



# *Pathology of tumors of the central nervous system*

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*Asst Pathologist*

*ACTREC & Tata memorial hospital*



## Plan of Discussion...

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- WHO classification -
- Diagnostic tools -
- Glioma - grading
  - Astrocytoma
  - Oligodendrogloma
  - Ependymoma
- Embryonal-
  - Medulloblastoma
- Meningioma



# General Considerations...

**Primary** – children  
50% infiltrative

**Metastatic** – Adults  
well-demarcated

- + Prognosis-
  - + Tumor factors
    - + Histologic type & grade
    - + IHC- proliferation markers & molecular parameters
  - + Patient factors
    - + Age/ status
    - + Tumor site- Limited space, Vital structures
- + Rare: extra neural metastasis



## Types of Brain Tumors

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- + **Meninges:** meningioma, hemangiopericytoma
- + **Glia:** astrocytoma, oligodendrogloma, ependymoma, choroid plexus tumors
- + **Primitive cells:** neuroblastoma, germinoma, medulloblastoma, pineoblastoma, retinoblastoma
- + **Neuronal:** ganglioglioma, gangliocytoma
- + **Pituitary:** adenoma, craniopharyngioma
- + **Nerves:** schwannoma, neurofibroma, MPNST



## *WHO classification [2000]*

### II NEUROEPITHELIAL

- + *Astrocytic*
  - + **Diffuse- Fibrillary/Protoplasmic/ Gemistocytic [II]**
  - + *Anaplastic Astrocytoma [III]*
  - + *GBM [IV]*
  - + *PA [I] / SEGA [I] / PXA [II]*
- + *Oligodendroglial: Oligodendroglioma [II] / anapl. [III]*
- + *Mixed glioma- OA [II] / anaplastic OA [III]*



# *WHO classification [2000]*

## I) NEUROEPITHELIAL *contd/-*

- + *Ependymal*
  - + *Ependymoma & variants [II]/ anaplastic [III]*
  - + *Myxopapillary E [II]/ Subependymoma [I]*
- + *Glial tumors of uncertain origin- A' blastoma, Gl. cerebri, chordoid glioma of III ventricle*
- + *Neuronal & mixed glial neuronal*
  - + *Ganglioglioma/ G. cytoma/ DIGG/ DIA/ DNET/ CN*



## *WHO classification [2000]*

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### I] NEUROEPITHELIAL contd/-

- + ***Neuroblastic- Olf Nb/ N.epithelioma***
- + ***Pineal parenchymal tumors***
  - + *P.cytoma/ P.blastoma/ PPTI*
- + ***Embryonal tumors***
  - + *Medulloepithelioma/ Ependymoblastoma*
  - + *Medulloblastoma/ ST- PNET/ ATRT*



## *WHO classification [2000]*

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### **III] TUMORS OF MENINGES**

- + *Meningothelial - Meningiomas*
- + *Non - meningothelial - Mesenchymal*

### **III] LYMPHOMA/ HEMOPOEITIC TUMORS**

- + *Lymphoma/ Plasmacytoma/ Granulocytic sarcoma / HD*

### **IV] GERM CELL TUMORS- germinoma/ EC/ YST**



## *WHO classification [2000]*

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### **V] TUMORS OF SELLAR REGION-**

- + *Craniopharyngioma/ Granular cell tumor*

### **VII] TUMORS OF PERIPHERAL NERVES**

- + *Schwannoma/ NF/ Perineurioma/ MPNST*

### **VIII] METASTATIC**



# *Diagnostic Tools: Histologic typing*

## Tumor

*Astrocytoma*

*Glioblastoma*

*Oligodendrogioma*

*Ependymoma*

*Medulloblastoma*

*Meningioma*

## Microscopic

*Fibrillary background;  
different cell types*

*Pseudopalisaded necrosis;  
microvascular proliferation  
(MVP)*

*Mosaic/poached-egg  
appearance*

*Perivascular pseudorosettes  
undifferentiated round cells;  
rosettes (Homer-Wright)*

*Whorls and psammoma bodies*



## ***Diagnostic Tools- Immunohistochemistry***

### ***Glial: GFAP***

- + ***Astrocytic / oligodendroglial / ependymal***
- + ***Neuronal: Synaptophysin / chromogranin / NSE***
- + ***Vascular: CD34, CD 31***
- + ***Epithelial markers- EMA, CK***
- + ***Proliferation marker- Mib-1 (Ki-67) labeling index***

***Special stains - Reticulin / PTAH/PAS***

***Molecular markers - 1p 19q del- FISH***

***EM: Ependymoma/ meningioma***



## GLIOMA

### BIOLOGICALLY -

- + **Diffuse**
  - + *Young adults,  
cerebral hemisphere  
and brainstem*
  - + *Astrocytoma II - IV  
Oligodendrogloma*
- + **Circumscribed**
  - + *Children,  
characteristic  
location/ morphology)*
  - + *PA/ PXA/ SEGA/  
Ependymoma*
  - + *No vascular changes*
  - + *BBB intact*
  - + *no edema /  
enhancement*



## GRADING

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- + *Nuclear atypia,*
- + *Mitotic activity*
- + *Necrosis (sign of uncontrolled growth)*
- + *Vascular changes (tumor neovascularity; microvascular proliferation- MVP)*
- + *4tiered system-*
- + **GRADE I** - "Low-Grade" - *Surgery curative*
- + **GRADE II** - nuclear pleomorphism
  - + *Surgery mainstay of treatment*
  - + *RT for incomplete resection*



## GRADING...

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- + **GRADE III - ANAPLASTIC**, + mitoses
  - + *Surgery for HPR & debulking + RT +/- CT*
- + **GRADE IV - MALIGNANT**, + 'vascularity' / MVP  
+/- necrosis: **Glioblastoma multiforme**
  - + *Surgery for debulking + RT + CT (PCV/ Temozolamide)*



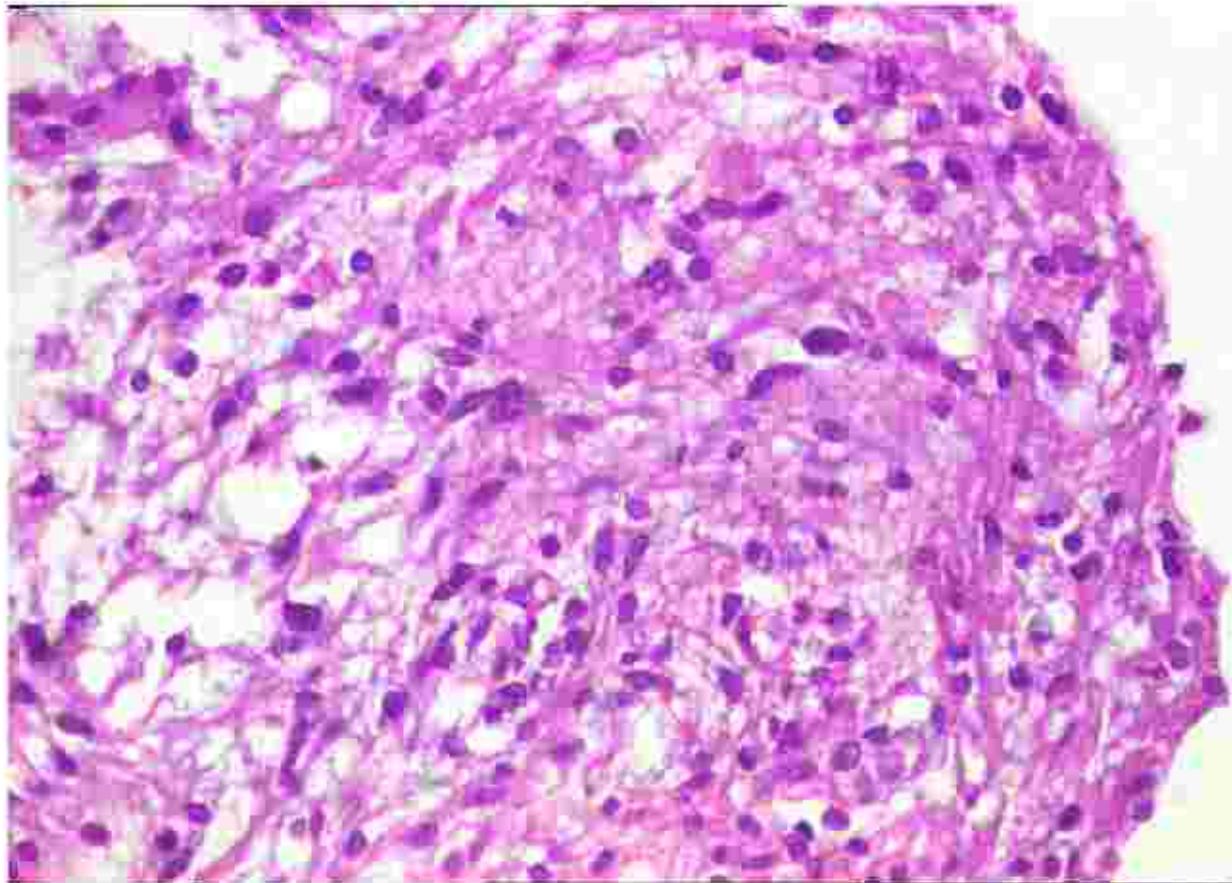
## PILOCYTIC ASTROCYTOMA [WHO I]

- + *Cell of Origin: Astrocyte (bi-polar, hairlike)*
- + *Associations: in ON (optic nerve) w/ NF-1*
- + *Location: Cerebellum (85%), Cerebral hemisphere (10%), Chiasm/ Hypothal, Optic Nerve, Cx spinal cord*
- + *Circumscribed – Enhancing;*
- + *Cyst with a mural nodule*
- + *Treatment: Surgery, patience (radiation and chemotherapy uncommon)*

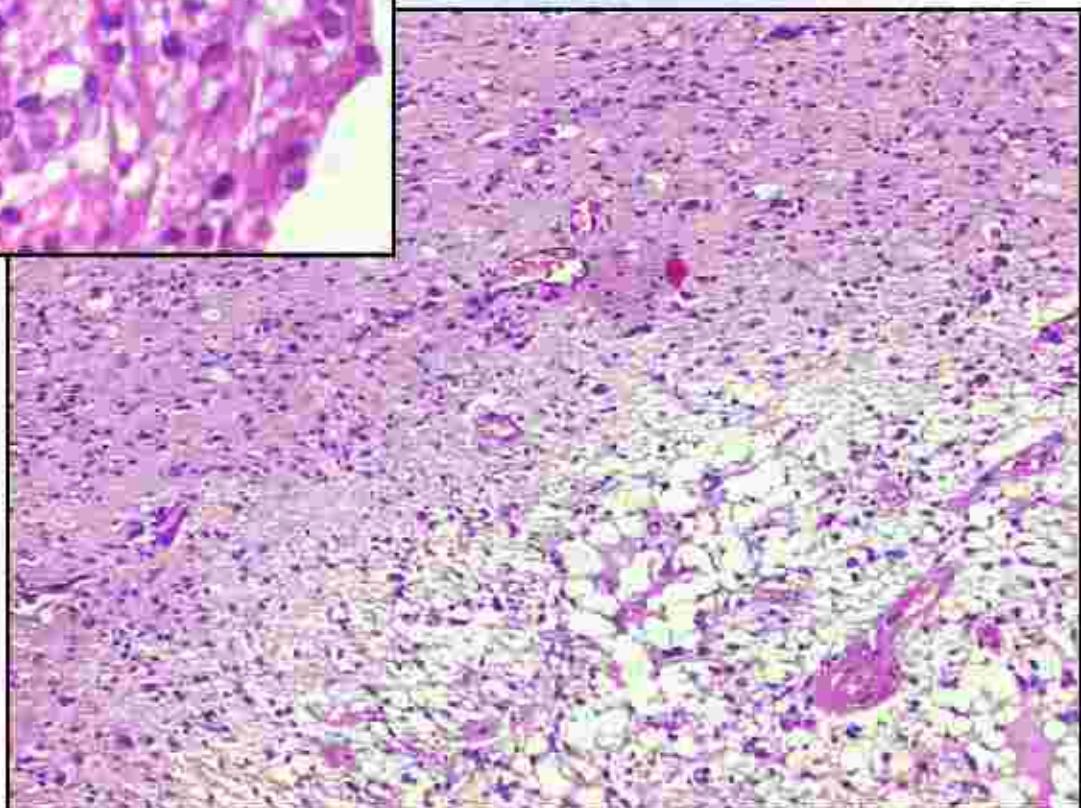


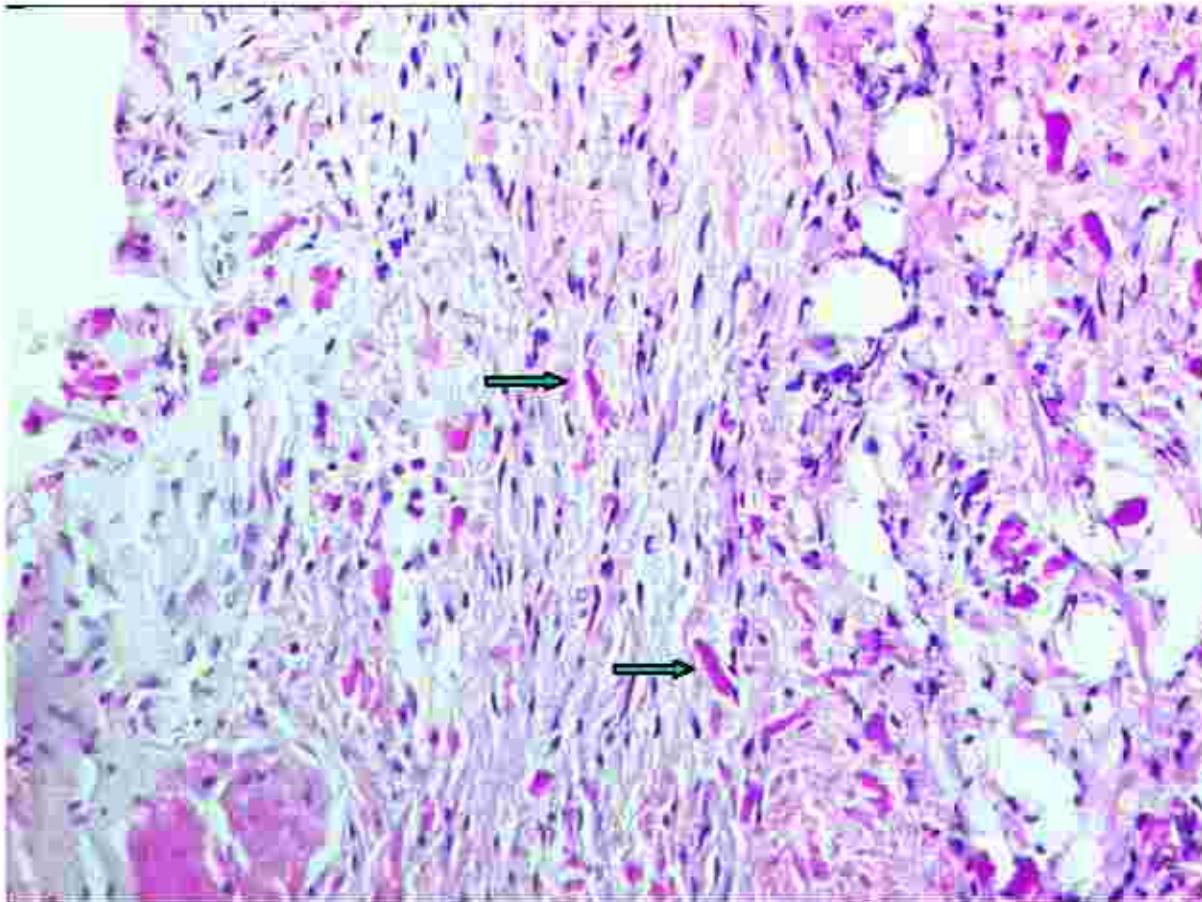
## Pathology

- + Biphasic pattern-
  - + *dense pilocytic glia*
    - + Rosenthal fibers: Dense, eosinophilic fibers (intermediate filaments) within cytoplasmic processes of astrocytes
    - + loose microcystic areas with EGB
  - + *Abnormal capillaries- pericytic MVP*
  - + +/- necrosis, occasional mitosis
  - + *Degenerative nuclear changes*
  - + **Low grade**
  - + *Mib1 LI > 2%- ↑ risk of recurrence*

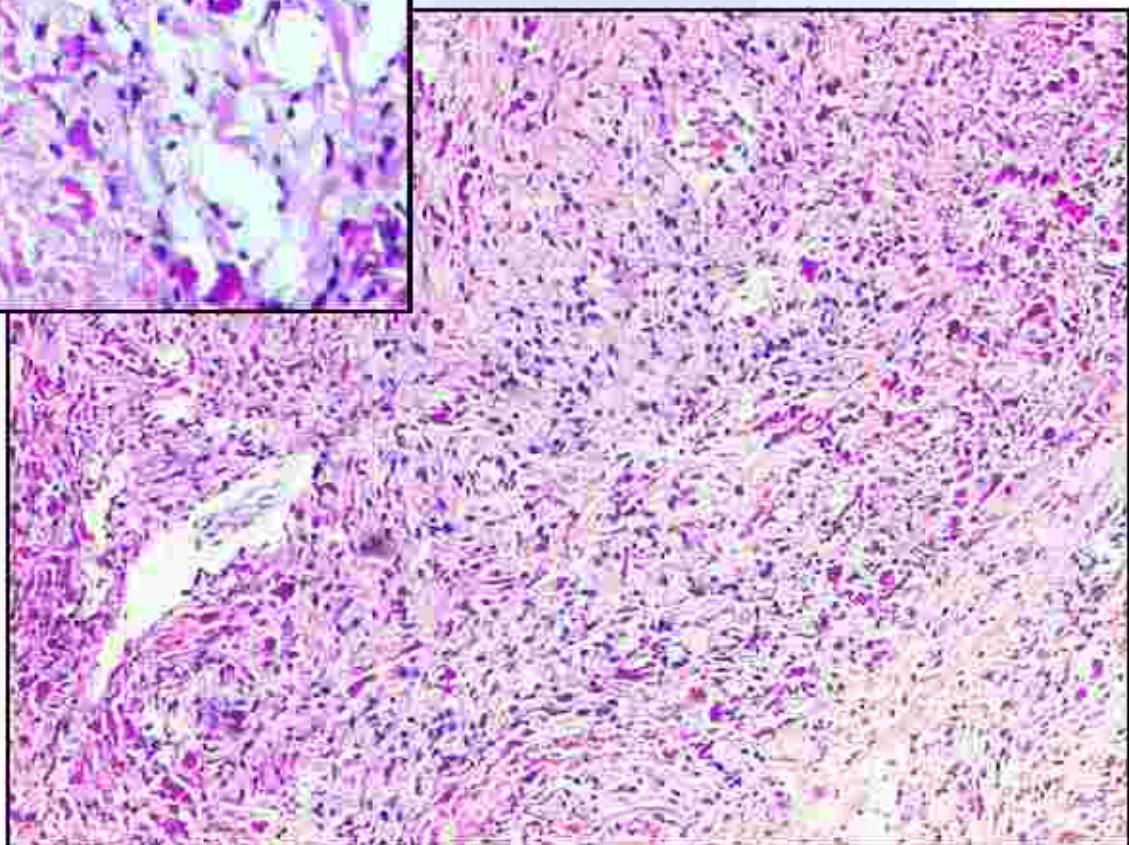


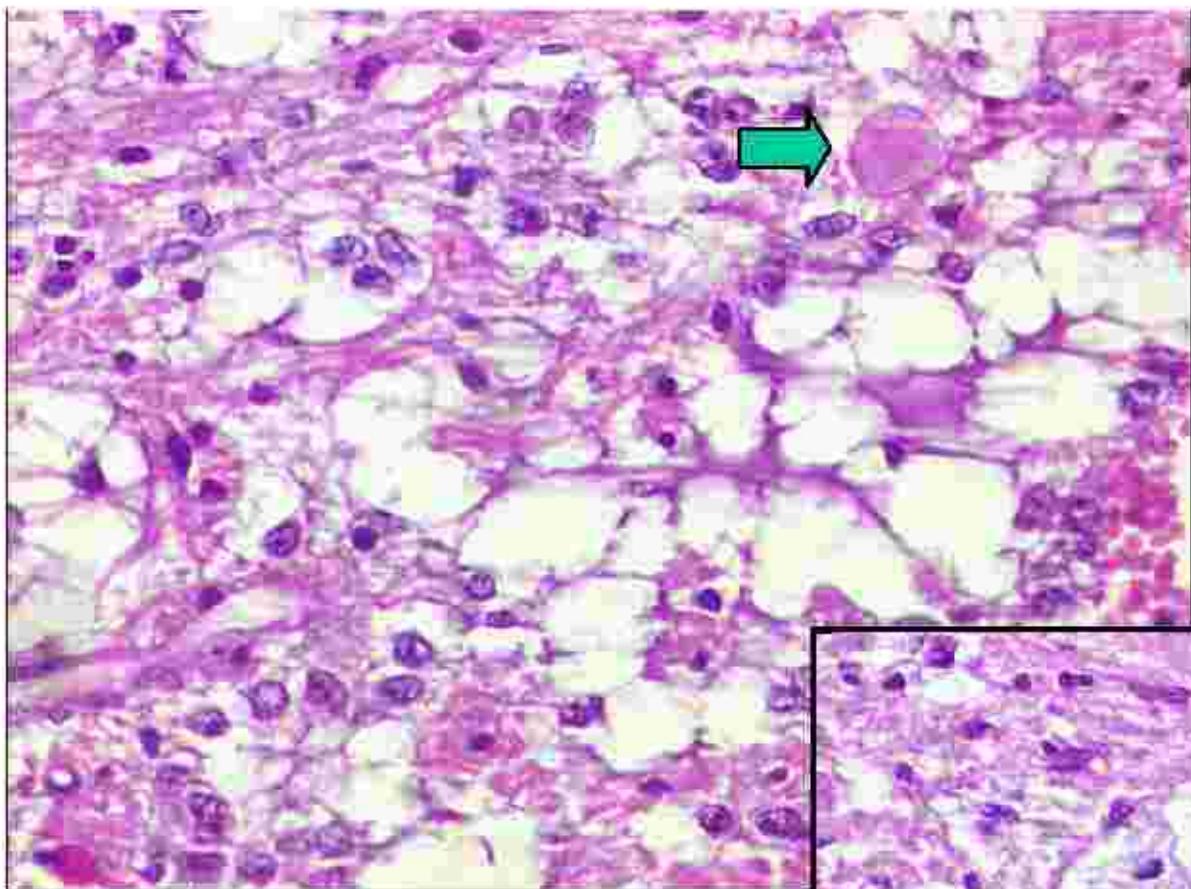
**PILOCYTIC  
ASTROCYTOMA**



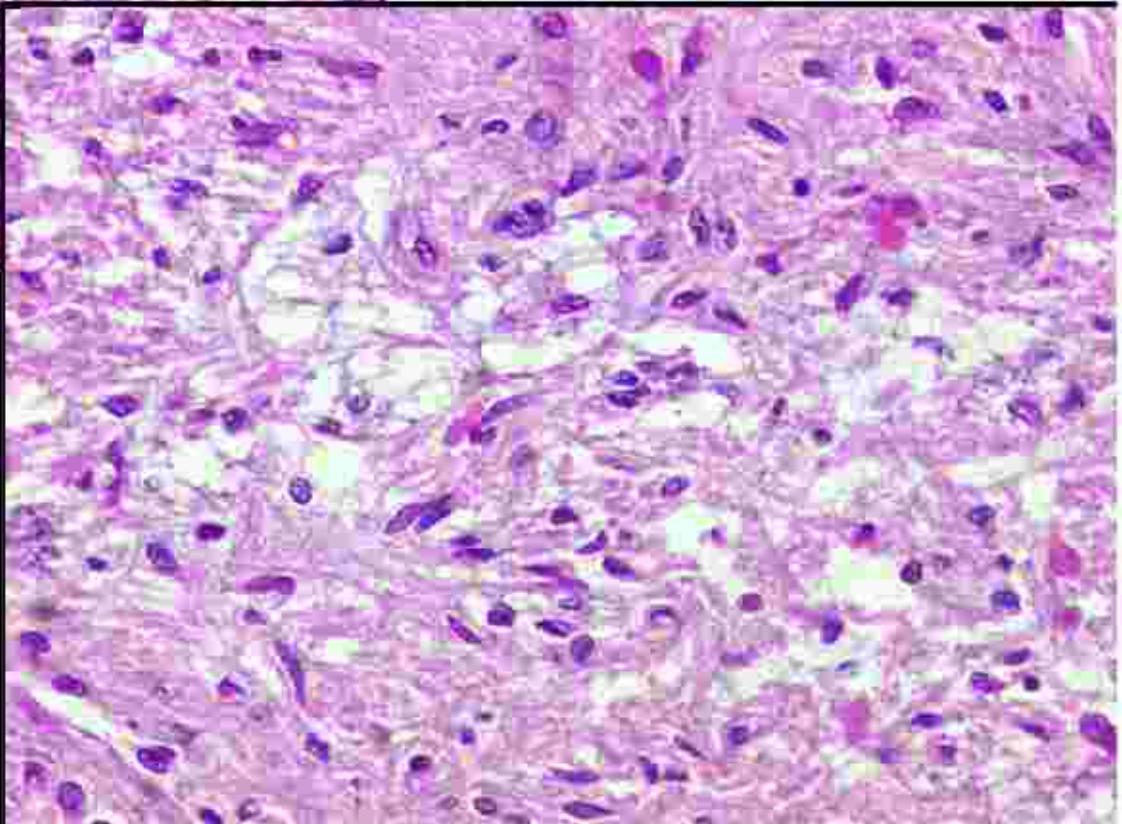


**ROSENTHAL FIBRES**

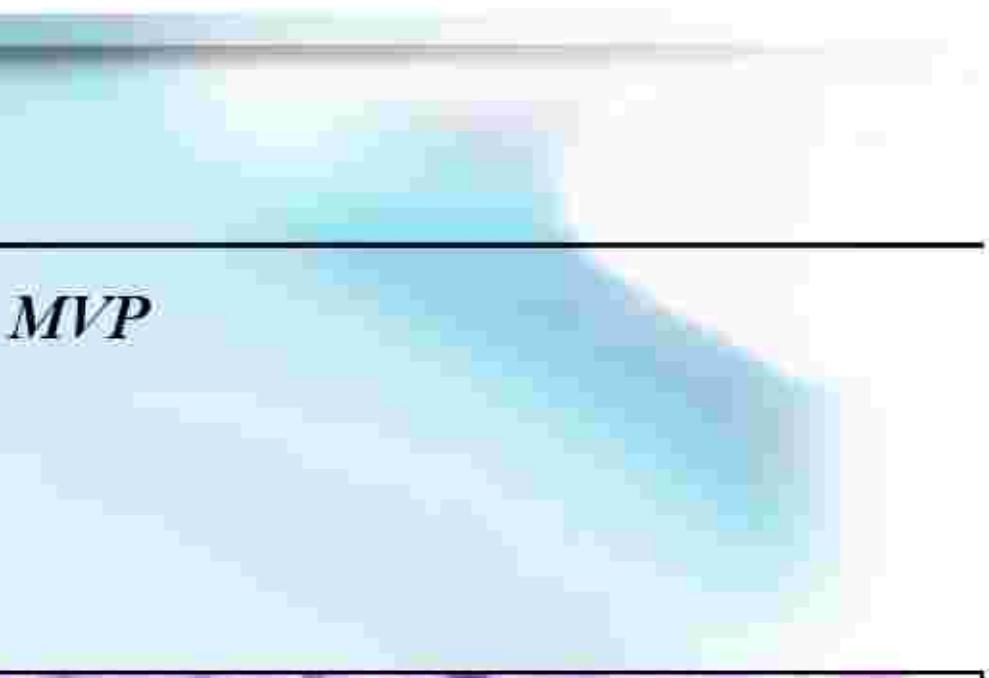
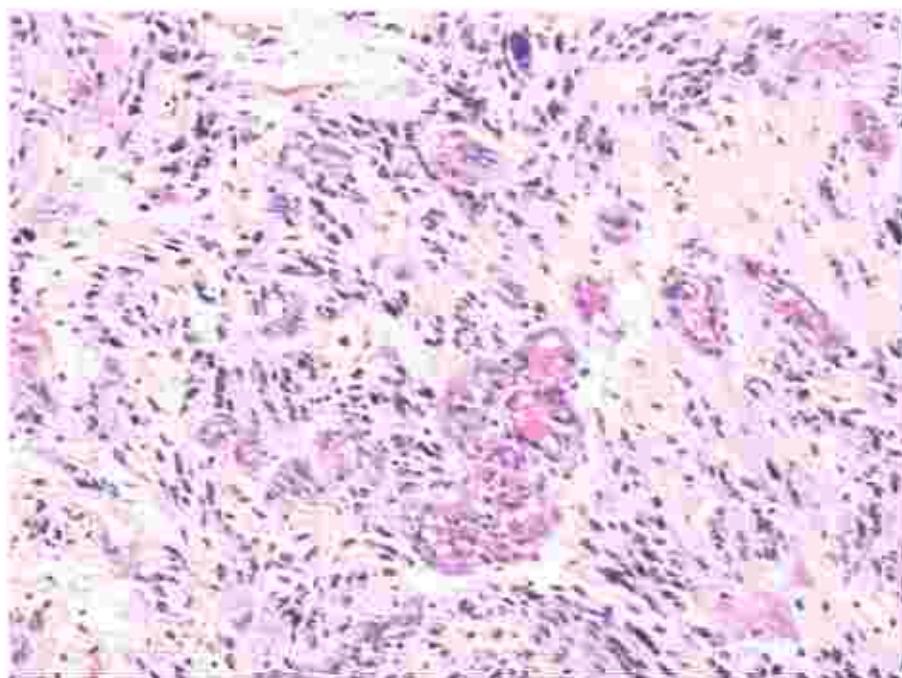




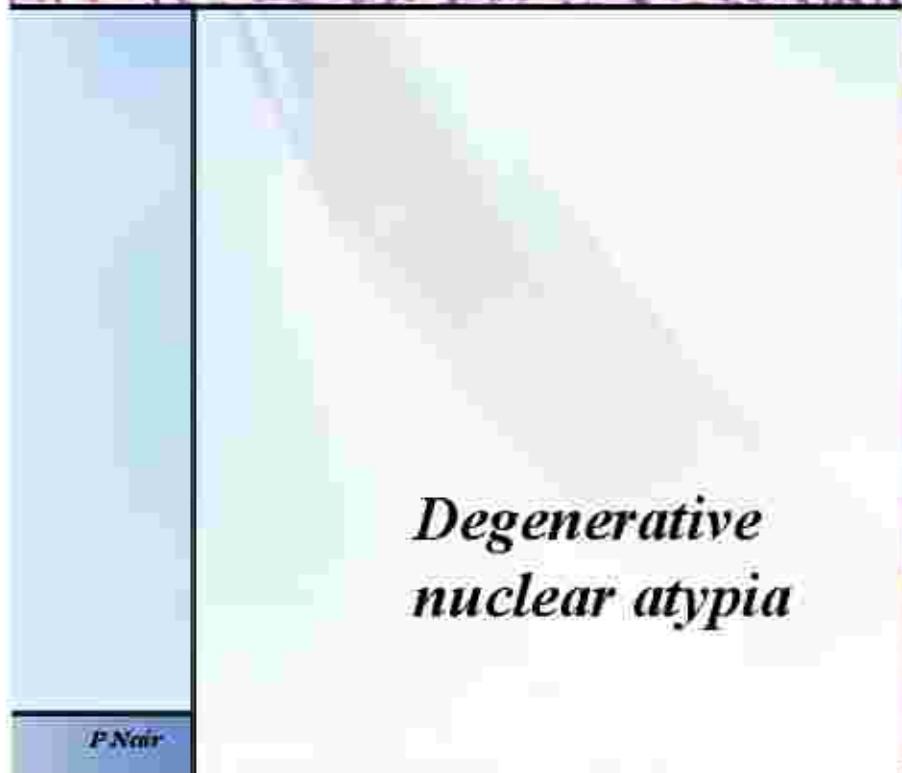
*EGB*



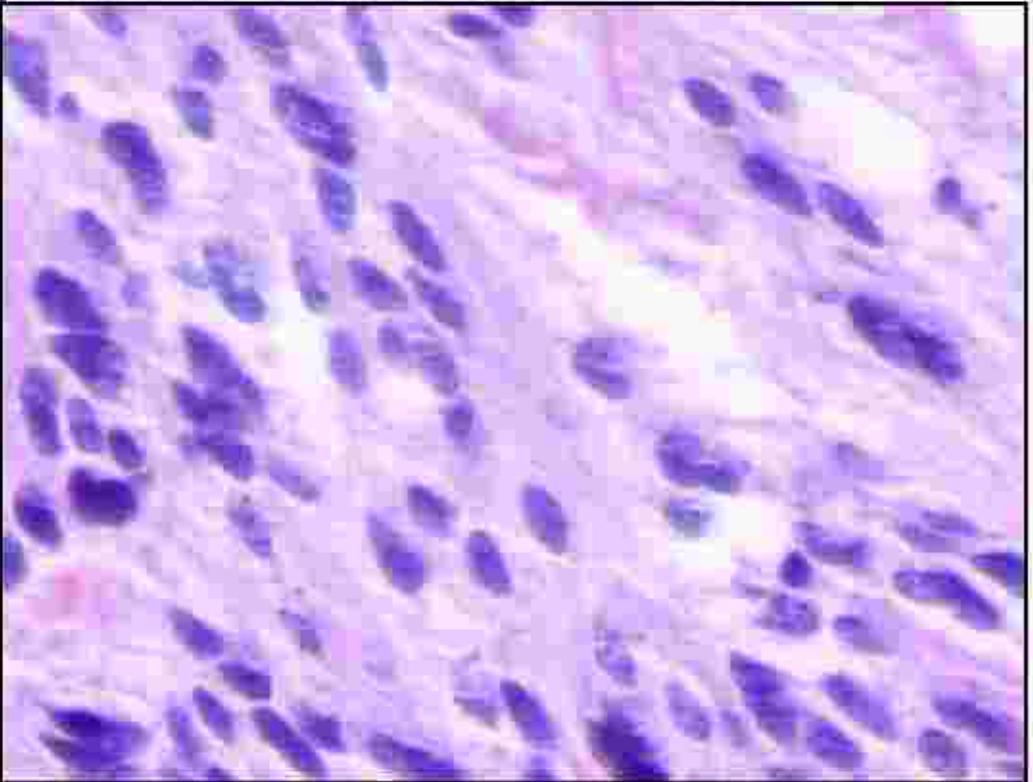
*P Near*



*MVP*



*Degenerative  
nuclear atypia*





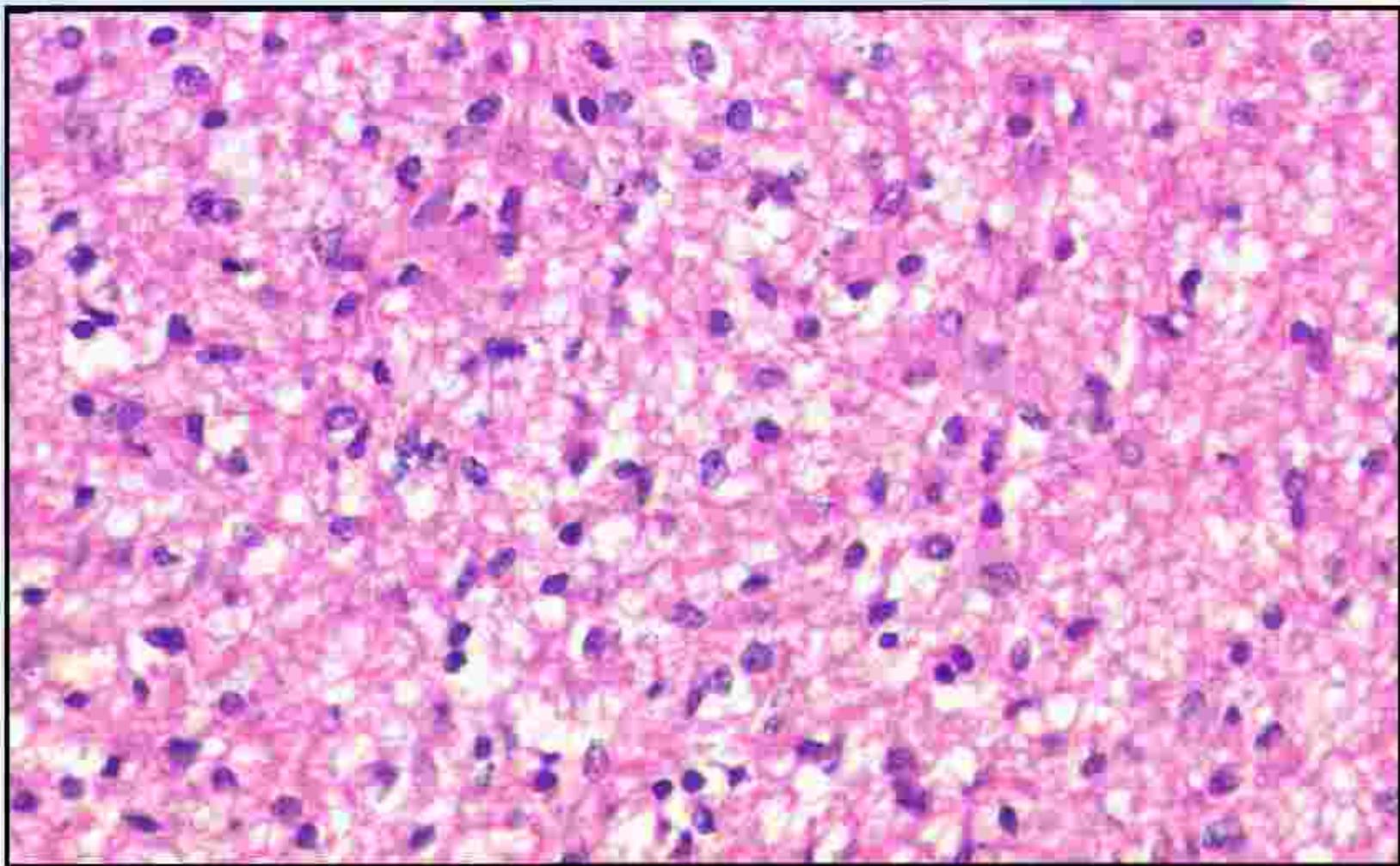
## DIFFUSE ASTROCYTOMA WHO II

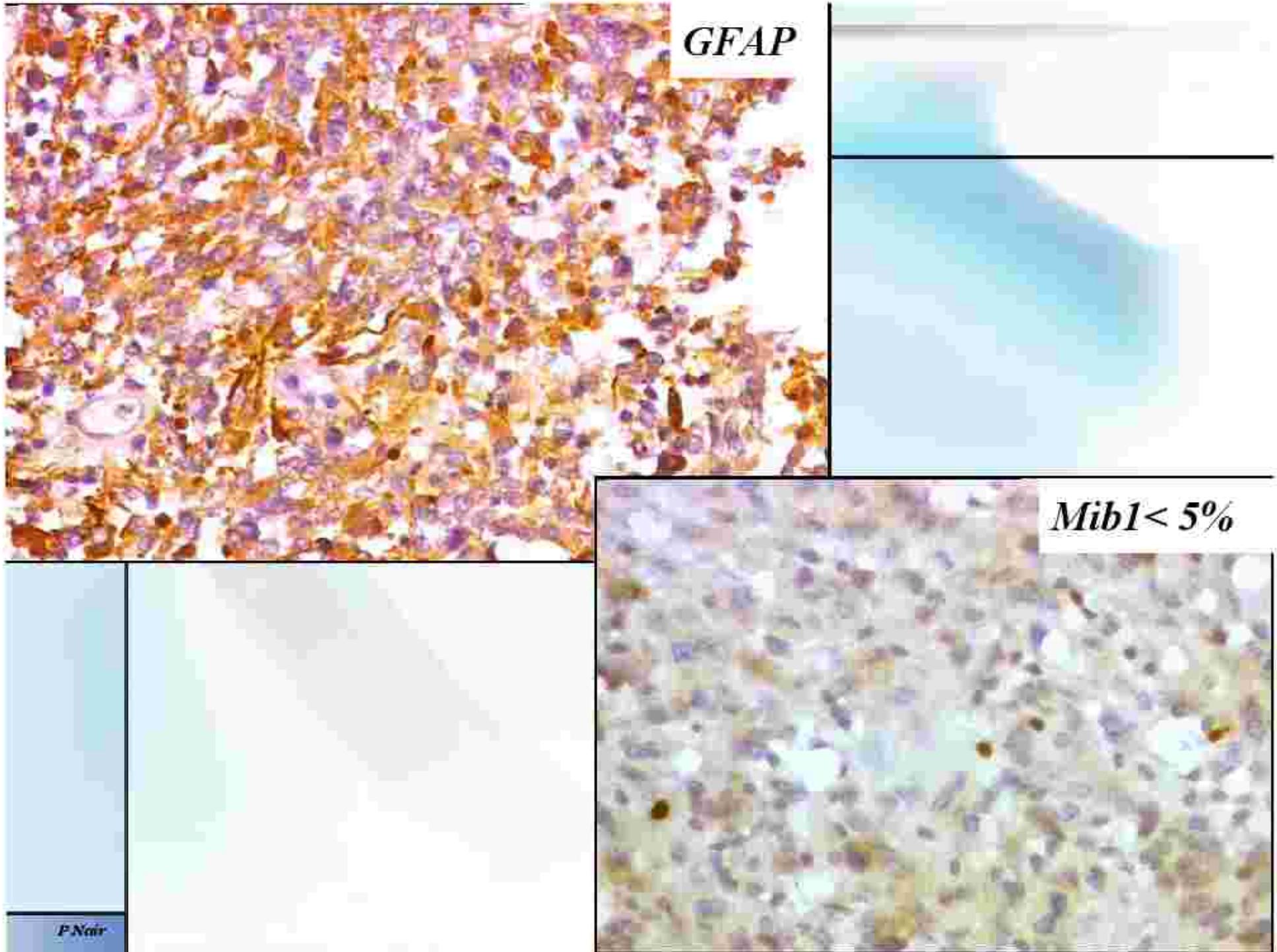
- + *(Fibrillary, Protoplasmic, Gemistocytic)*
- + *"Adult type" or "Hemispheric" Astrocytoma*  
*Diffusely infiltrate brain irrespective of grade*
- + *continuum from low - grade to high - grade; progress over time*  
*Grade 2 ⇈ 3 ⇈ 4 (GBM)*
- + *Imaging correlates with histology*



# Fibrillary Astrocytoma

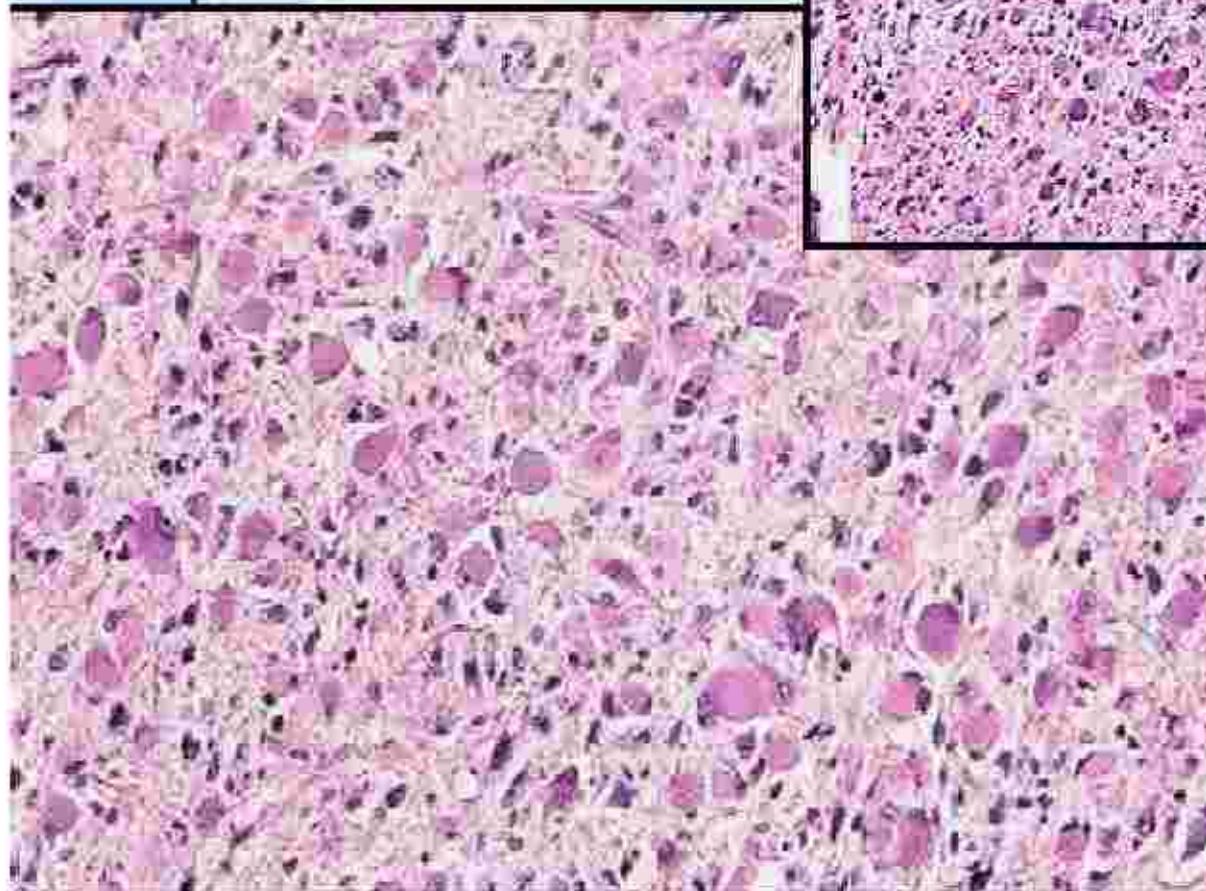
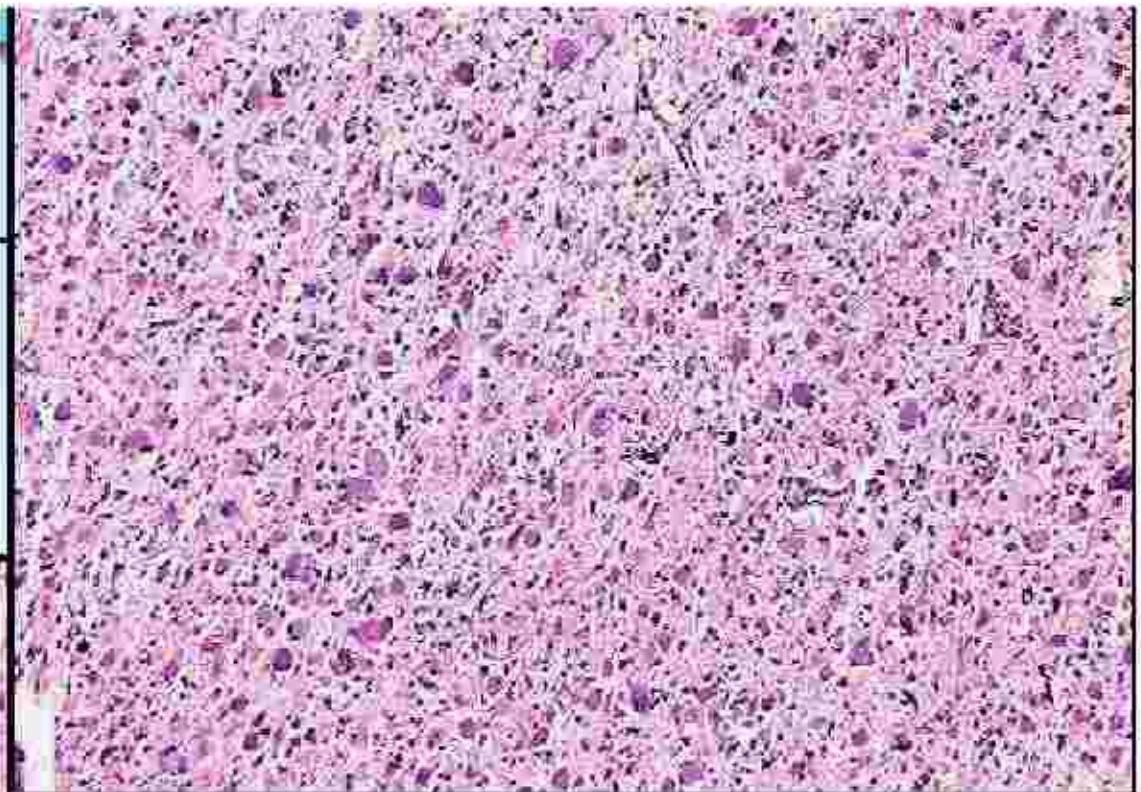
- + WHO grade II; Nuclear atypia +: enlarged, irregular, hyperchromatic
- + No mitotic activity / necrosis/ MVP







## Gemistocytic Astrocytoma [II]



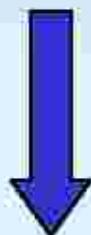


# PROGRESSION

## *Astrocytoma II*

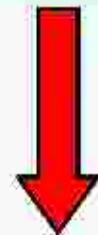
*Mib1 > 6 %*

*p53 +*



L- 9p, 19q, 11p; CDK4 amplification  
(4- 5 years)

## *Anaplastic Astrocytoma III*



PTEN mutn, MDM2 amplification,  
EGFR amplification\*  
(< 2 years)

**GBM (*secondary*)**; young adults, BS in  
children

\* in Primary (*de novo*) GBM; older adults, rapid  
progression



## Prognostic factors

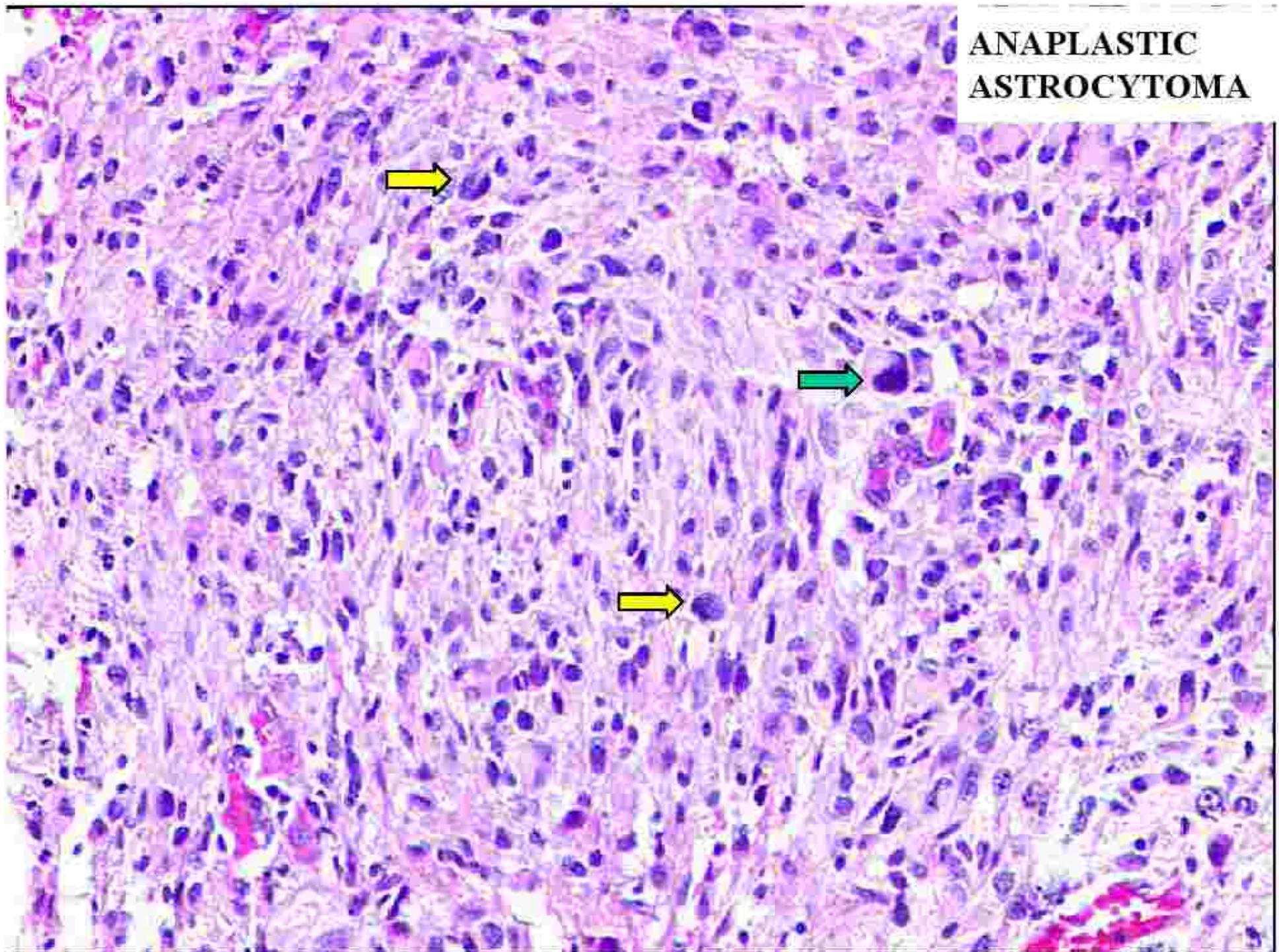
### Good

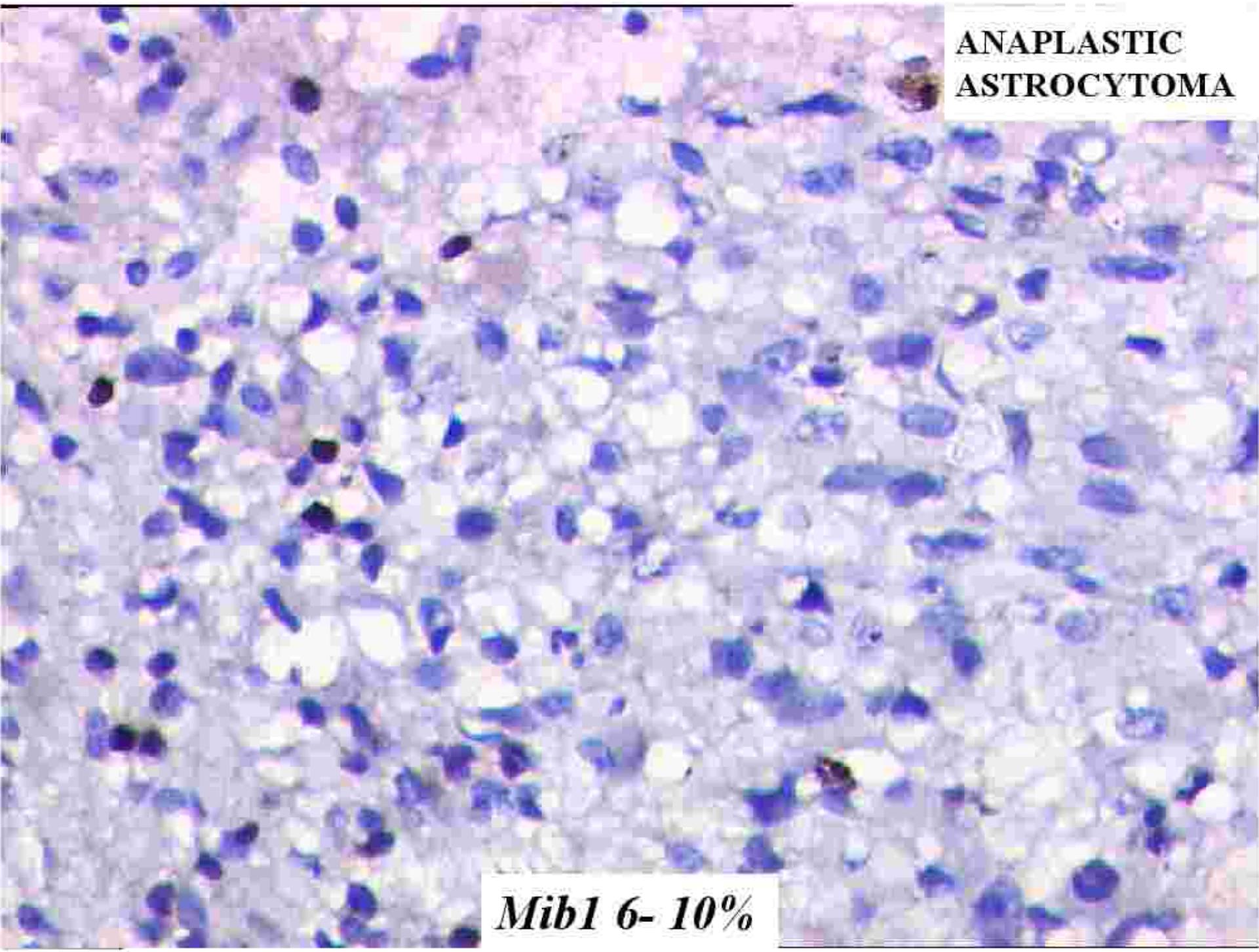
- + *Young*
- + *Gross total resection*
- + *M/S*
  - + *Microcysts*
  - + *Perivascular lymphocytes*

### Poor

- + *TP53 mutation*
- + *Mib-1 > 5%*
- + *M/S*
- + *Gemistocytes ++*

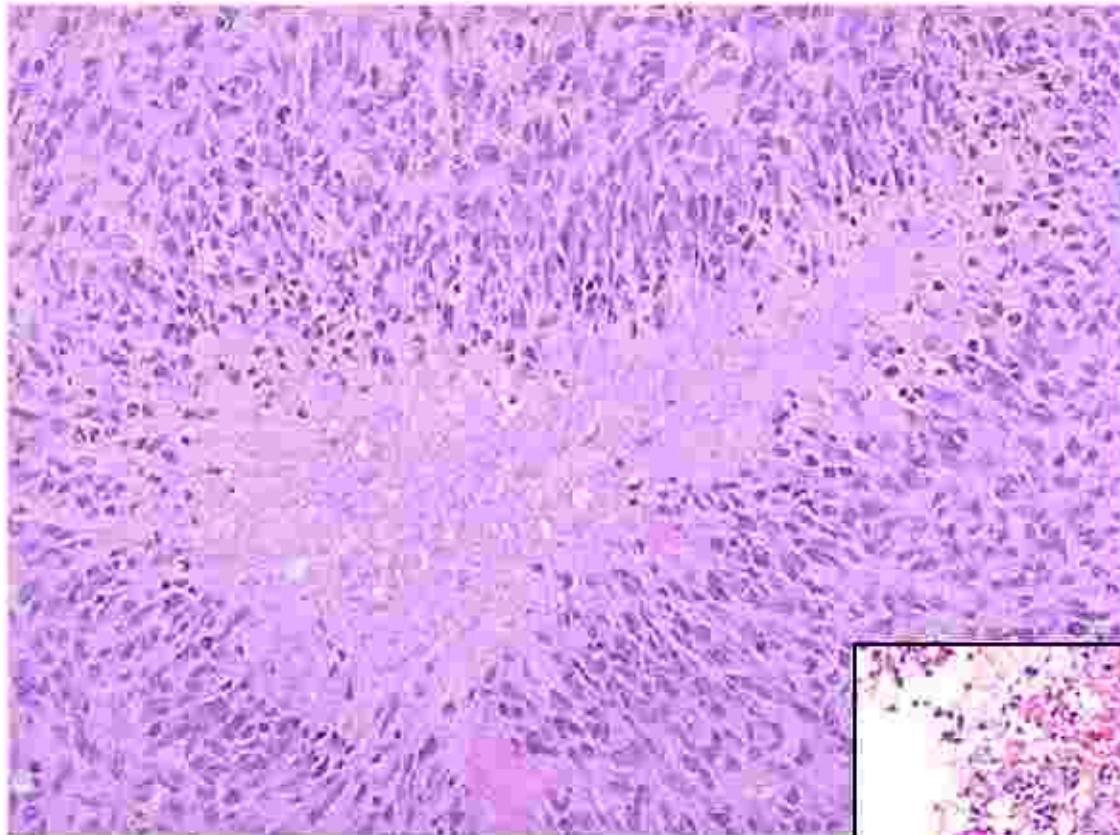
**ANAPLASTIC  
ASTROCYTOMA**



A high-magnification light micrograph showing a dense population of neoplastic astrocytes. The cells exhibit pleomorphism, with variously sized nuclei containing prominent nucleoli. Some cells show clear cytoplasmic vacuoles. The overall cellular arrangement is somewhat disorganized, typical of an aggressive glioma. A small white rectangular box in the bottom left corner highlights a cluster of cells for closer inspection.

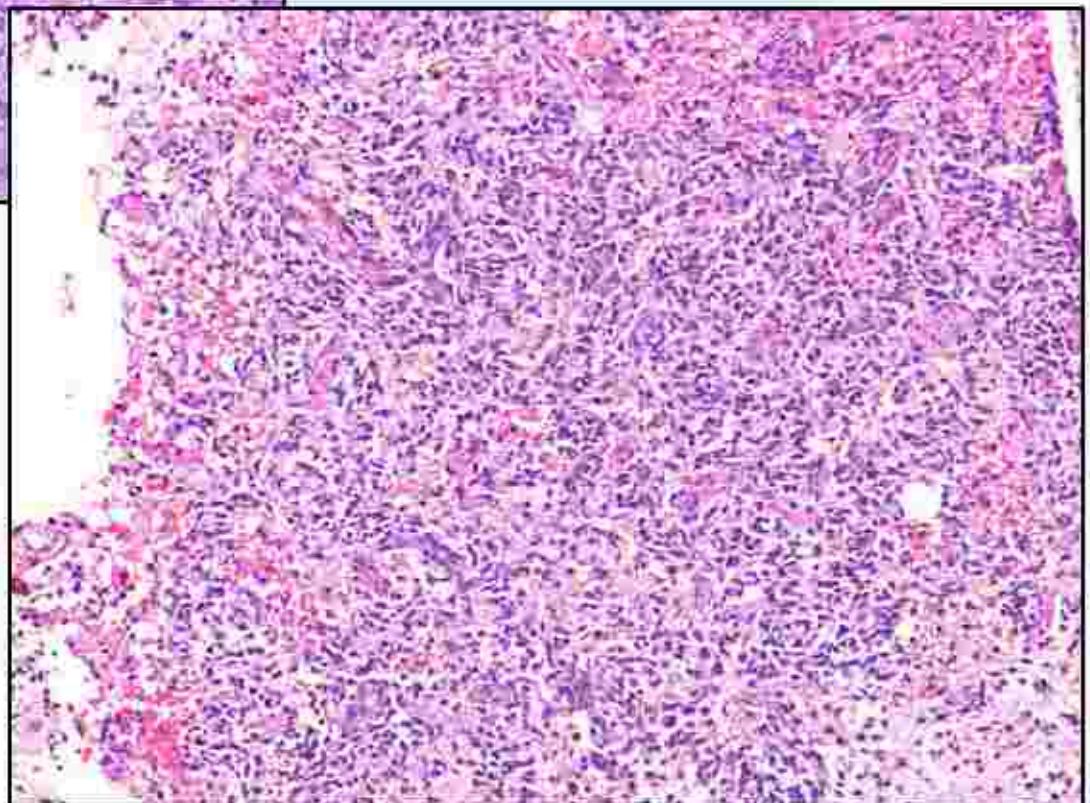
ANAPLASTIC  
ASTROCYTOMA

*Mib1* 6- 10%

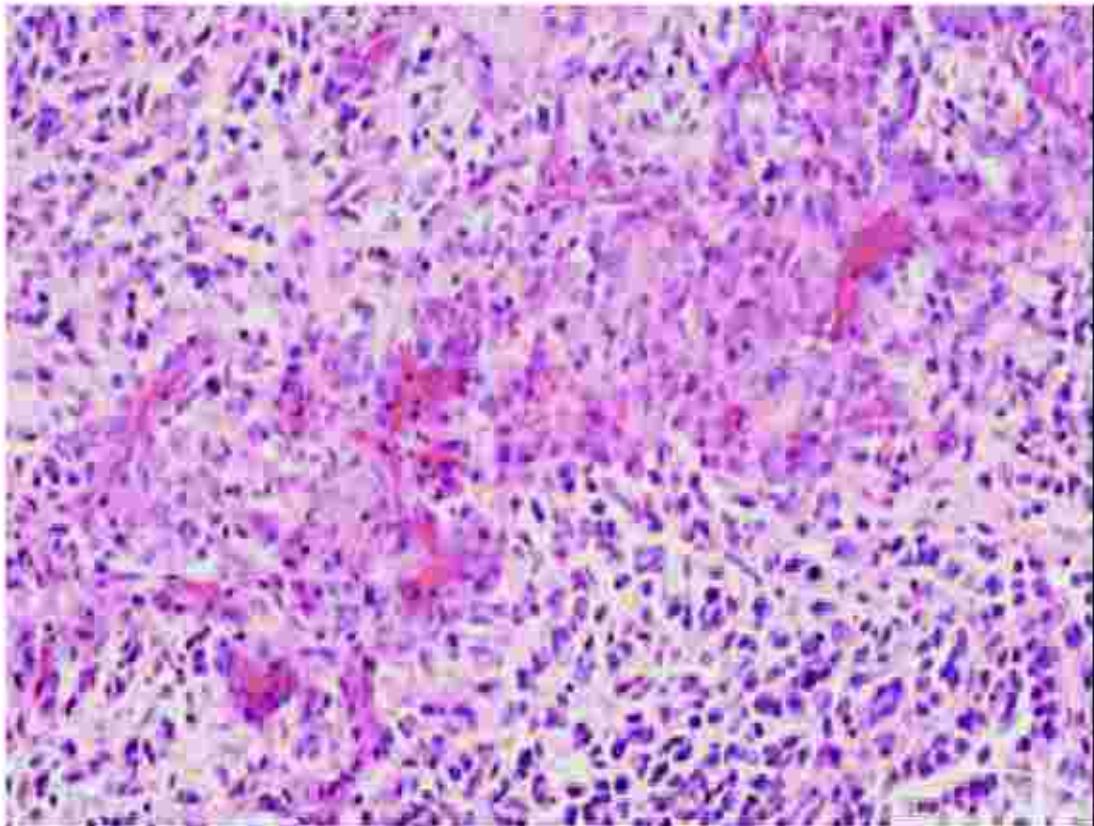


## GLIOBLASTOMA MULTIFORME

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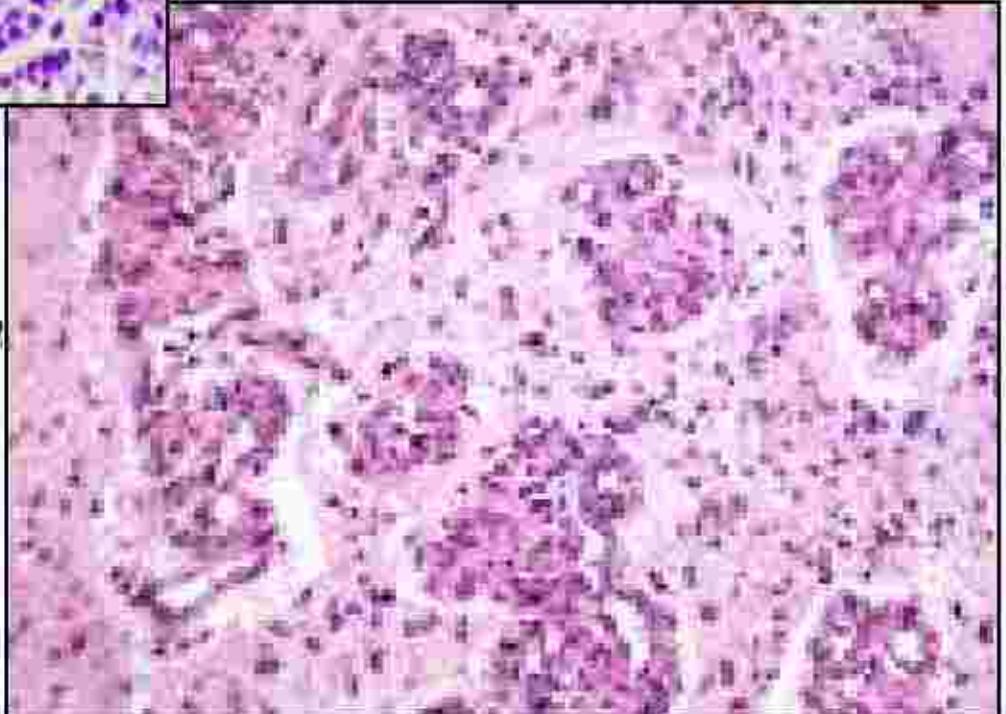


*Pseudopalisaded necrosis*



## GLIOBLASTOMA MULTIFORME

*Microvascular proliferation*





## GLIOBLASTOMA MULTIFORME

### Good

- + < 50 years
- + ↑ preop KPS
- + Resection of enhancing tumor
- + M/S:
  - + Giant cell
  - + Capillary MVP
  - + Oligodendroglial component
- + MGMT

### Poor

- + ↑↑ Mib1
- + Glomeruloid MVP
- + Molecular
  - + \*VEGF+
  - + \*EGFR+
  - + \*her2 amplifcn
  - + \*PTEN/ Rb1 mutn

- \* **Stealth invasion** - hinders surgical disease control
- \* **CT/ RT resistance**



## + MODES OF SPREAD

- + *Natural passages*
- + *Along surfaces- leptomeningeal*
- + *Along tracts- corona radiata, peduncles, corpus callosum, anterior commissure, arcuate fibres*
- + *Across the meninges*

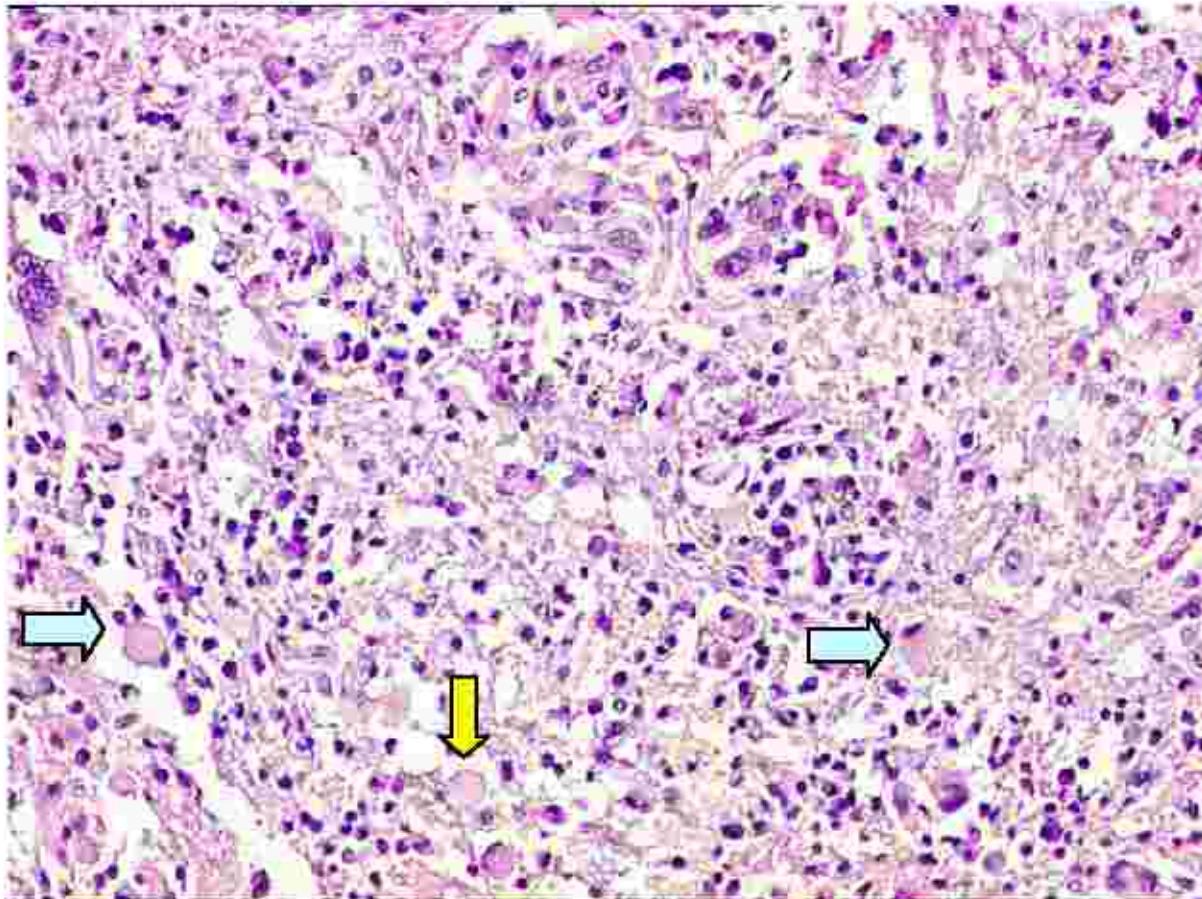


## Pleiomorphic Xanthoastrocytoma WHO II

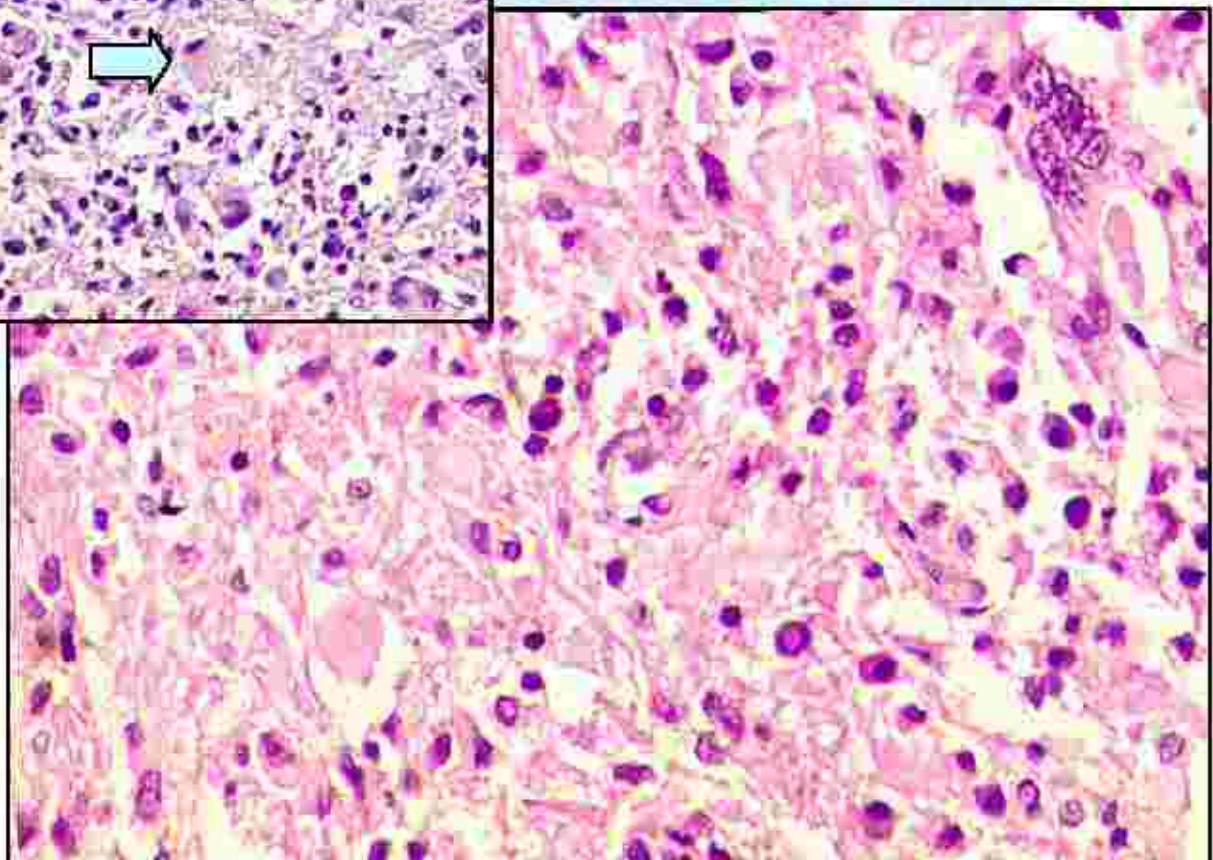
- + *Meningocerebral*
- + *Pleiomorphic & foam cells*
- + *EGB*
- + *Pericellular reticulin*

## Anaplastic PXA: III

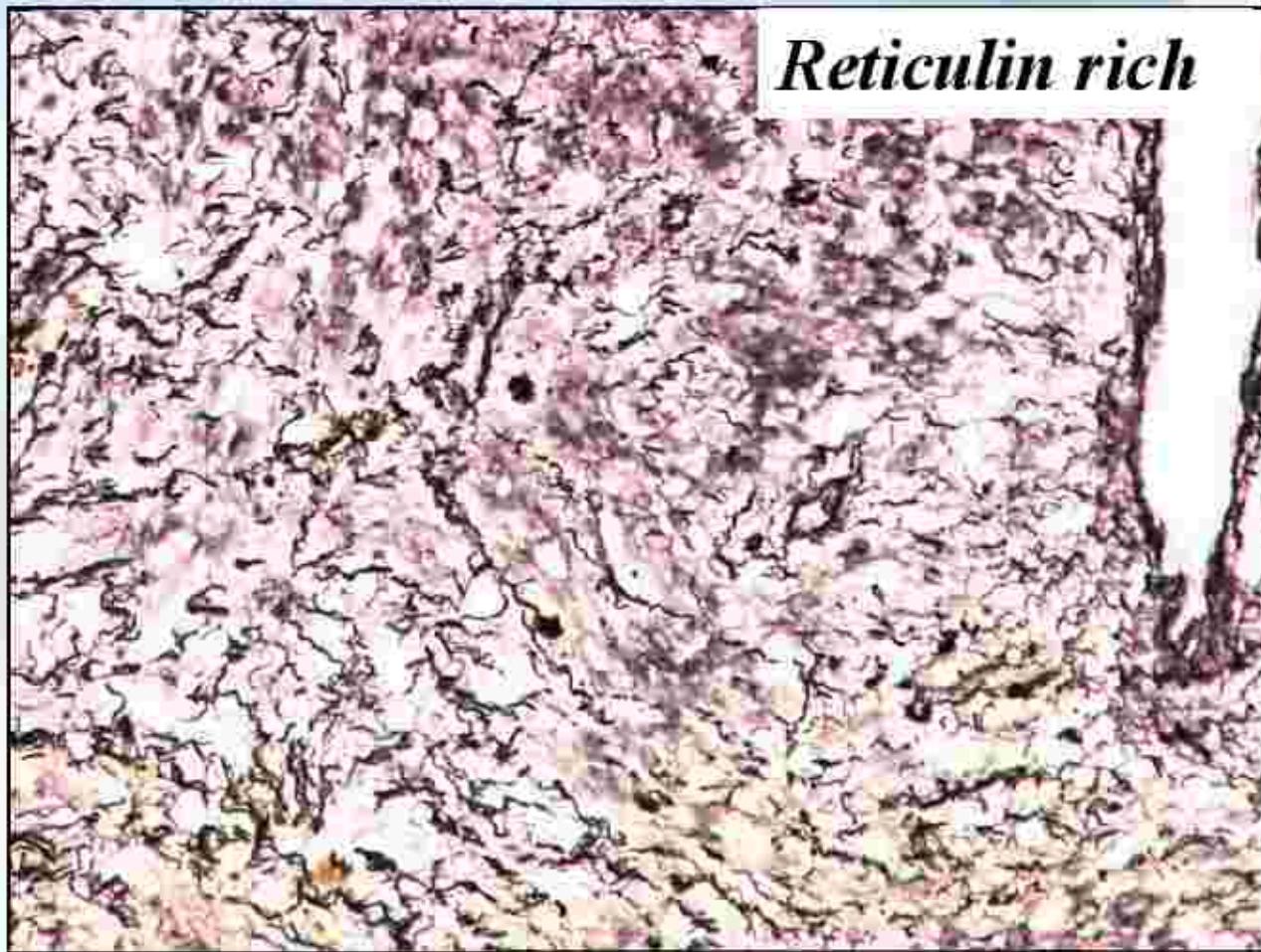
- + *Mitoses > 5 / 10 HPF*
- + *+/- palisaded necrosis*  $\rightarrow$  **D/D- GBM**



PXA [ III ]



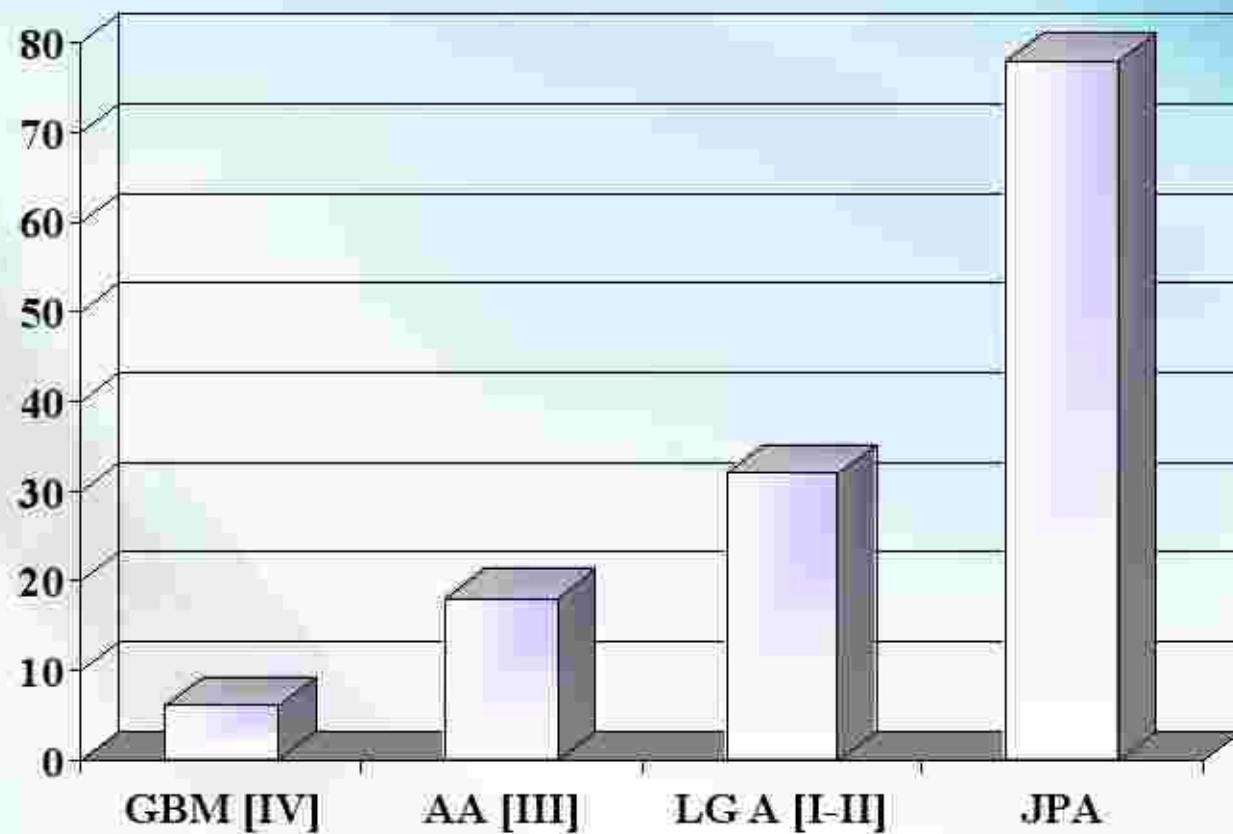
PNar

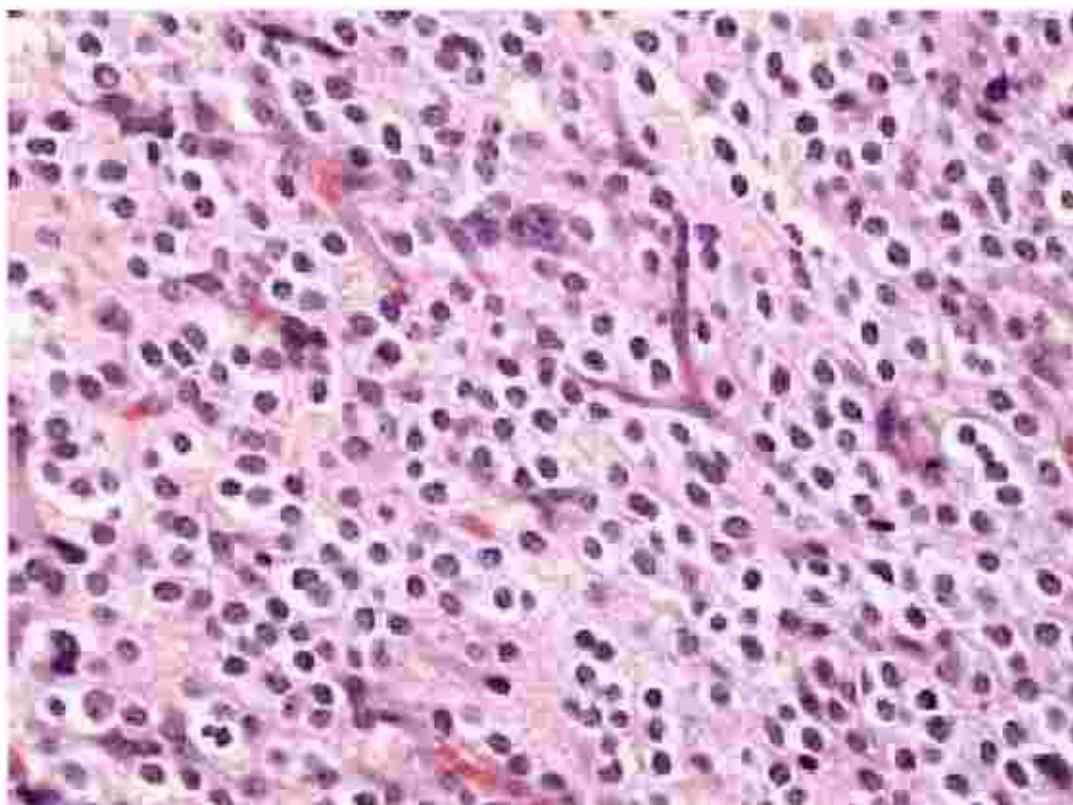


- *Mib-1 < 1%*

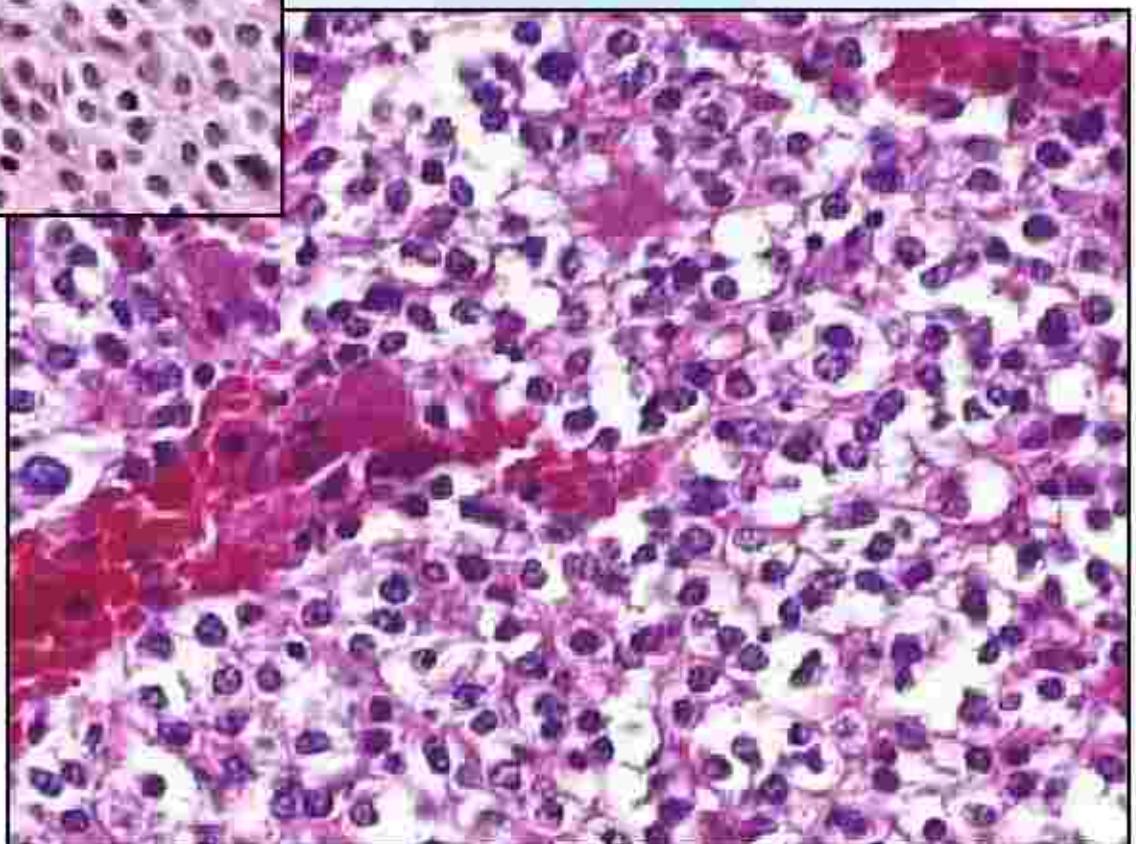


## ASTROCYTOMA: 5 Year survival





## OLIGODENDROGLIOMA





# OLIGODENDROGLIOMA

## Good

- + Age: < 40 years
- + Low grade
- + Gross total resection
- + 1p 19q del (a/w better chemoresponse)

## Poor

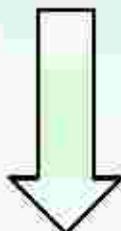
- + Mib-1 > 5%
- + Anaplasia
- + Necrosis & mitosis > 6/ 10 hpf
- + P53 immunoexp



## MIXED GLIOMA

### \* OLIGOASTROCYTOMA (II)

- + *Conspicuous mixture of 2 distinct cell types*
- + *At least one 100x field of oligo component*
- + *Origin from bipotential glial precursor cells*



CKDN 2A, occ EGFR amplification

### ANAPLASTIC OA (III)

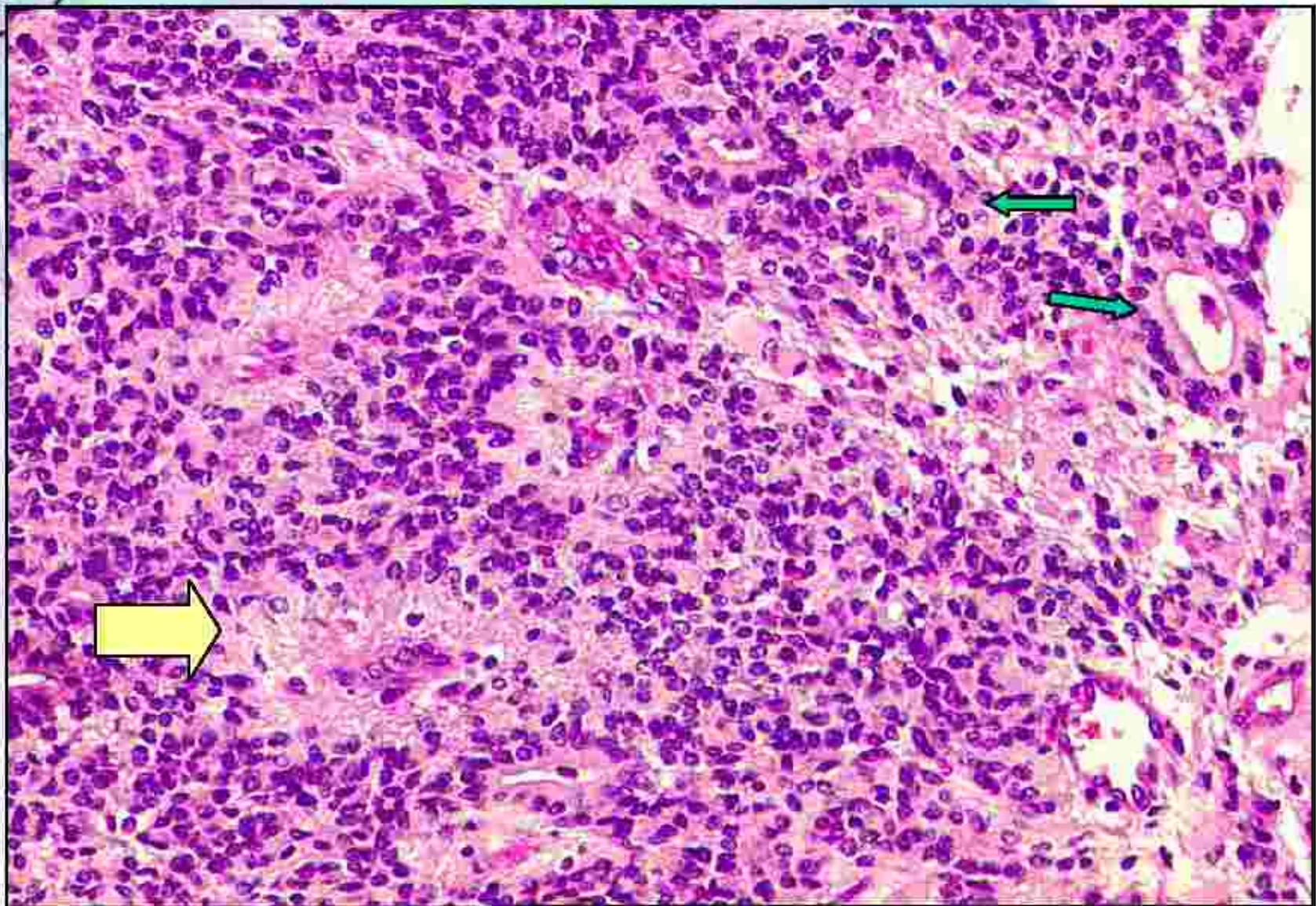


## EPENDYMO~~M~~MA

- + Children- *Infra/ supratentorial*
- + Adults- *spinal cord\*/ supratentorial*
- + *Perivascular pseudorosettes/ True ependymal rosettes*
- + **Poor prognosis-**
  - + *Child < 3 years; Post fossa*
  - + *Incomplete resection*
  - + *Anaplasia*
  - + *Mib-1 > 4%*
  - + *CSF seeding*

\* Most common glioma at this site, a/w NF2

# EPENDYMOMA





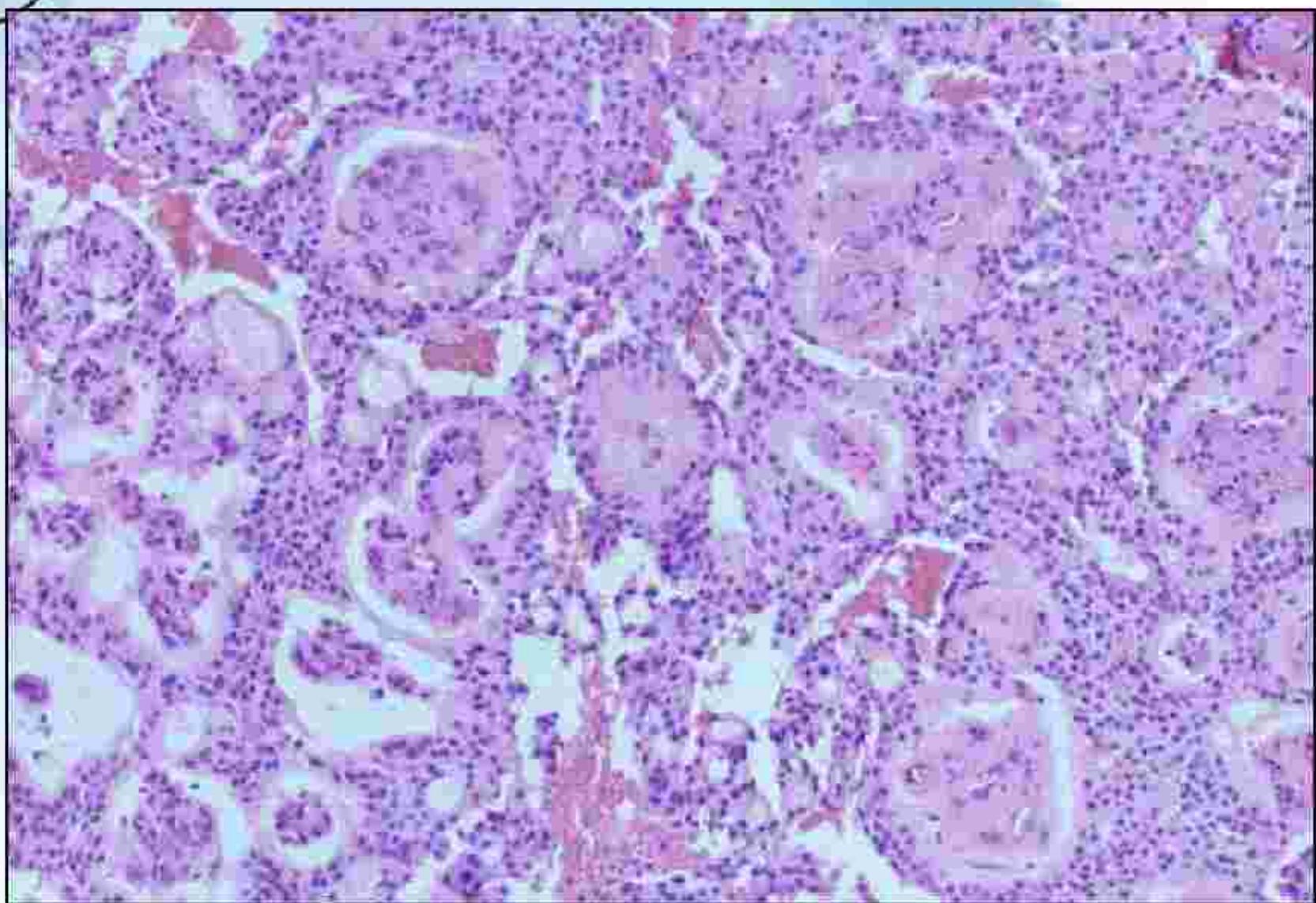
## *ANAPLASTIC EPENDYMO~~M~~MA*

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- + *De novo or rarely progress from preexisting grade II*
- + ***MYXOPAPILLARY EPENDYMO~~M~~MA [I]***
  - + *Almost exclusive in cauda equina/ filum terminale; good prognosis*
- + ***SUBEPENDYMO~~M~~MA [I]***
  - + *Slow growing, intraventricular grade I, favorable prognosis*



# Myxopapillary EPENDYMO<sup>M</sup>A





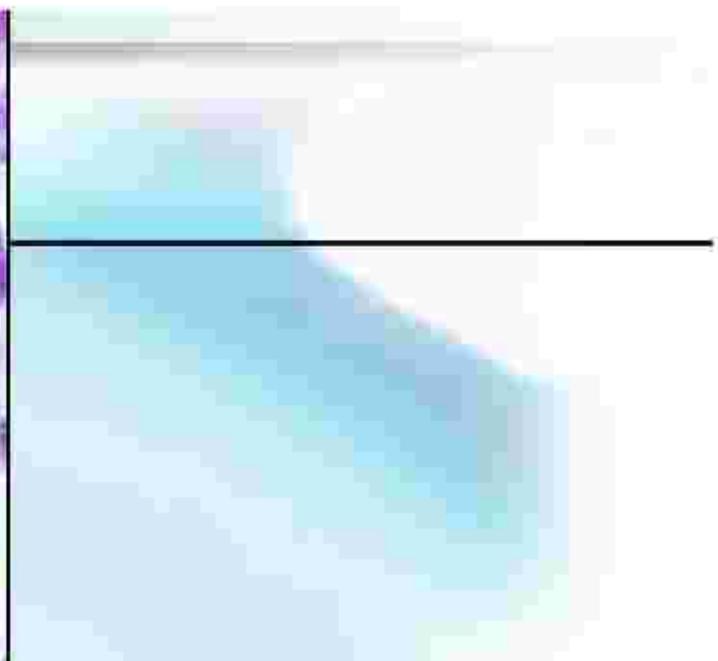
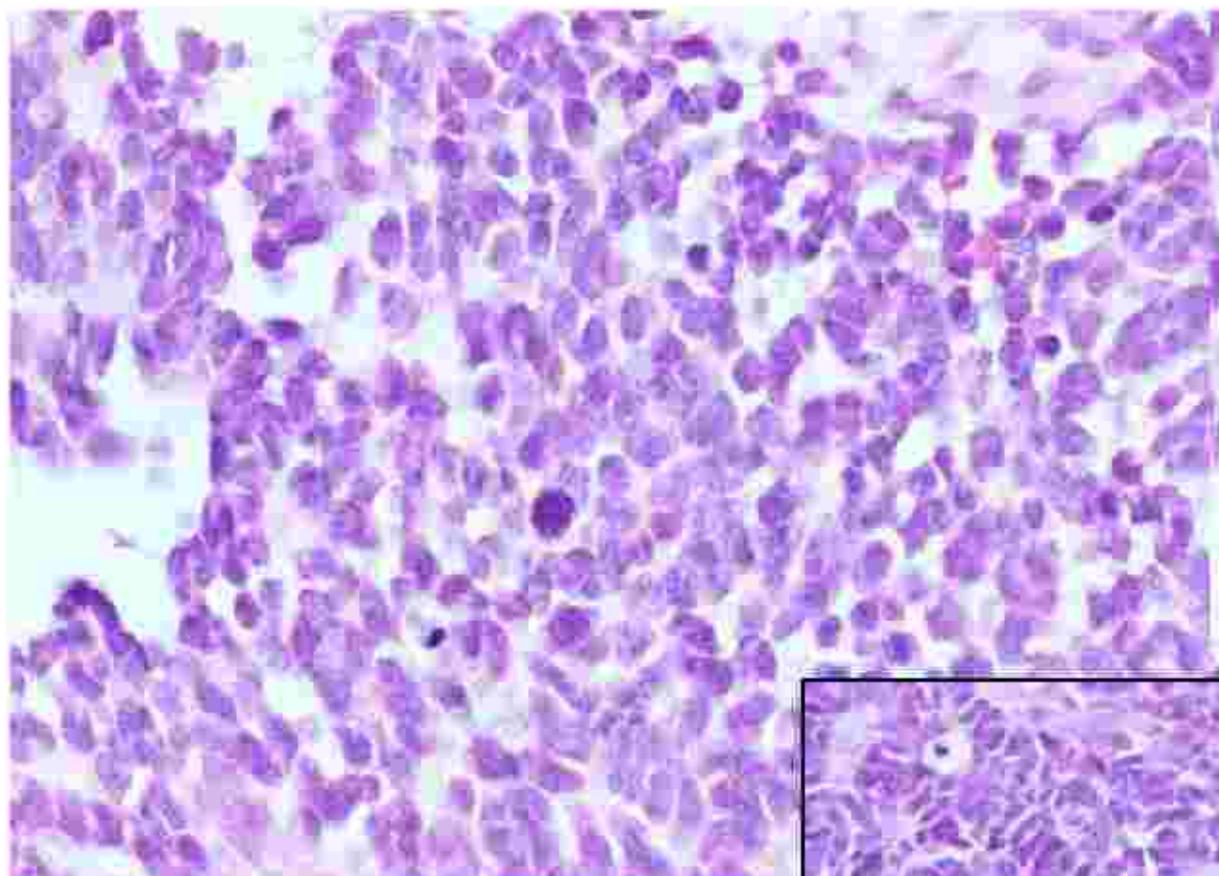
## NEURONAL/ MIXED GLIONEURONAL TUMORS

- + *Rare*
- + *Favorable prognosis; usually low grade I/II*
- + *Variable neuronal & glial differentiation*
- + *Precise classification to avoid unnecessary RT/CT*

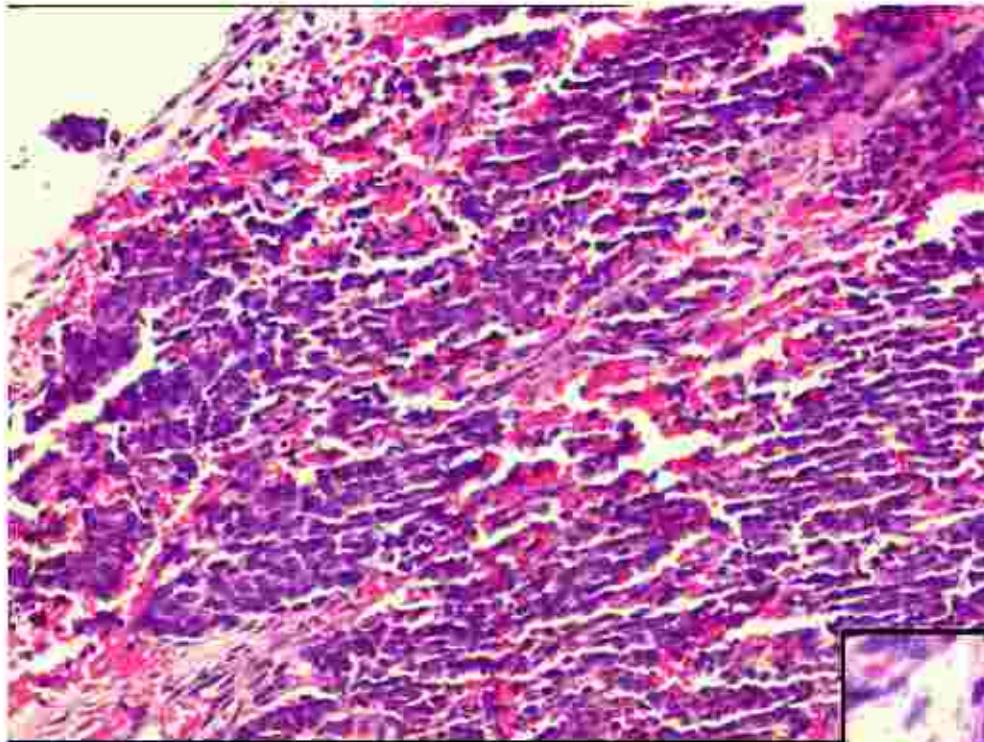


## MEDULLOBLASTOMA- [IV]

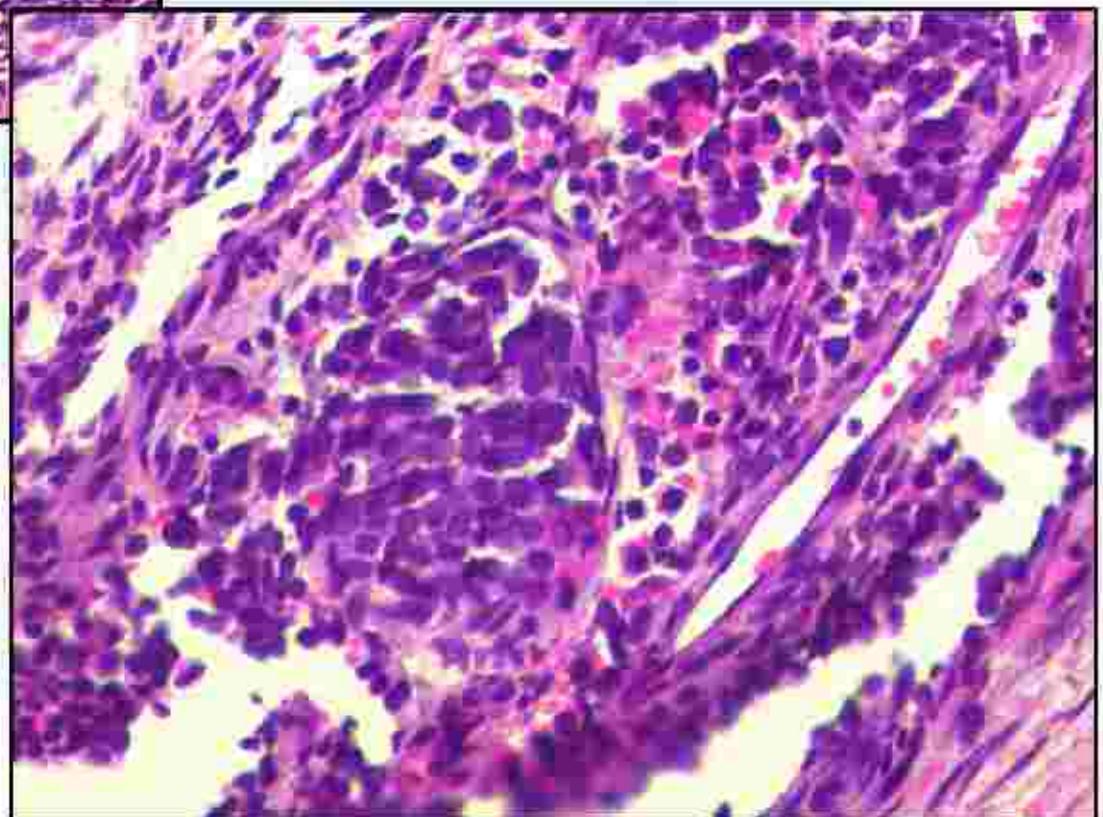
- + *Most common pediatric brain tumor (infratentorial)*
- + *Std risk factors- > 3 years; cerebellar tumor;  
no mets at presentation; little/no  
residual (<1.5 cm<sup>3</sup>)*
- All others are HIGH risk- + intense CT*
- + **M&/S:**
  - + *Cellular/Round cell tumor*
  - + *Homer-Wright rosettes*
  - + *Desmoplastic & MBEN- good prognosis*
  - + *Large cell variant- poor*
  - + *IHC- Synaptophysin, chromogranin ++*
  - + *Mib-1 : ↑↑*



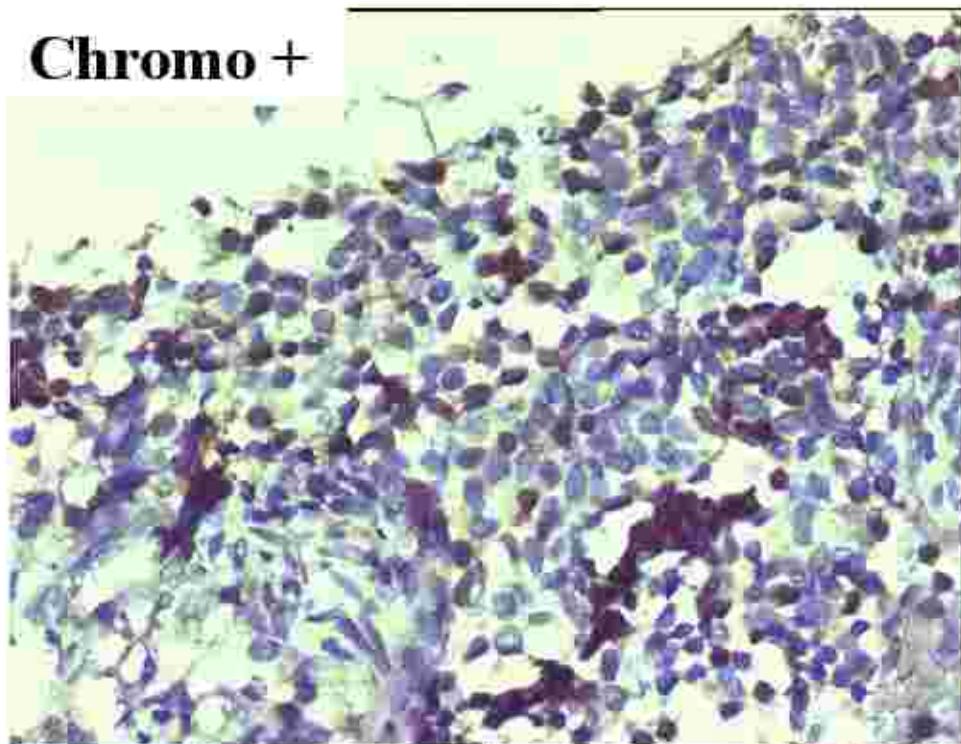
*Homer Wright rosette*



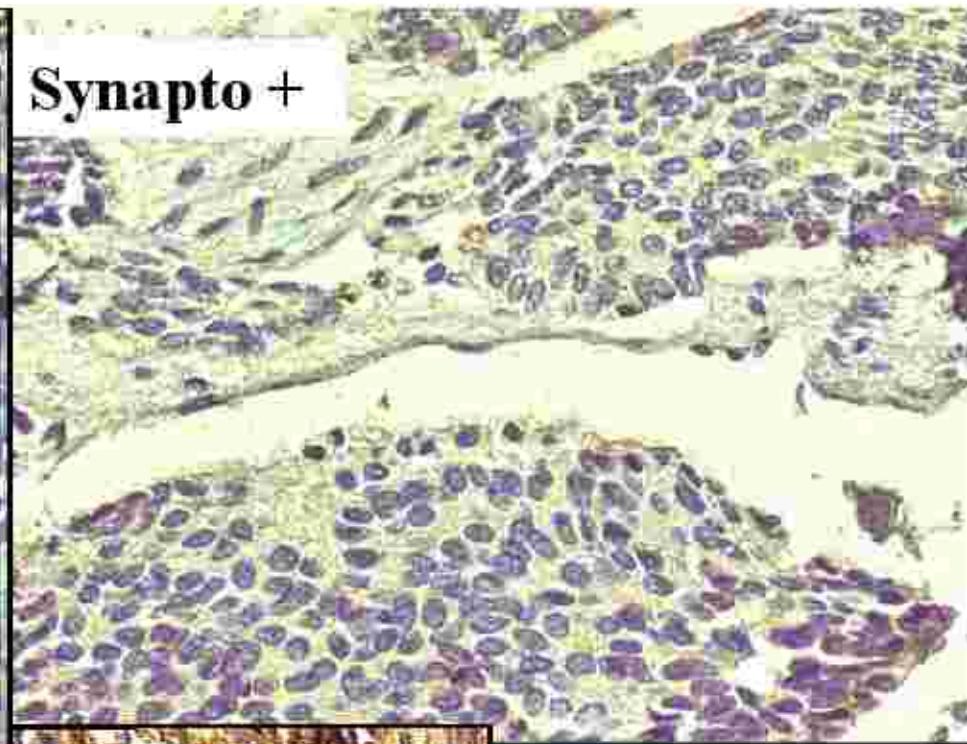
*Supratentorial -  
PNET*



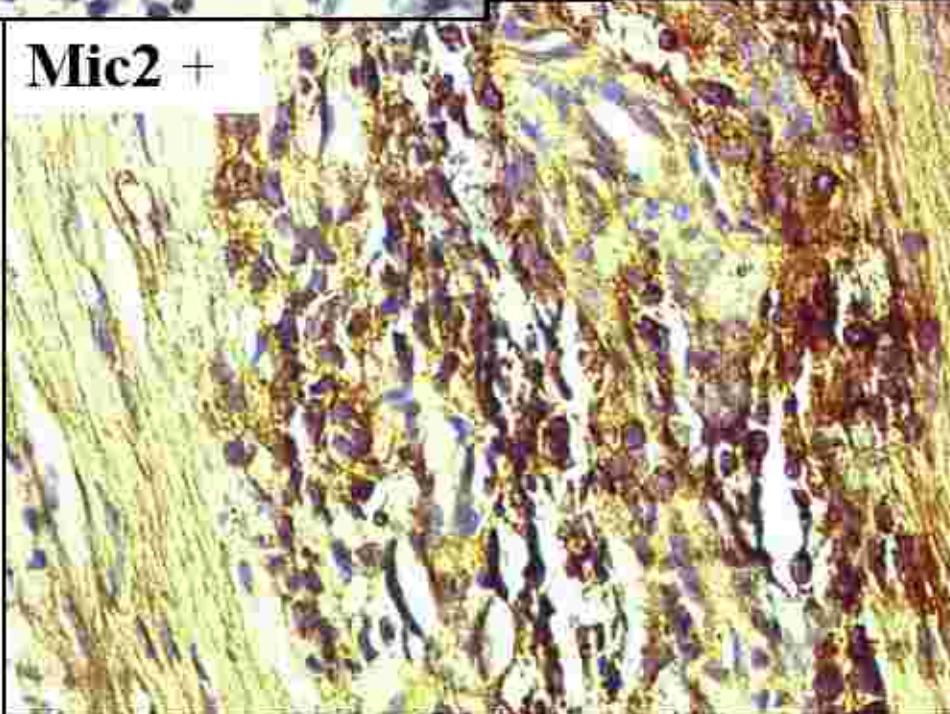
**Chromo +**



**Synapto +**



**Mic2 +**



*P.Nair*



# MENINGEAL TUMORS

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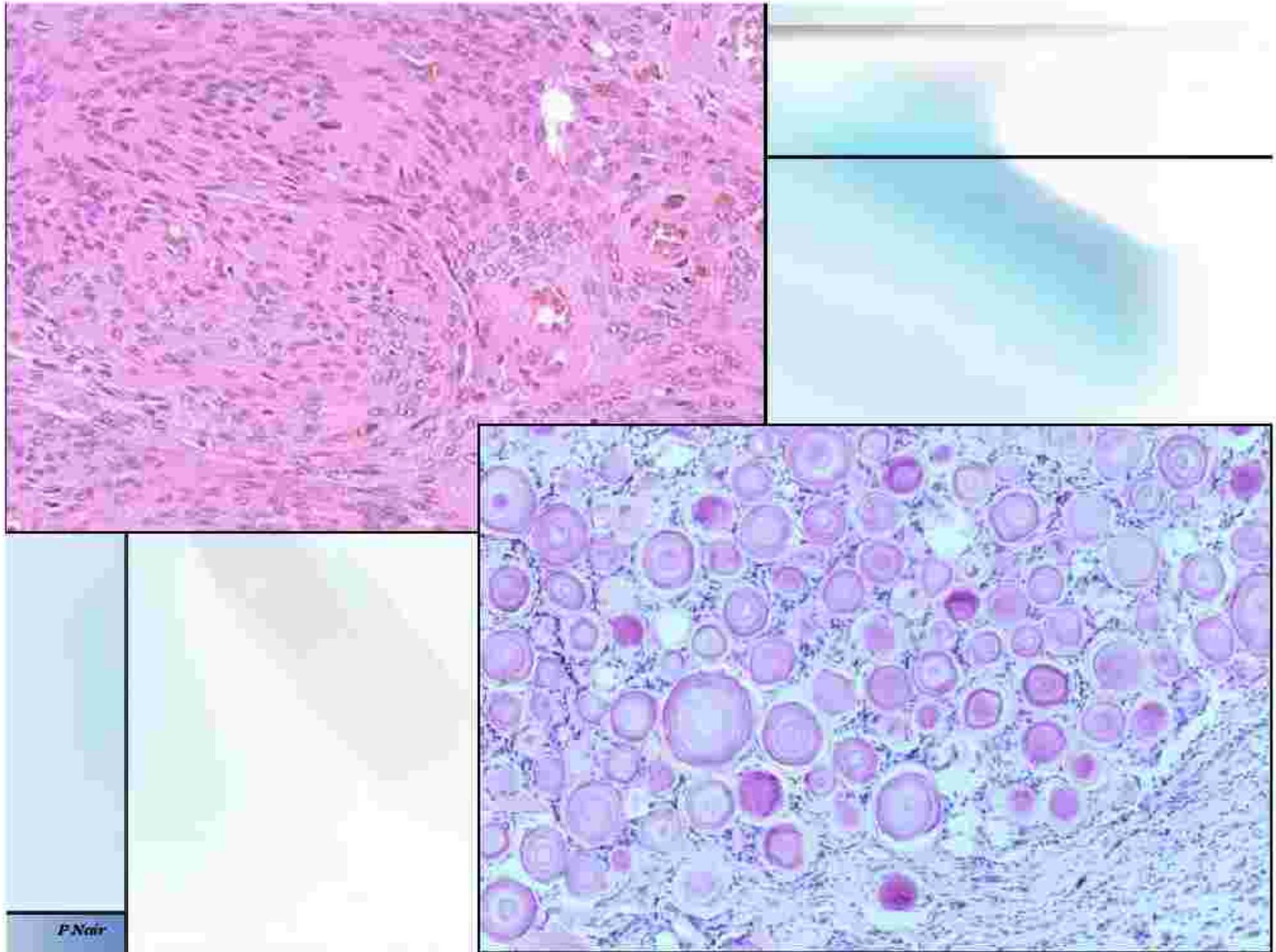
- **MENINGIOMA:**
  - *Meningioma (typical) [I]*
  - *Atypical Meningioma [II]*
  - *Anaplastic (Malignant) Meningioma [III]*
- **MESENCHYMAL (*non-meningothelial*)**
- ***Primary MELANOCYTIC Lesions***
- ***UNCERTAIN Origin***
  - *Hemangiopericytoma*
  - *Hemangioblastoma*



## MENINGIOMA

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- *Arise from meningotheelial cells of arachnoid granulations*
- *Adjacent to venous sinuses*
- *Nodular, capsulated, slow growing- Benign*
- *Form whorls of cells, Psammoma bodies in the center*
- *Pressure effect*
- *No brain infiltration or metastasis (Benign)*



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# MENINGEAL TUMORS

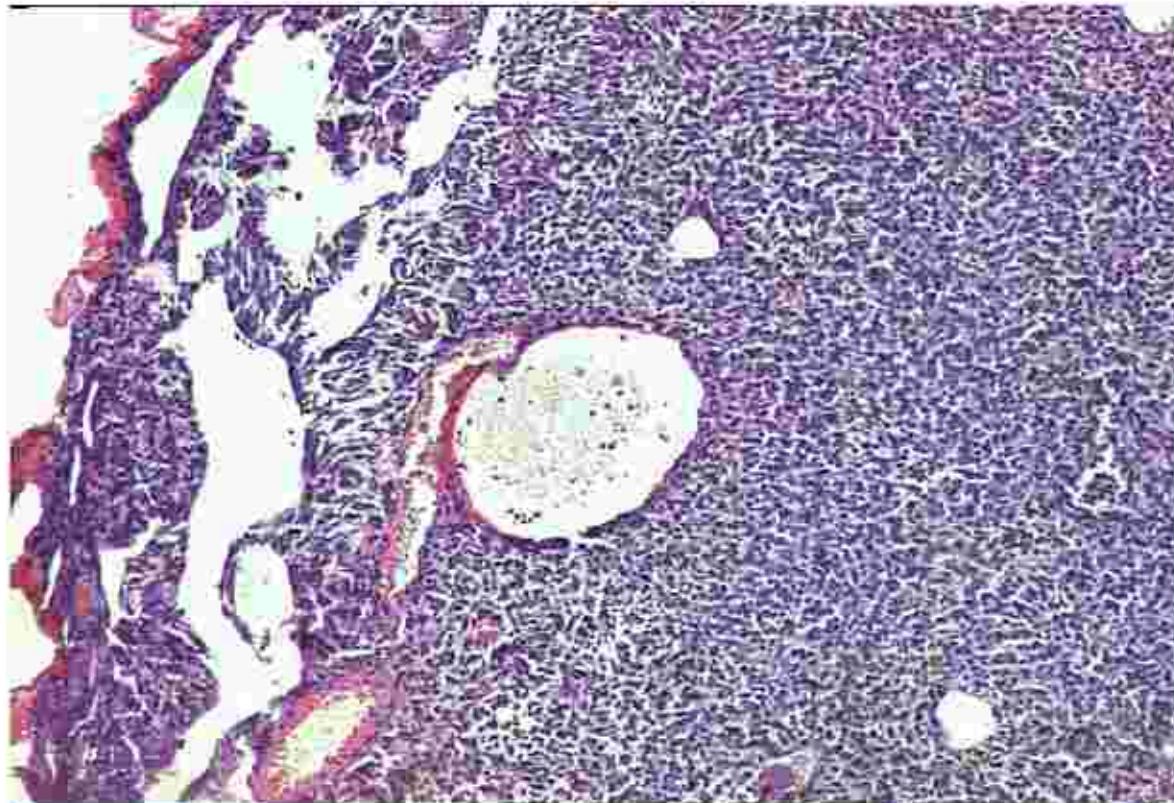
<u>TYPE</u>	<u>GRADE</u>
<b>MENINGIOMA</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>ATYPICAL MENINGIOMA</b>	<b>II</b>
+ <i>Clear cell; chordoid</i> <i>(↑ mitosis 4 - 19/10HPF; OR 3 of foll- ↑cellularity, ↑N:C, prominent nucleoli, patternless growth, spontaneous/geographic necrosis)</i>	
<b>ANAPLASTIC MENINGIOMA</b>	<b>III</b>
+ <i>Papillary; rhabdoid</i> <i>(↑ mitosis &gt; 20/10HPF; appearance like carcinoma/ sarcoma/ melanoma)</i>	



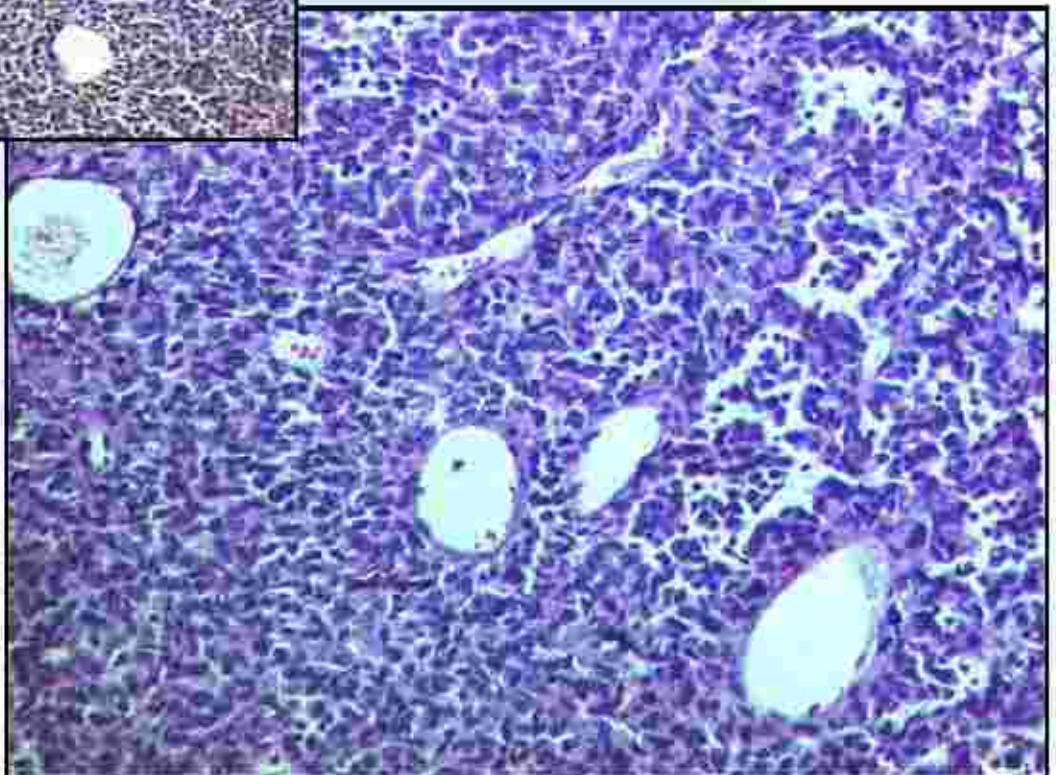
## Meningioma

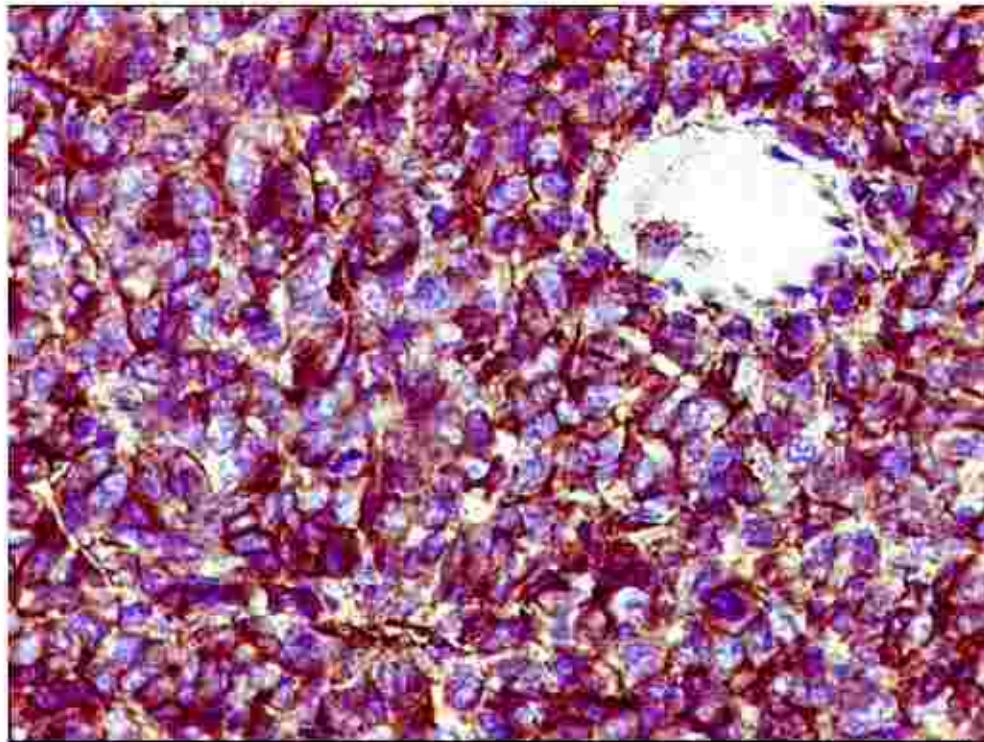
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- + *IHC: EMA +; Mib-1 < 4 / 8 / 15 %*
- + *EM: Interdigitating cell processes*
- + *Surgery if feasible-*
- + *RT*
  - + *Incomplete resection*
  - + *Recurrent disease*
  - + *Atypical/invasive features*



*Hemangiopericytoma*

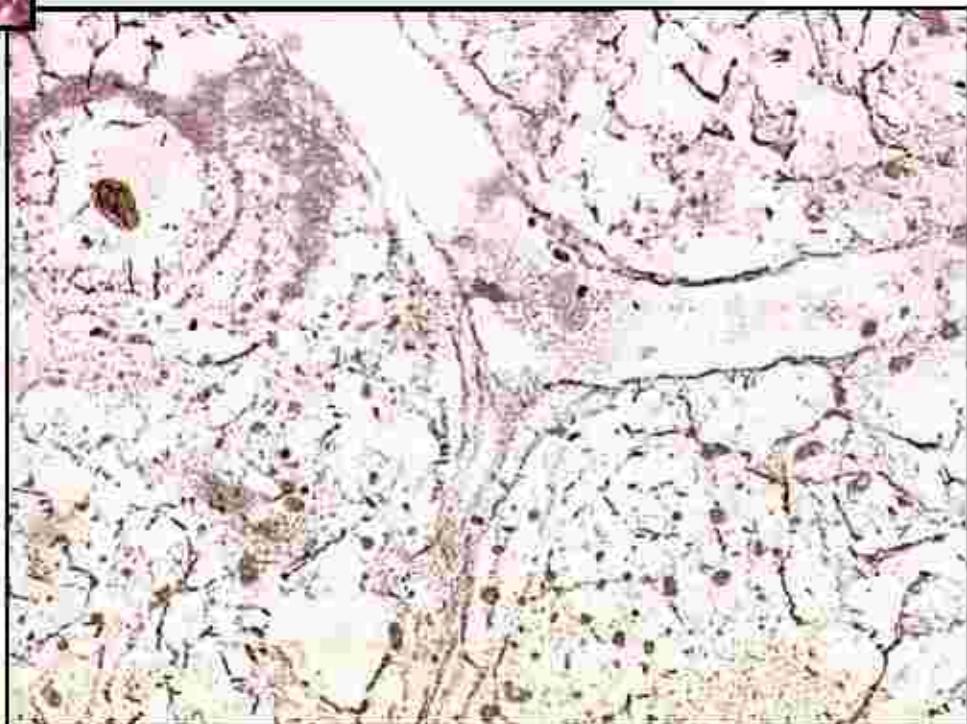


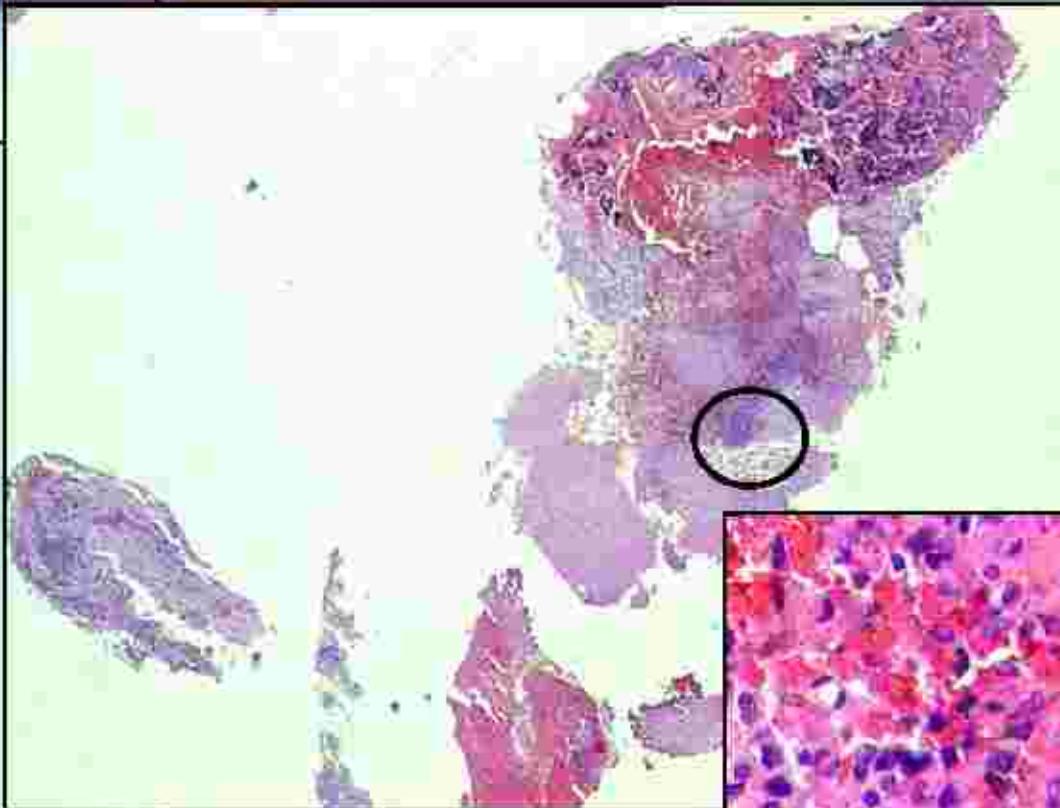


CD34 +

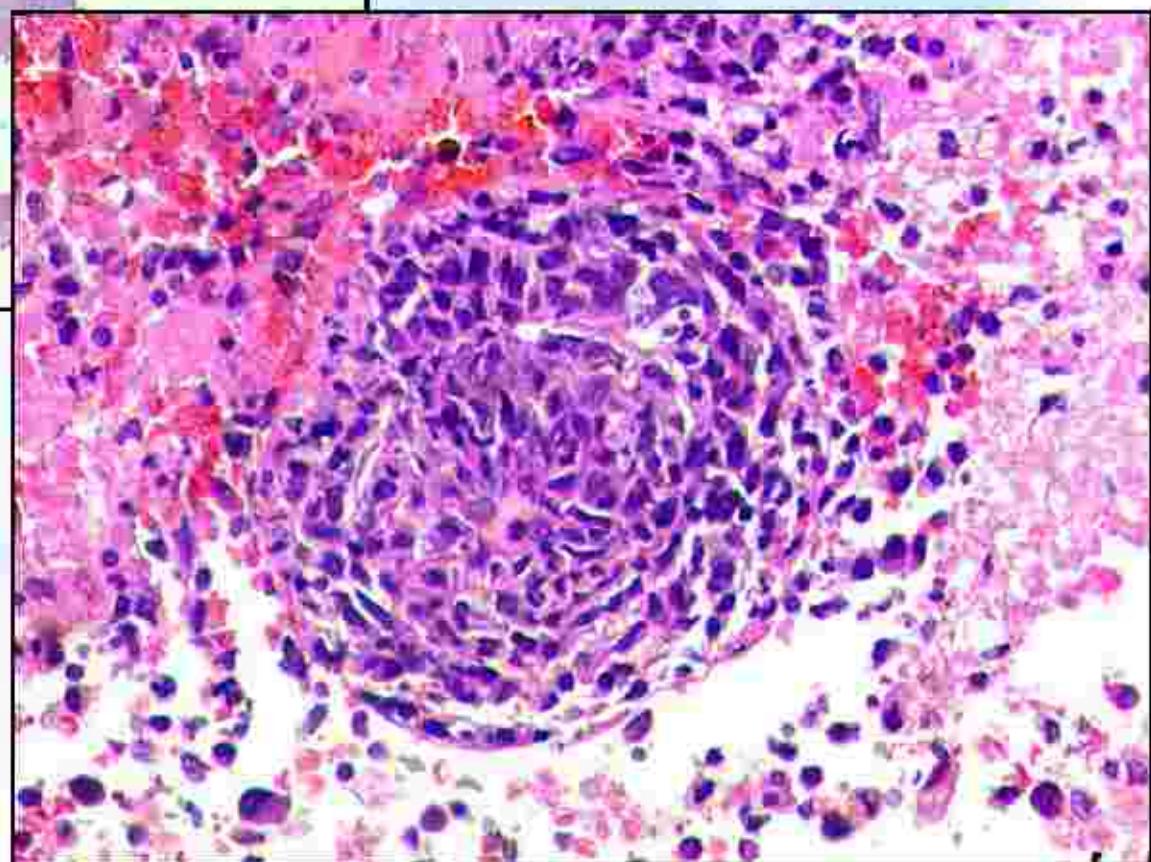
*Hemangiopericytoma*

Reticulin



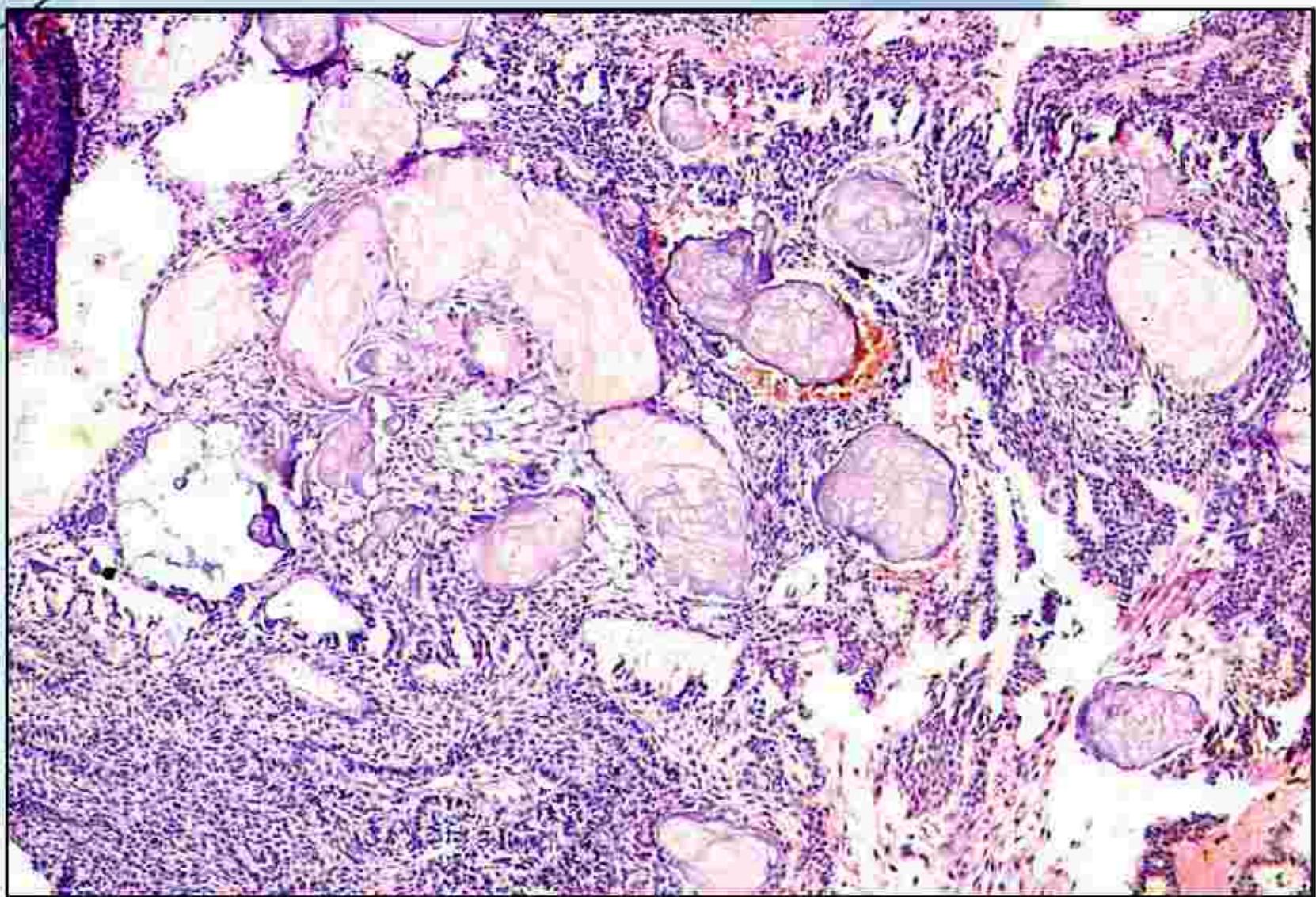


**Primary Brain  
LYMPHOMA**





## Cranipharyngioma [WHO I]





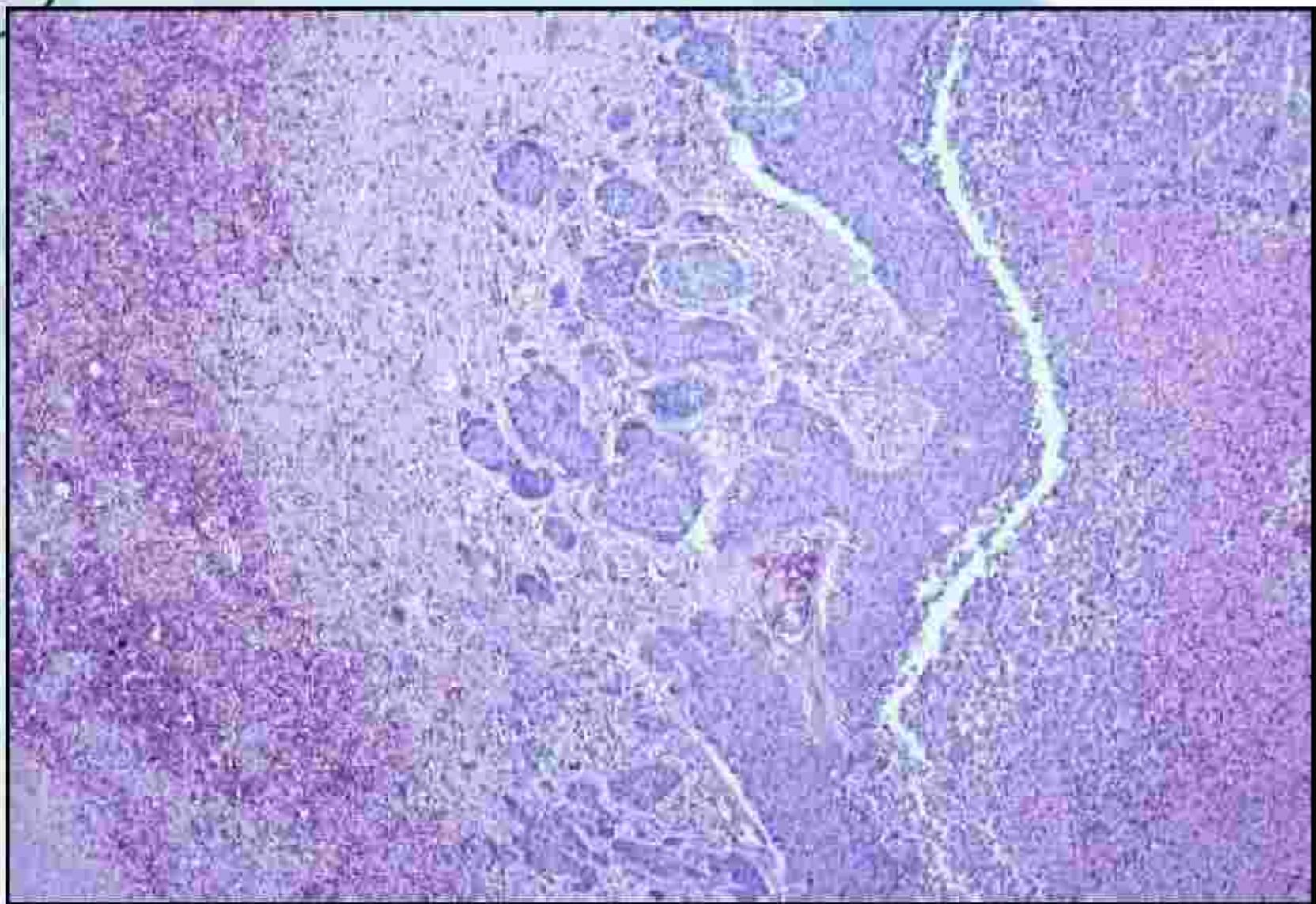
## Metastasis

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- *Most common brain tumor in adults*
- *Common primary sites: breast, lung, GI tract, kidney & melanoma*
- *Most are in cerebrum (MCA territory); at the grey-white junctions due to vascularity*
- *Discrete, globoid, sharply demarcated tumors*



## *Metastatic carcinoma*





- + *Tumor heterogeneity*
- + *Limited biopsy material*
- + *Team effort-*
  - + *Surgeon*
  - + *Radiologist*
  - + *Pathologist*
  - + *Radiation oncologist*





Thank you!!

**Thank you!!**