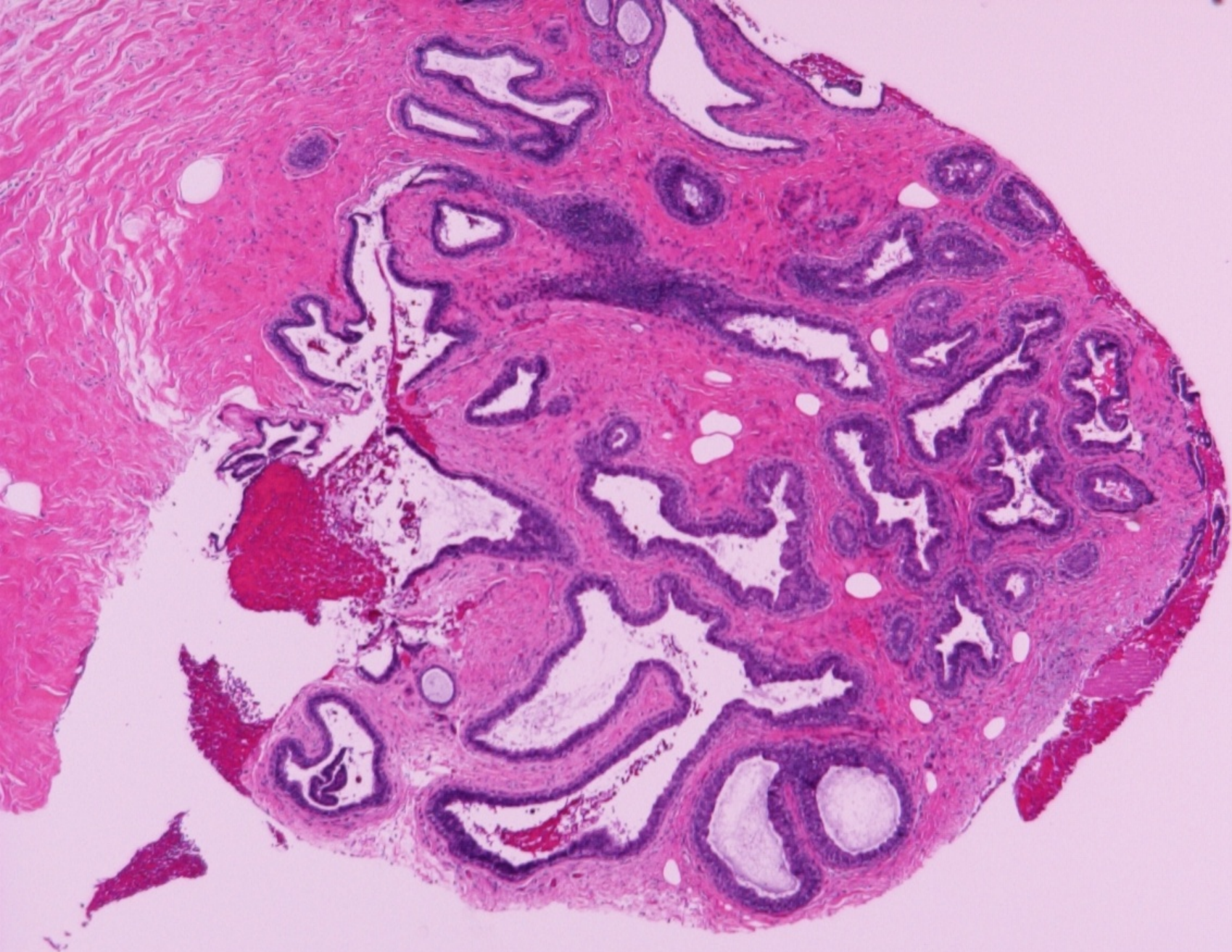
## ***Significant associations with CCC, FEA, LGDCIS, LN***

Modern Pathology (2007) 20, 1149–1155  
© 2007 USCAP, Inc All rights reserved 0893-3952/07 \$30.00  
[www.modernpathology.org](http://www.modernpathology.org)

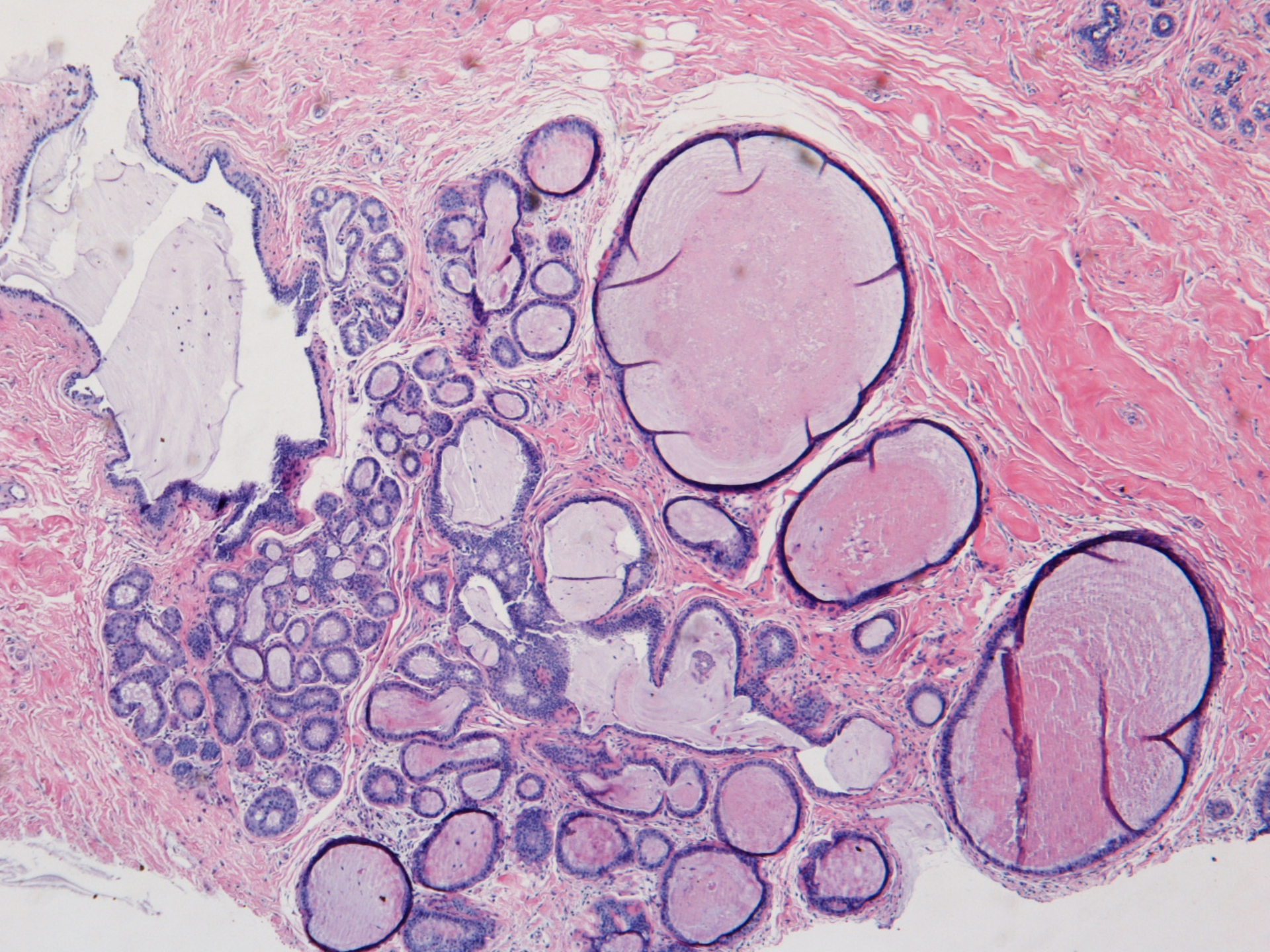
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# **Clinical and pathologic features of ductal carcinoma *in situ* associated with the presence of flat epithelial atypia: an analysis of 543 patients**

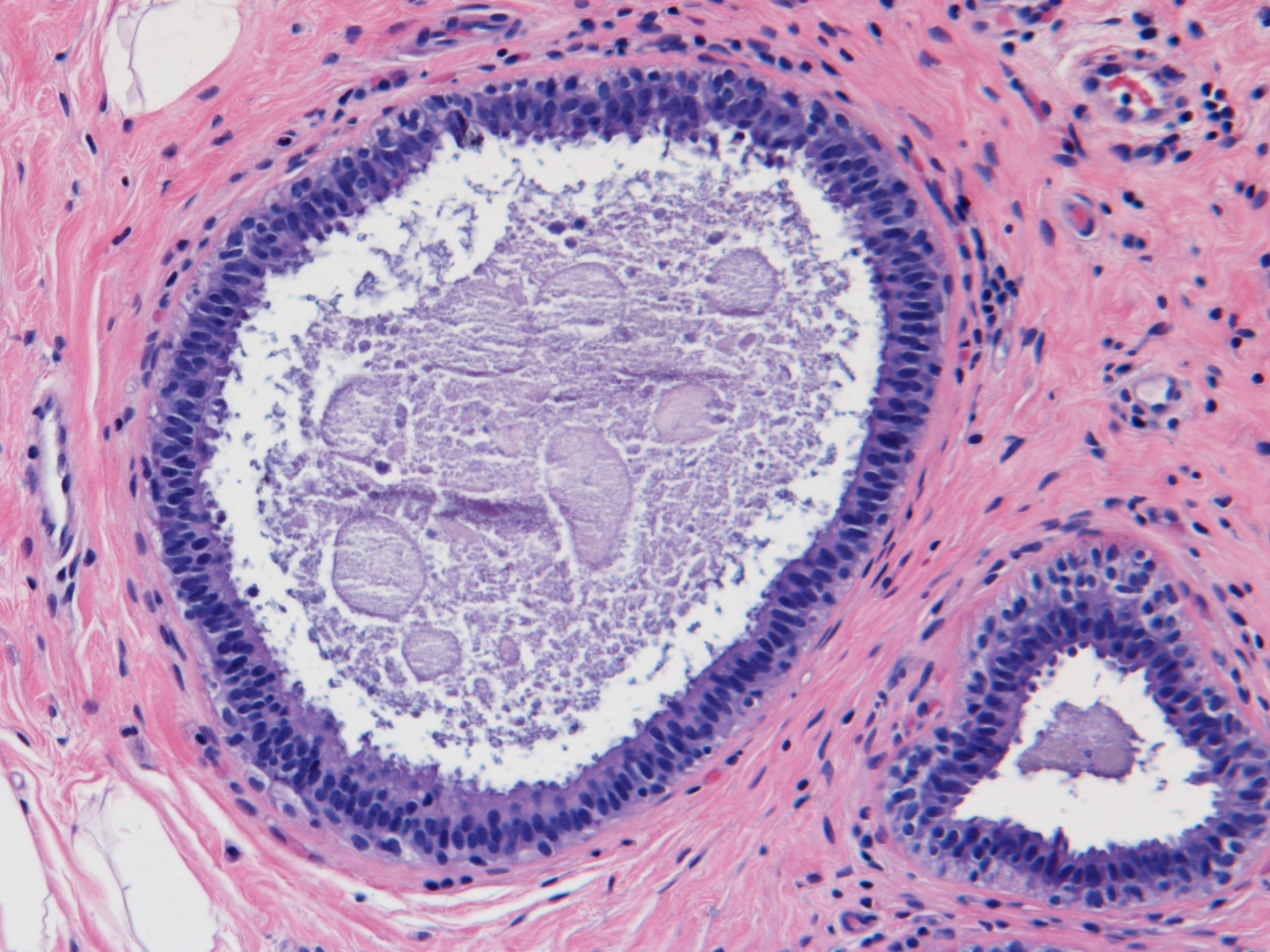
Laura C Collins<sup>1</sup>, Ninah A Achacoso<sup>2</sup>, Larissa Nekhlyudov<sup>3</sup>, Suzanne W Fletcher<sup>3</sup>, Reina Haque<sup>4</sup>, Charles P Quesenberry Jr<sup>2</sup>, Najeeb S Alshak<sup>5</sup>, Balaram Puligandla<sup>6,7</sup>, Gilbert L Brodsky<sup>8</sup>, Stuart J Schnitt<sup>1</sup> and Laurel A Habel<sup>2,9</sup>



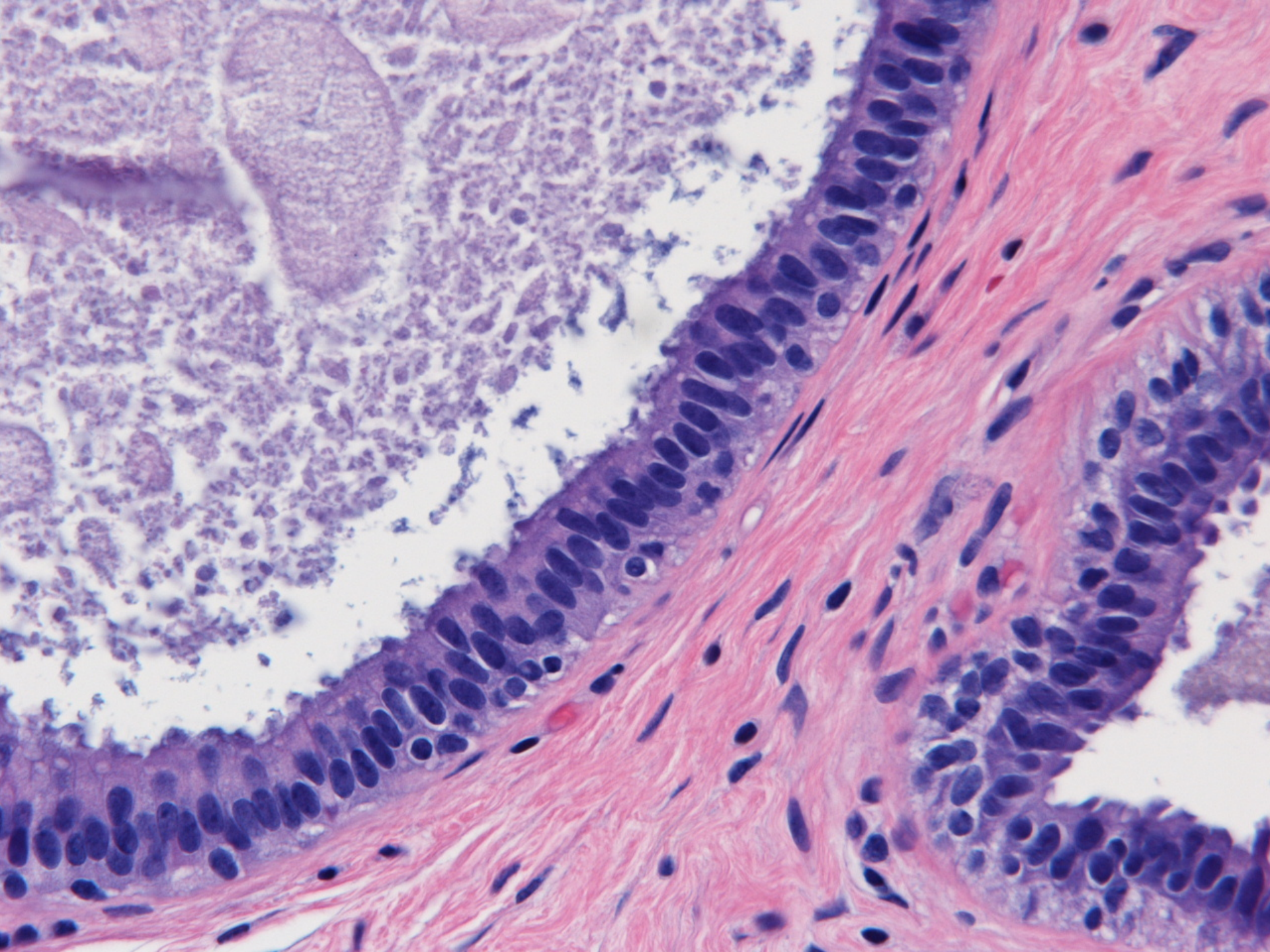




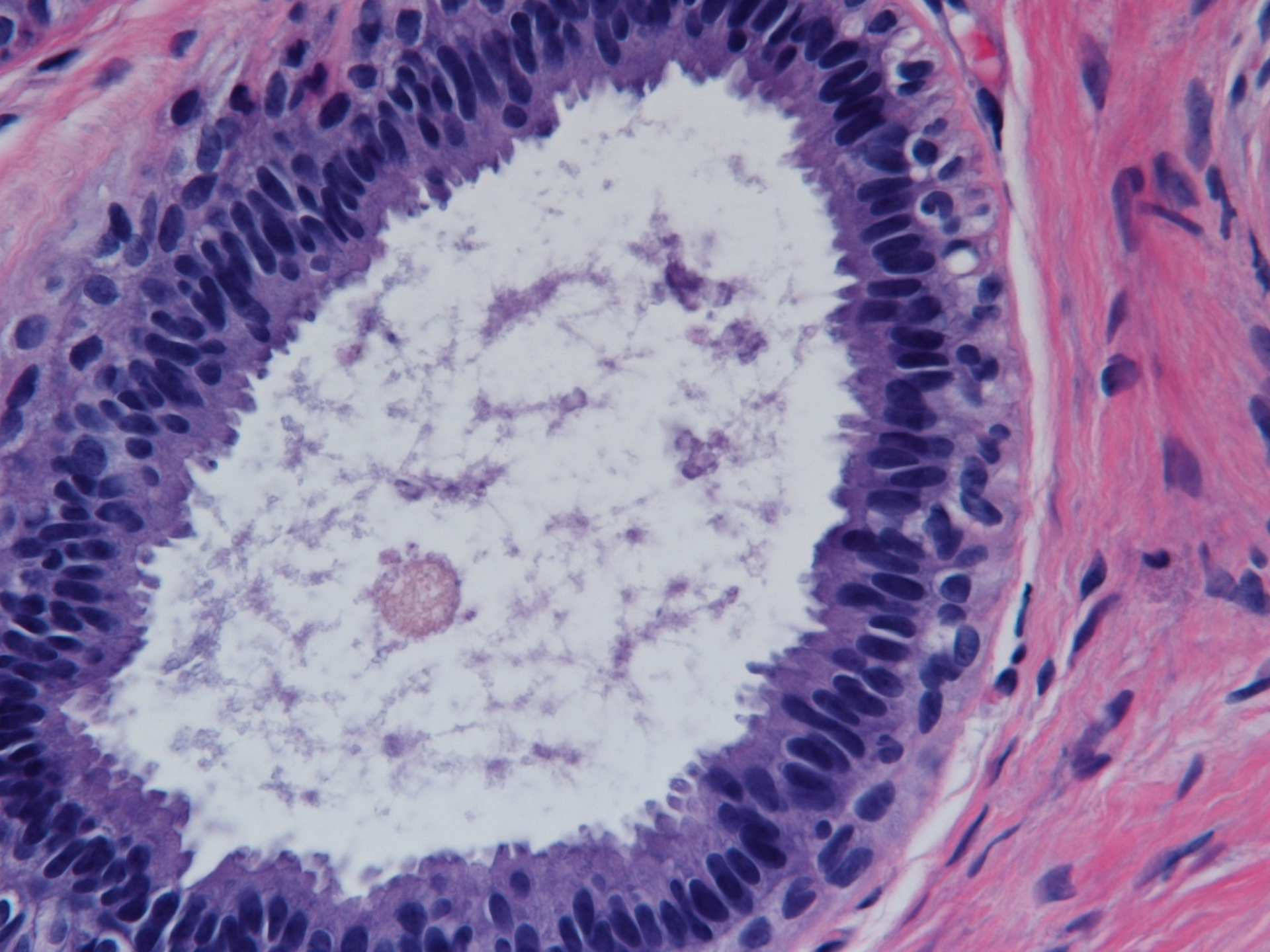






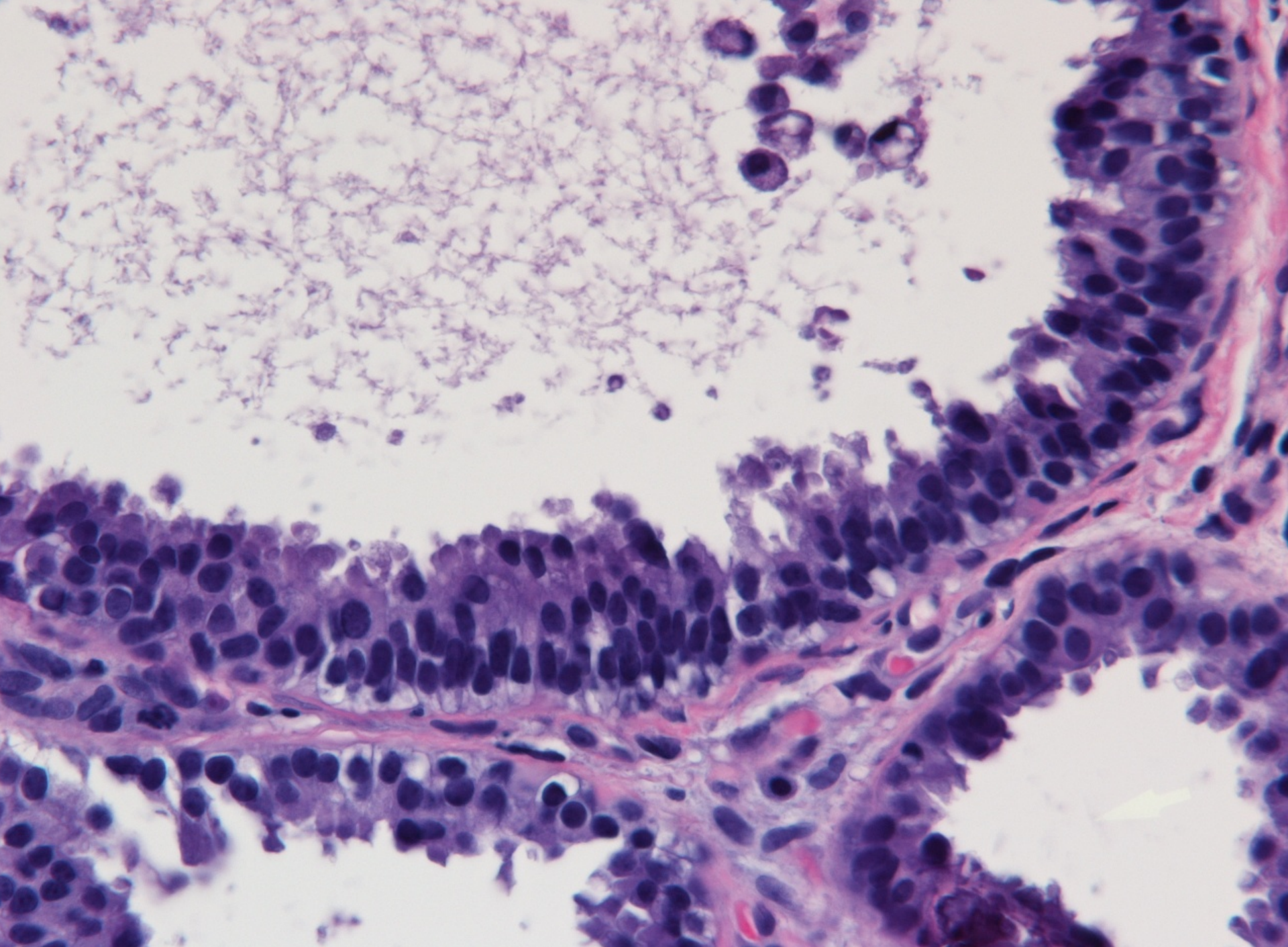




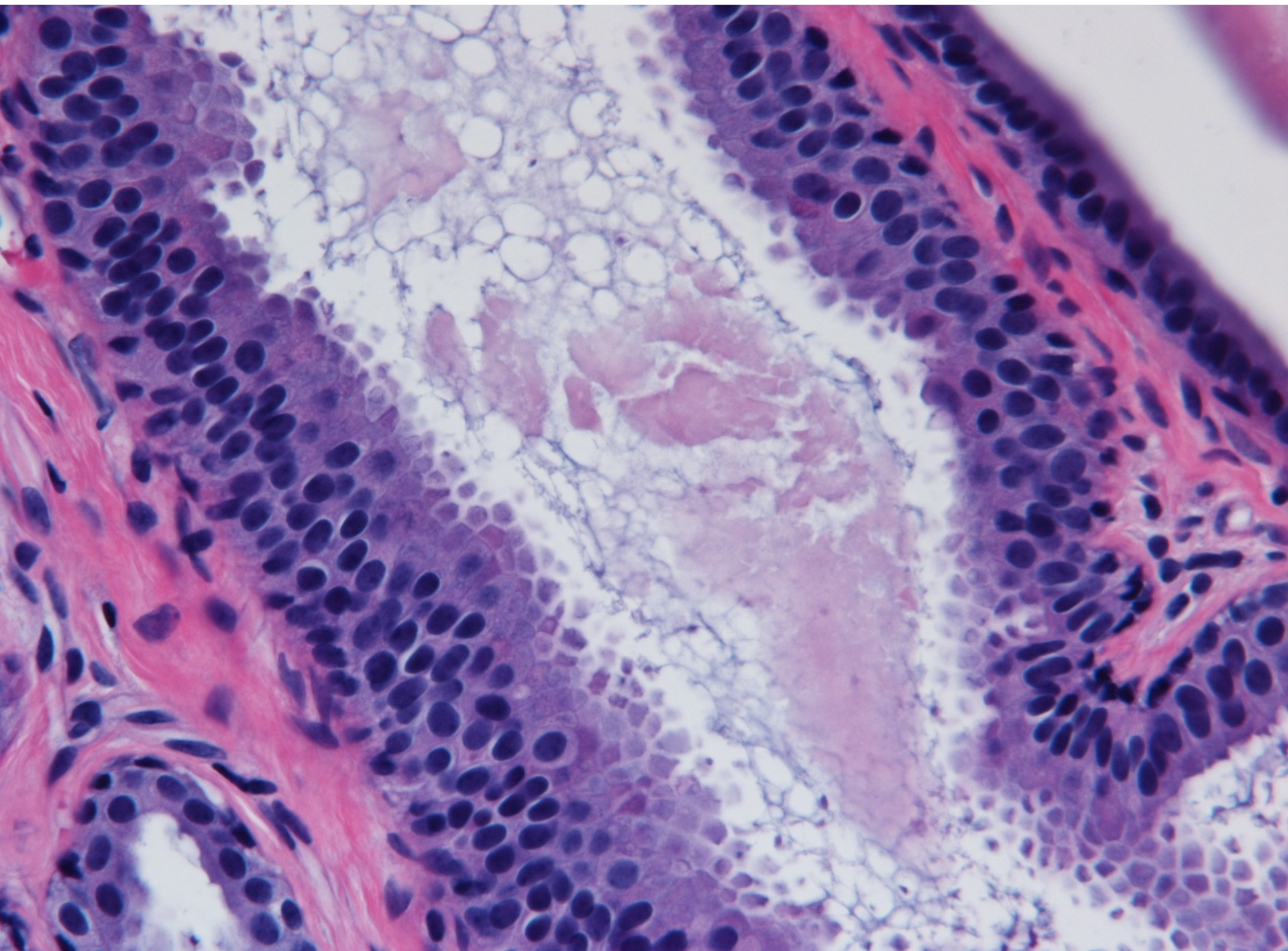


# Columnar Cell Hyperplasia

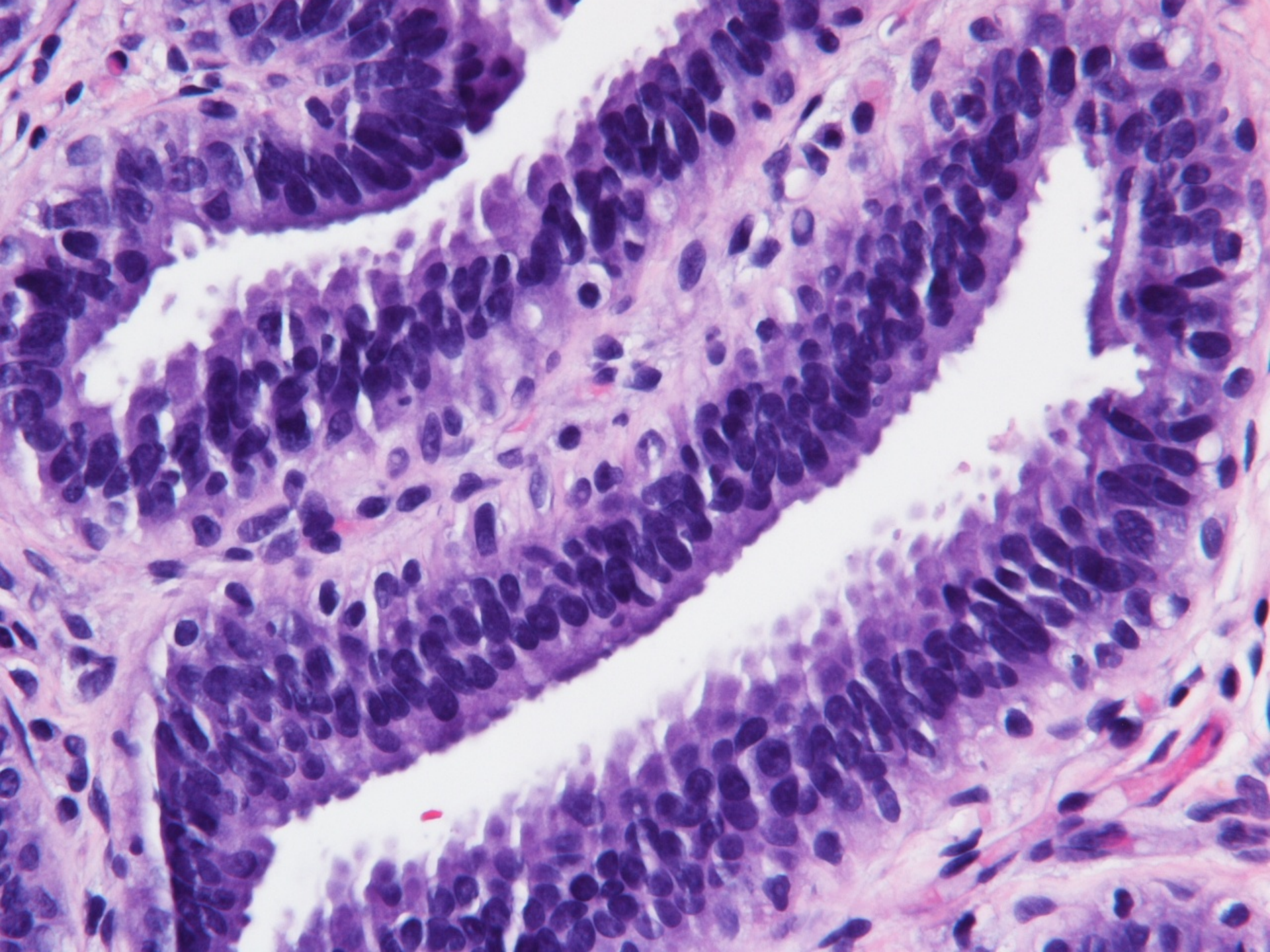












Columnar Cell Hyperplasia  
with Atypia  
Flat Epithelial Atypia (FEA)

# Background

Columnar cell Alterations with apical Snouts and Secretions (CAPSS) with atypia”, “atypical cystic lobules”, “ductal intraepithelial neoplasia, flat type” or “clinging carcinoma”

- Flat epithelial atypia (FEA) introduced by WHO in 2003
- Current WHO (2014): columnar cell change, columnar cell hyperplasia, flat epithelial atypia.

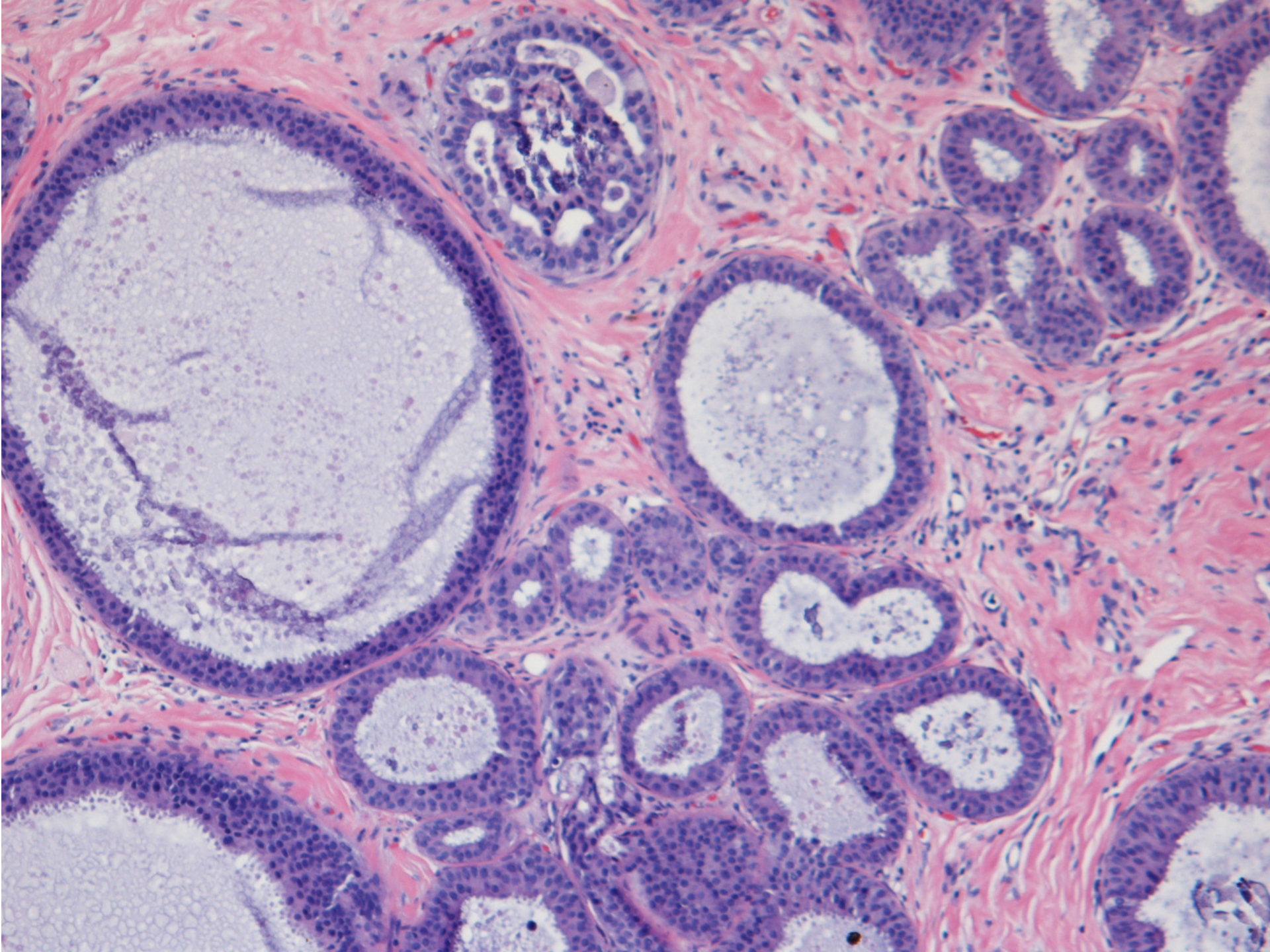
# Flat Epithelial Atypia

- “dilated acini lined by a single layer of evenly spaced monomorphic cells with apical snouts and containing flocculent material containing calcifications”
- the cells may be stratified, with loss of polarity but lack complex architectural patterns (as seen in ADEH)
- low grade cytologic atypia with enlarged round /ovoid nuclei, inconspicuous nucleoli and +/- abundant eosinophilic cytoplasm

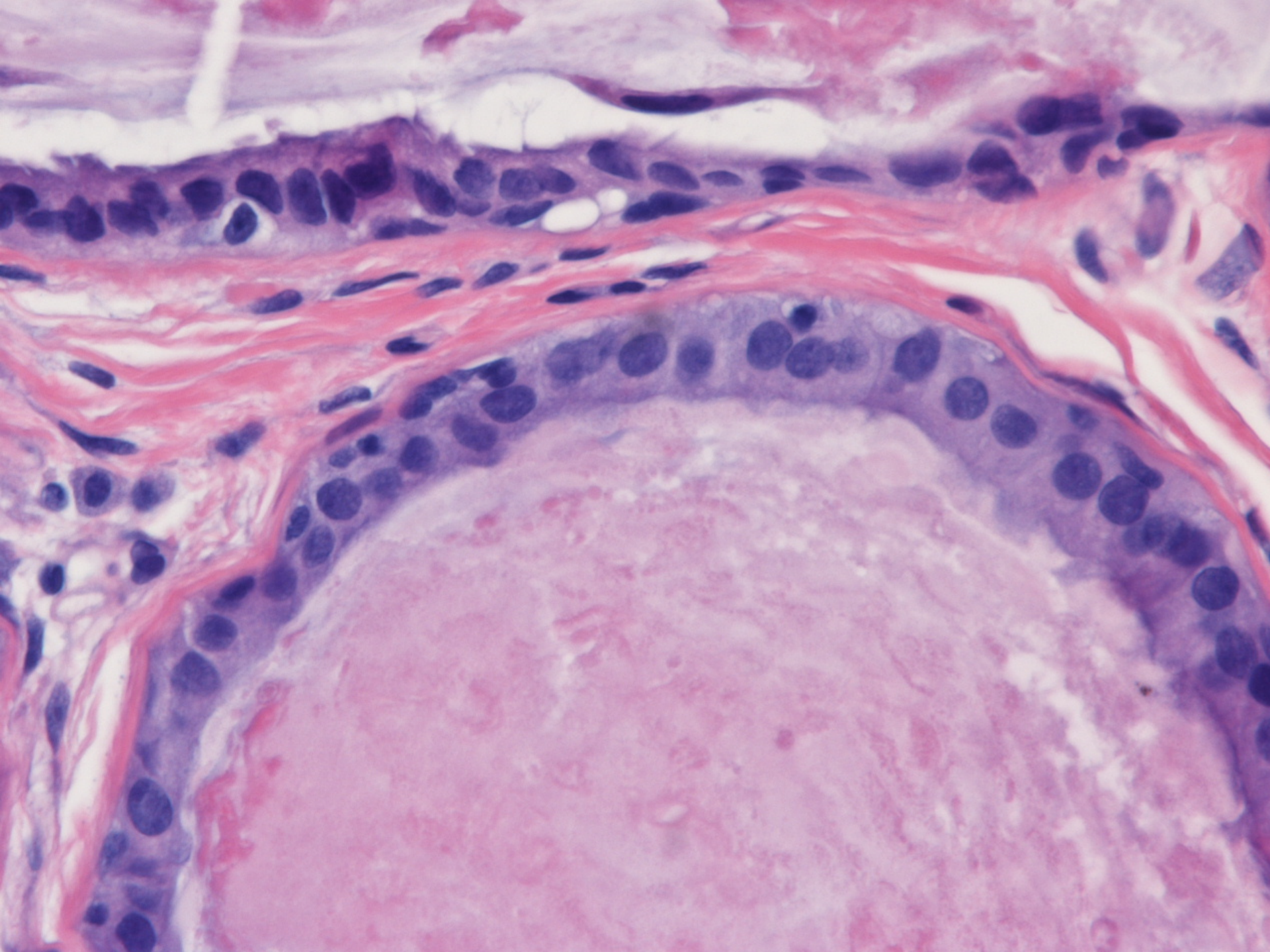
# Kinships?

- Flat epithelial atypia, atypical duct hyperplasia (ADH) and lobular neoplasia are frequently seen on the same tissue slide.
- Frequently (~20% of the time), deeper levels of FEA may reveal areas of ADH (Am J Clin Pathol 2009;131:802–808.)
- Similar molecular alterations are seen in CCC, FEA, DCIS on the same slide (*Dabbs et al, 2006 Mod Pathol 2006 Mar;19(3):344-9; Aulmann S et al 2012 Am J Surg Path 36: 1247* )
- Commonality: “Low Grade Pathway” with loss of 16q, gain of 1q (*Stacher E et al 2011 Histopathol 59: 549-55*)

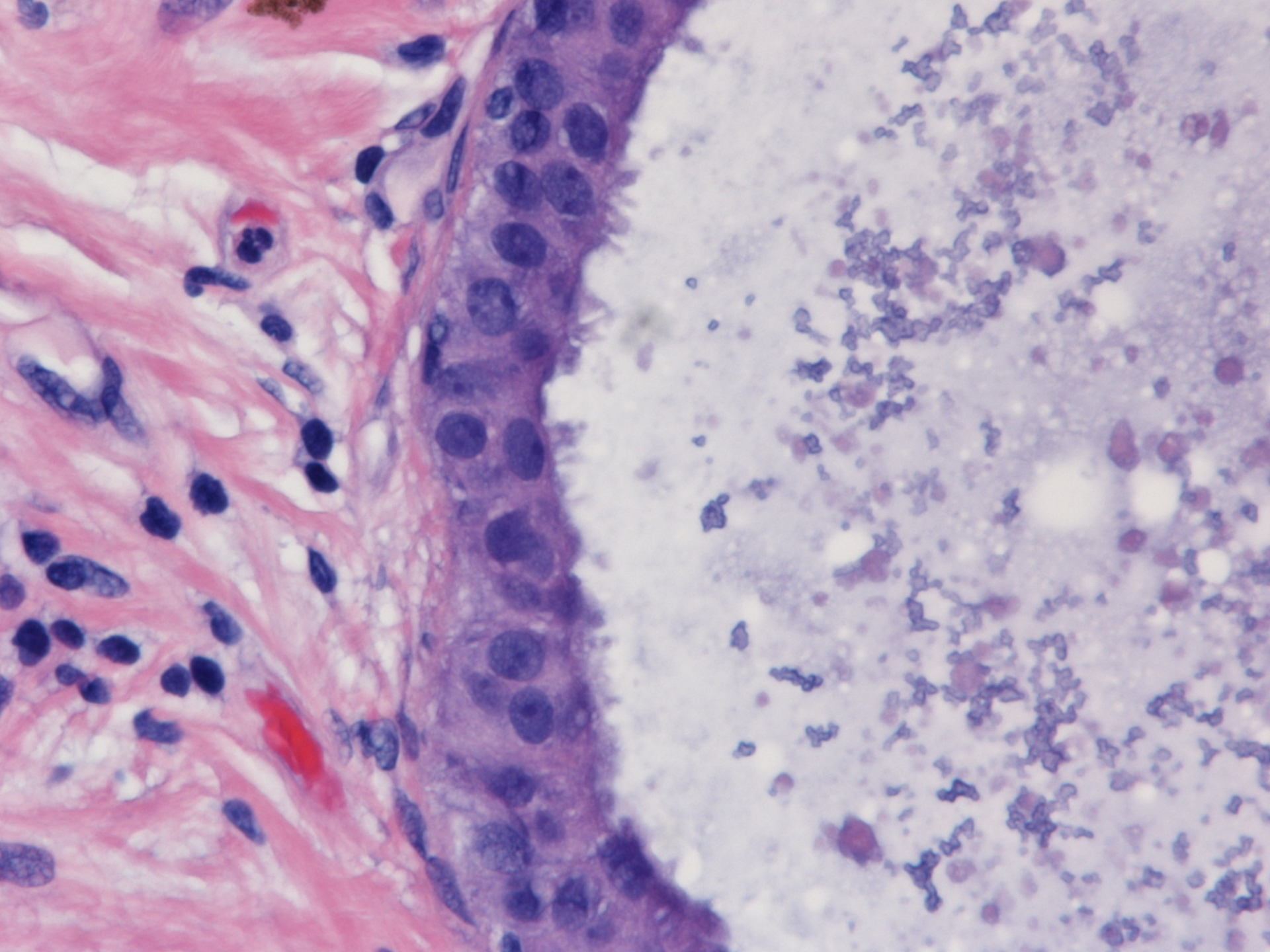




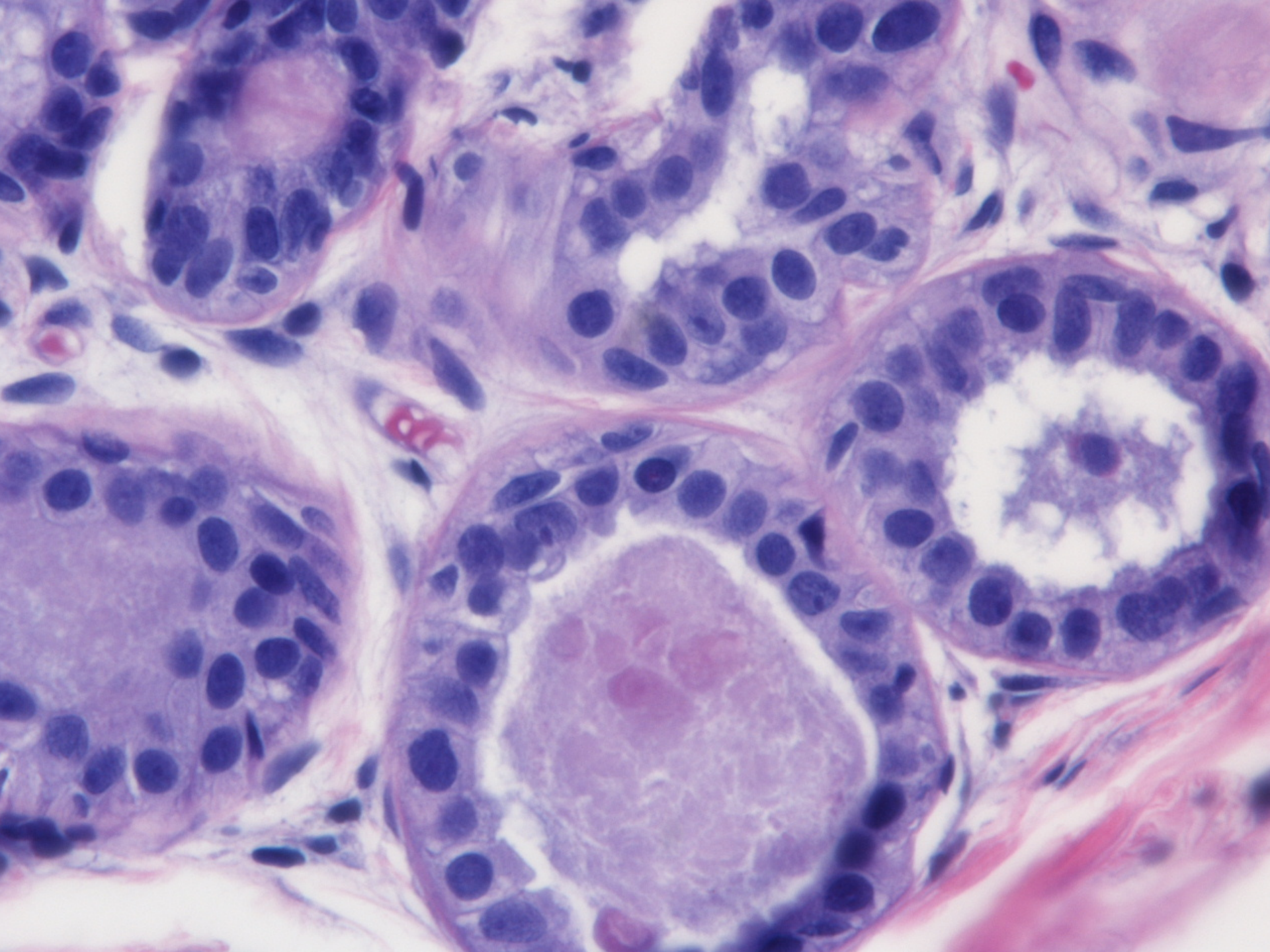




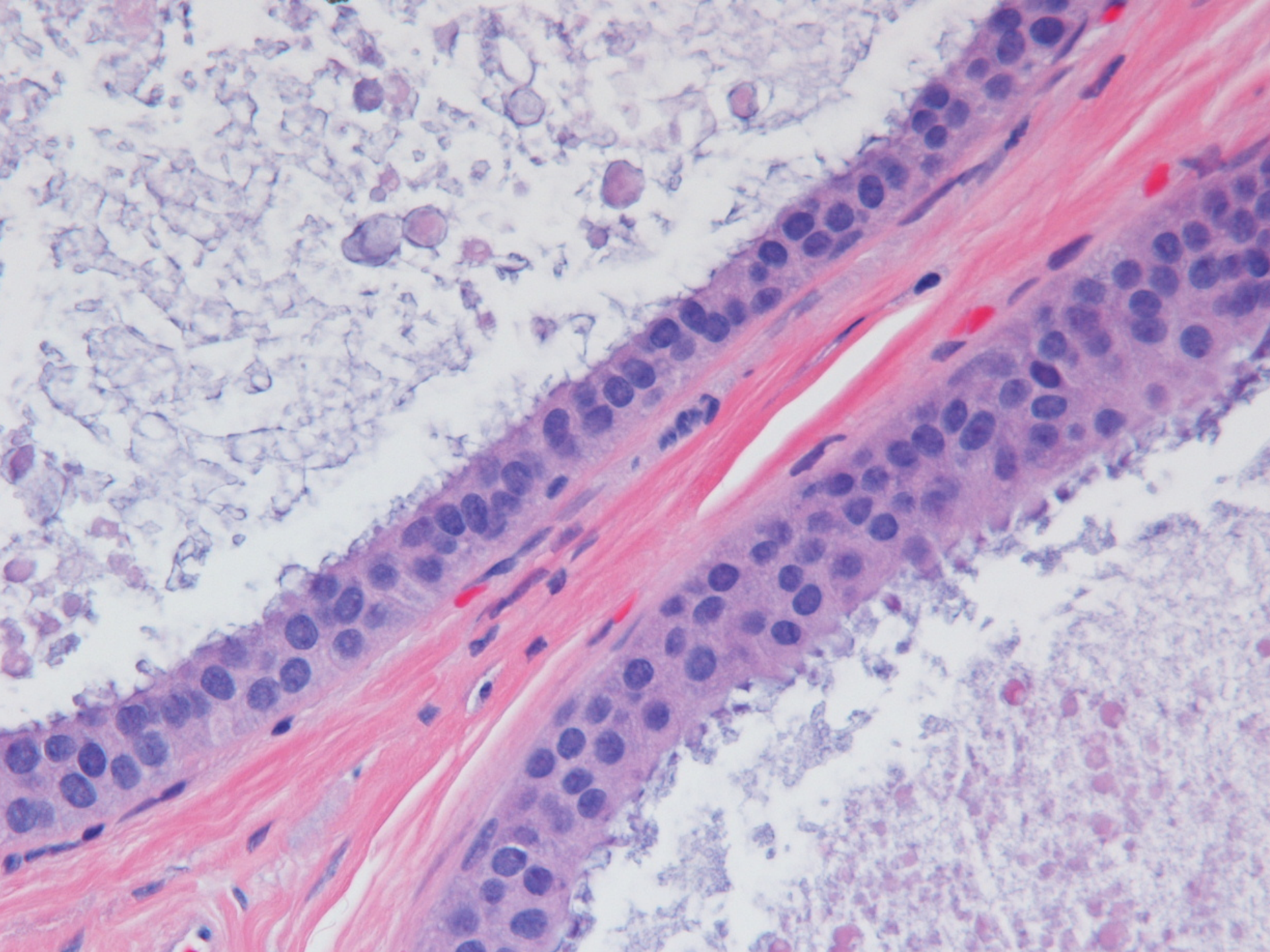




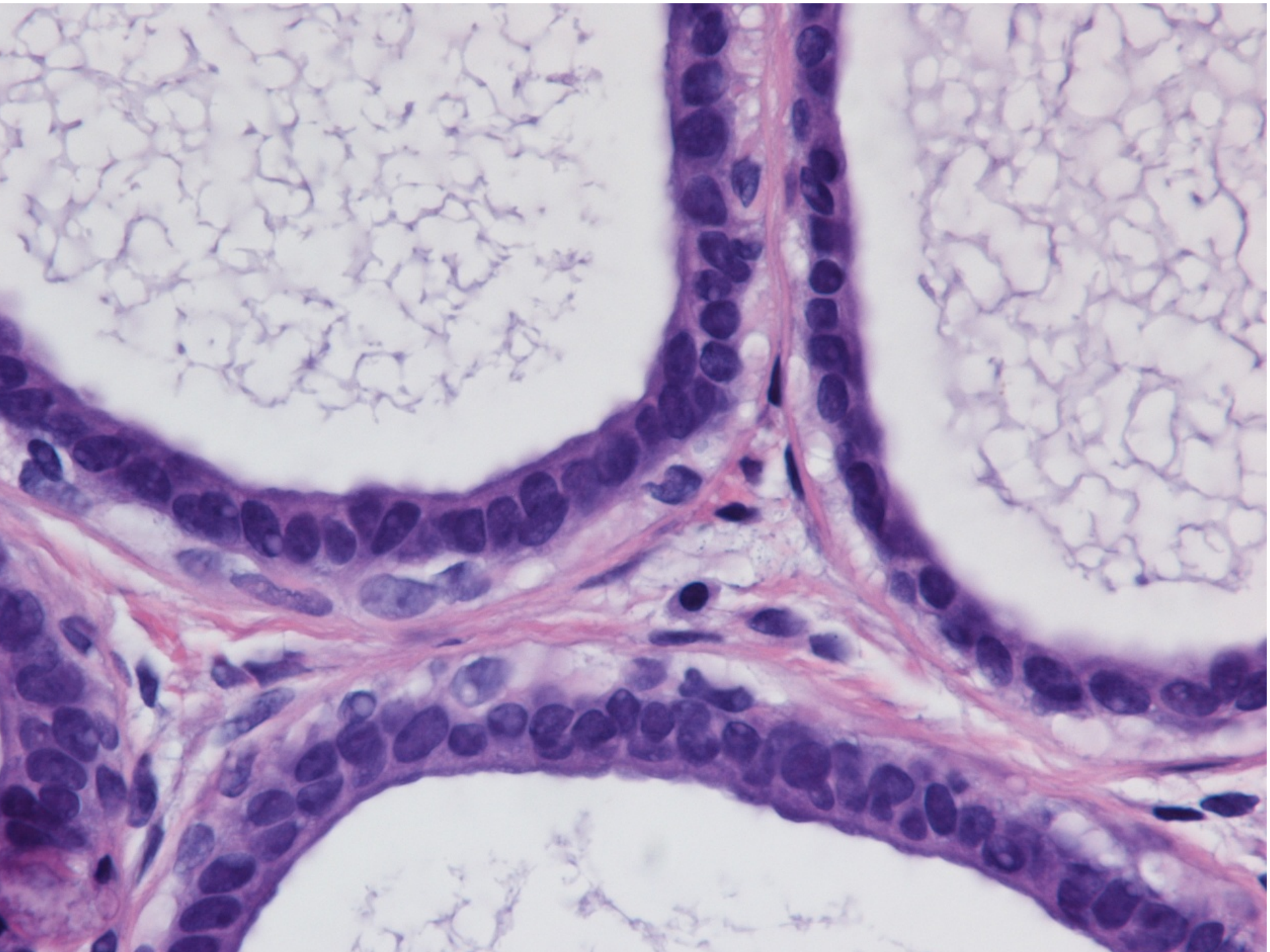




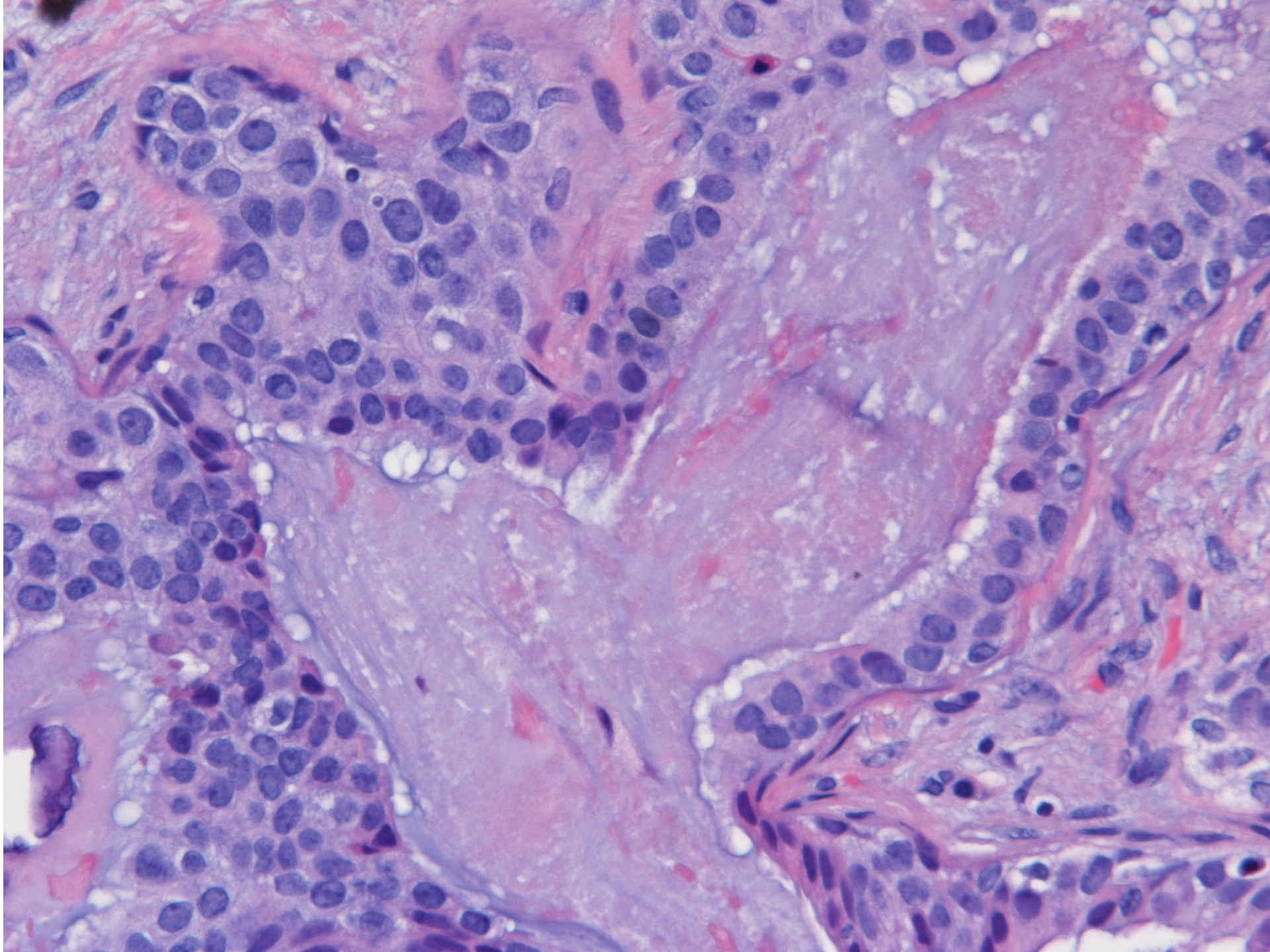




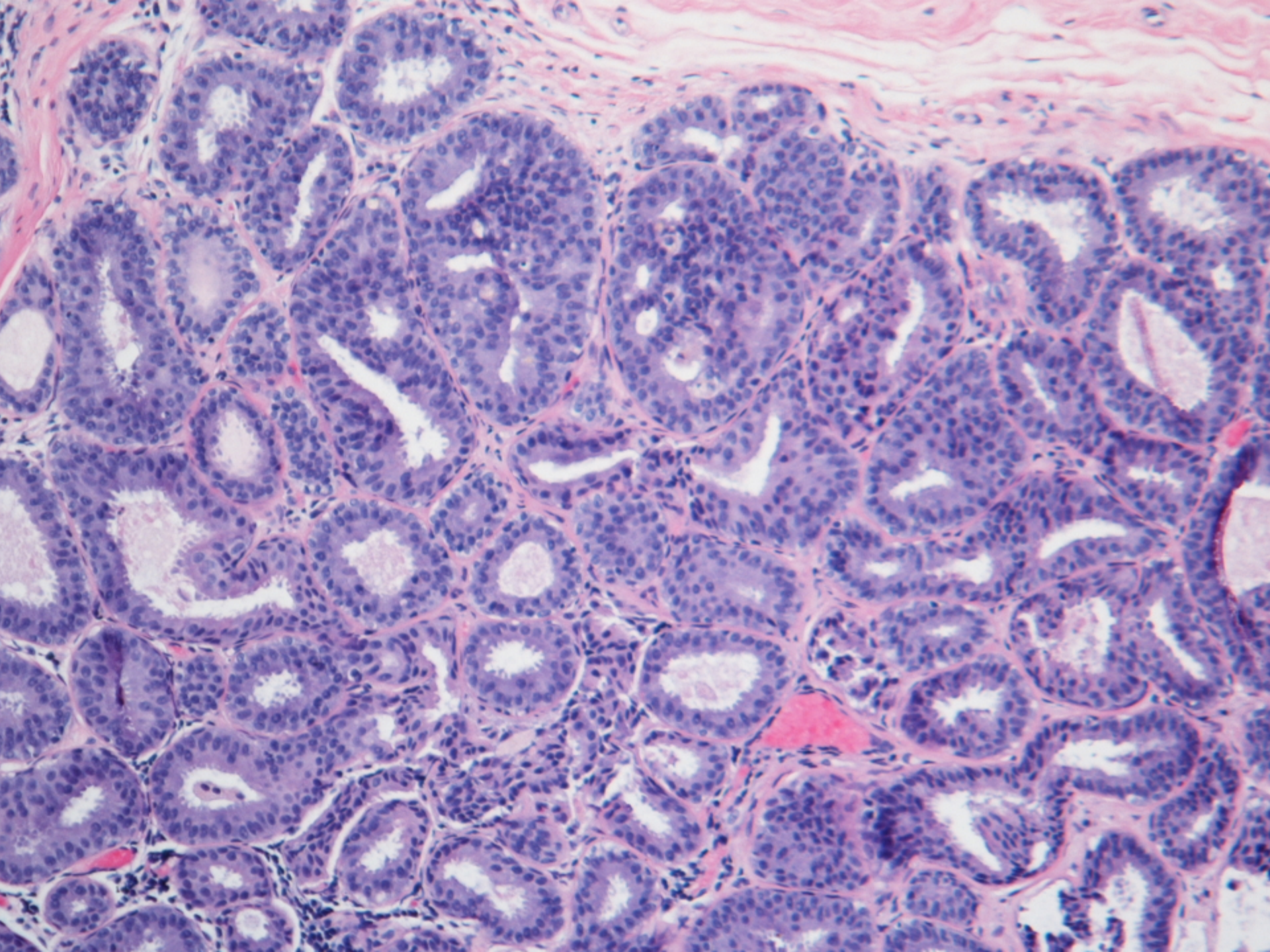




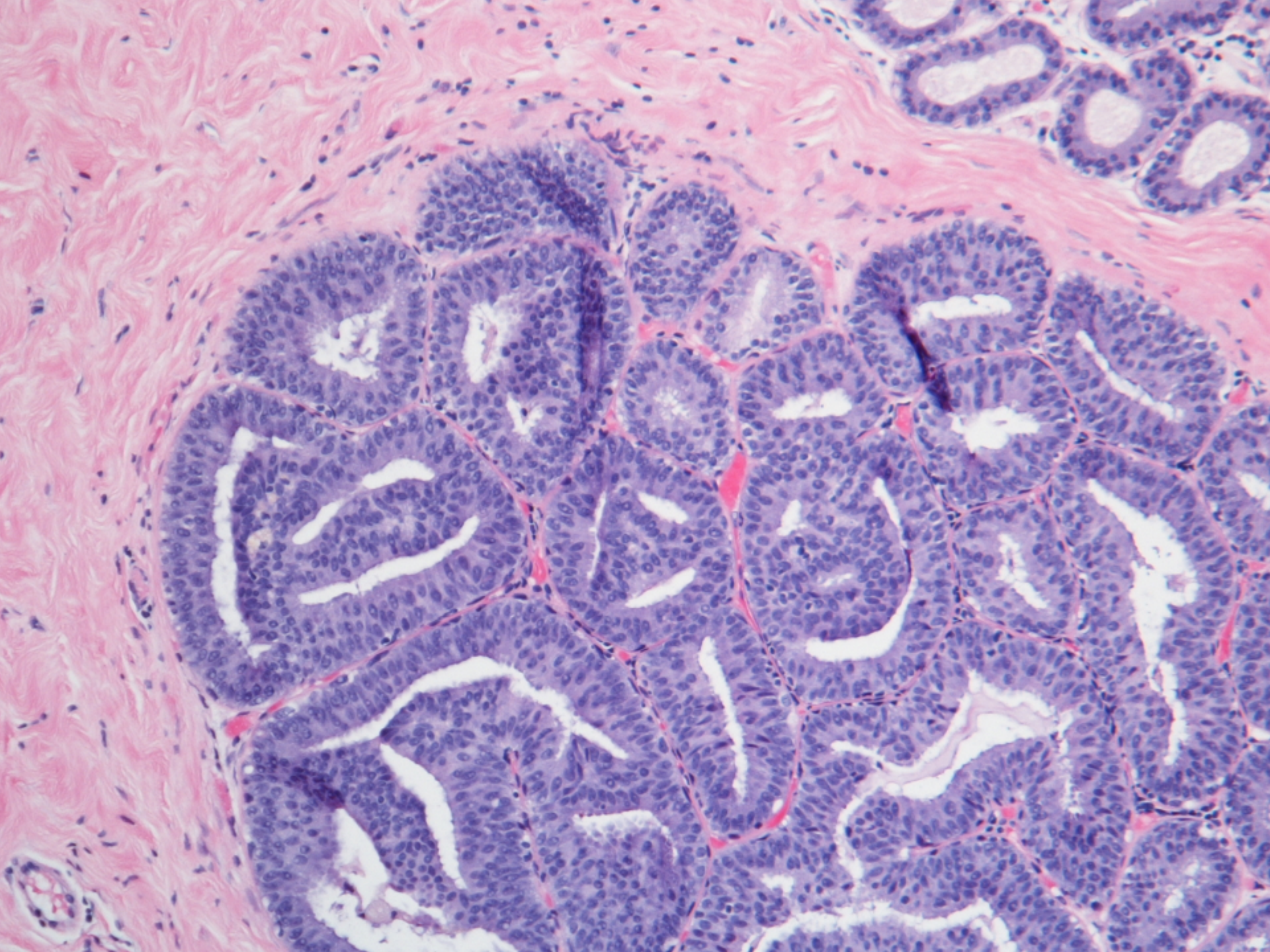




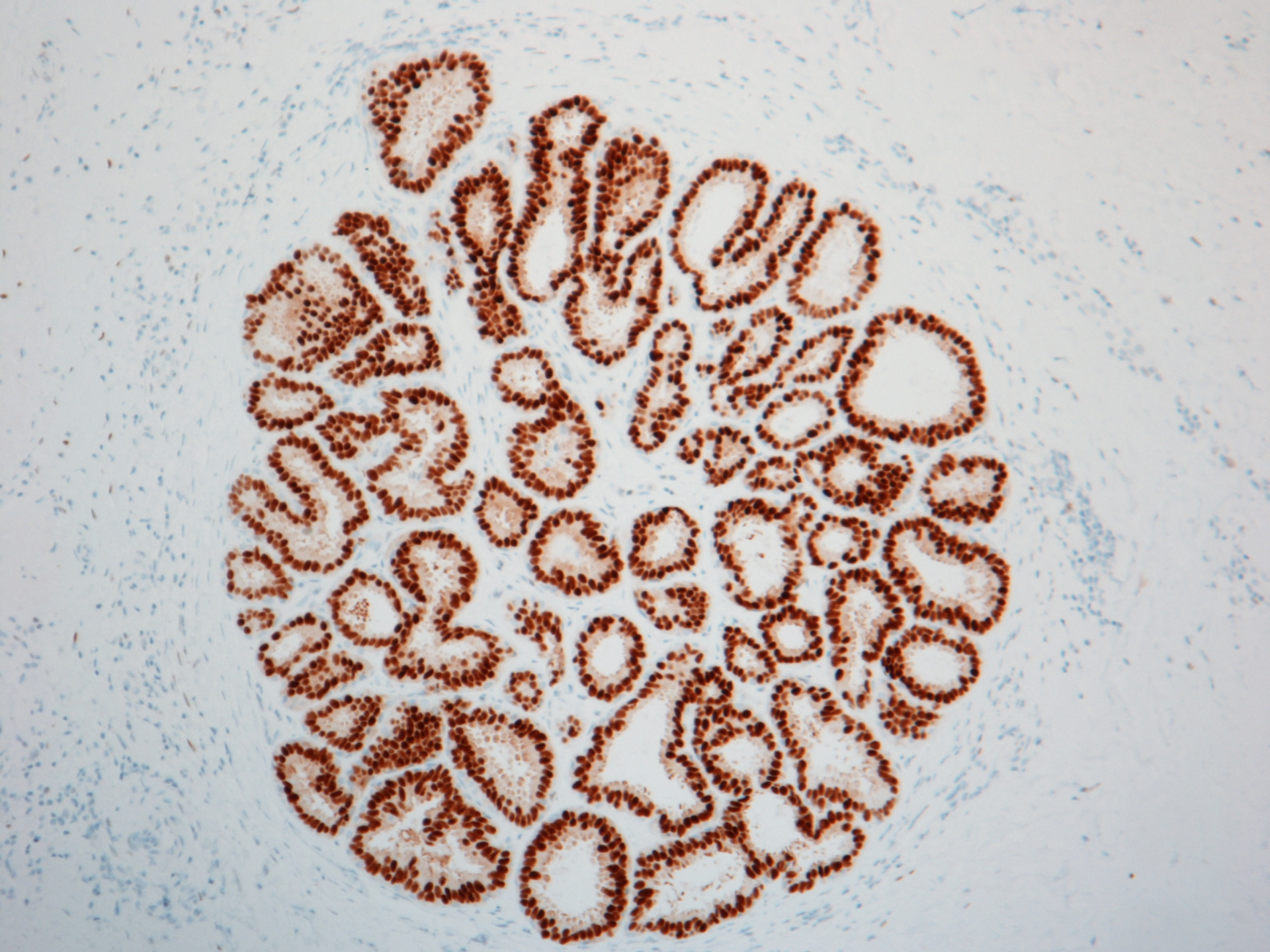




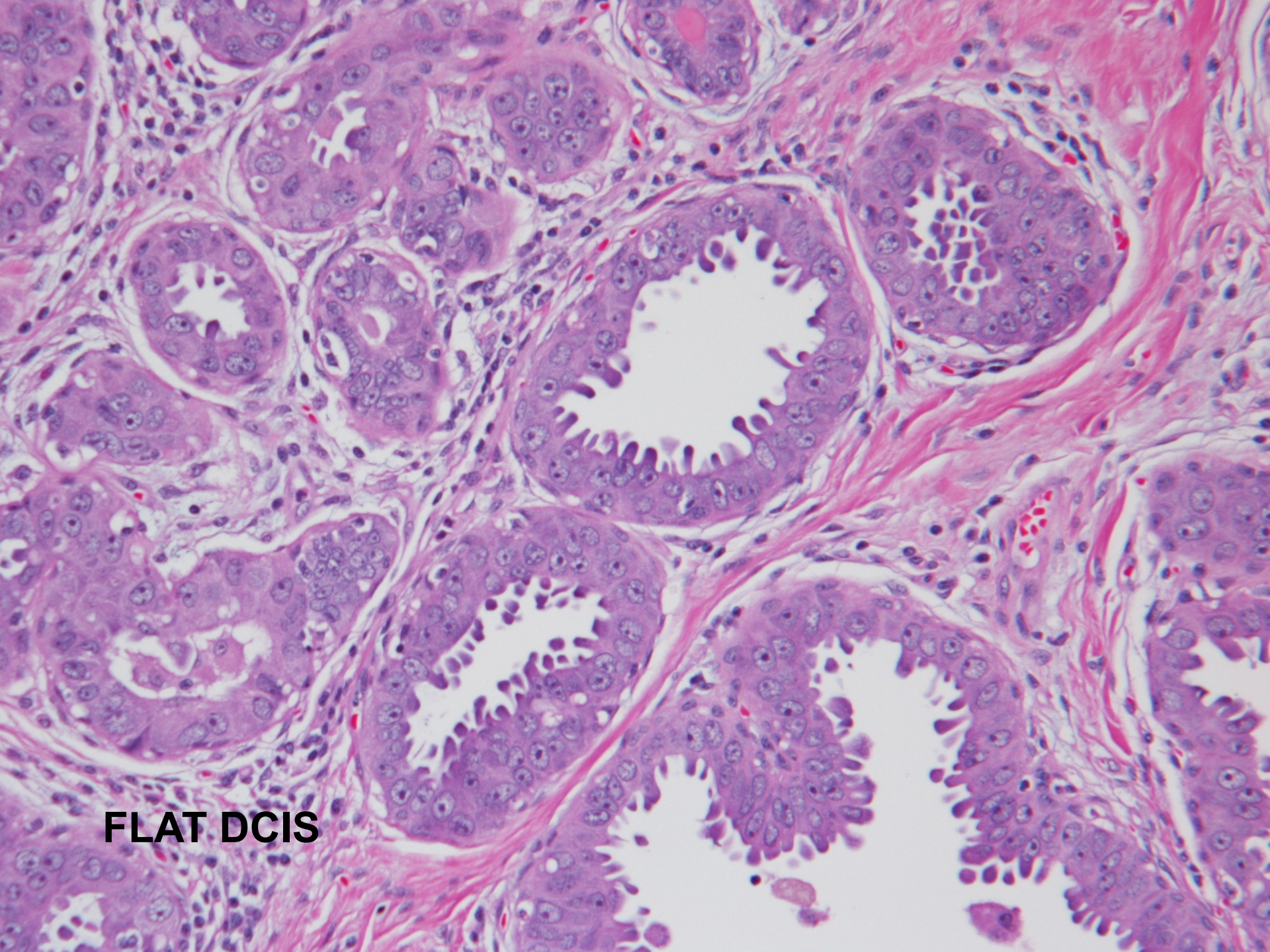






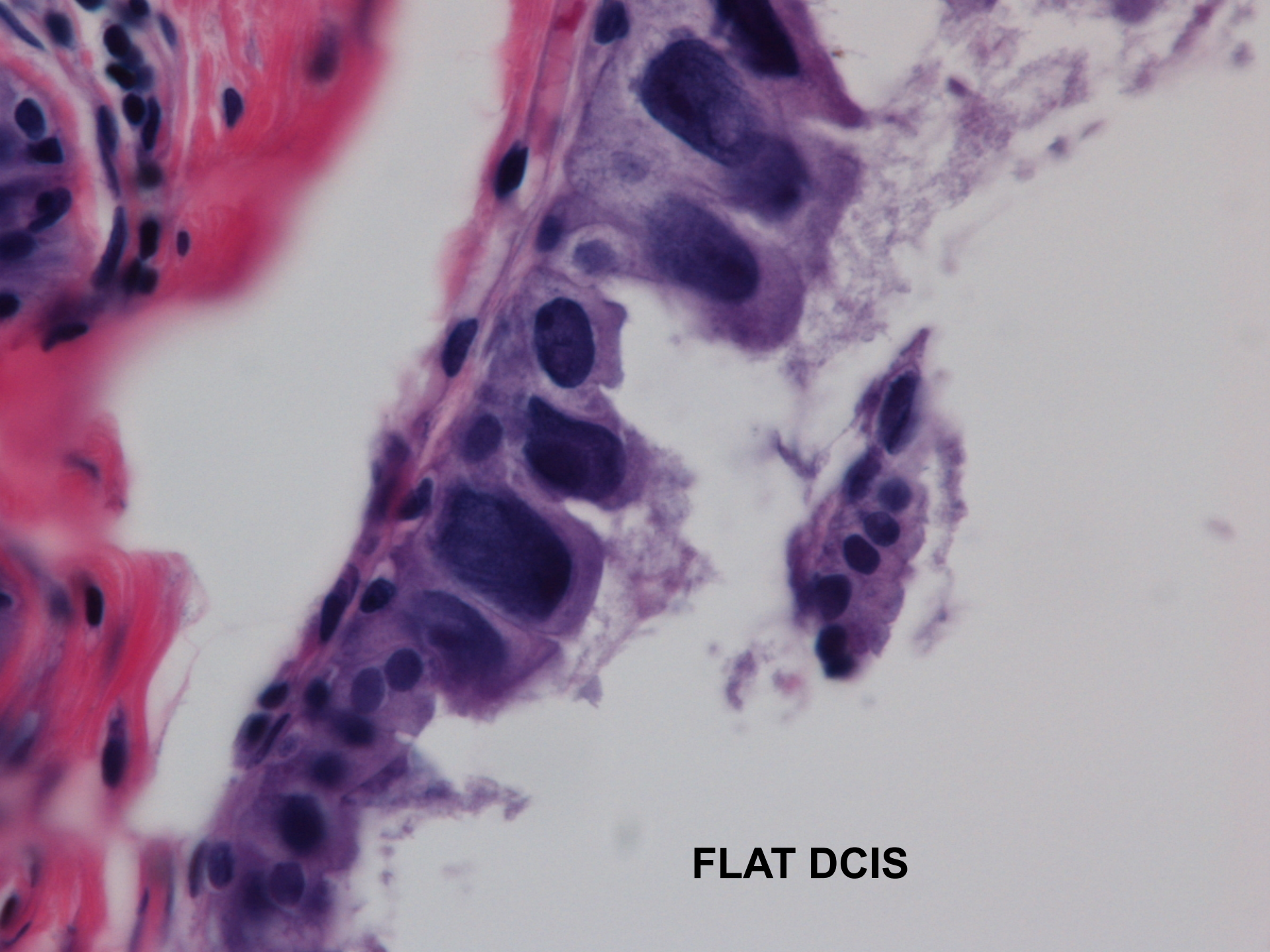






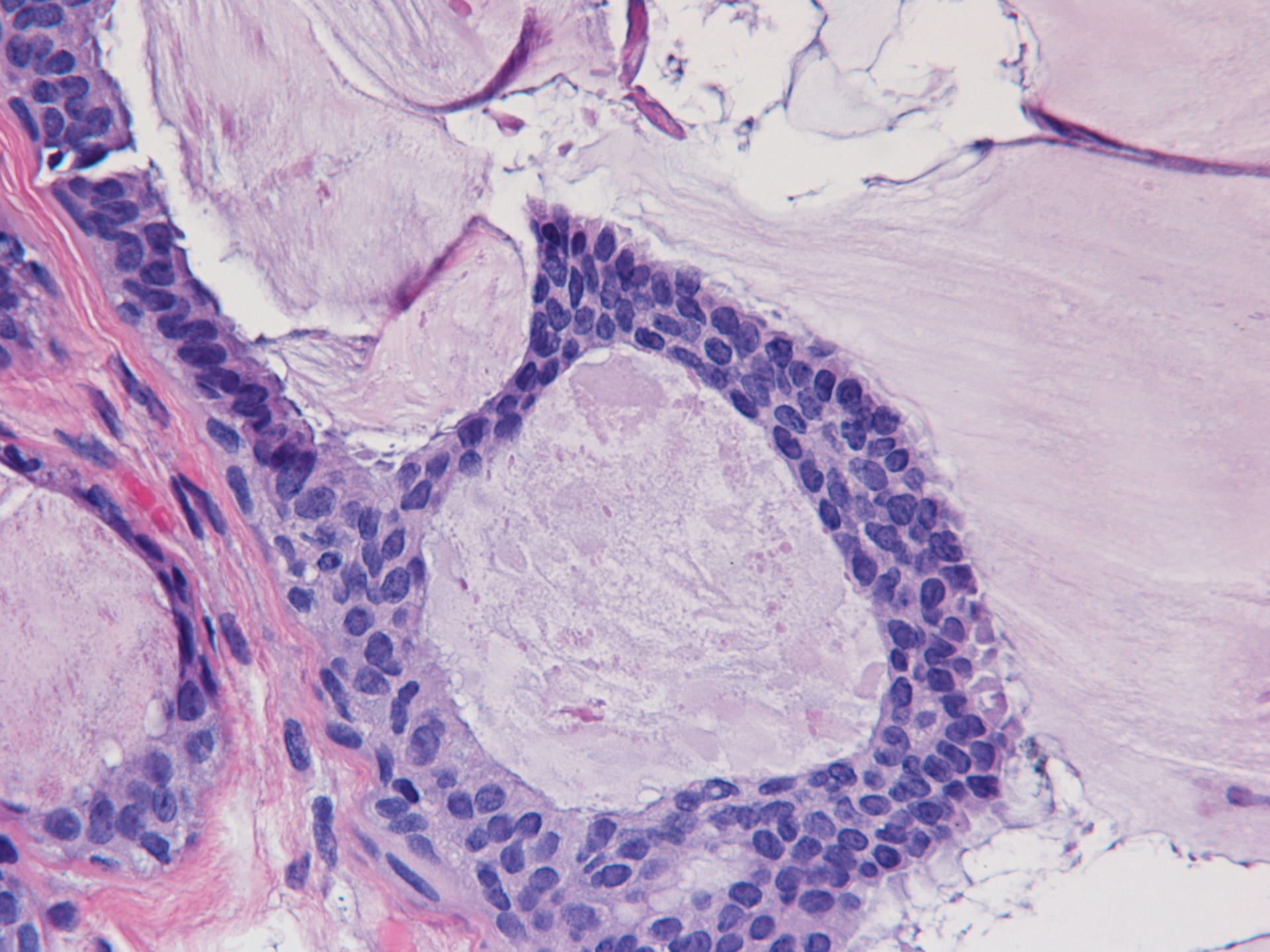
**FLAT DCIS**





**FLAT DCIS**





## Senetta et Mod Pathol 2009 22:762-9

- 41 pure FEA, 38 BIRADS 3, 3 BIRADS 4
- Calcifications were all determinate for FEA
- 36/41 (88%) pure FEA had surgery FUE
- 53% with atypia/ADH, LN,FEA on excision
- No upstage to DCIS or IDC on FUE
- Conclusion: Low risk 11g, VACB (BIRADS 3) calcifications likely do not require FUE, especially if most or all of lesion removed

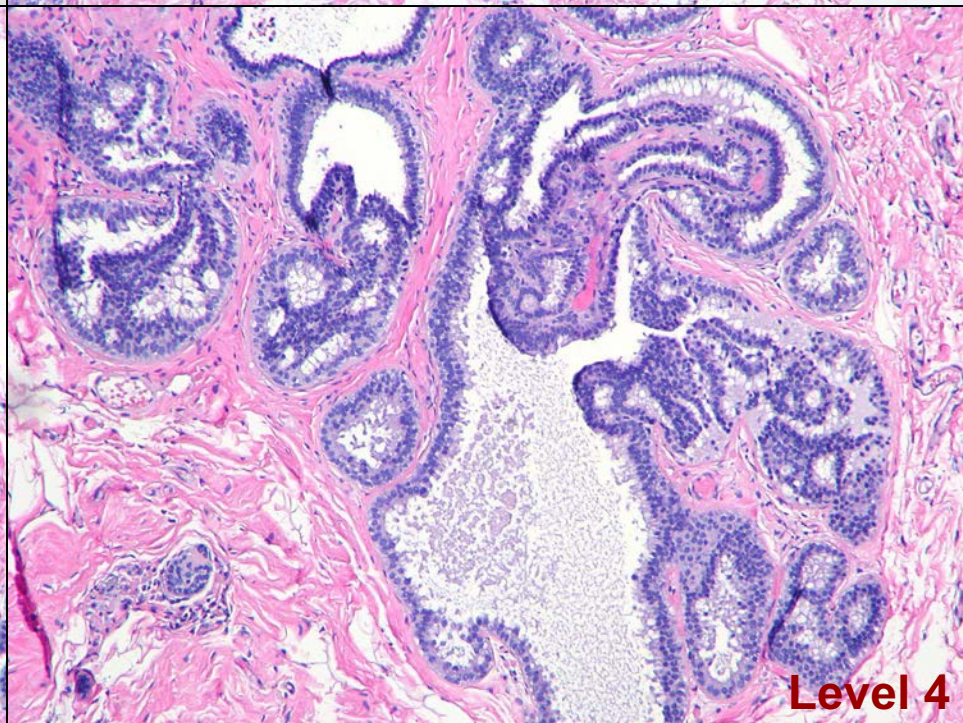
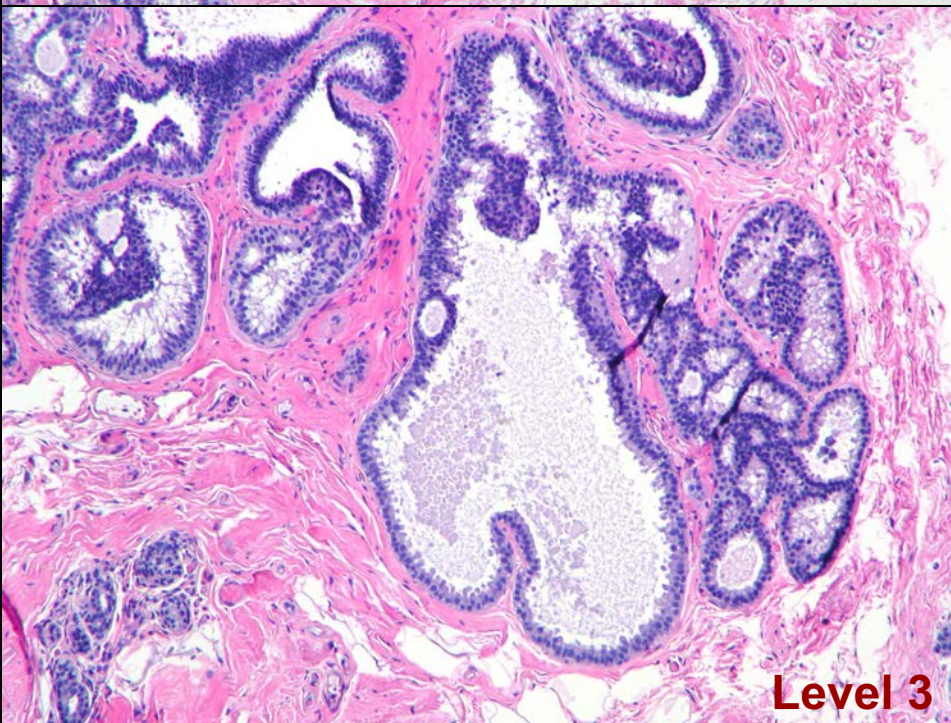
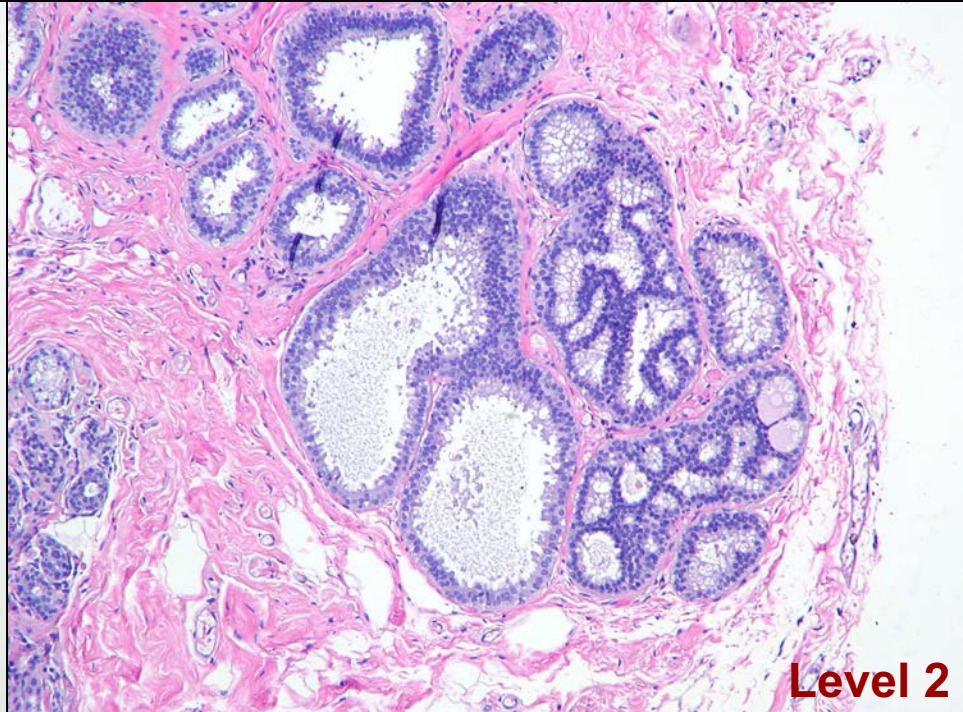
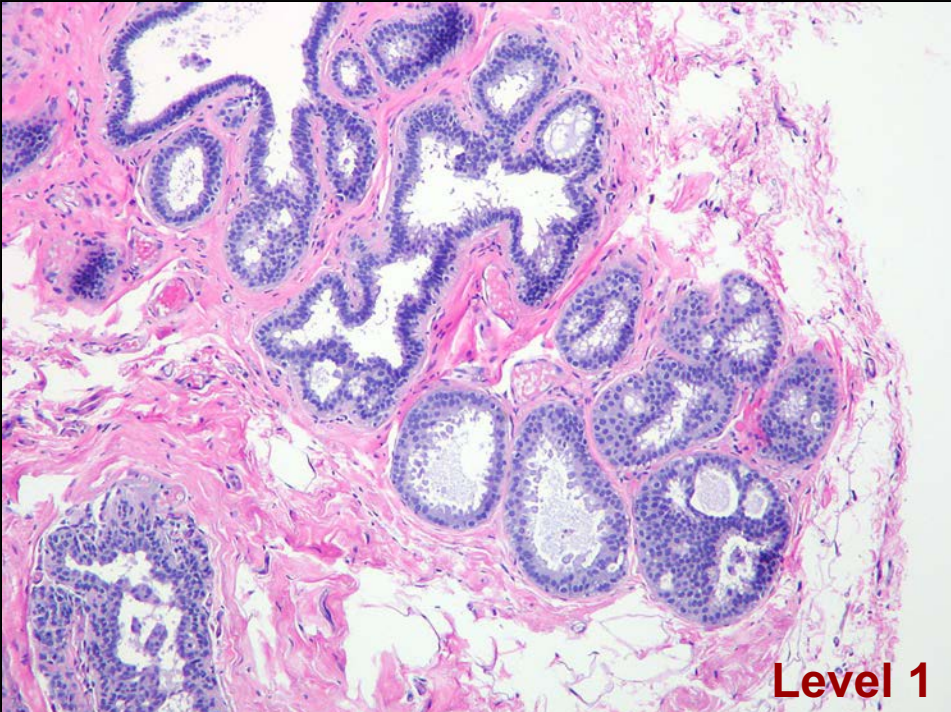
Piubello Q et al. FEA on CNB: Which is the right management? Am J Surg Pathol 2009;33:1078-84

- 33 pure FEA, 11G VACB
- 20 with FUE (61%)
- BIRADS 3 for 18/20 cases (90%)
- No upstage to DCIS/IDC
- 30% upstage in ADH cases (2 DCIS, 1 IDC)
- 90% of lesions removed by VACB

Chivukula et al (Am J Clin Pathol 2009; 131:802-8)

- 39 pure FEA cases for indeterminate calcifications. All biopsies were BIRADS 4.
- **Most 9g or 11g vacuum assisted biopsies**
- 35/39 (90%) with FUE
- 3 LGDCIS, 2 LGIDC = 5/35 (14% upstage).
- The upstaging in the follow-up resections for pure FEA in comparison to ADH+FEA was 16% and for pure ADH is 14%. These differences are not statistically different ( $p=0.8728$ )







## Chivukula et al.

- FEA and ADH often present together (71%).
- “Pure” FEA “evolves” into ADH in 17 % of FEA cases at an average of 3-4 tissue levels.
- Conclusion: BIRADS 4 images more likely to contain serious lesions (DCIS, IDC), in association with FEA.

## Importantly.....

- The size of the lesional area, BIRADS category, biopsy method and whether the lesion is completely removed or almost completely removed, will have impact on patient management.



# LN with CCLs~54%

- Frequency and clinical significance of simultaneous association of lobular neoplasia and columnar cell alterations in breast tissue specimens.

Carley AM, **Chivukula M**, Carter GJ, Karabakhtsian RG, Dabbs DJ.

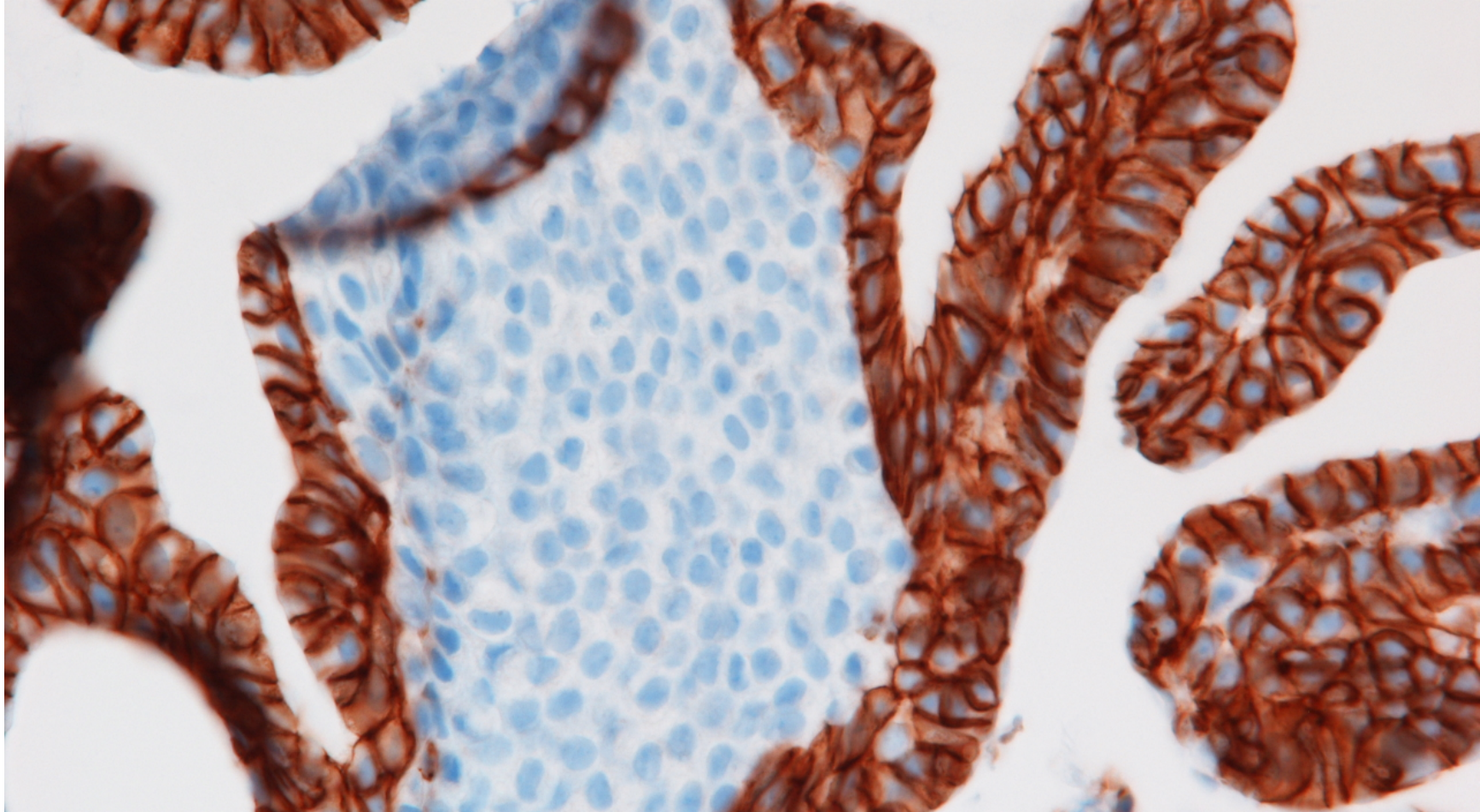
Am J Clin Pathol. 2008 Aug;130(2):254-8.

- **Flat epithelial atypia** (DIN 1a, atypical columnar change): an underdiagnosed entity very frequently coexisting with **lobular neoplasia**.

Leibl S, Regitnig P, Moinfar F. Histopathology. 2007 Jun;50(7):859-65.

- High frequency of coexistence of columnar cell lesions, **lobular neoplasia**, and low grade ductal carcinoma in situ with invasive tubular carcinoma and invasive **lobular** carcinoma.

Abdel-Fatah TM, Powe DG, Hodi Z, Lee AH, Reis-Filho JS, Ellis IO. Am J Surg Pathol. 2007 Mar;31(3):417-26.





## FLAT EPITHELIAL ATYPIA EXCISE OR NOT?

- Most studies carried out are retrospective, and do not specify radiographic imaging findings.
- Other risk entities (ADH, papillomas, etc) are sometimes included.
- The types of lesions counted as “upstaged” are not well defined.
- Unexcised lesions-unknown findings!
- Other lesions found on excision are not well documented.

# FEA: EXCISE?

- Verschuur-Maes et al (Ann Surg 2012;255:259) performed a systematic review of literature: 13-67% “upstaging” reported.
- Risk of subsequent cancer with columnar lesions and FEA is very low (*Cancer* 2008;113:2415–2421; *Breast Cancer Res* 2010;12:R61; Said S et al. 2015 *Cancer* 121:1548)



# Pure FEA on Core Biopsy-Excisional Biopsy Findings (*Calhoun BC et al. 2015 Mod Pathol 28: 670-6.*)

total	No atypia	FEA	ADH	ALH	DCIS	INVASIVE	
73	20 (27%)	31 (42%)	14 (19%)	3 (4%)	3 (4%)	2 (3%)	

All 73 patients had a surgical excision.

# Pure FEA on Core/Carcinoma on Excision

*(Calhoun BC et al. 2015 Mod Pathol 28: 670-6.)*

<b>DX</b>	<b>Size mm</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>ER</b>	<b>BIRADS</b>	<b>Calcs</b>	<b>Calc removed</b>
<b>IDC NST</b>	3	1	+	4	10 mm	<25%
<b>TUBULAR</b>	3	1	+	4	6mm	>75%
<b>DCIS</b>	8	2	+	4	12mm	>75%
<b>DCIS</b>	52	2	ND	4	43mm	<25%
<b>DCIS</b>	38	2	+	4	23 density	NA

5/73 (6.8%) were upstaged.

All cases where calcification removal was complete had no upstaged lesion.



# Complete Removal of Calcifications with Pure FEA-No Excision Necessary

- Yu CC et al. Breast J 2015 21: 224
- ***Dialani V et al. 2014 Breast J 20:606***
- ***Calhoun BC et al. 2015 Mod Pathol 28:670***

# SUMMARY: Microcalcs only; Pure FEA on core biopsy; series with nearly all cases excised

Author	“Upstaged”	Percent Upstaged	#Excised
Calhoun	5/73	6.8	100%
Villa	7/121	5.7	100%
Bianchi	18/190	9.5	100%
Solorzano	2/28	7%	85%
Prowler	0/24	0%	100%
Lavoue’	7/60	11.6	100%
Rajan	6/36	16.6	100%

Series Average Upstage: 8%



## Clinical factors associated with excisional biopsy upstaging with pure FEA on core biopsy.

- Family history of cancer
- Lesion size (calcifications)
- BIRADS 4 (vs lower BIRADS)
- Age
- Best managed conservatively...desirable to remove all calcium, and follow the patient.

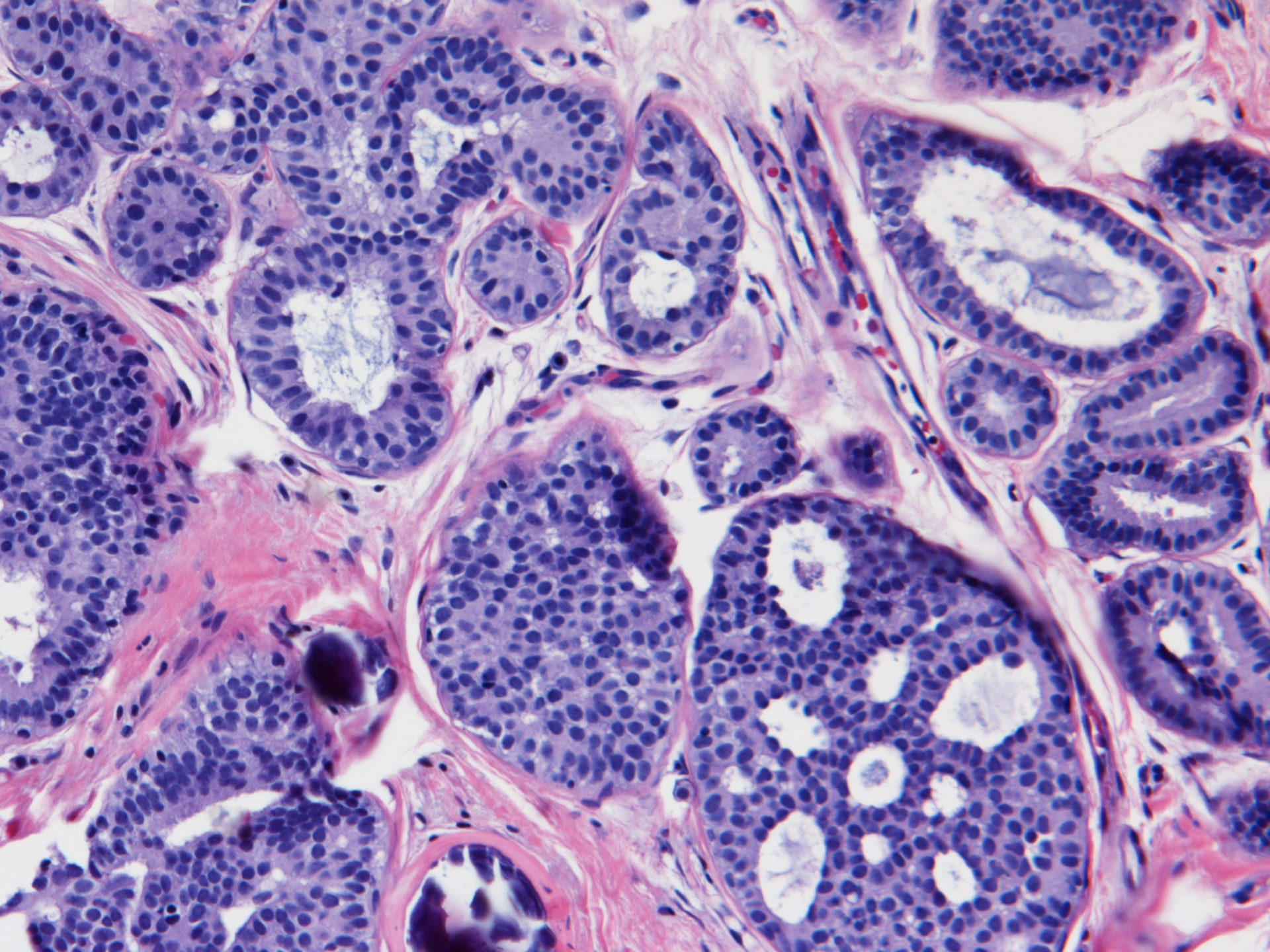
# Is the diagnosis of FEA reproducible among pathologists?

- 8 pathologists with subspecialty interest or expertise in breast pathology examined 30 columnar cell lesions and categorized them as CCC, CCH and FEA.
- All studied a Powerpoint tutorial with written instructions prior to examination.
- Overall agreement was 91.8% (Kappa value .83= excellent agreement).
- *O'Malley et al 2006 Mod Pathol 19:172-9.*

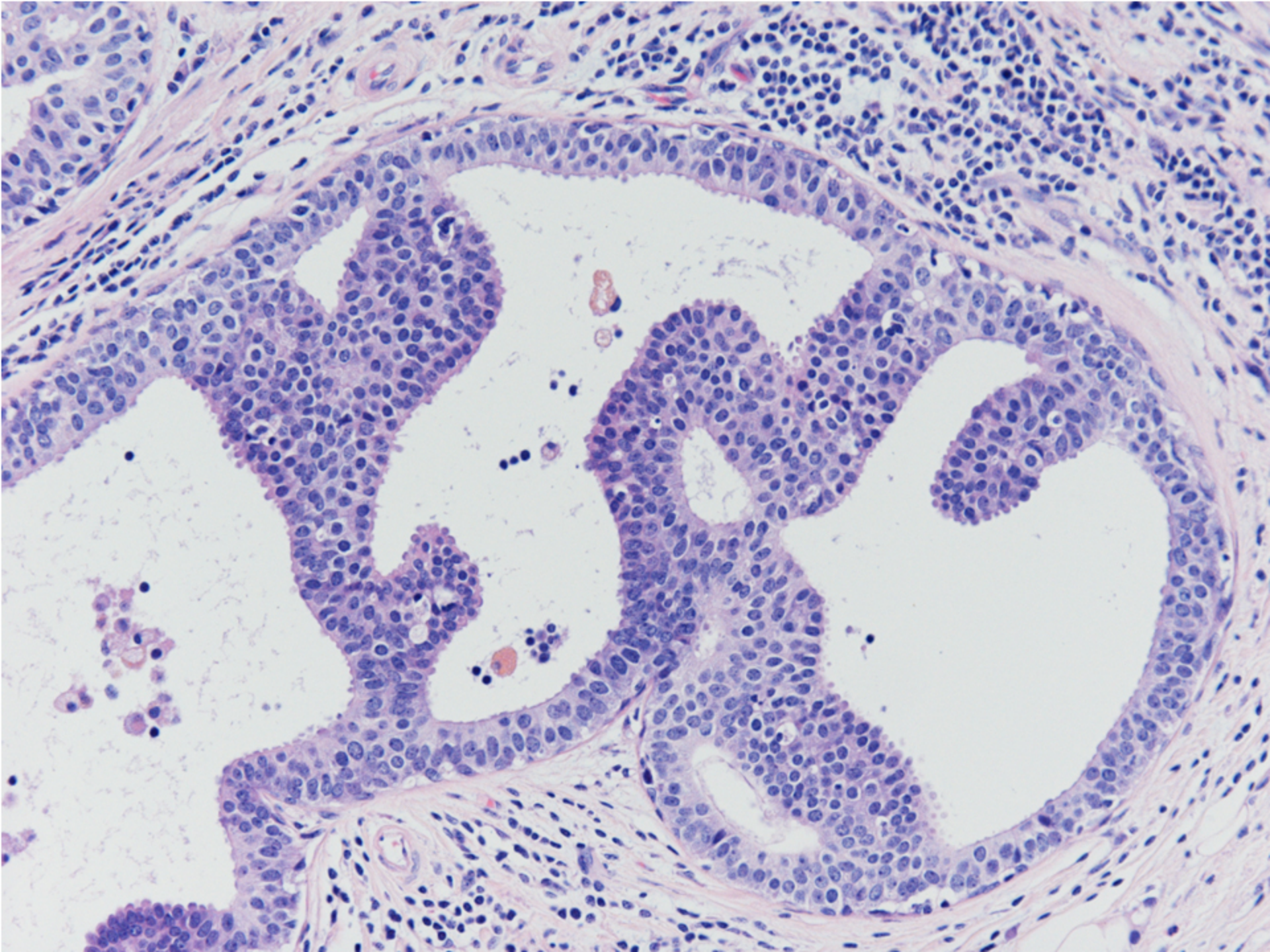


# Atypical Ductal Hyperplasia

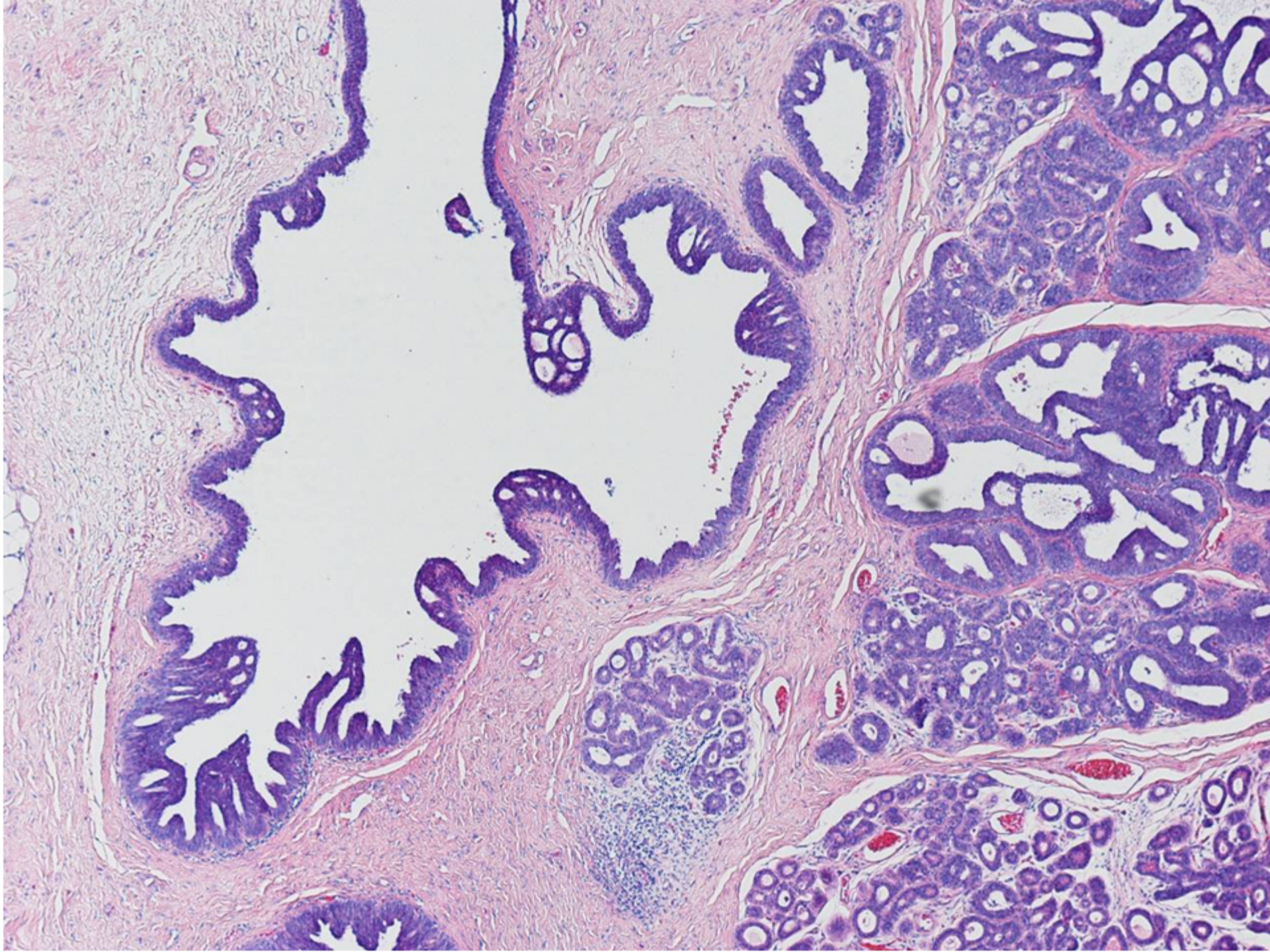
- “Atypical ductal hyperplasia is diagnosed if criteria for DCIS are present, but not involving at least two spaces” (Page & Rogers)-no scientific or biologic basis for this arbitrary definition.
- Cytologic atypia and/or cribriform, micropapillary clubbing.





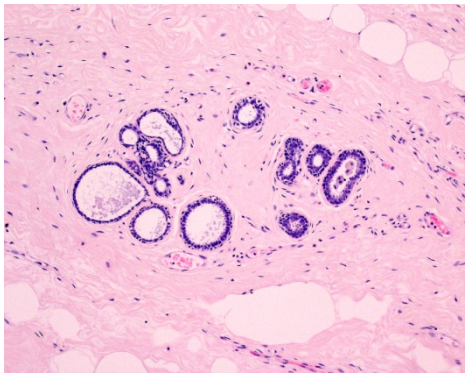




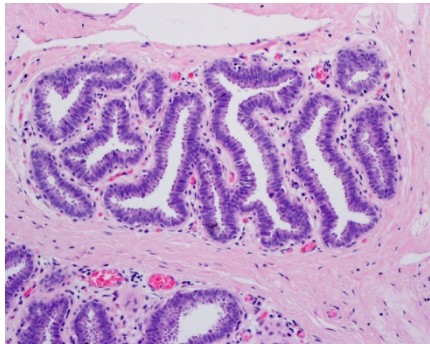




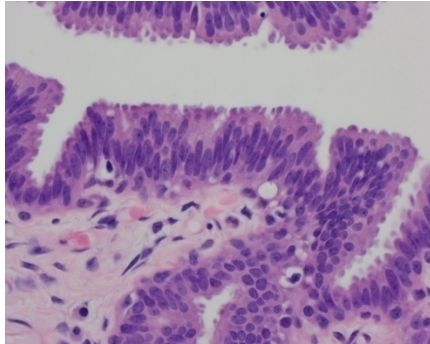
# Spectrum of lesions



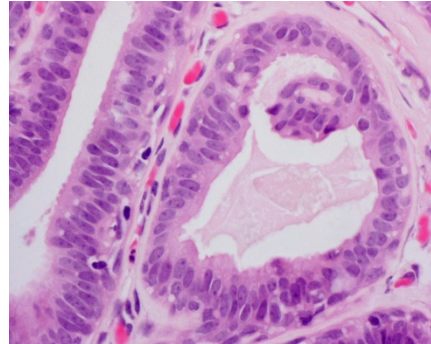
**CCC**



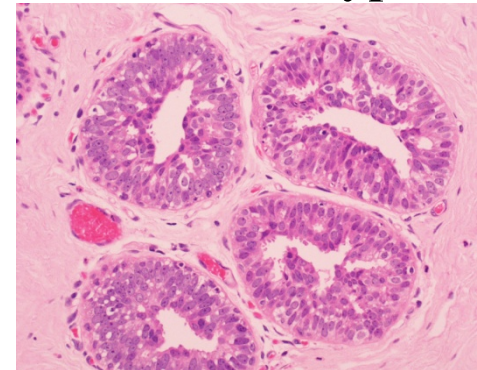
**CCH**



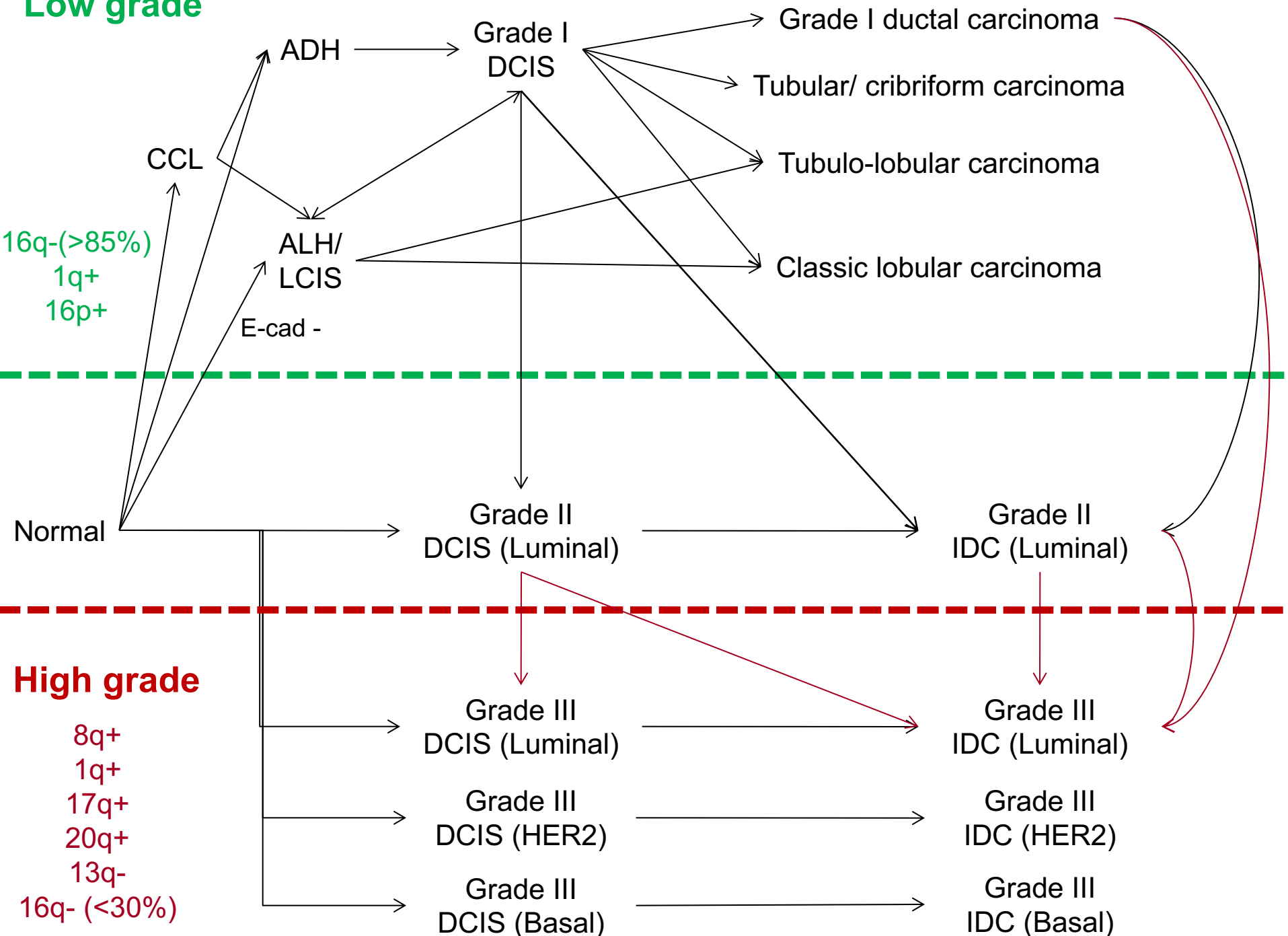
**CCC with atypia**



**CCH with atypia**



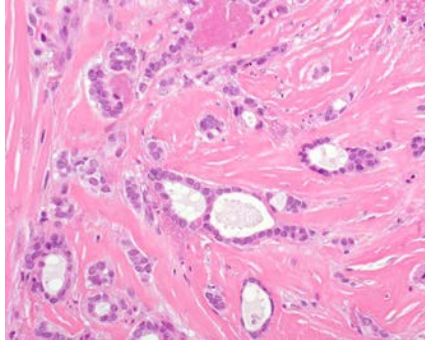
## Low grade



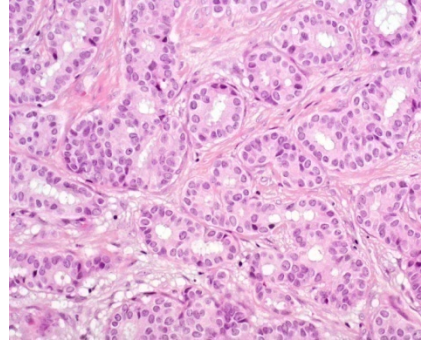


# Low grade ductal and lobular neoplasia

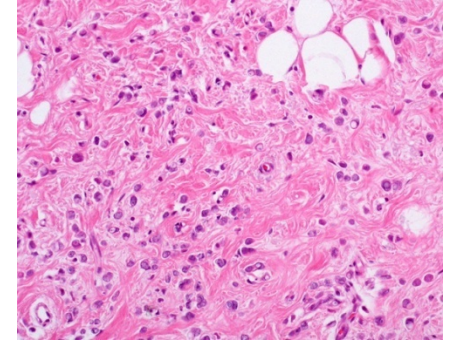
**Tubular**



**GI IDC**



**Lobular carcinoma**



<b>ER</b>	+	+	+
<b>PgR</b>	+	+	+
<b>Her2/neu</b>	-	-	-
<b>p53</b>	-	-	-
<b>Cyclin D1</b>	+	+	+
<b>E-cadherin</b>	+	+	-
<b>Number of changes</b>	low	low	low
<b>Ploidy</b>	diploid/ near diploid	near diploid	diploid/ near diploid
<b>Recurrent changes</b>	1q+, 16q-	1q+, 16q-	1q+, 16q-
<b>Amplifications</b>	8p11, 11q13 (rare)	8p11, 11q13 (rare)	8p11, 11q13 (rare)
<b>Subtype</b>	Luminal A	Luminal A > B	Luminal A > B

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