



What Every Neuropathologist Needs to Know

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- June 2019 -

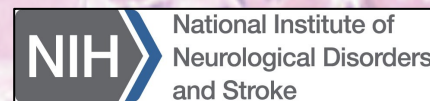
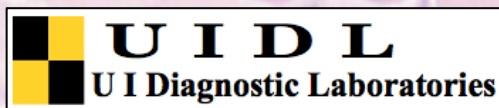


No relevant conflicts of interest.

Research funding is from NIH (NINDS)
and from fee-for-service contracts with
Flagship Biosciences, Sarepta
Therapeutics, and Solid Biosciences.

Acknowledgements

- **Patients/families and referring clinicians/pathologists too numerous to name!!!!**
- Clinical diagnosis, genetic counseling, IRBs
 - Child Neurology - Kathy Mathews, Seth Perlman, Christina Trout, Carrie Stephan
 - Adult Neurology – Mike Shy, Andrea Swenson, Lud Gutmann, Laurie Gutmann, Chris Nance
- **Neuropathology colleagues – Leslie Bruch, Marco Hefti, Karra Jones**
- **Histology and EM Laboratories, esp. Terese Nelson, Melissa Jans, Amy Trent**
- Molecular diagnostics
 - Univ. of Iowa Molecular Pathology and Cytogenetics Laboratories and Univ. of Utah Genetics - Bob Weiss
- Reagents, mouse models, and basic science - Kevin Campbell
- Research studies in selected clinical cases
 - Moore research laboratory - Mary Cox
 - Wellstone Center Medical Student fellows



Iowa Wellstone Muscular Dystrophy Cooperative Research Center



Kevin P. Campbell, PhD

- Professor and Chair of Molecular Physiology and Biophysics
- Professor of Neurology and Internal Medicine
- Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute



Katherine D. Mathews, MD

- Professor of Pediatrics and Neurology



Steven A. Moore, MD, PhD

- Professor of Pathology



National Institute of
Neurological Disorders
and Stroke

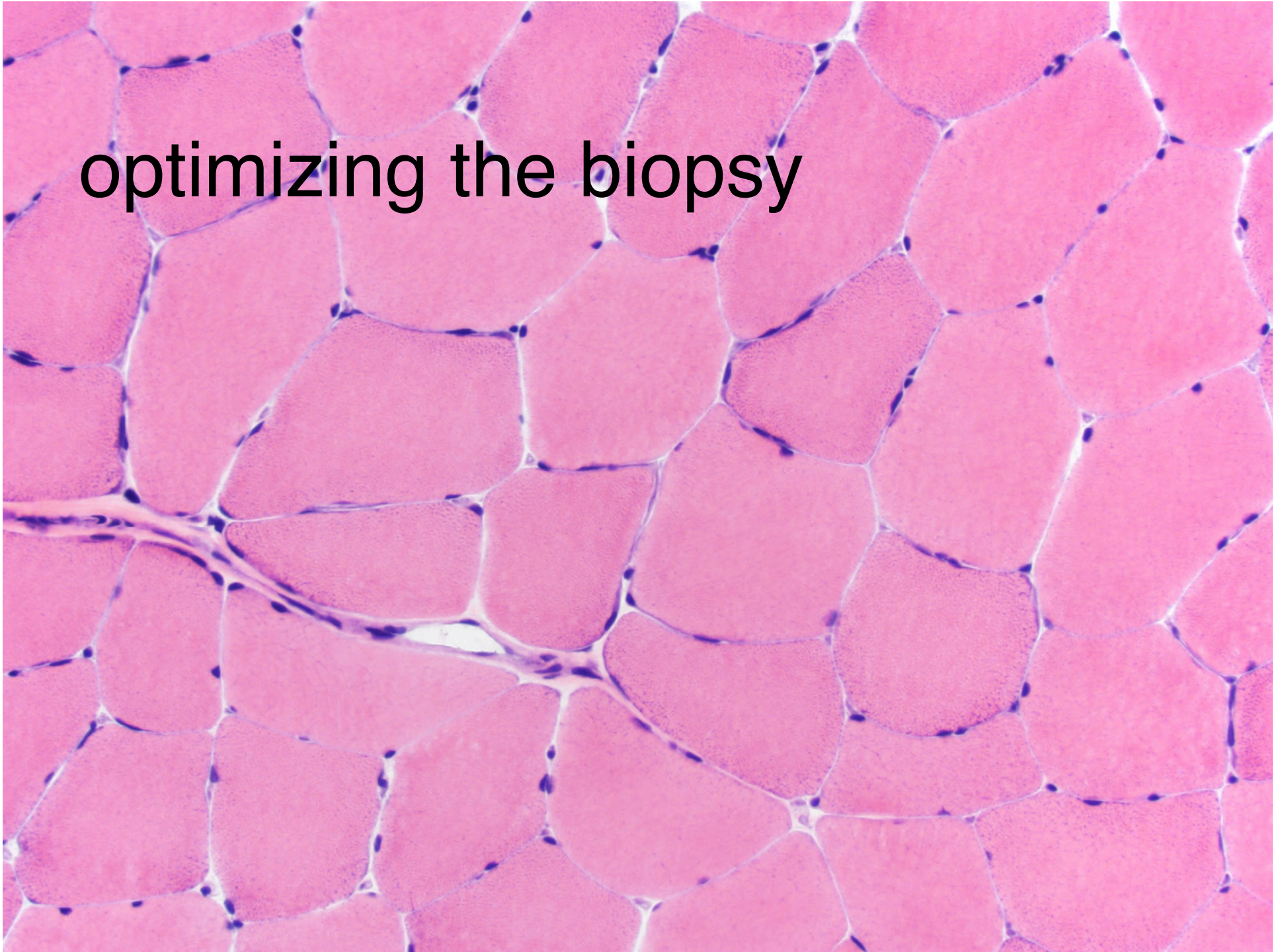
SENATOR PAUL D. WELLSTONE

MD COOPERATIVE
RESEARCH
CENTER

Overview

- Optimizing the biopsy
- Approach to evaluation
- Classic biomarkers of disease
- Dystrophinopathy
- Inflammatory myopathies

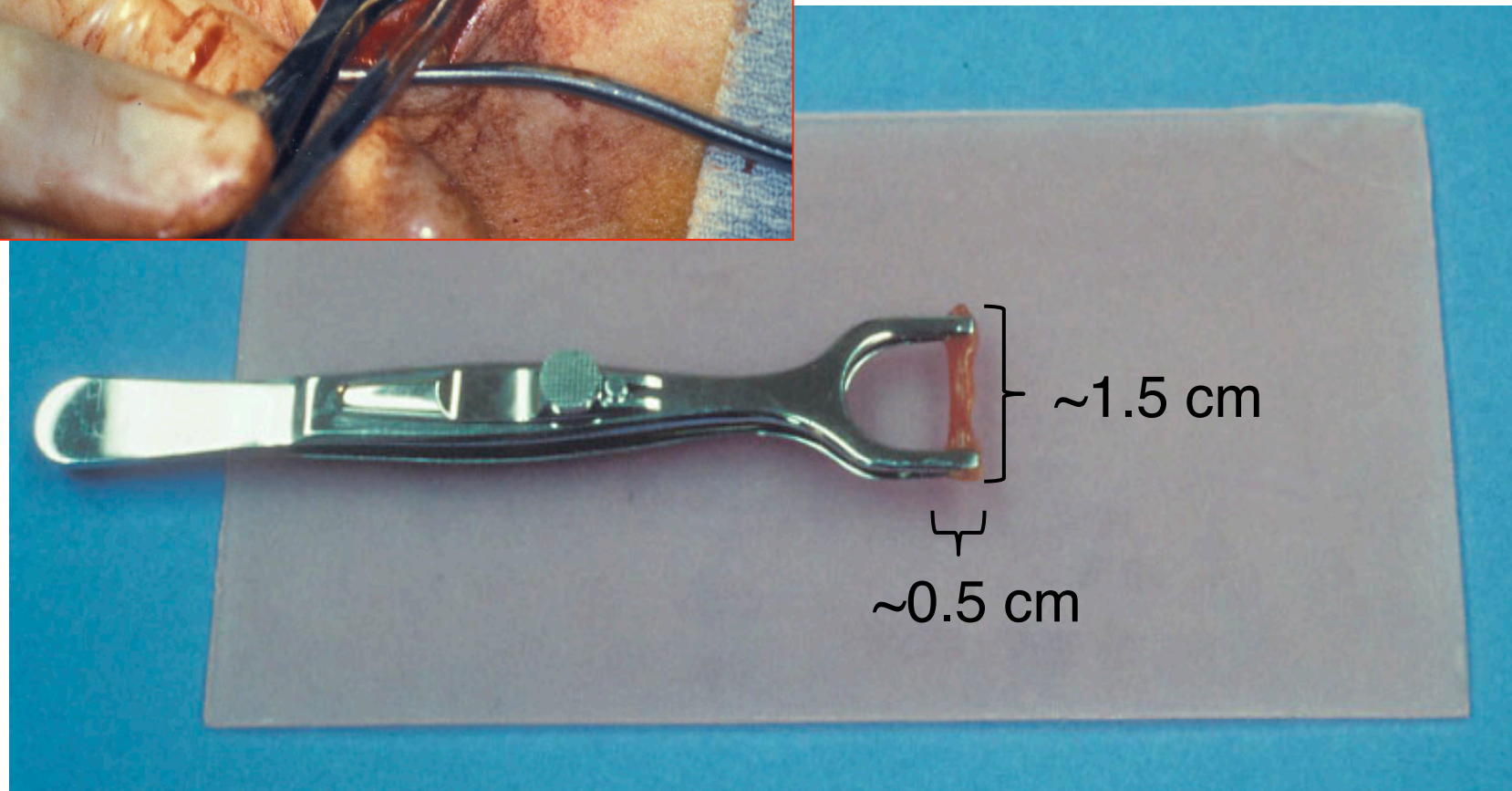
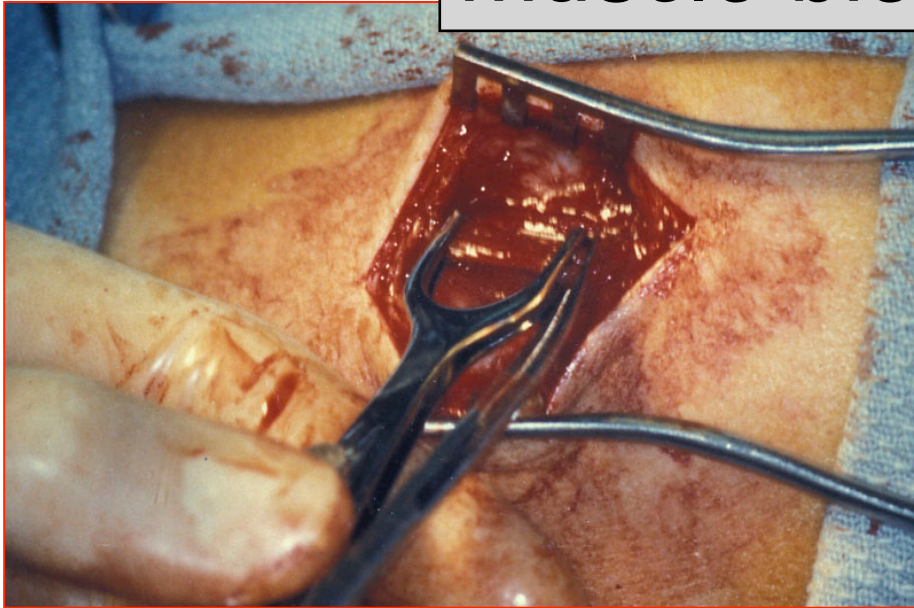
optimizing the biopsy



types of muscle biopsies

- needle biopsy
 - may be less painful
 - may not require general anesthesia
 - smaller amount of muscle may limit testing
 - requires more expertise to obtain good biopsy
- open biopsy
 - may be more painful
 - may require general anesthesia
 - larger amount of muscle allows for broader range of testing
 - muscle clamp technique easy to teach surgeons unfamiliar with muscle biopsy

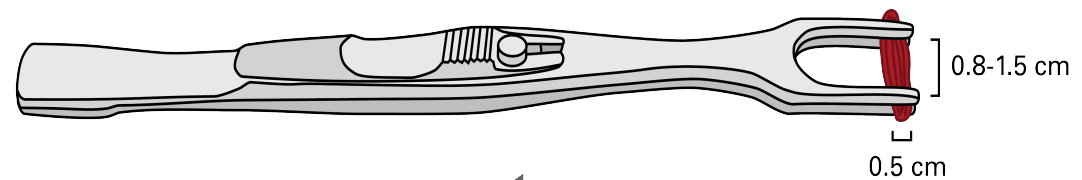
muscle biopsy using a clamp



distribute biopsy tissue

- frozen tissue
 - routine histology and enzyme histochemistry
 - immunostains
 - biochemistry (e.g. western blots)
 - DNA or mRNA studies
- formalin-fixed tissue
 - routine histology
 - special stains (e.g. Congo red and IHC)
- glutaraldehyde-fixed tissue
 - plastic section light microscopy (“thicks”)
 - electron microscopy (“thins”)

mount muscle for cross sections and freeze in isopentane at approximately -160°C

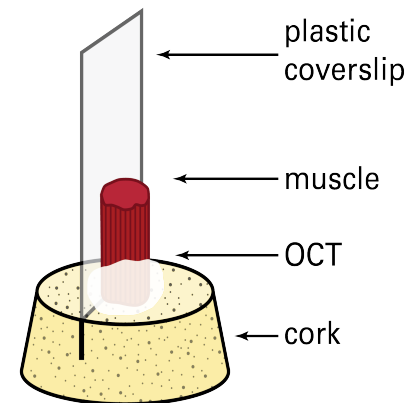


First priority:

- 1) Cut biopsy from between forks of clamp
- 2) Trim 0.1 cm diameter strip for glutaraldehyde
- 3) Mount remainder on cork
- 4) Freeze in isopentane at -160°C

If there is sufficient tissue:

- 5) Fix a portion in formalin (clamped or unclamped)
- 6) Freeze a portion in liquid N_2 for biochemical or molecular studies



<https://medicine.uiowa.edu/uidl/faculty-services/muscular-dystrophymuscle-biopsy/muscle-biopsy-general-evaluation>

UIDL website

Cut the biopsy from between the forks of the clamp and position on a pre-assembled cork/coverslip.



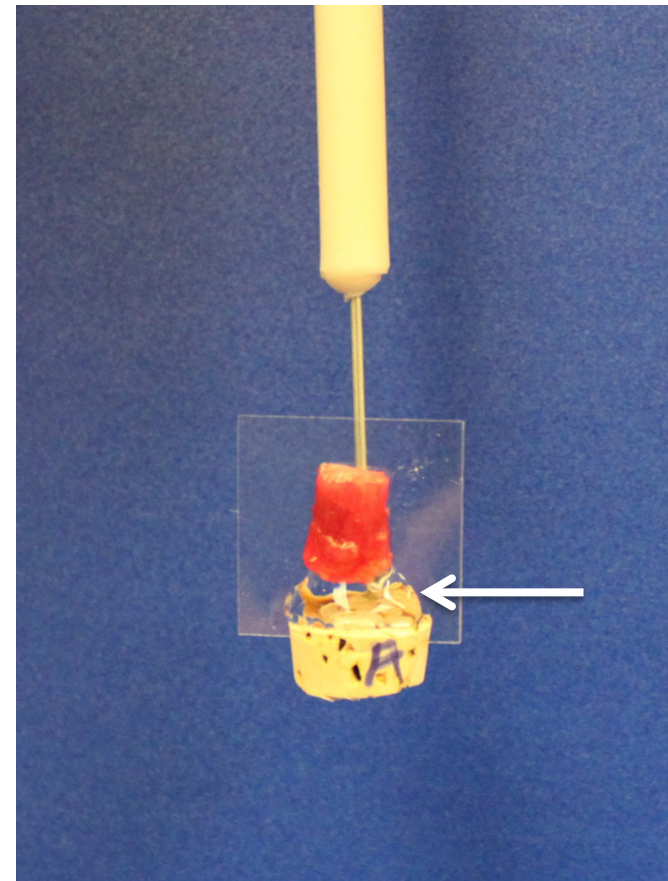
Trim one or more 0.1 cm diameter strips the entire length of the biopsy to fix in glutaraldehyde.



The tissue to be frozen is positioned on a pre-assembled cork/coverslip.

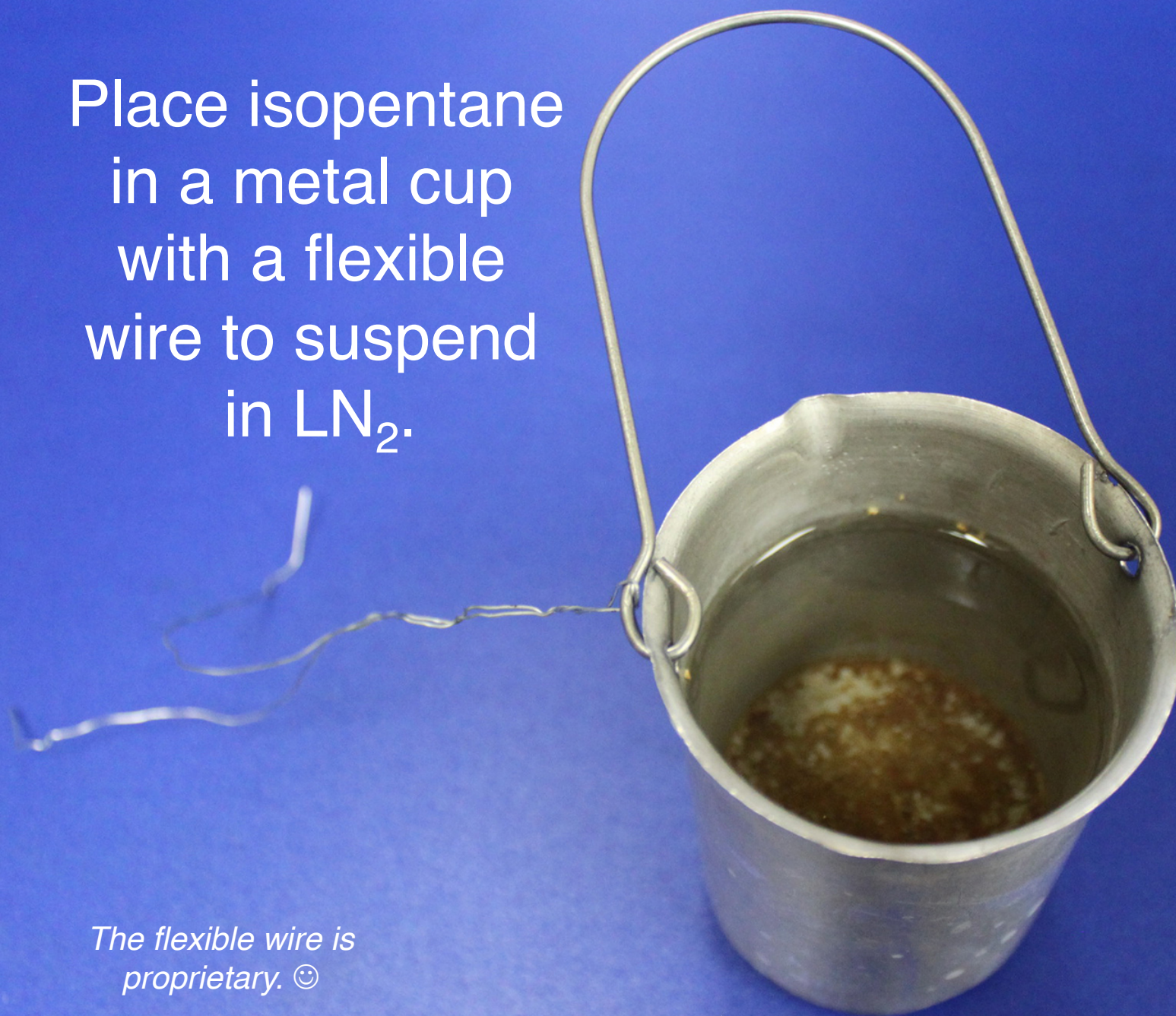


A dissecting needle placed into the cork behind the coverslip serves as a handle.
Fill the gap with OCT.



isopentane

Place isopentane
in a metal cup
with a flexible
wire to suspend
in LN_2 .



*The flexible wire is
proprietary. ☺*

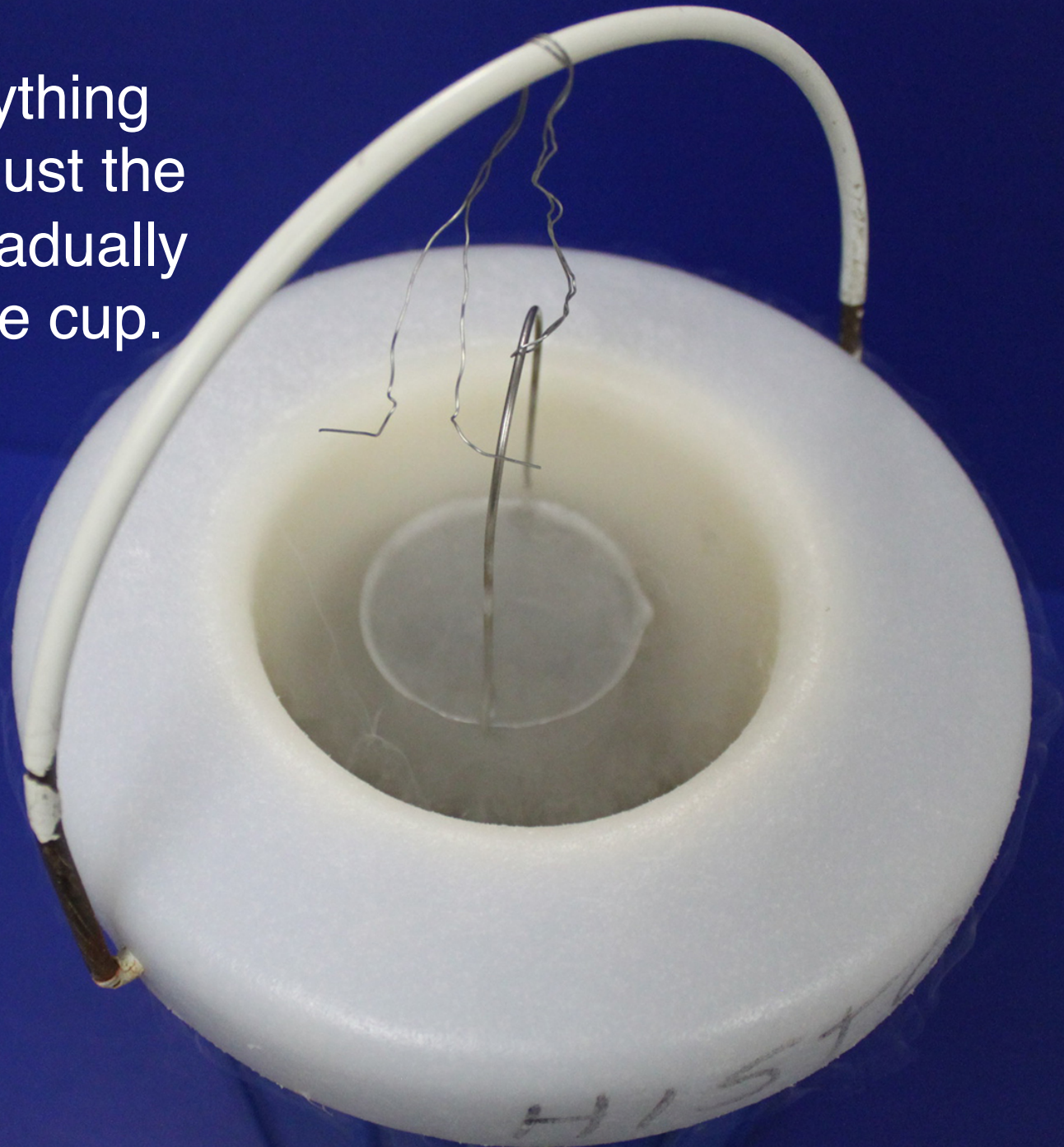
dewar with
 LN_2



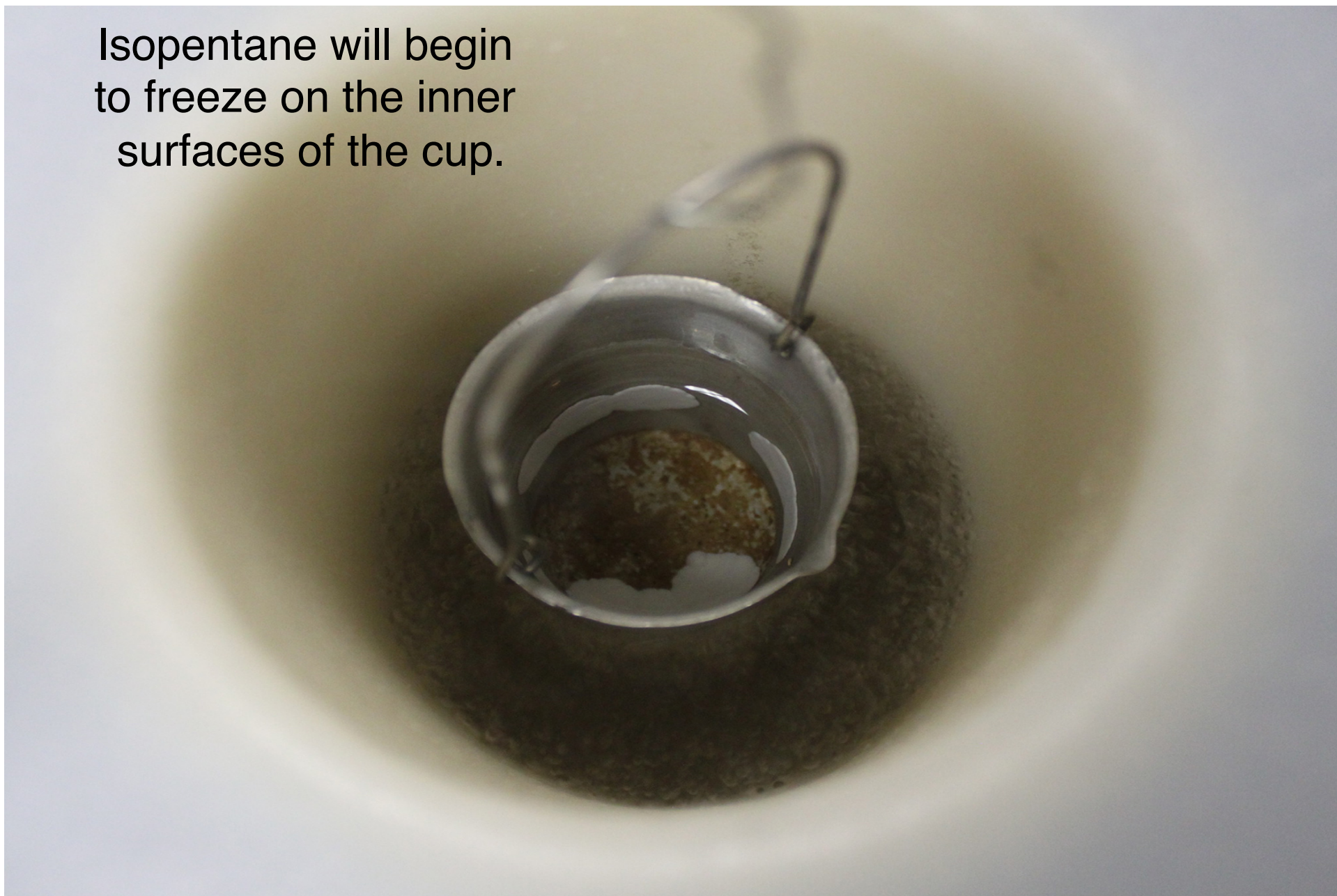
Use the wire to
suspend in LN_2 .
Initially there will
be a lot of N_2
gas.

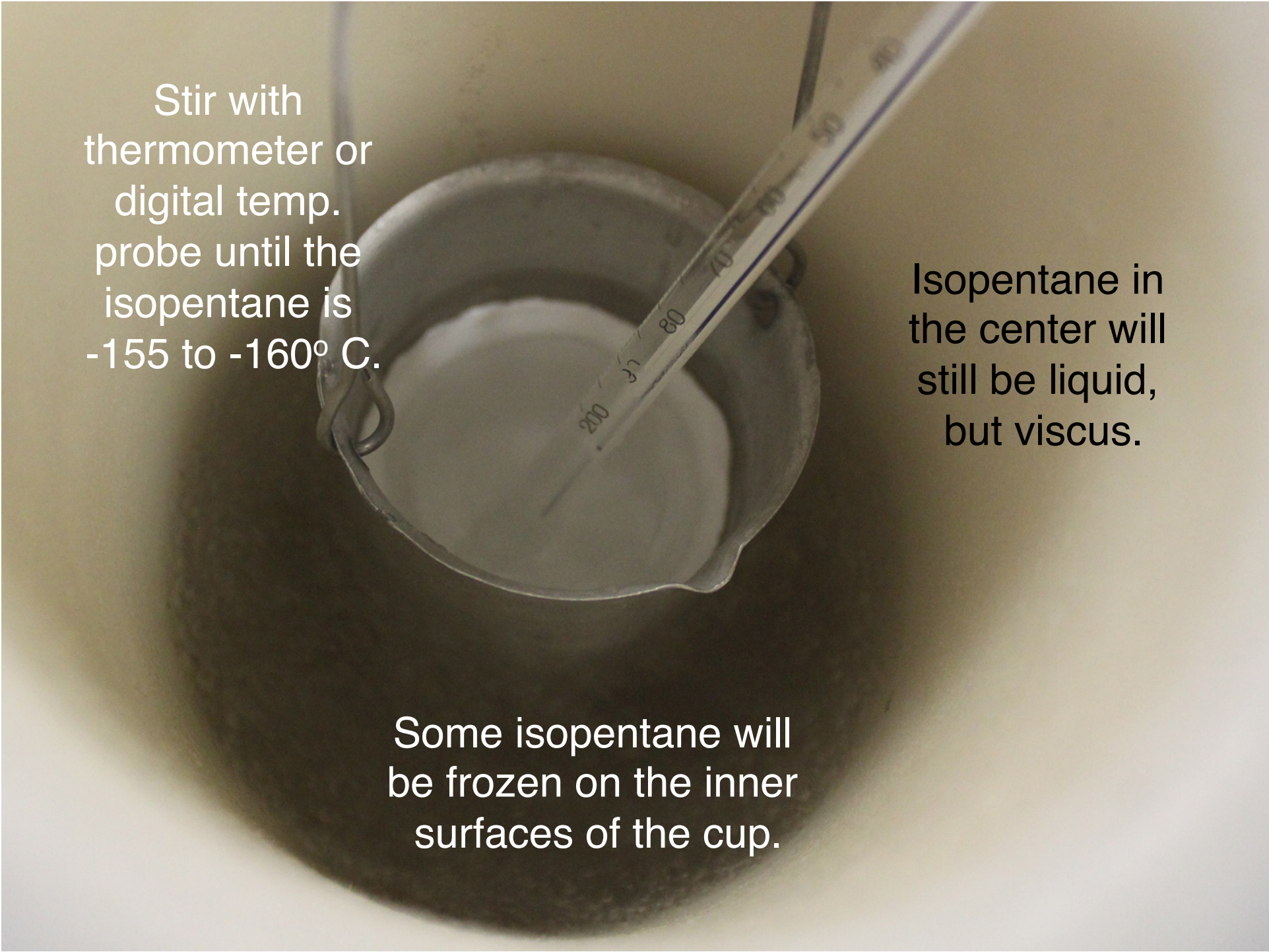


As everything
cools, adjust the
wire to gradually
lower the cup.



Isopentane will begin
to freeze on the inner
surfaces of the cup.





Stir with
thermometer or
digital temp.
probe until the
isopentane is
-155 to -160° C.

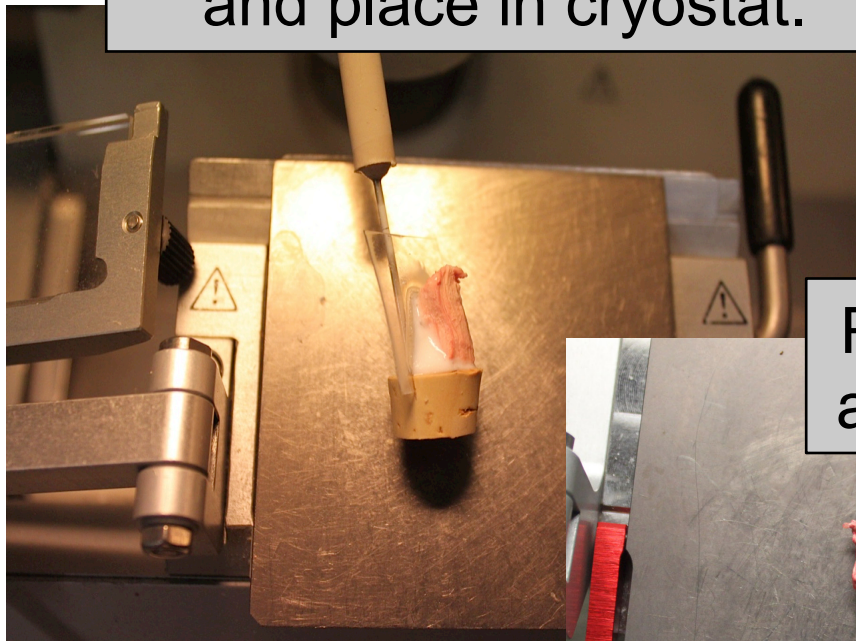
Isopentane in
the center will
still be liquid,
but viscous.

Some isopentane will
be frozen on the inner
surfaces of the cup.

Plunge muscle biopsy into isopentane.



Remove from isopentane
and place in cryostat.



Remove coverslip
and cut away cork.



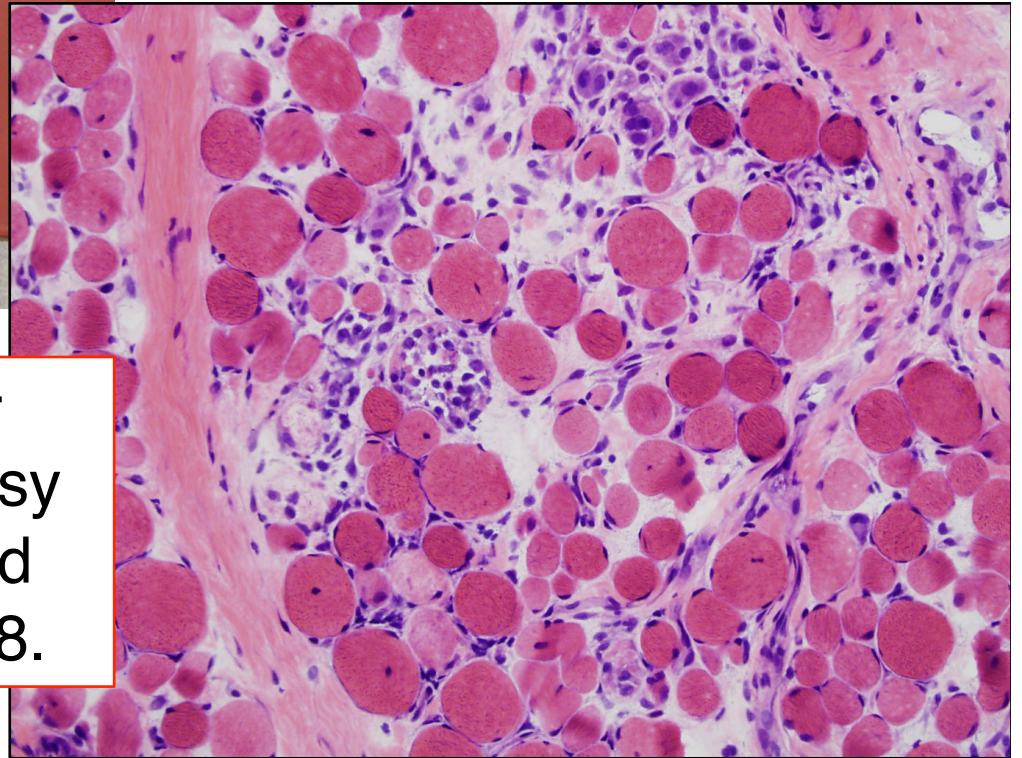
Wrap in
precooled foil.



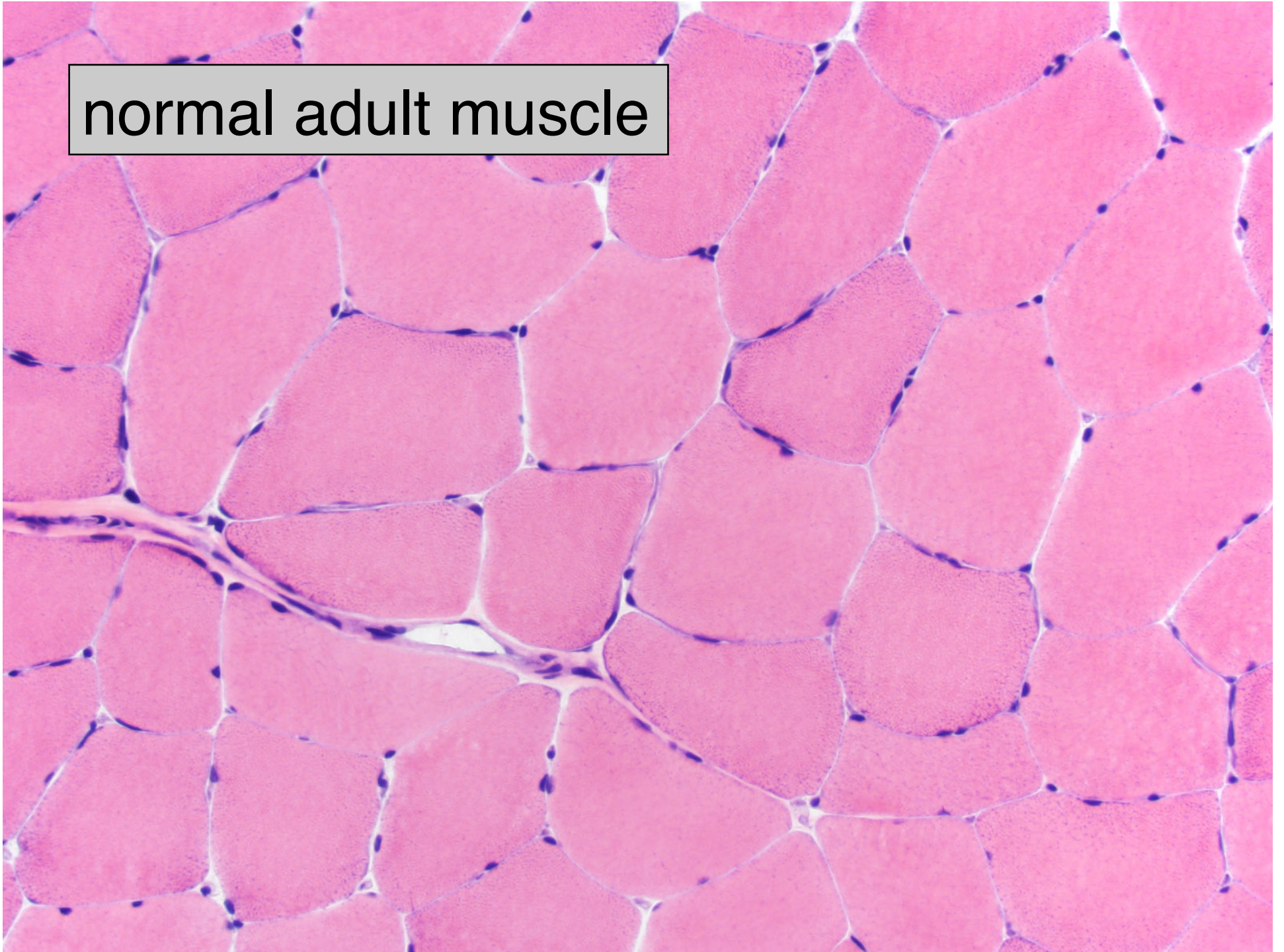
Place in prelabeled, precooled
polycon and store at -80°C .



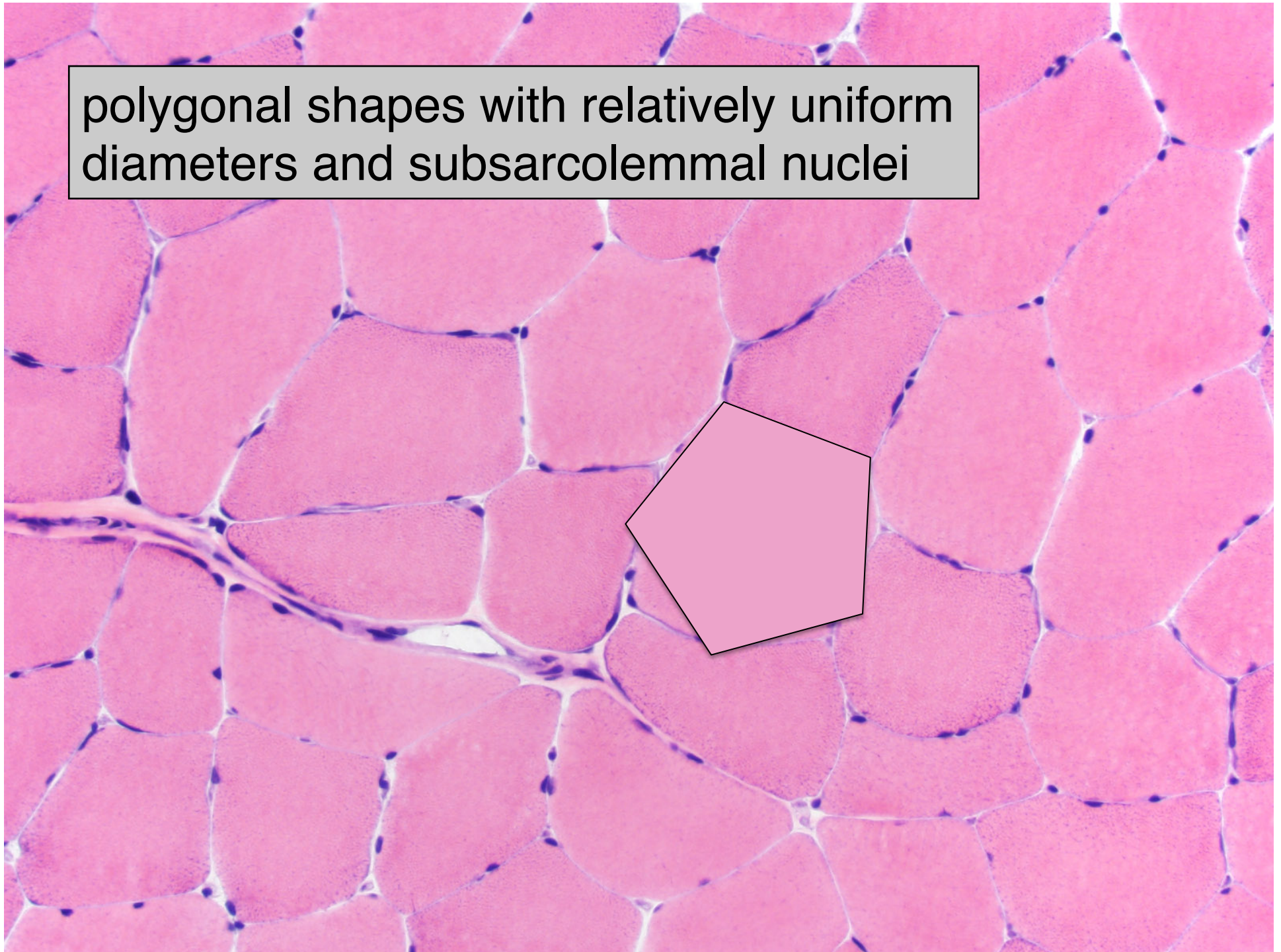
Duchenne muscular
dystrophy (DMD) biopsy
stored since 1995 and
cryosectioned in 2018.



normal adult muscle

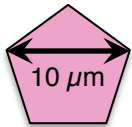


polygonal shapes with relatively uniform diameters and subsarcolemmal nuclei



diameters vary with age and activity

normal
neonate



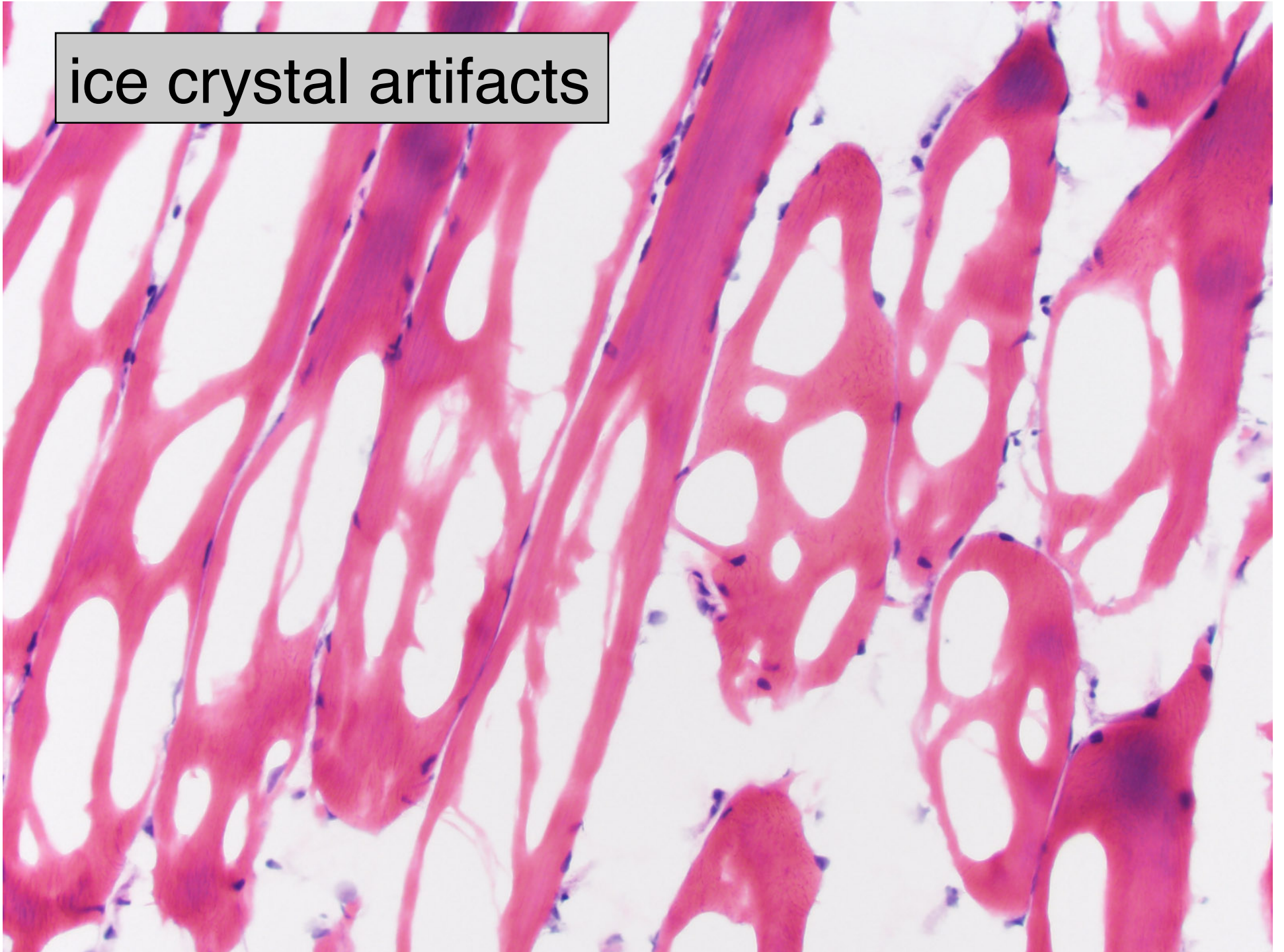
40-60 μm

normal teen
and adult

80-100 μm

perhaps normal
for a football
lineman

ice crystal artifacts

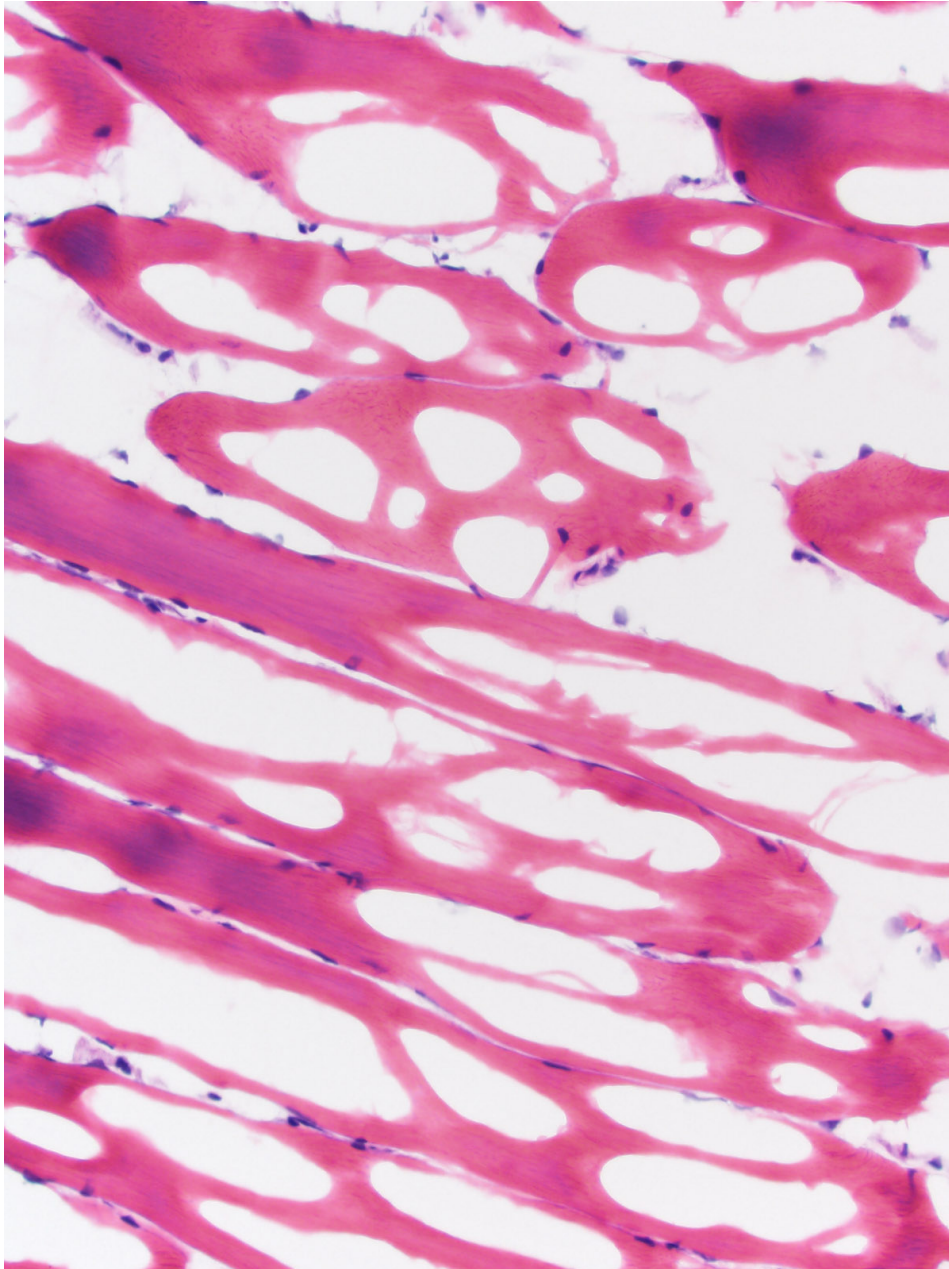


A micrograph of muscle tissue, likely skeletal muscle, stained with hematoxylin and eosin (H&E). The image shows a regular arrangement of muscle fibers, which are large, polygonal in cross-section, and separated by thin layers of connective tissue. The fibers are stained pink, while the nuclei are stained dark purple. The overall appearance is that of healthy, well-organized muscle tissue.

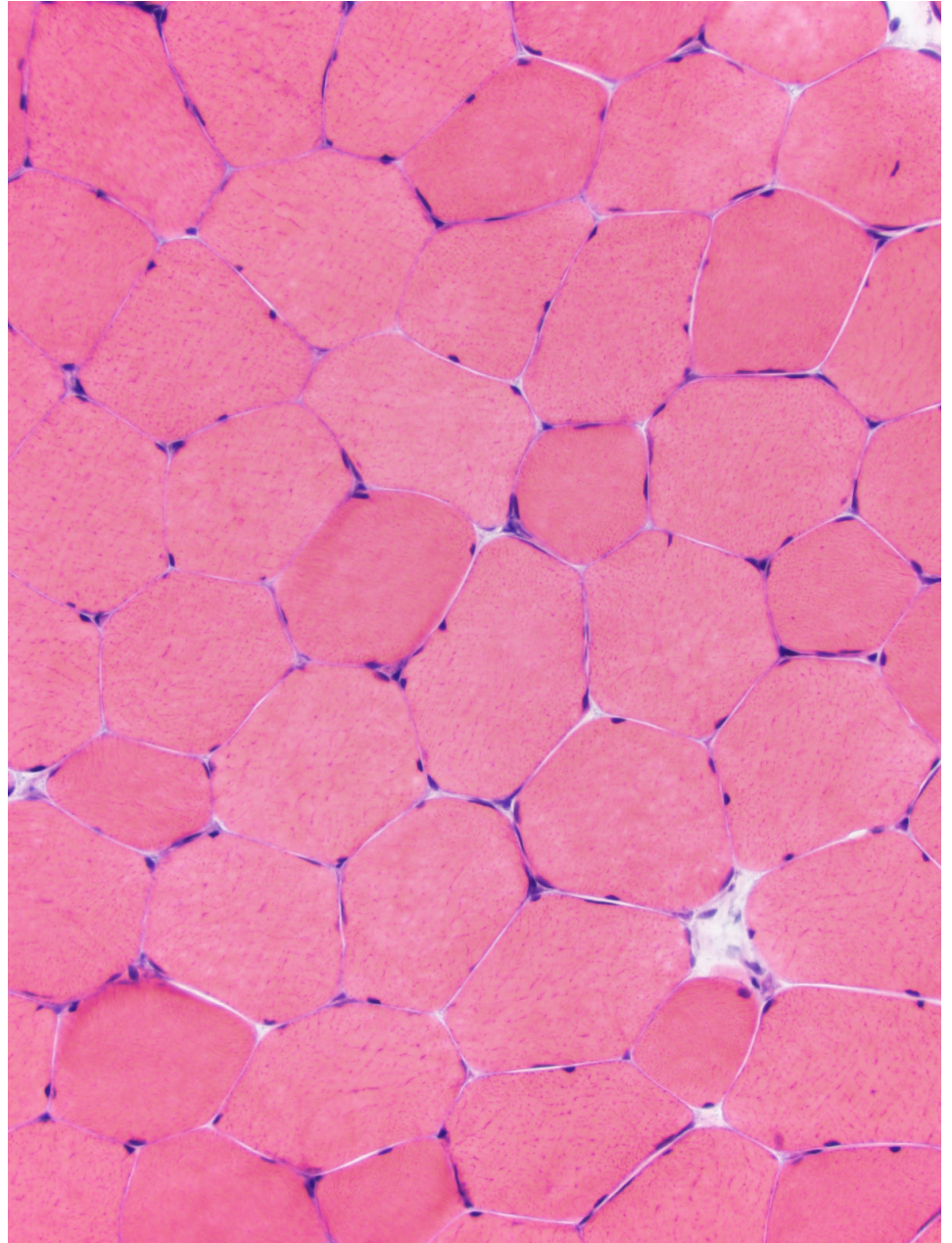
recovery of morphology

- thaw completely
- re-orient as needed
- refreeze in isopentane

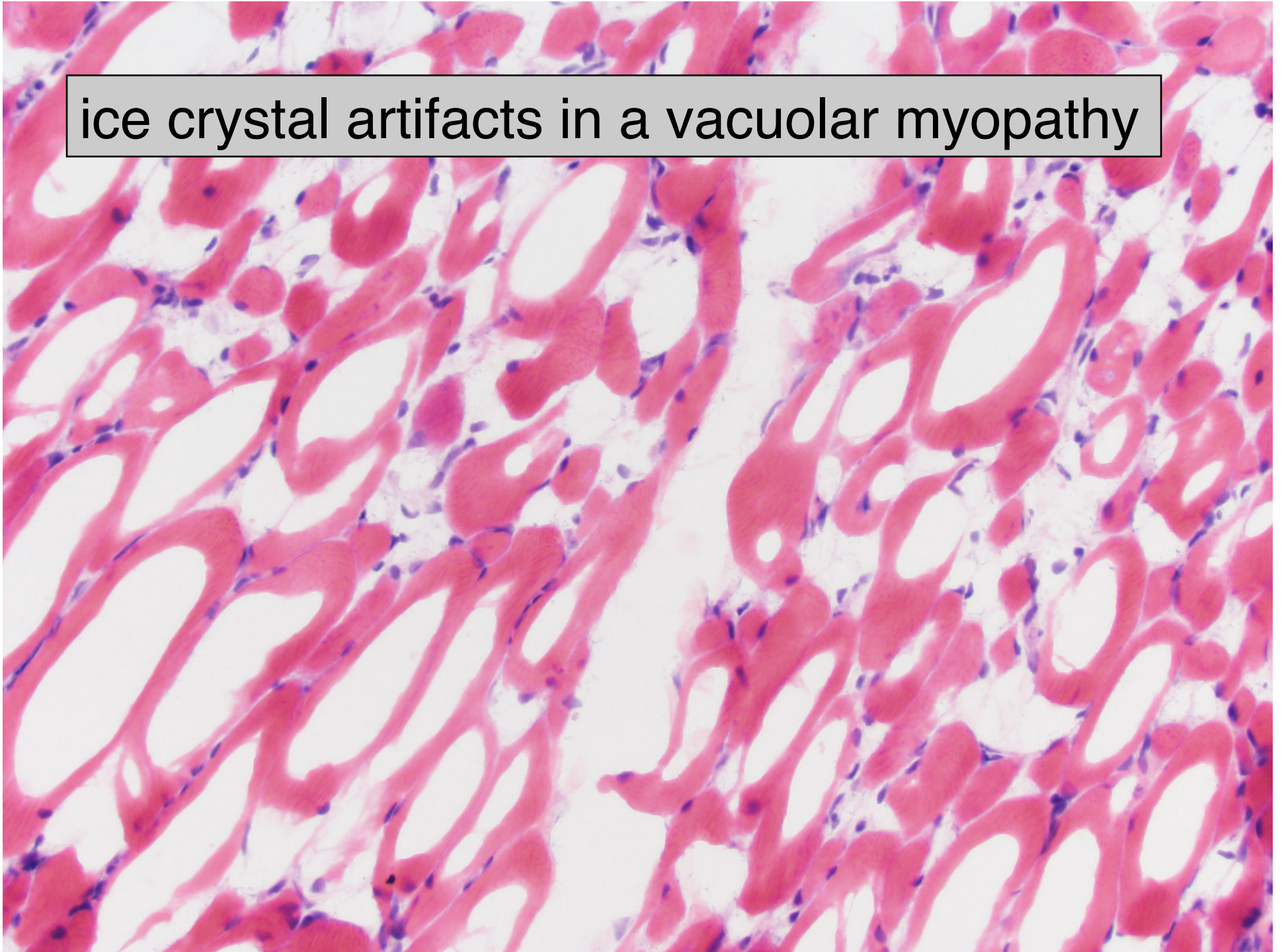
original H&E



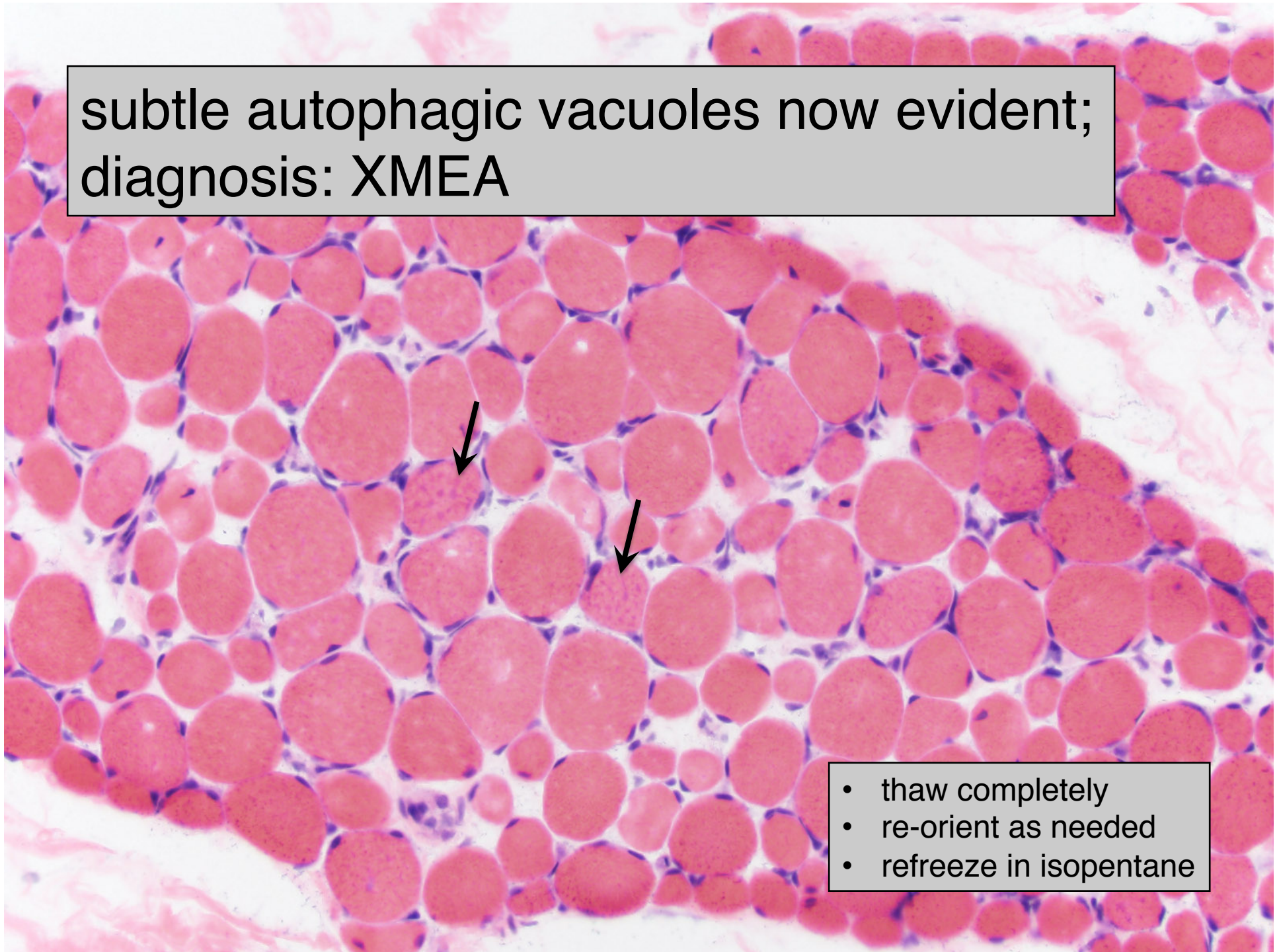
thaw, re-orient, refreeze



ice crystal artifacts in a vacuolar myopathy



subtle autophagic vacuoles now evident;
diagnosis: XMEA



- thaw completely
- re-orient as needed
- refreeze in isopentane

What next?

approach to evaluation

lowa routine

- H&E
- fiber typing
 - slow myosin IHC
 - fast myosin IHC
- NADH-TR
- SDH
- COX-SDH
- Gomori trichrome
- tailor the remainder to best fit each biopsy

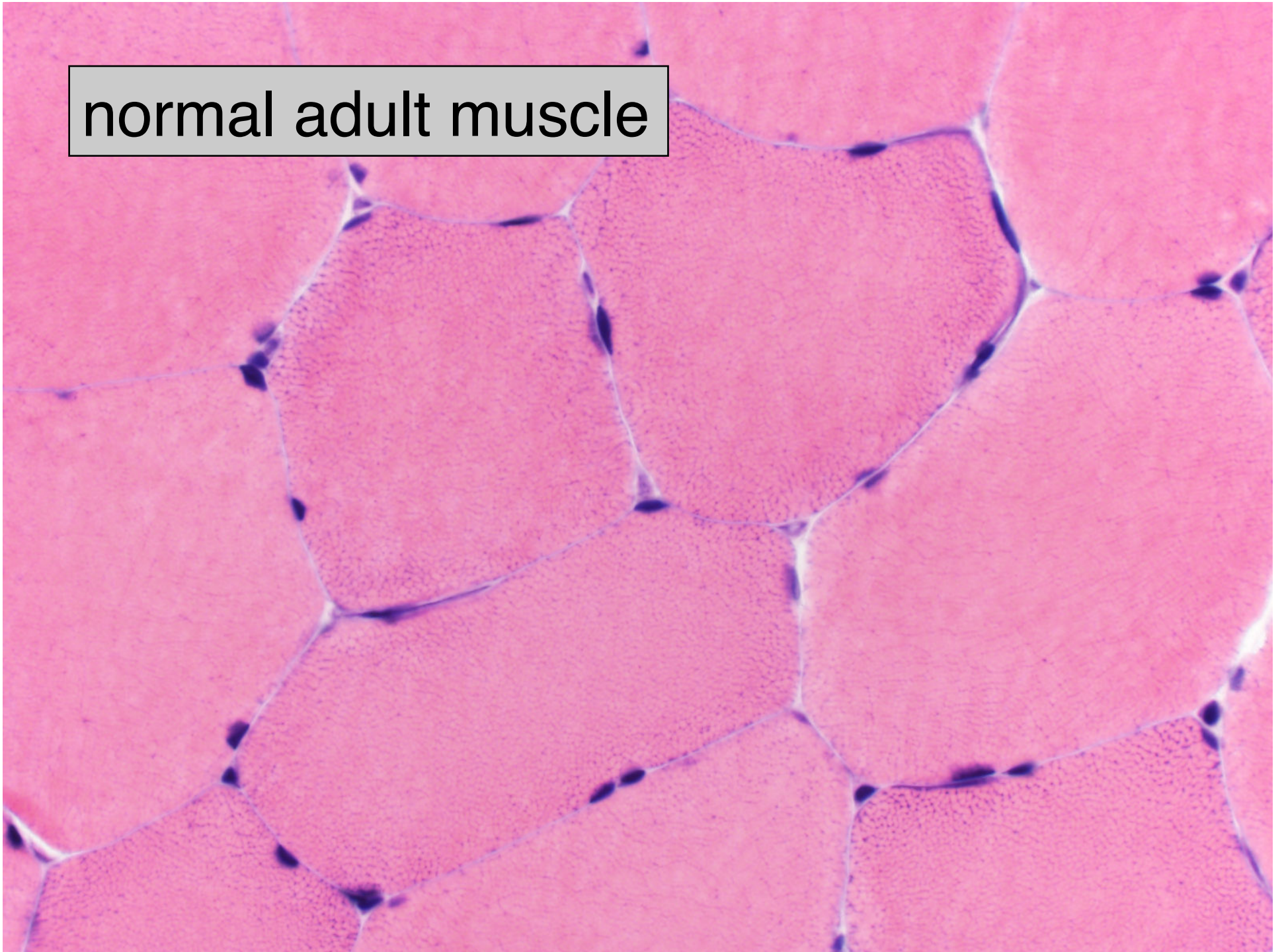
shot gun (partial list)

- H&E
- fiber typing
 - ATPase at pH 4.2, 4.6, and 9.4
 - slow and fast myosin IHC
- NADH-TR
- SDH
- COX or COX-SDH
- Gomori trichrome
- acid and alkaline phosphatase
- esterase
- phosphorylase
- PAS and PASD
- ORO
- VVG
- MHC class I immunostaining
- lymphocyte and macrophage marker IHC
- Congo red

H&E is your best friend!

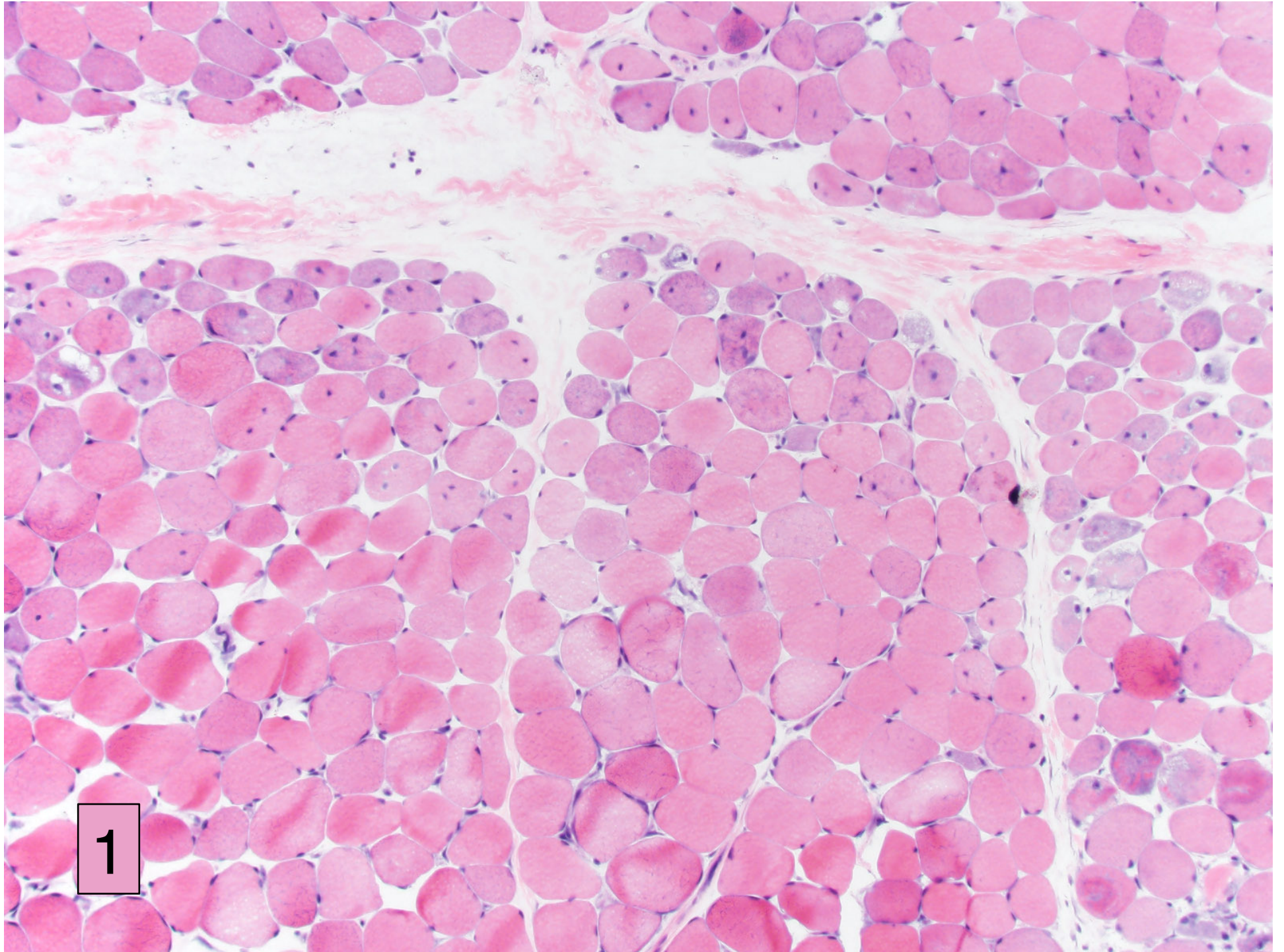
- H&E, not h&E
- Reliable for most critically important histologic/histopathologic features
 - main exceptions are fiber typing and most nemaline rods

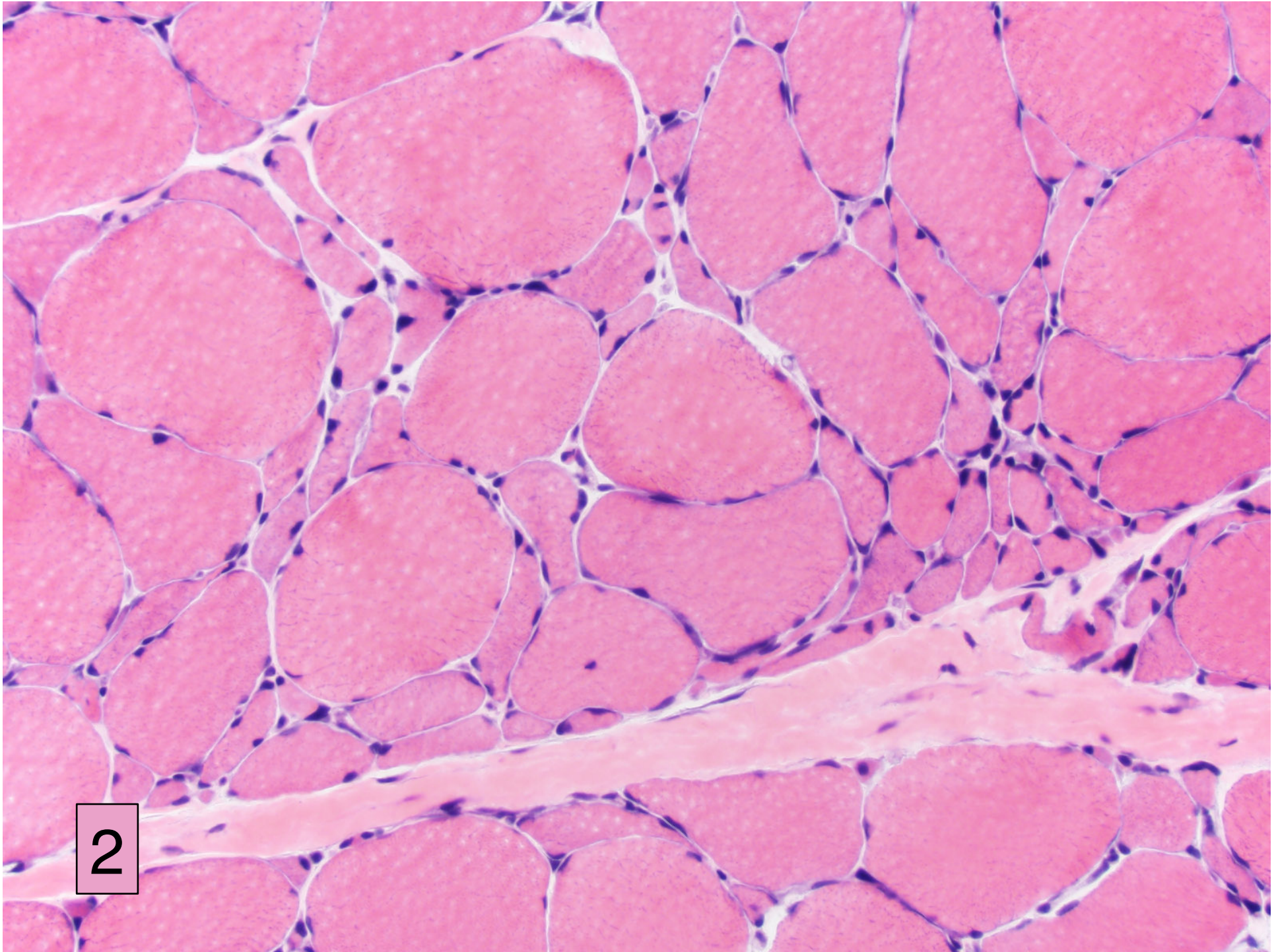
normal adult muscle

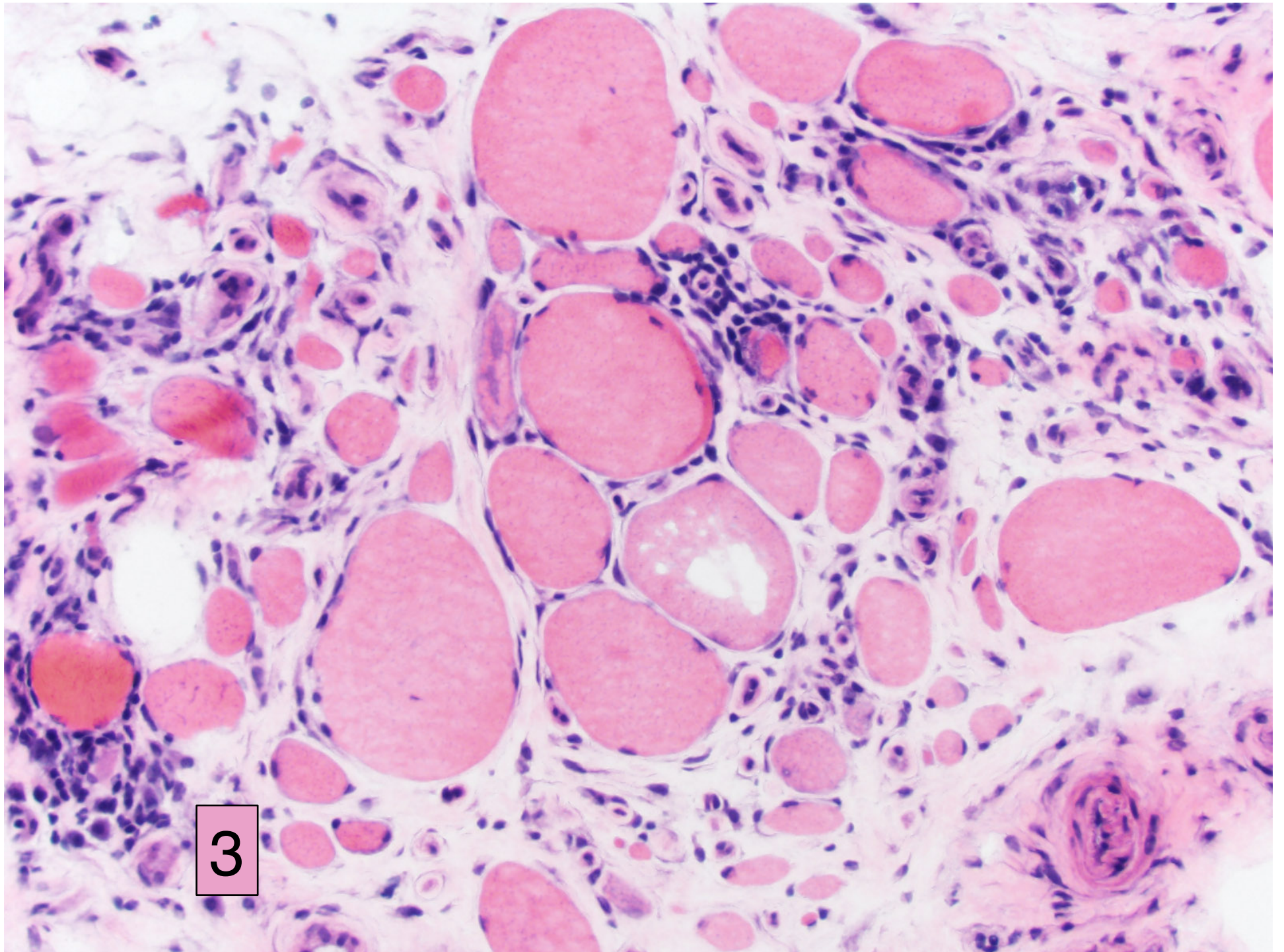


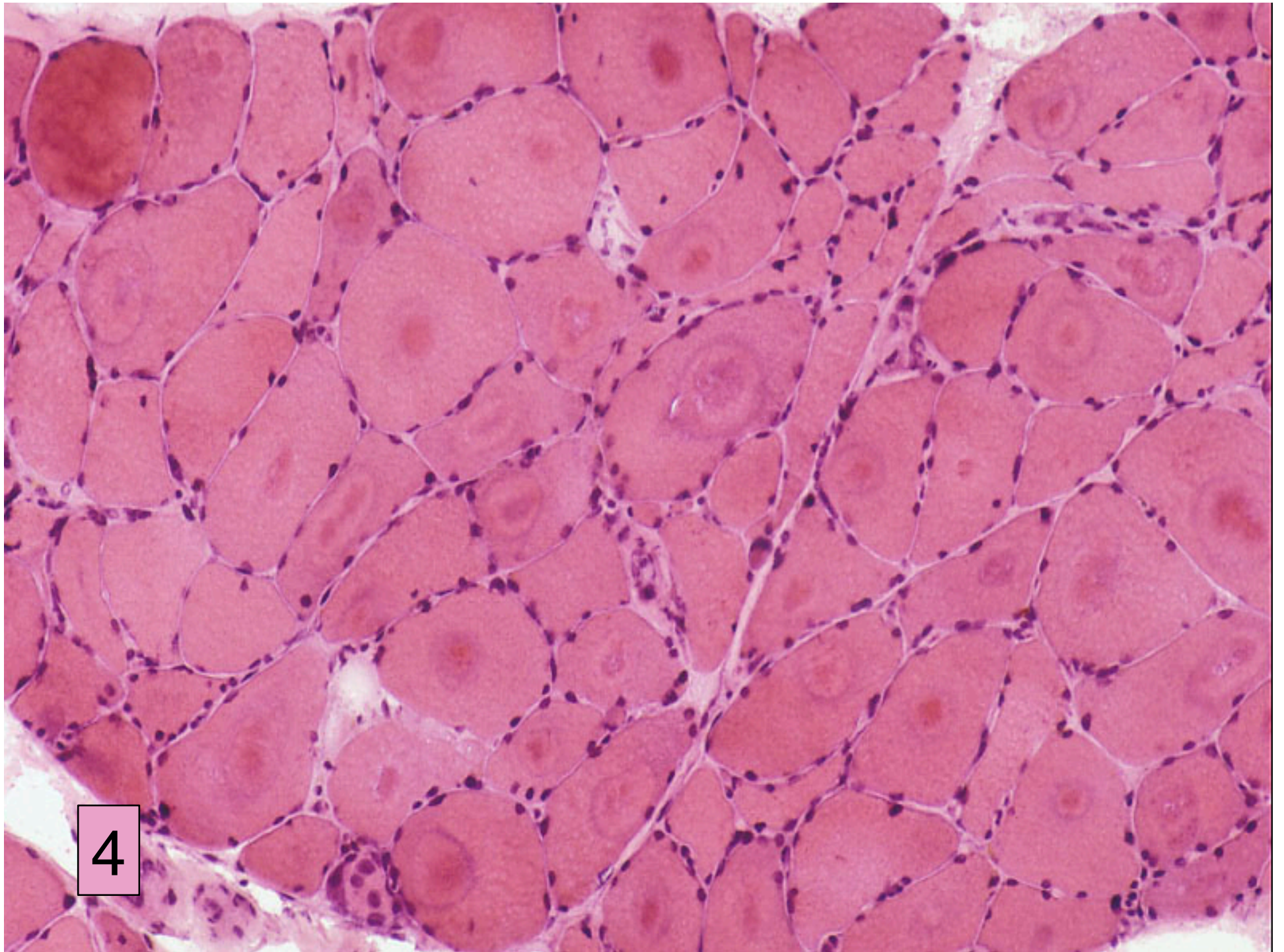
H&E is your best friend!

- H&E, not h&E
- Reliable for most critically important histologic/histopathologic features except fiber typing and most nemaline rods
- Live test - audience participation required

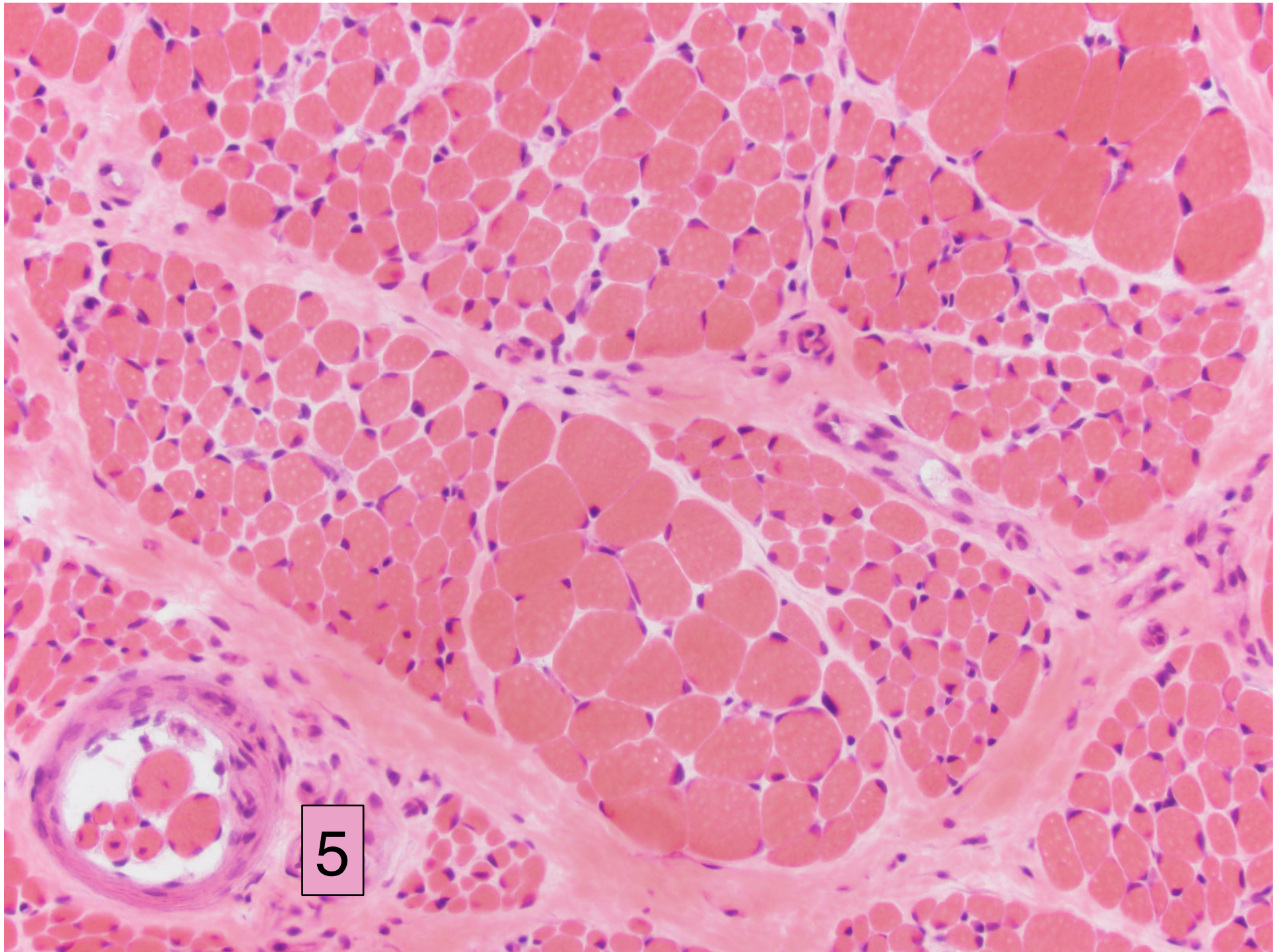


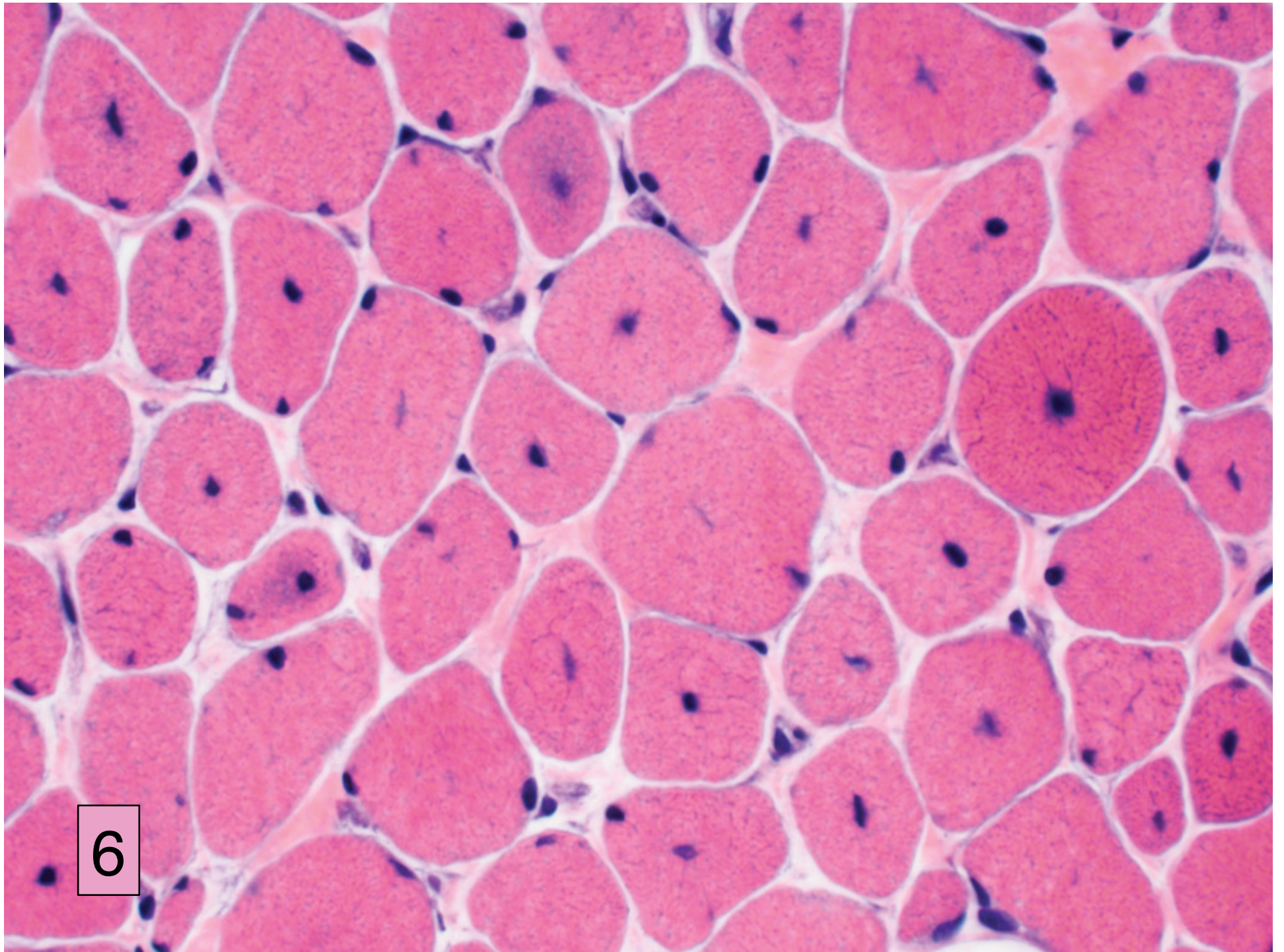


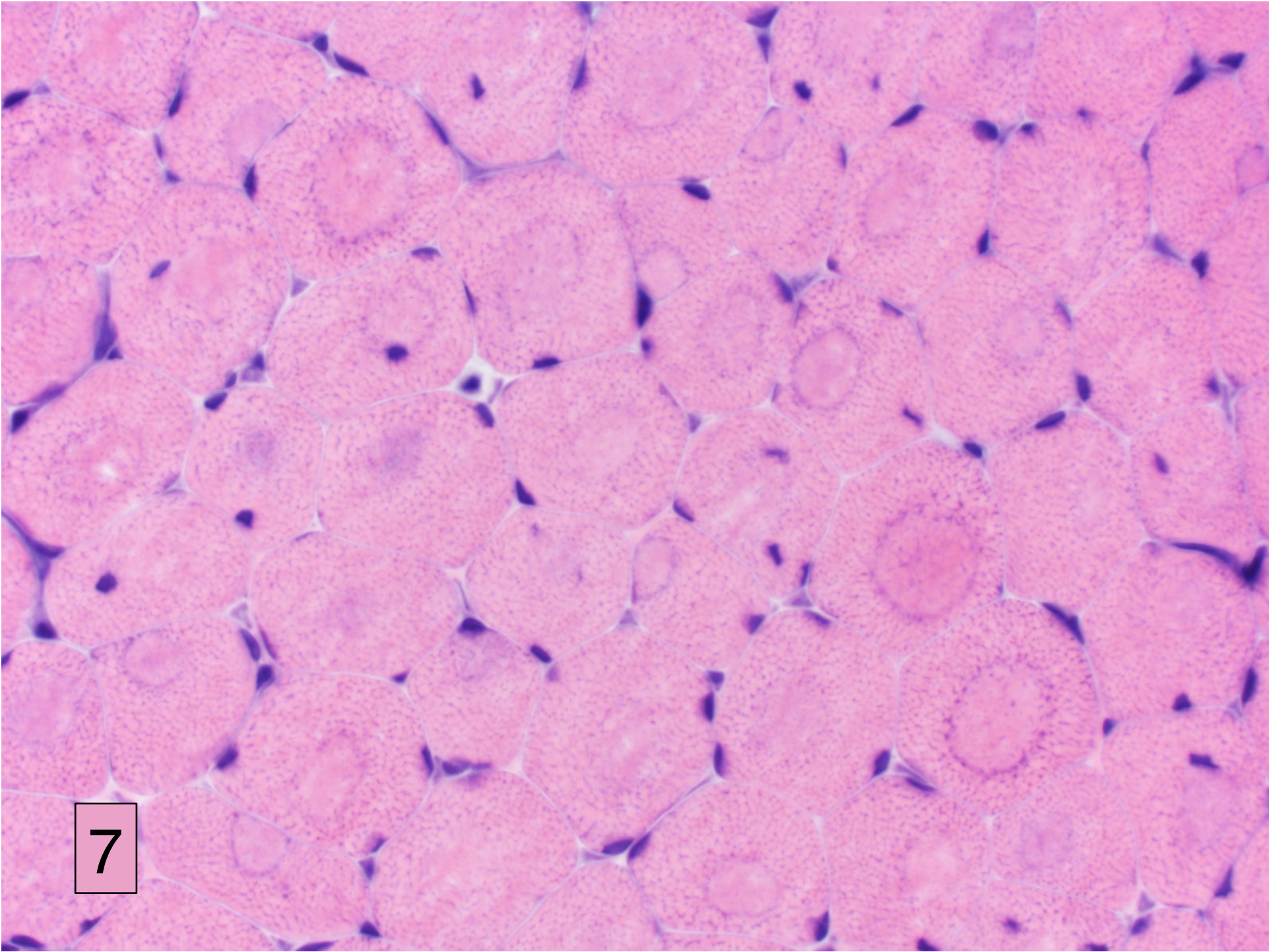




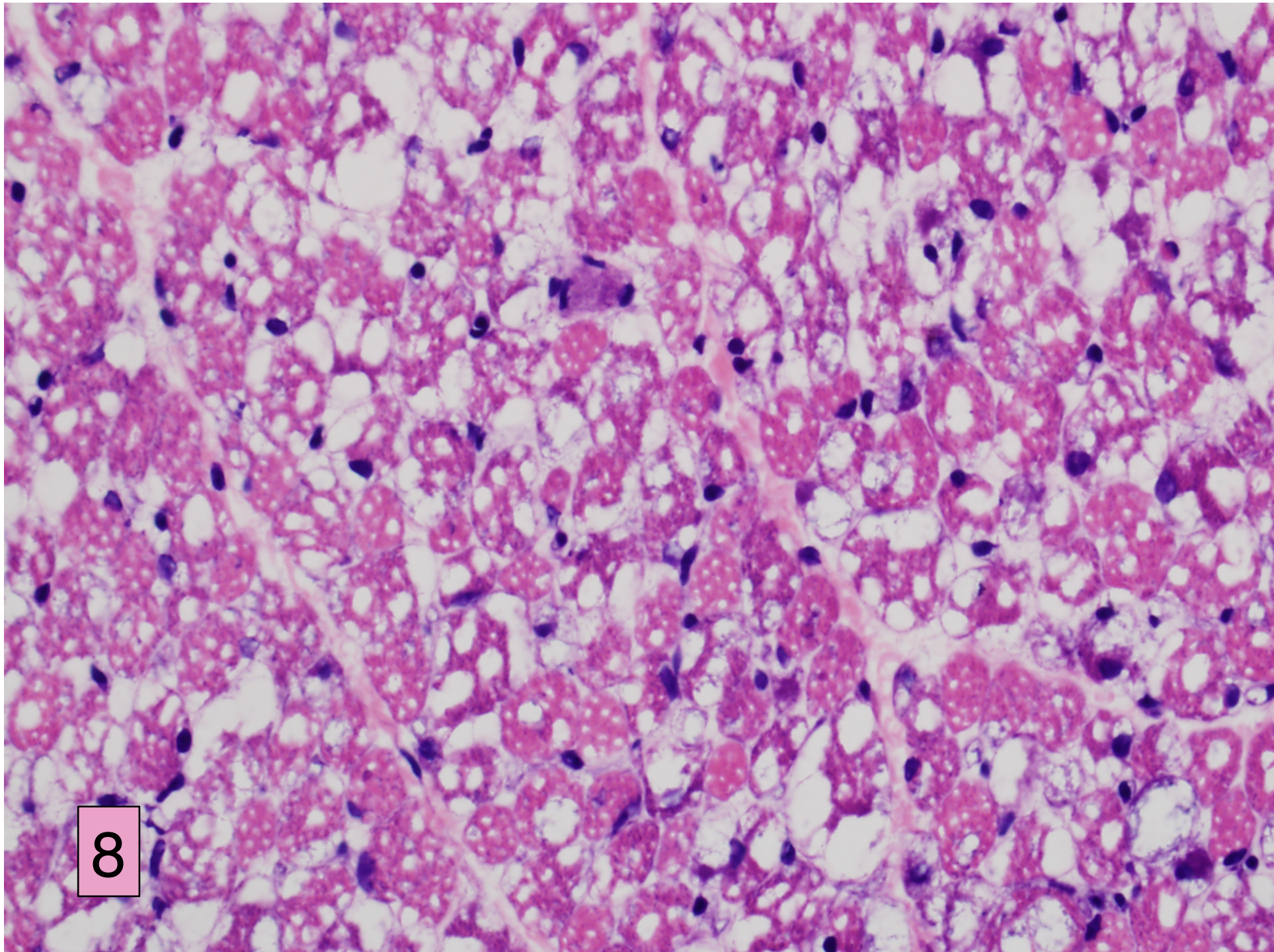
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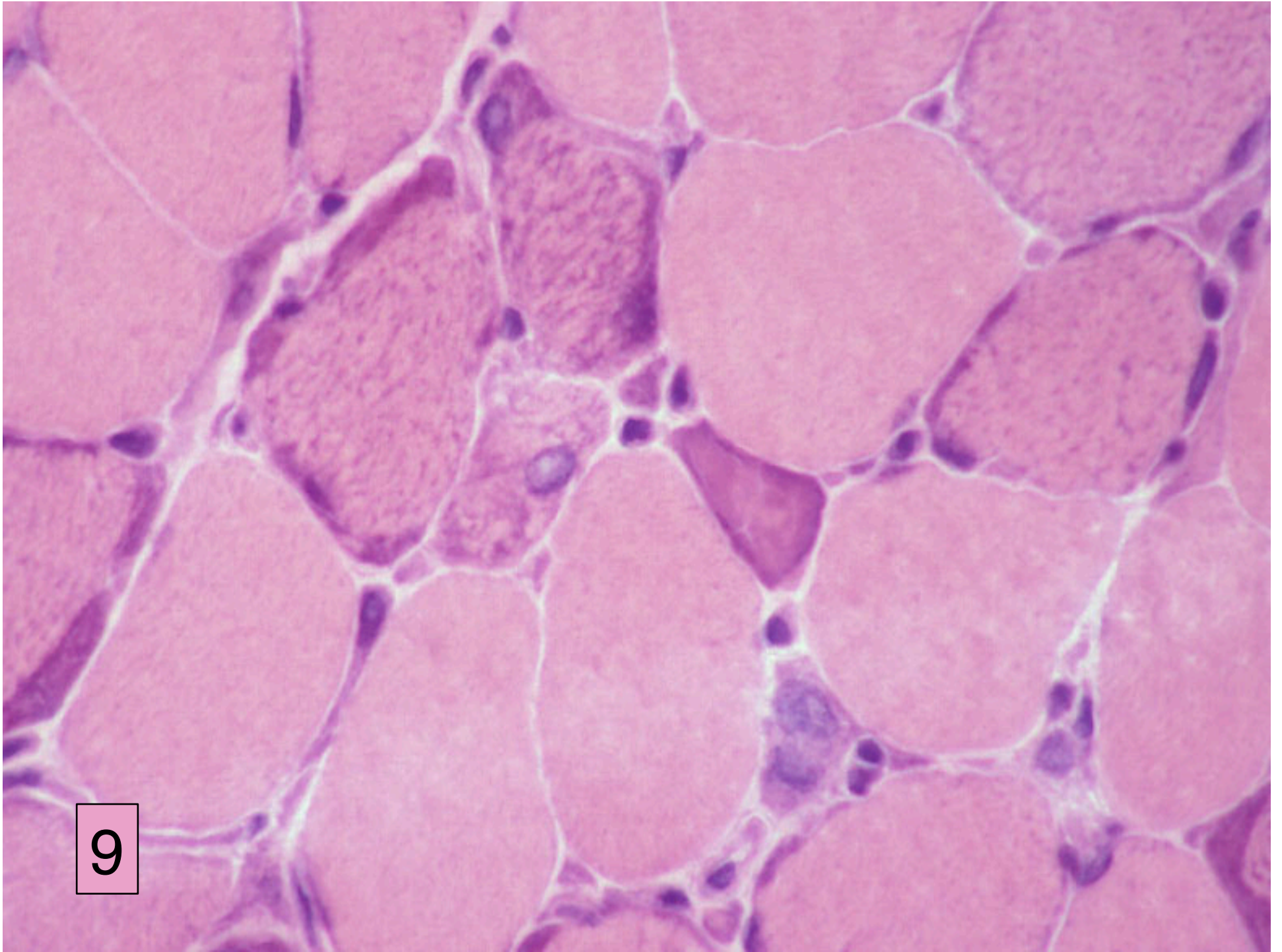




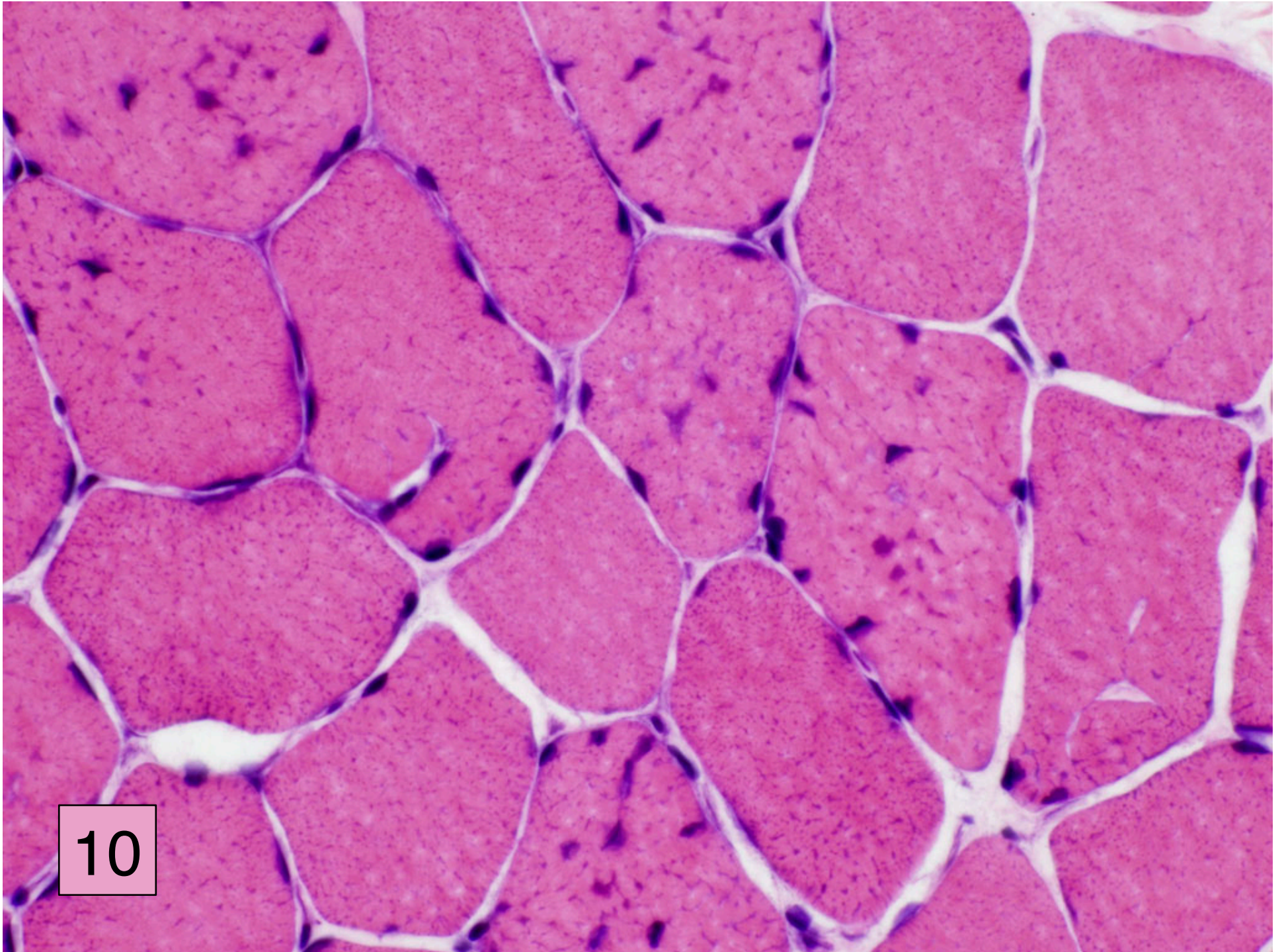
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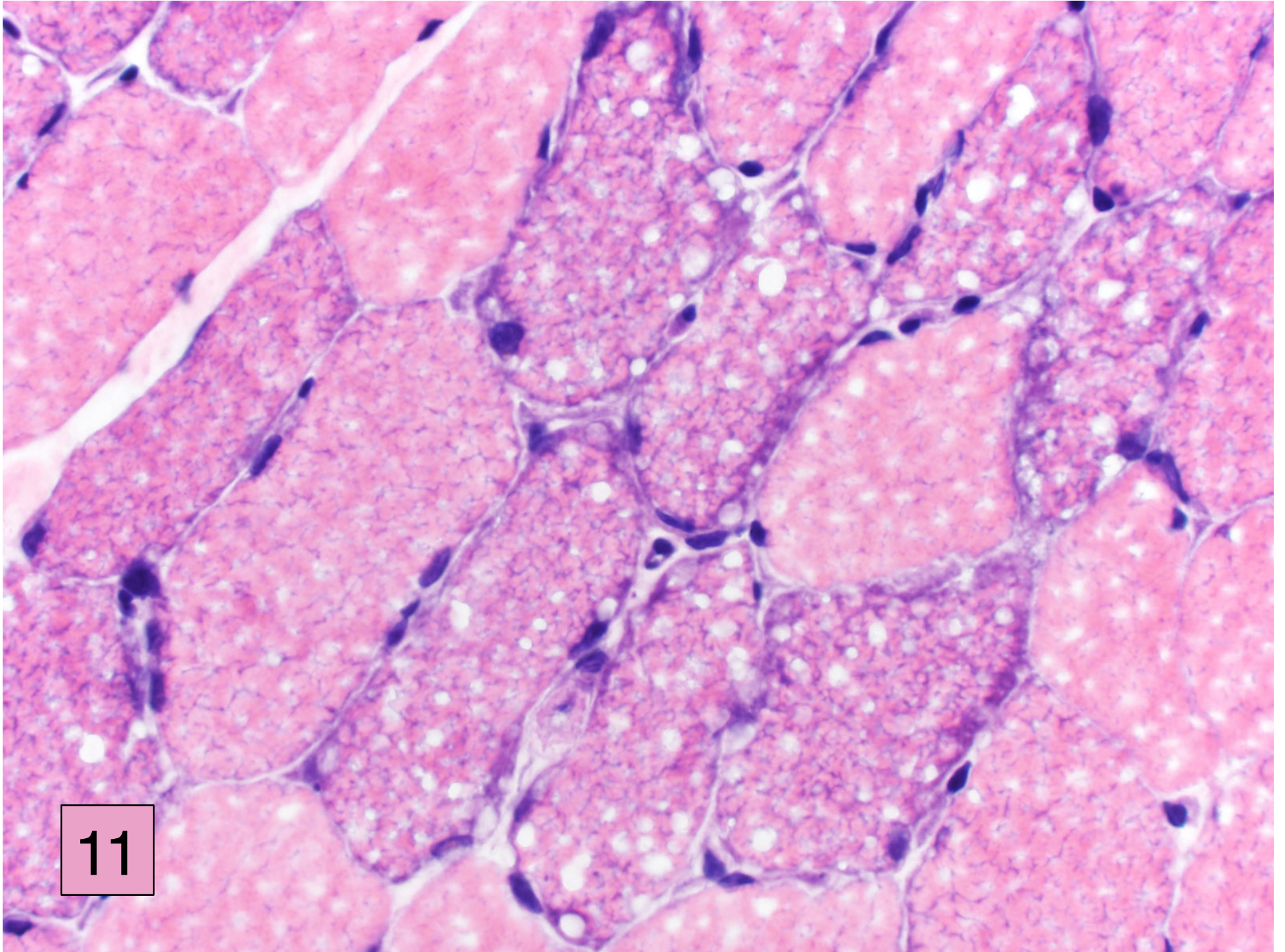
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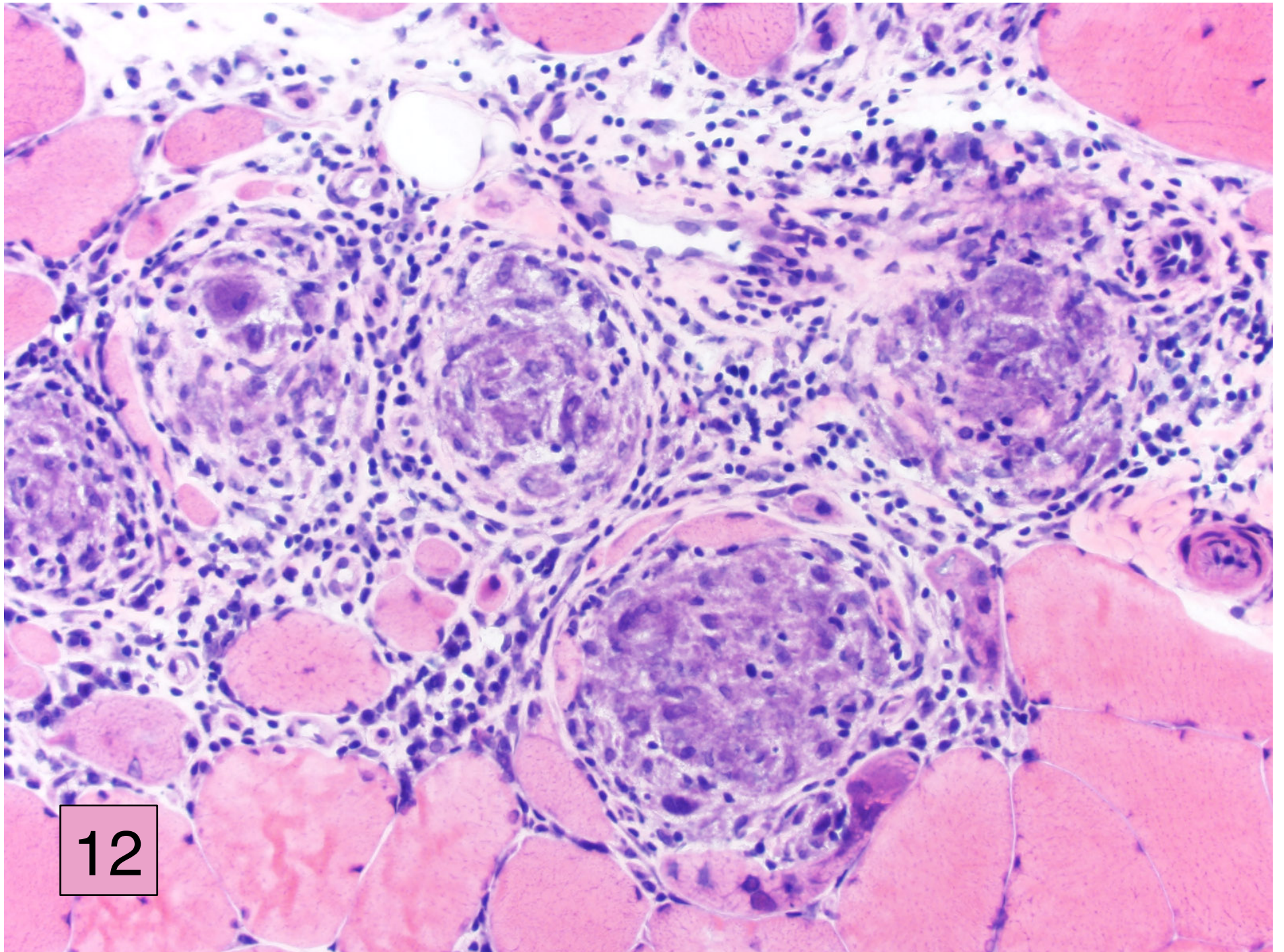


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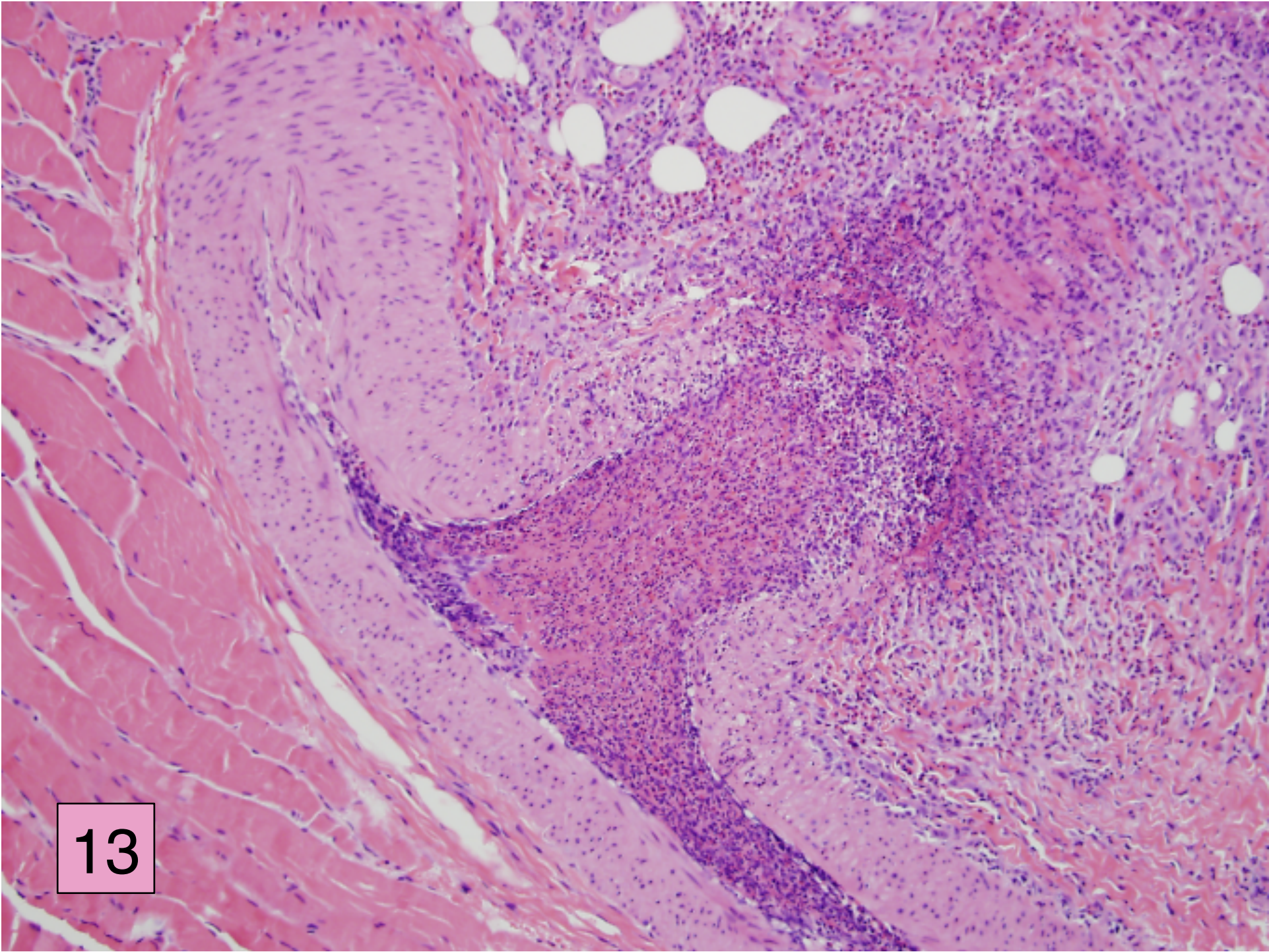


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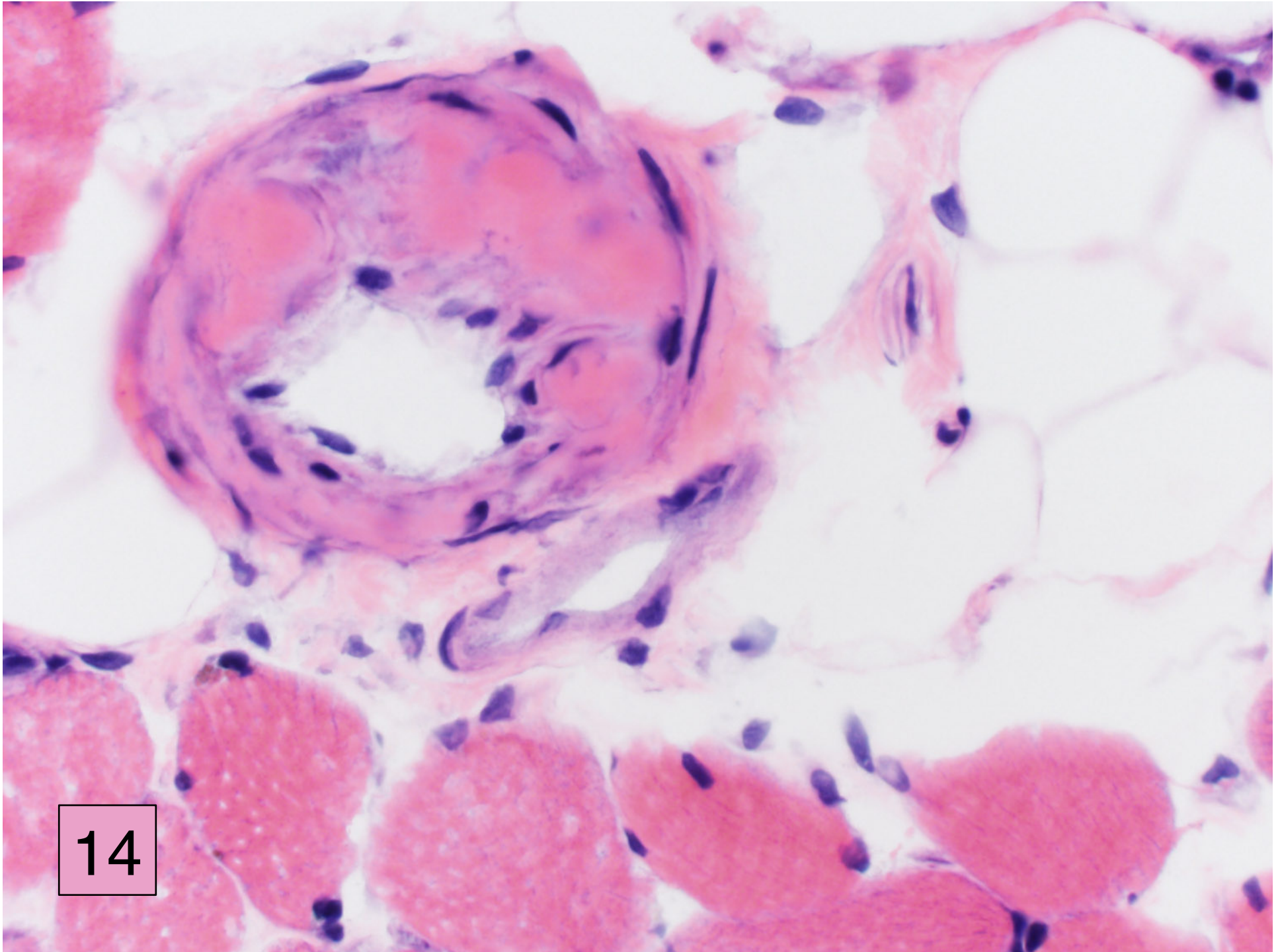


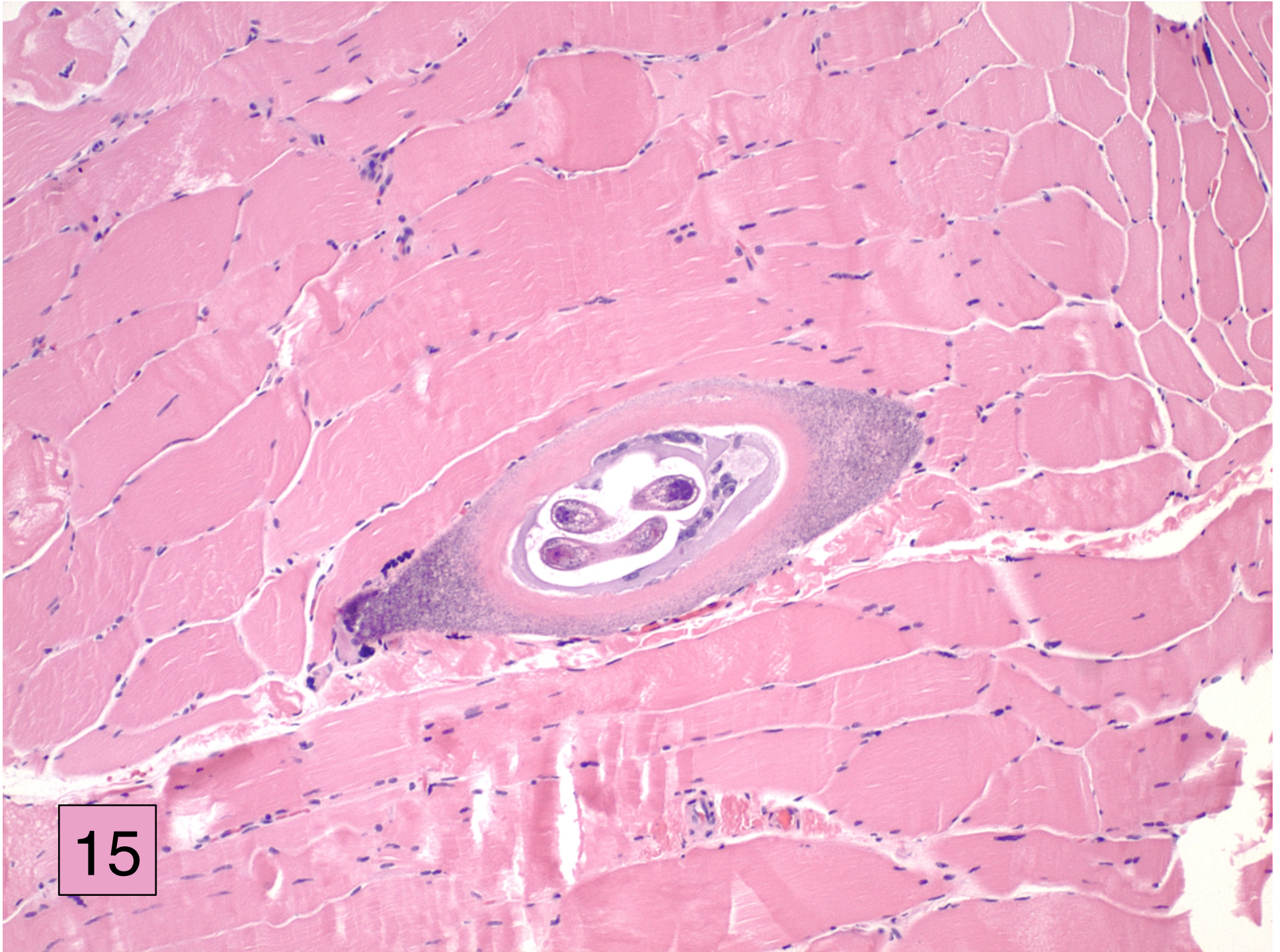


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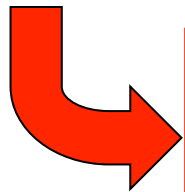




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muscle fiber types

	<u>Type I</u>	<u>Type II</u>	
action	sustained force weight-bearing	sudden movement purposeful motion	
enzyme content	NADH dark ATPase light (pH 9.4) slow myosin heavy chain	NADH light ATPase dark (pH 9.4) fast myosin heavy chain	
lipids	abundant	scant	} prefer epon sections over cryosection ORO and PAS stains
glycogen	scant	abundant	
physiology	slow-twitch	fast-twitch	
color	red	white	

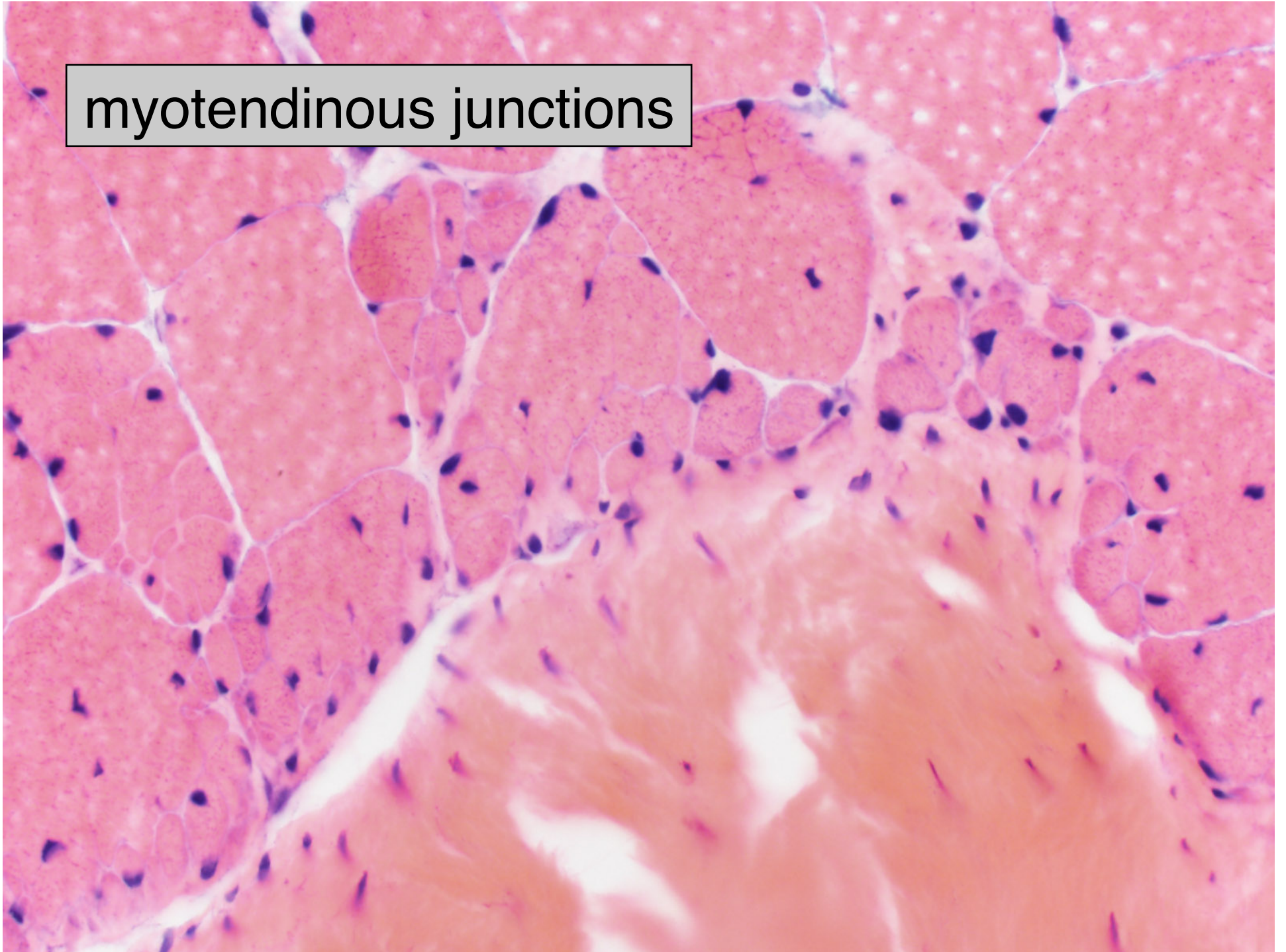


“One mighty slow fat red ox.”
- Bob Schelper, circa 1984

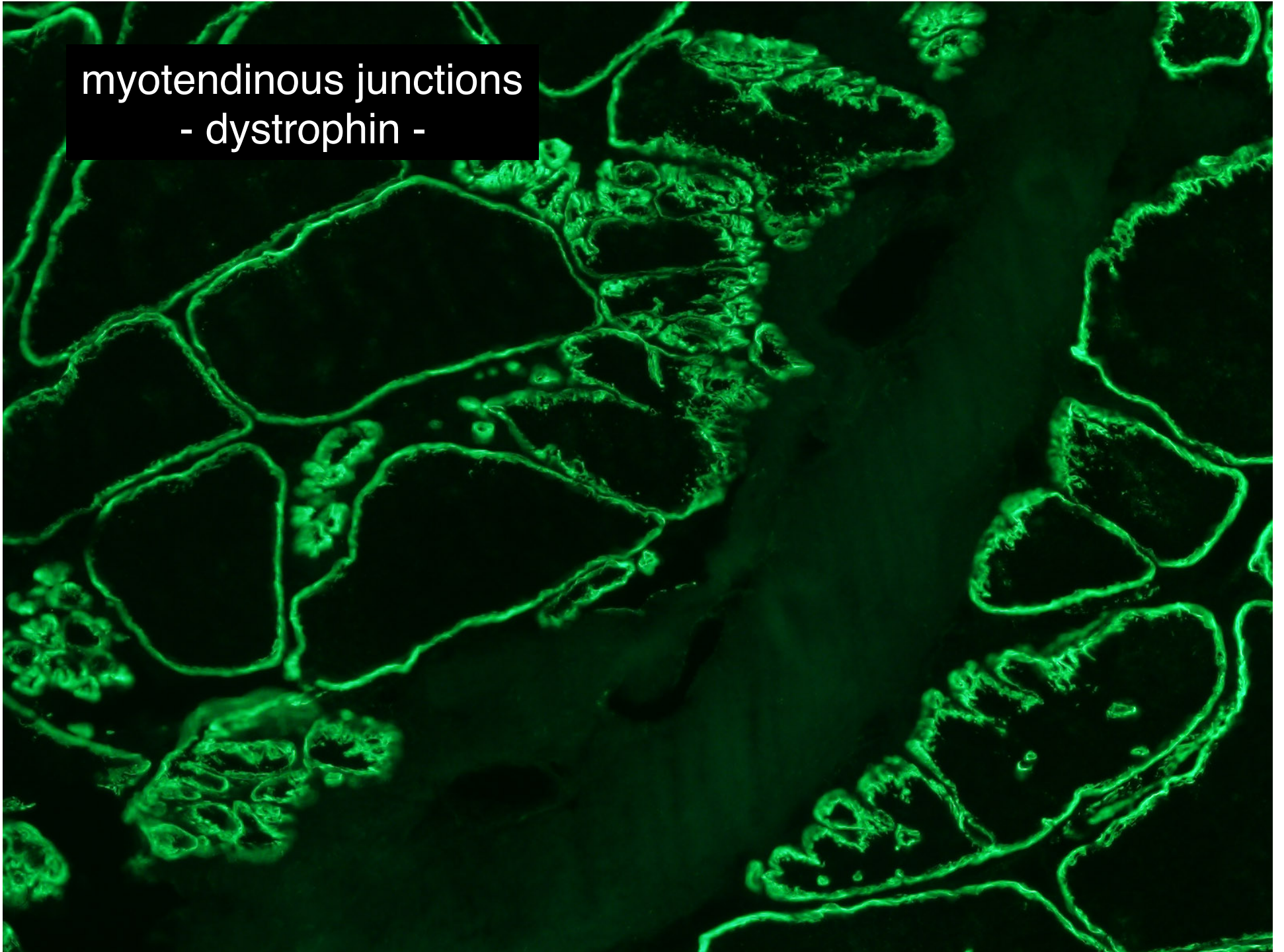
normal structures or features that may be confused with pathology

- myotendinous junctions (tendons and fascia)
 - complex splitting and numerous internal nuclei
 - sometimes, cytoplasmic inclusion bodies
- terminal branches of intramuscular nerve twigs
- neuromuscular junctions
- muscle spindles
- muscle to muscle variations (not all muscles are created equal)
 - fiber type distribution
 - mitochondrial content (ragged-red fibers)
 - endomysial fibrous tissue

myotendinous junctions



myotendinous junctions
- dystrophin -



classic biomarkers of disease

neuropathic/neurogenic

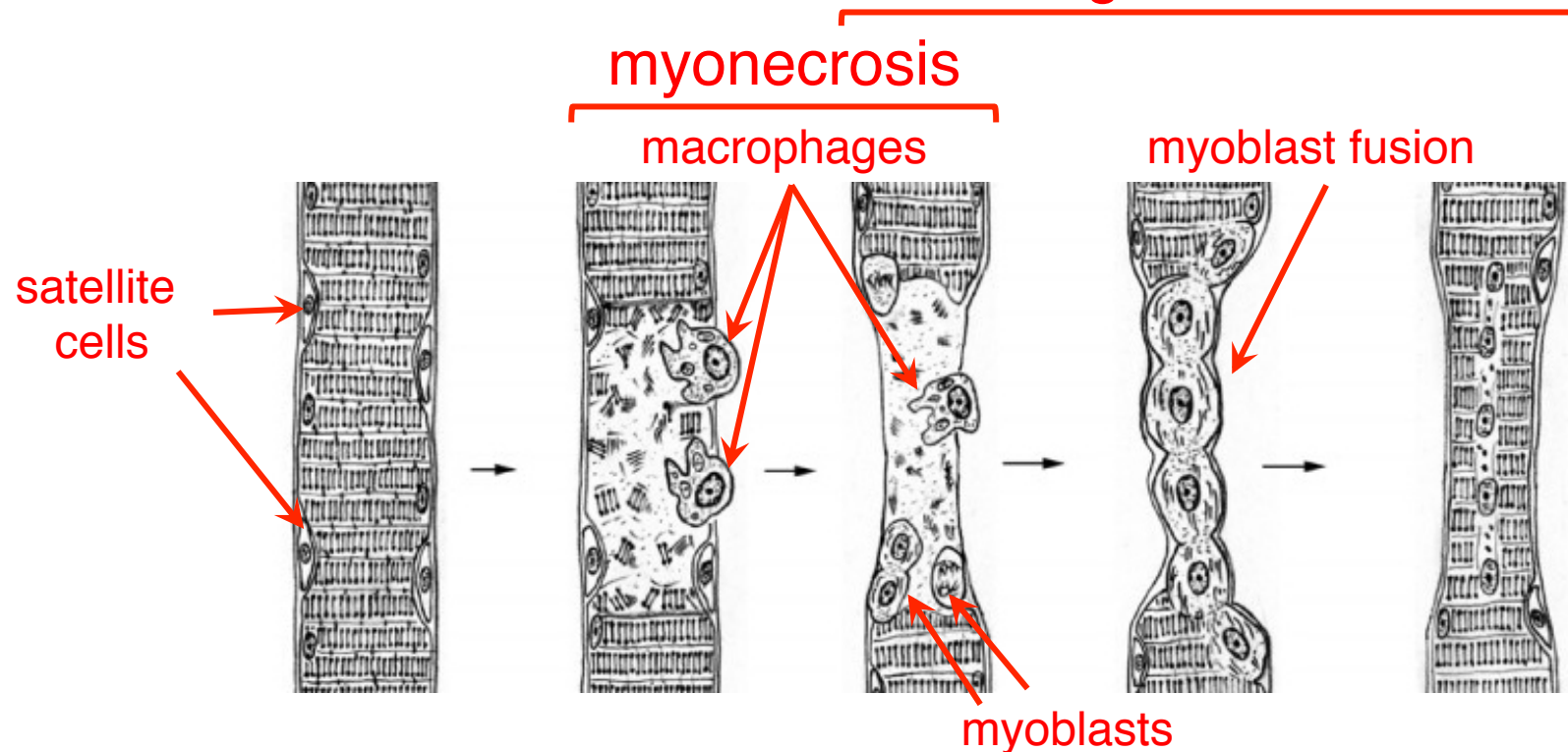
- atrophy and hypertrophy
 - motor unit distribution of angulated atrophic fibers
 - pyknotic nuclear clusters
 - SMA appearance
- fiber type grouping
- target fibers

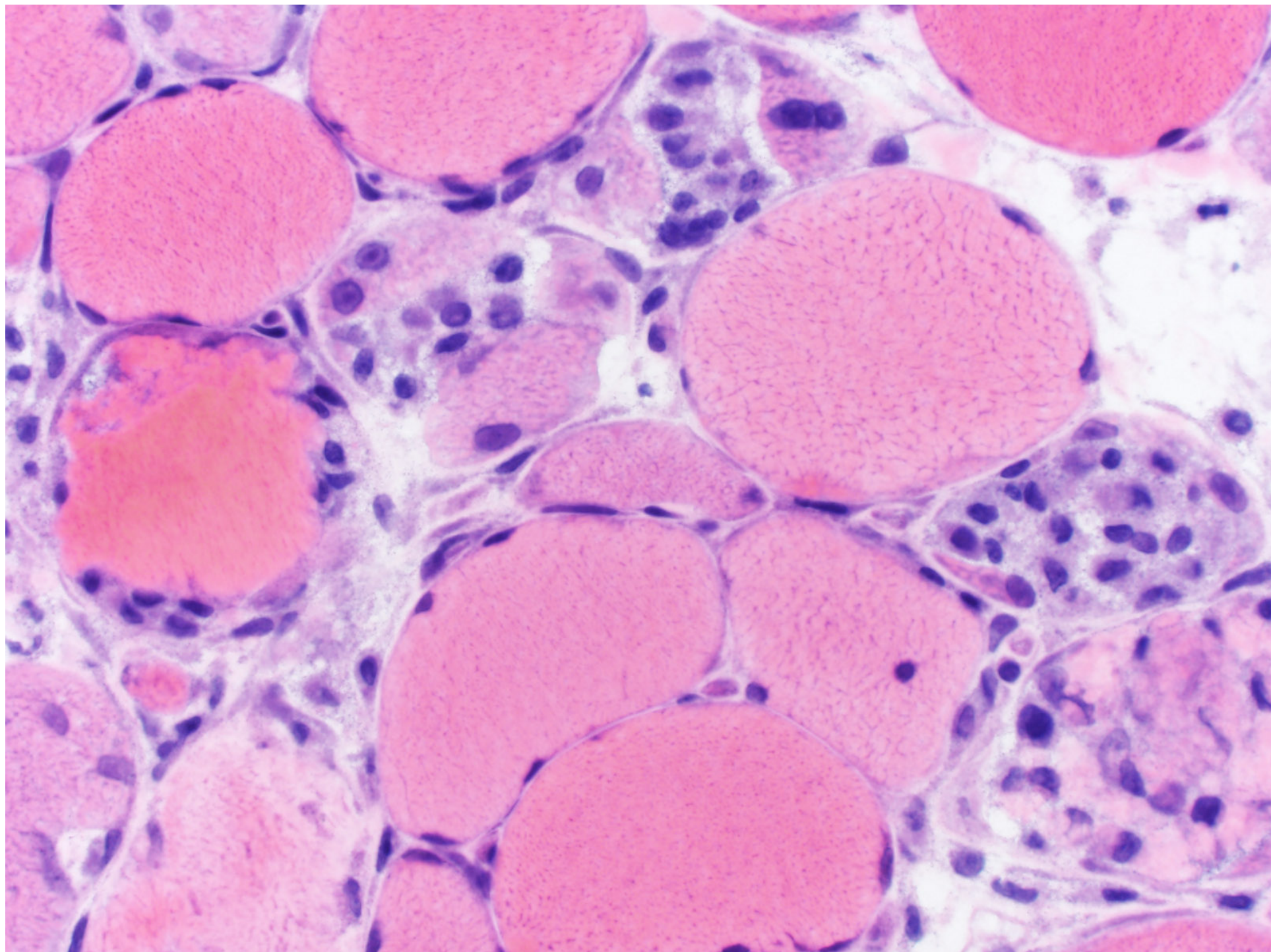
myopathic (partial list)

- atrophy and hypertrophy
 - usually scattered distribution
- fiber type predominance
- cores
- rods
- central nuclei
- internal nuclei with splits
- internalized capillaries
- ragged-red fibers, COX-negative fibers
- myonecrosis, regeneration
- autophagic vacuoles
- inflammatory cell infiltrates
- MHC class I expression
- complement C5b-9 deposition

myonecrosis and regeneration

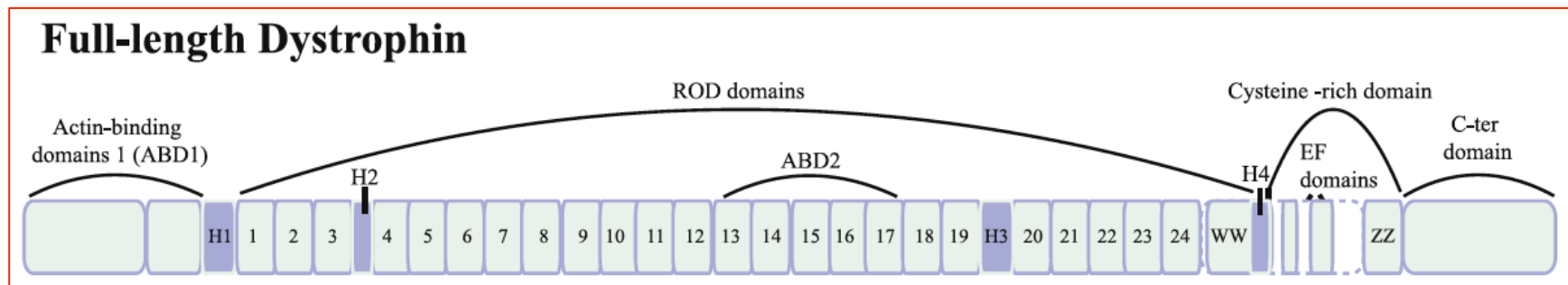
- muscular dystrophies – genetic (inherited)
- inflammatory myopathies – acquired
- toxic/metabolic – both
- secondary feature in neuropathic disease





Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD)

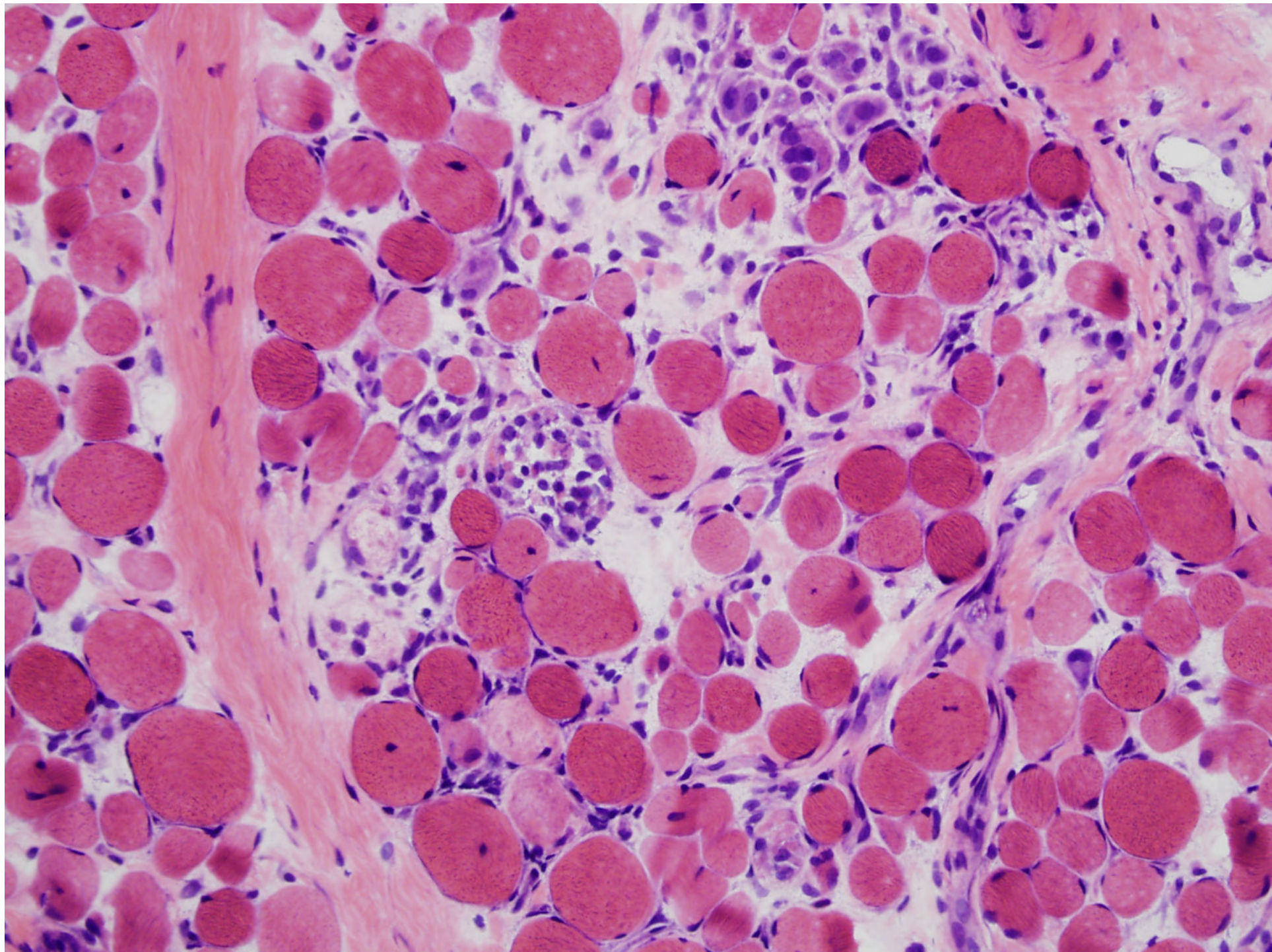
- X-linked recessive disorder
- incidence of $\sim 1/5000$ male births
- dystrophin gene (*DMD*) – 2.6 million bp
 - 79 coding exons; 14kb transcript
 - 427 kd dystrophin protein; subsarcolemmal location

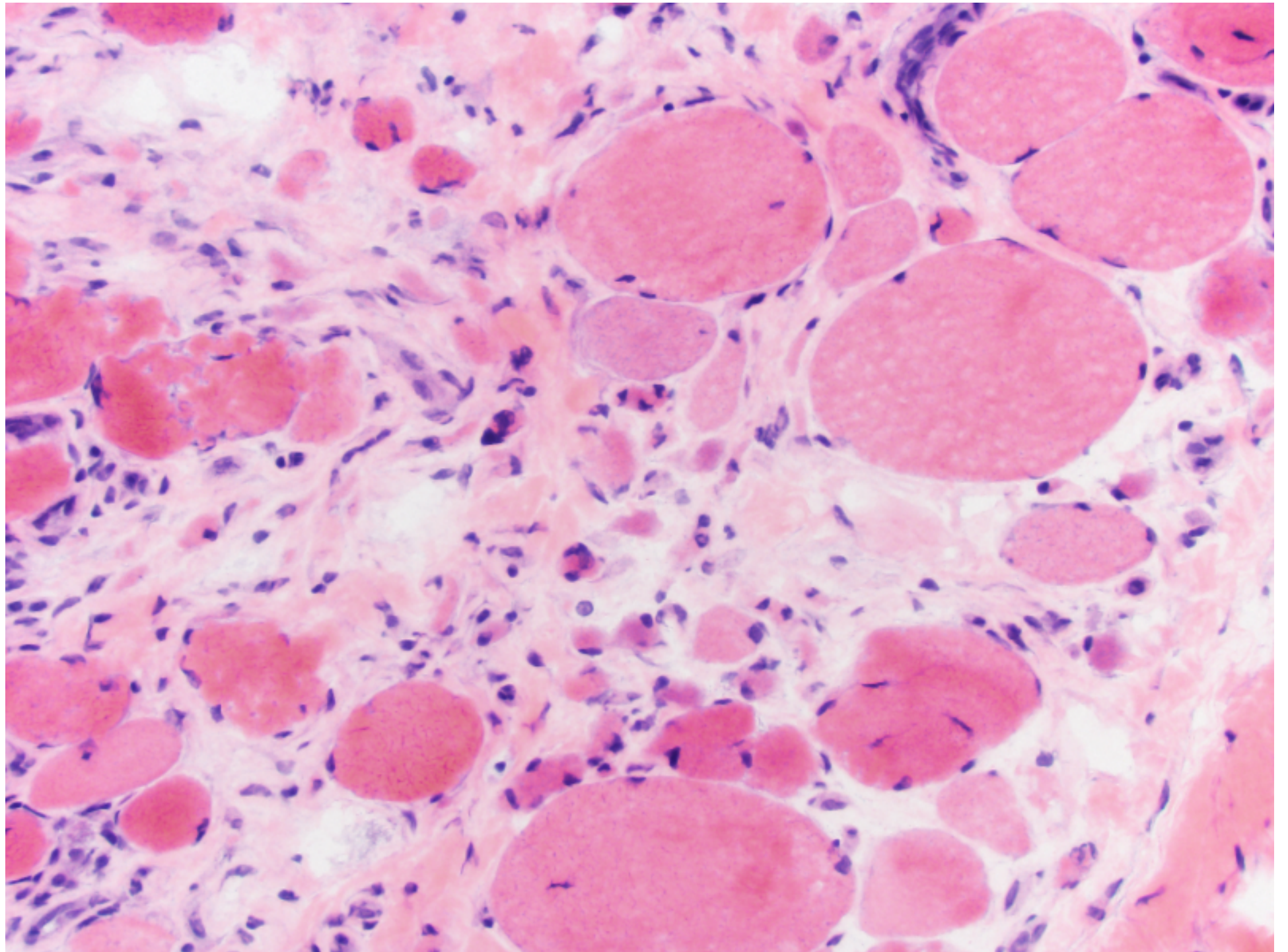


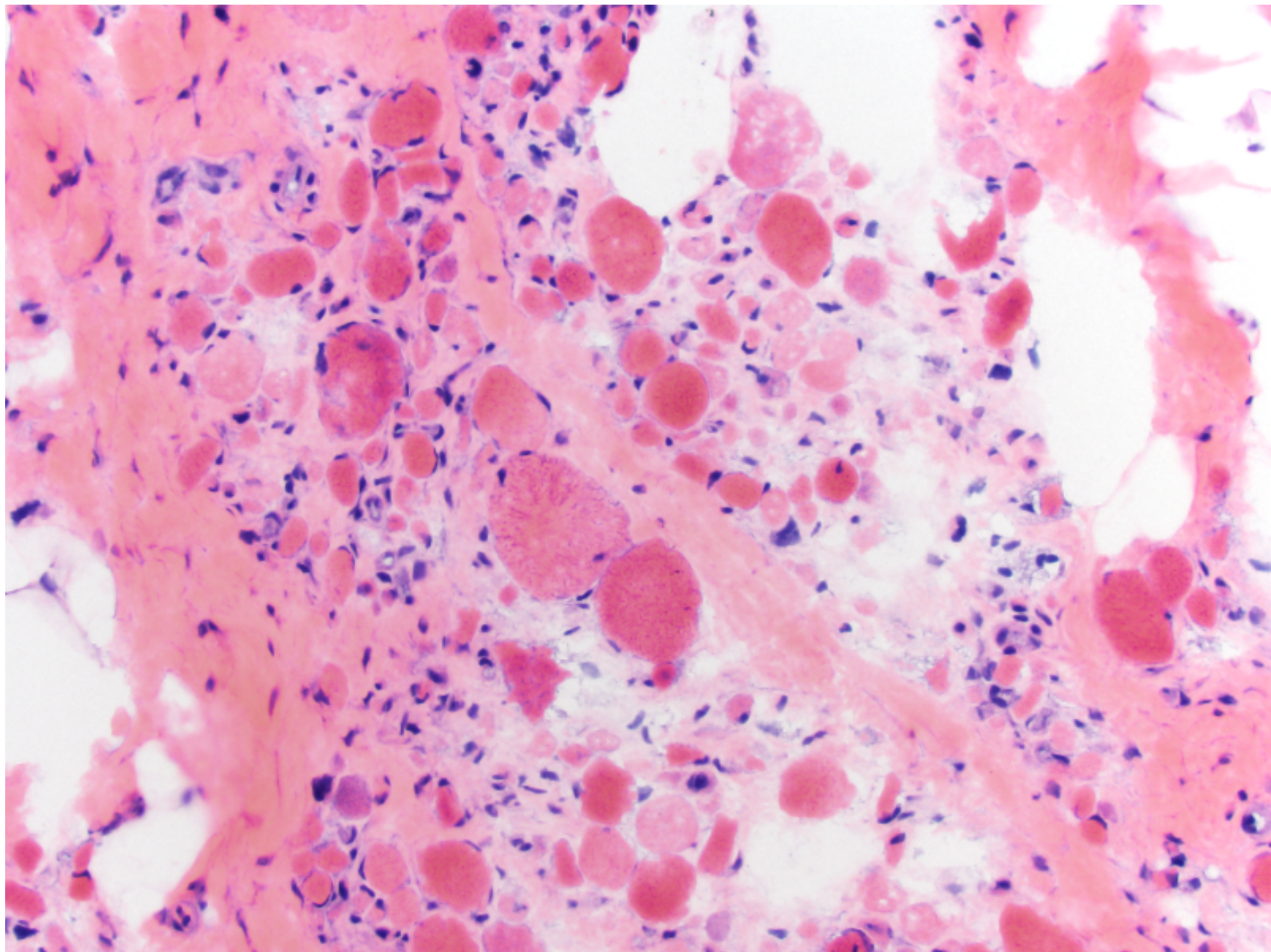
- Becker muscular dystrophy (BMD) – milder allelic variant of DMD
- female carriers, manifesting and non-manifesting
- collectively - dystrophinopathies

diagnostic approach for dystrophinopathies

- molecular genetics (>95% of patients)
 - deletion/duplication detection by targeted CGH array (~70% of mutations)
 - *DMD* gene sequencing (~25% more)
- muscle biopsy – dystrophic features
 - immunostaining
 - dystrophin western blots (select cases)



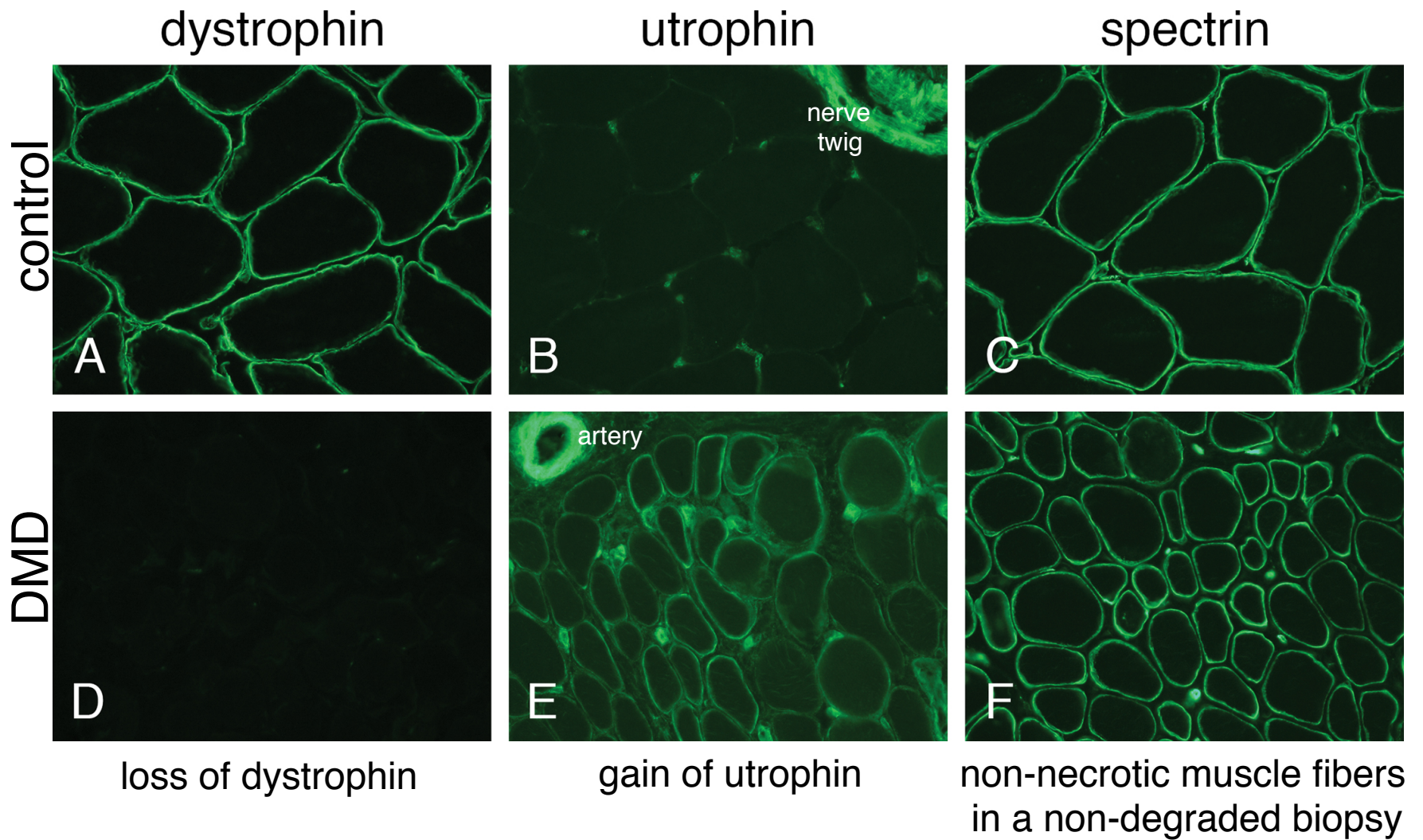




immunostaining approach to dystrophinopathies

- dystrophin (multiple antibodies)
 - carboxy terminus
 - rod domain (preferably, in frame deletion hot spots)
 - near amino terminus
- utrophin and spectrin
- dystrophin-glycoprotein complex (DGC)
 - nNOS (secondary absence or partial deficiency)
 - dystroglycans (secondary partial deficiency)
 - sarcoglycans (secondary partial deficiency)

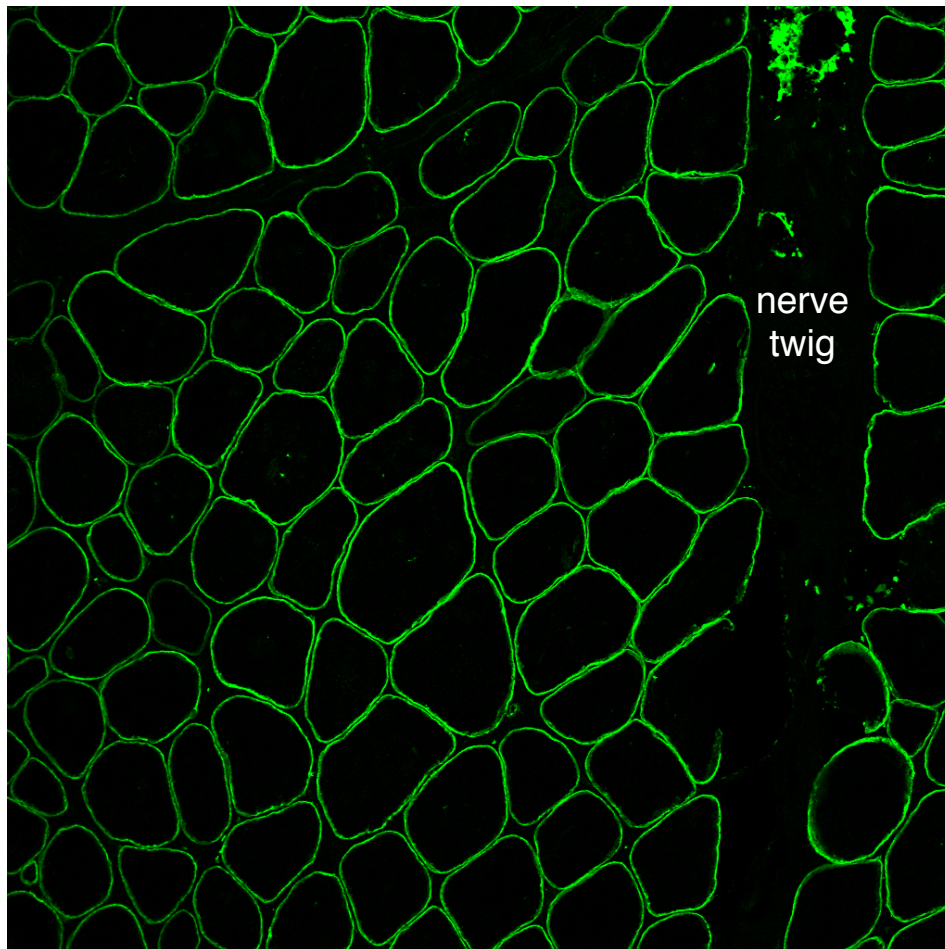
immunostaining for diagnosis of DMD



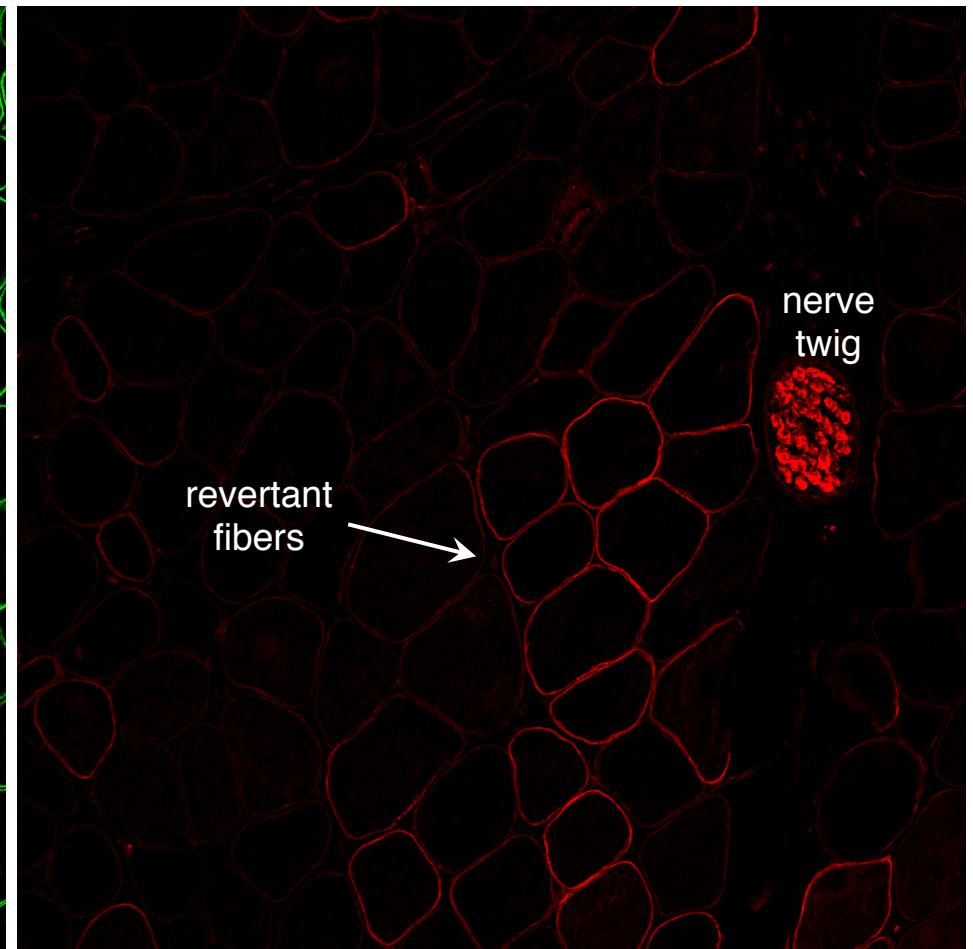
DMD muscle biopsy

dual label immunofluorescence
laser confocal microscopy

spectrin - monoclonal



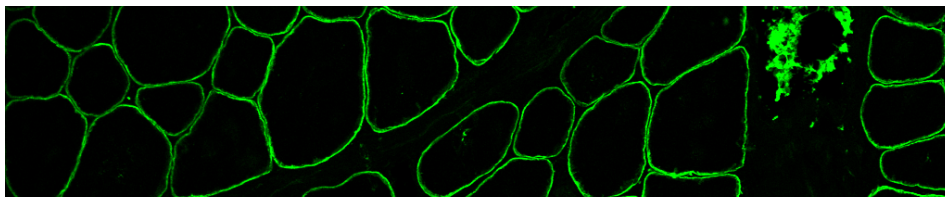
dystrophin - polyclonal



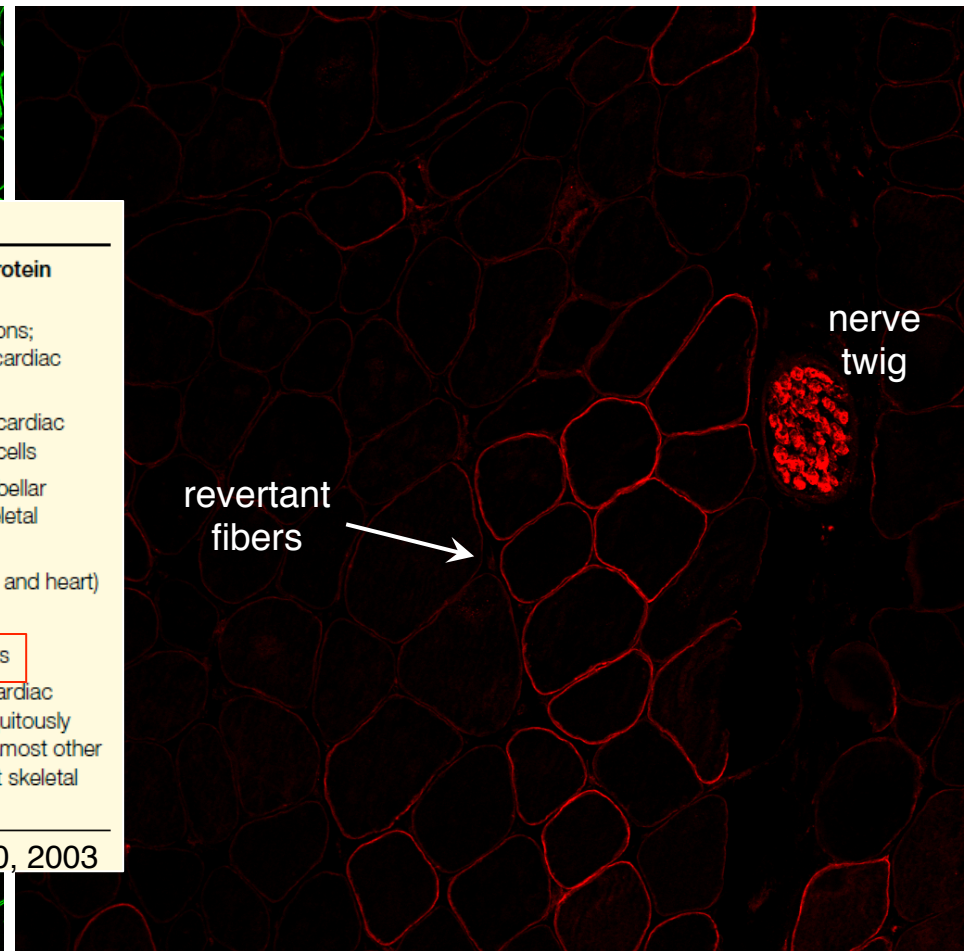
DMD muscle biopsy

dual label immunofluorescence
laser confocal microscopy

spectrin - monoclonal



dystrophin - polyclonal



Isoforms of dystrophin protein

Symbol	Isoform	Promoter and unique first exon	Protein length	Pattern of protein expression
Dp427 B	Brain (or cortical)	5' of the muscle promoter	427 kDa	Cortical neurons; skeletal and cardiac muscle
Dp427 M	Muscle	Between the brain promoter and intron 1	427 kDa	Skeletal and cardiac muscle; glial cells
Dp427 P	Purkinje cell	Between intron 1 and intron 2	427 kDa	Purkinje cerebellar neurons; (skeletal muscle)
Dp260	Retinal isoform	Intron 29	260 kDa	Retina; (brain and heart)
Dp140		Intron 44	140 kDa	CNS; kidney
Dp116	S-dystrophin	Intron 55	116 kDa	Schwann cells
Dp71	G-dystrophin	Intron 62	71 kDa	Brain; liver; cardiac muscle; (ubiquitously expressed in most other tissue but not skeletal muscle)

Expression is low in tissues in brackets.

Lancet Neurology 2:731-740, 2003

Commonly used anti-dystrophin antibodies can miss some BMD patients, if the in frame deletion has only a minimal affect on the amount of dystrophin expressed.

- [illegible]

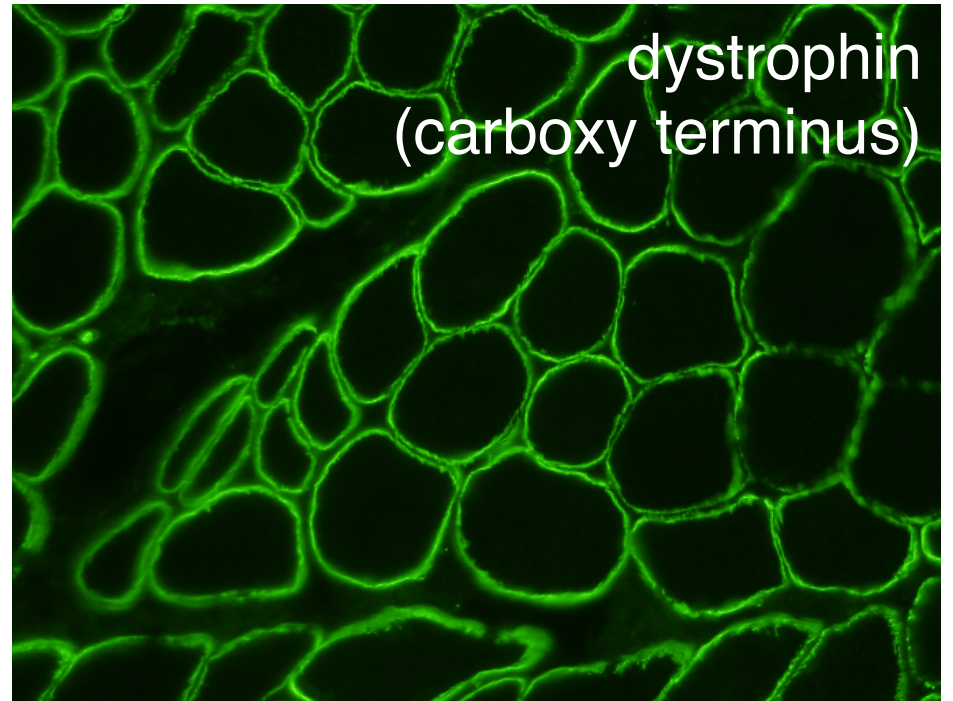
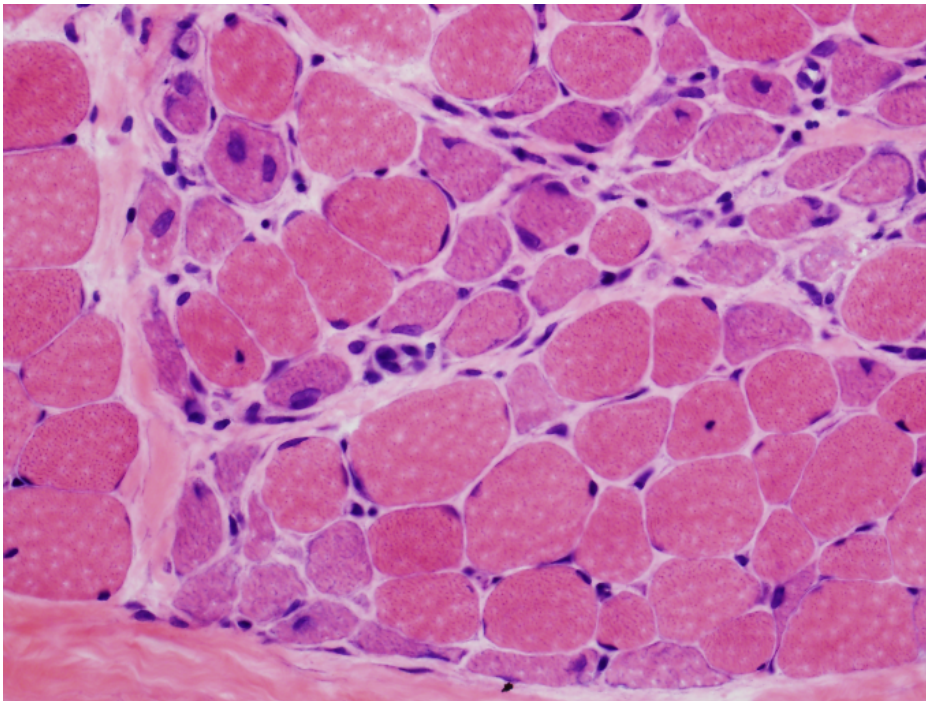
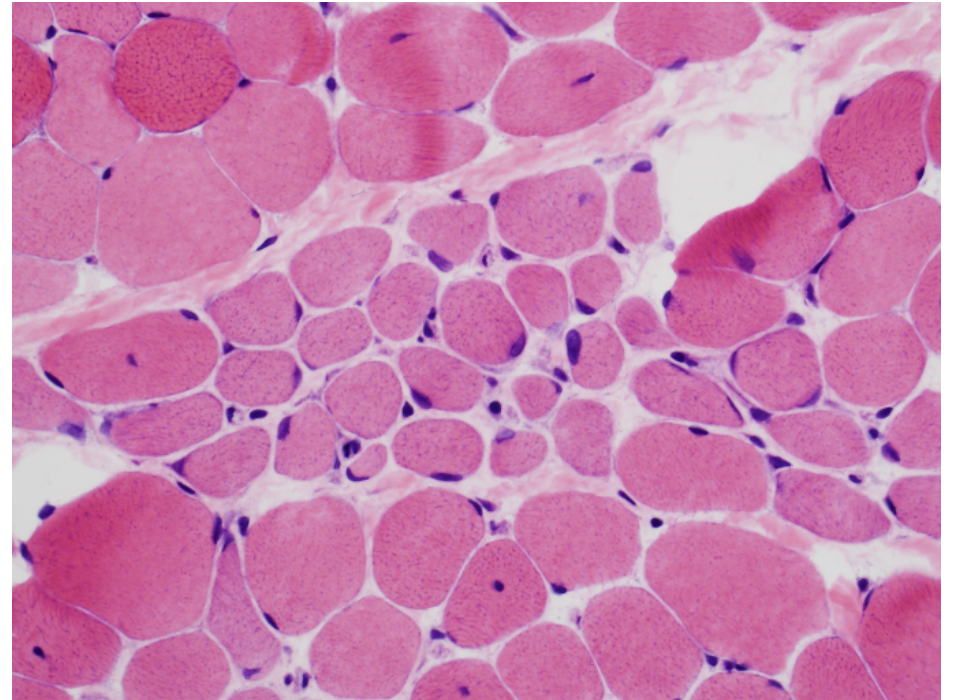
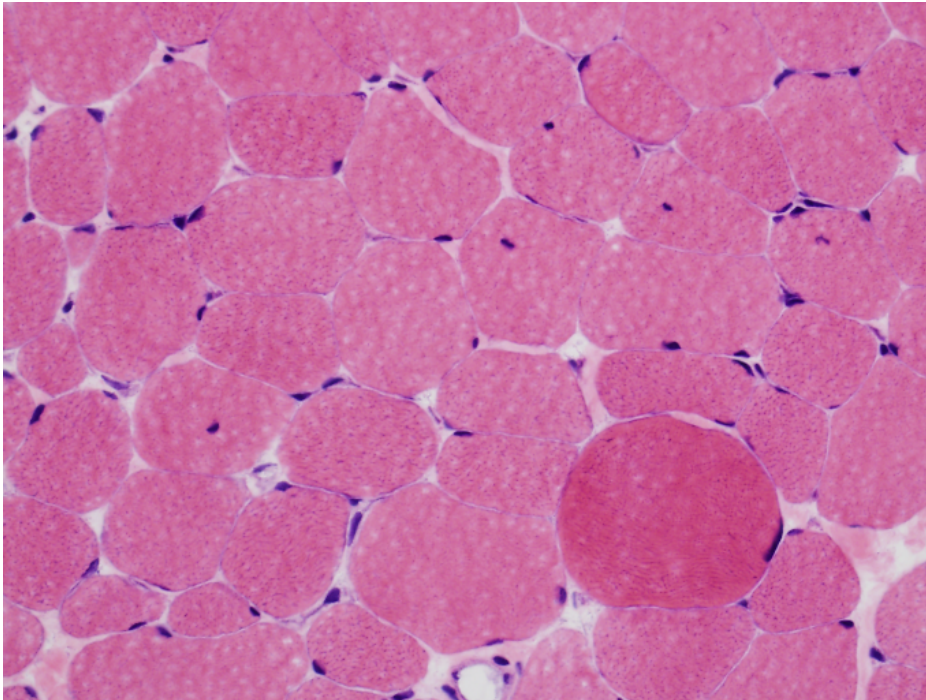
adapted from Anderson “Dystrophinopathies” (2002)

4 yo boy

- Muscle pain and rhabdomyolysis
- CK persistently 3000, but with episodes as high as 60,000
- Seizures that are not controlled medically
- Muscle biopsy for diagnosis



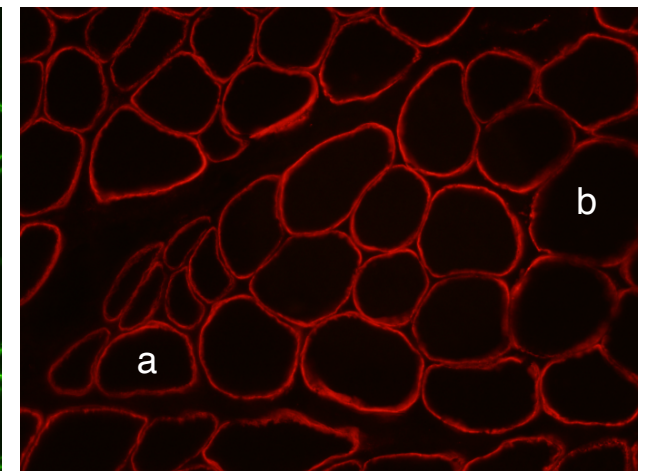
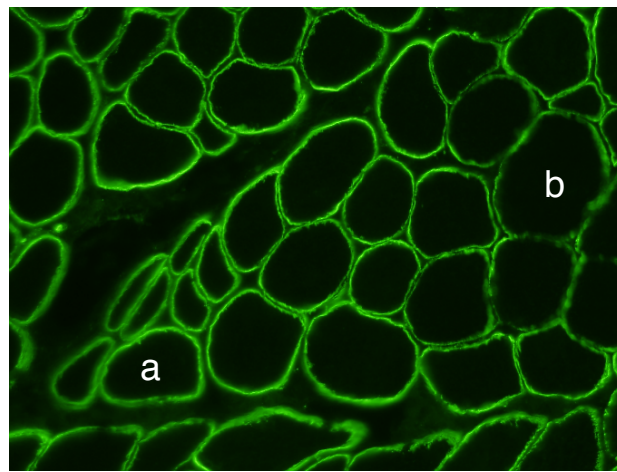
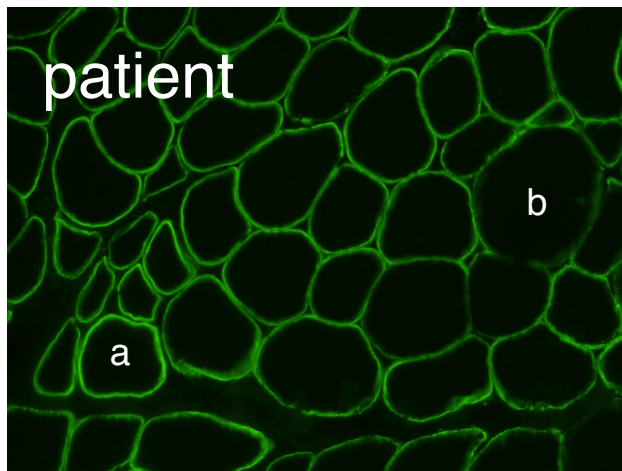
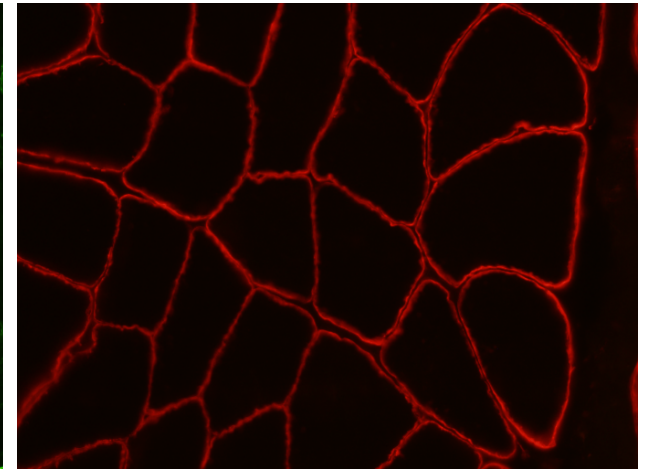
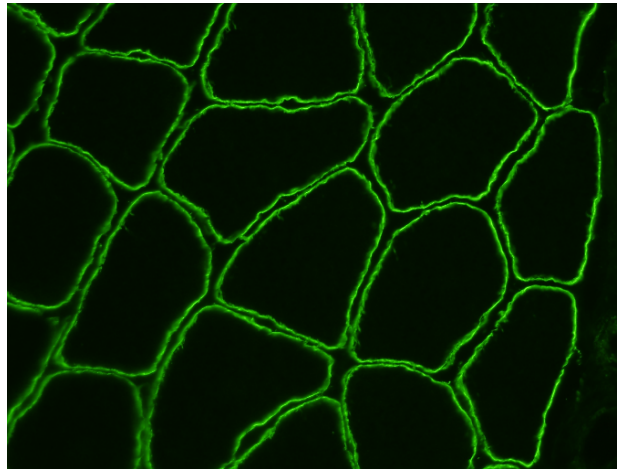
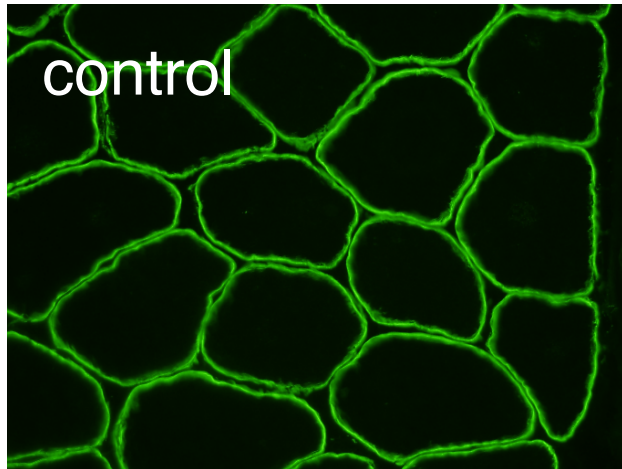
Duh moment!



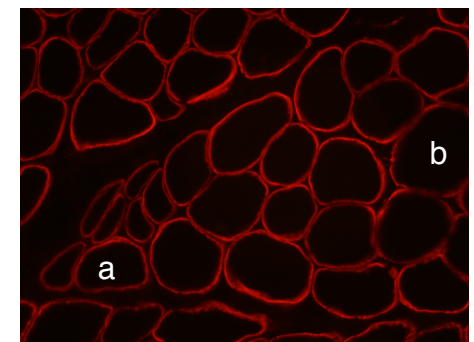
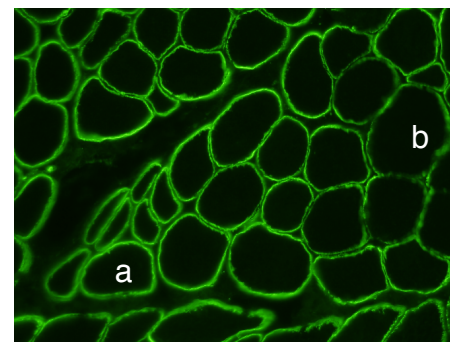
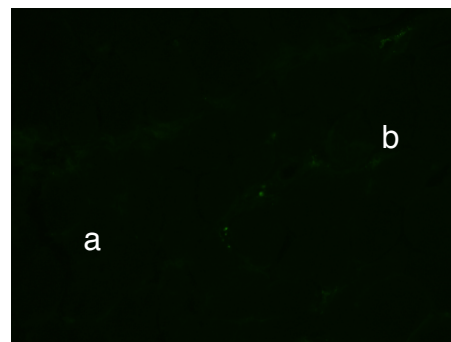
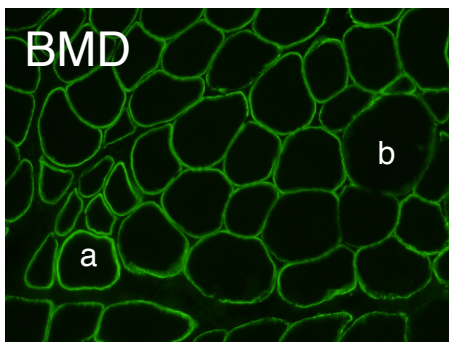
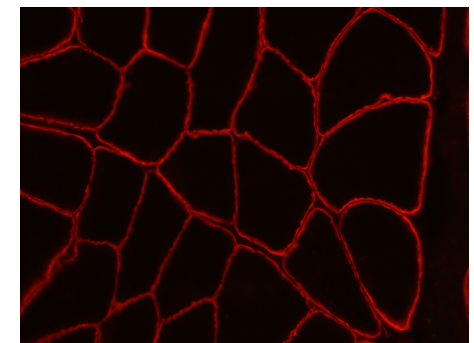
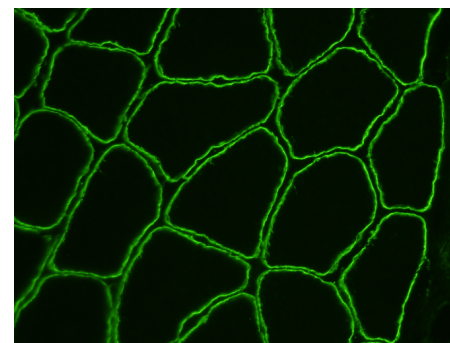
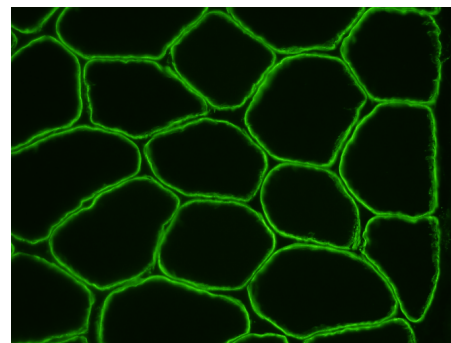
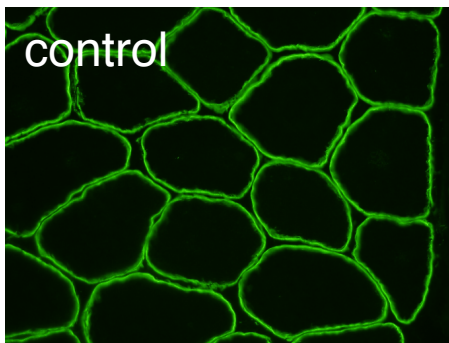
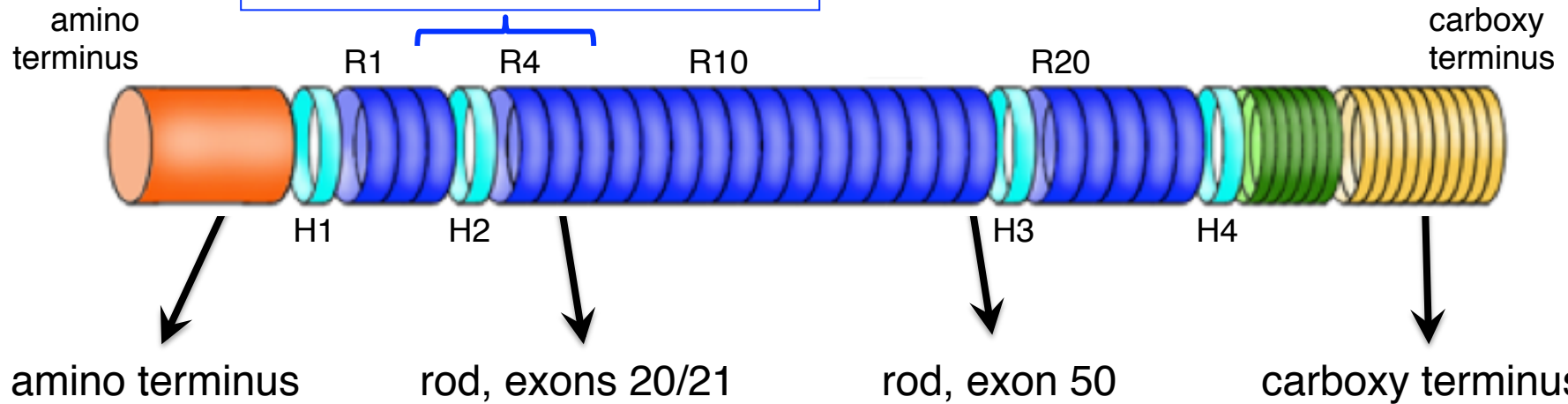
amino terminus

rod domain

carboxy terminus



CGH analysis identified exon
14-25 in frame deletion



French study of 2400 dystrophinopathy patients - BMD deletions

BMD patients

5' hot spot	3' hot spot
del 3–7 (× 19)	del 45–47 (× 131)
del 3–4 (× 16)	del 45–48 (× 97)
	del 45–55 (× 35)
	del 45–53 (× 31)
	del 45–49 (× 27)
	del 48–49 (× 23)
	del 48 (× 16)
	del 45–51 (× 10)

Unless dystrophin is significantly reduced, DYS1, DYS2, and DYS3 miss all of these in frame deletions.

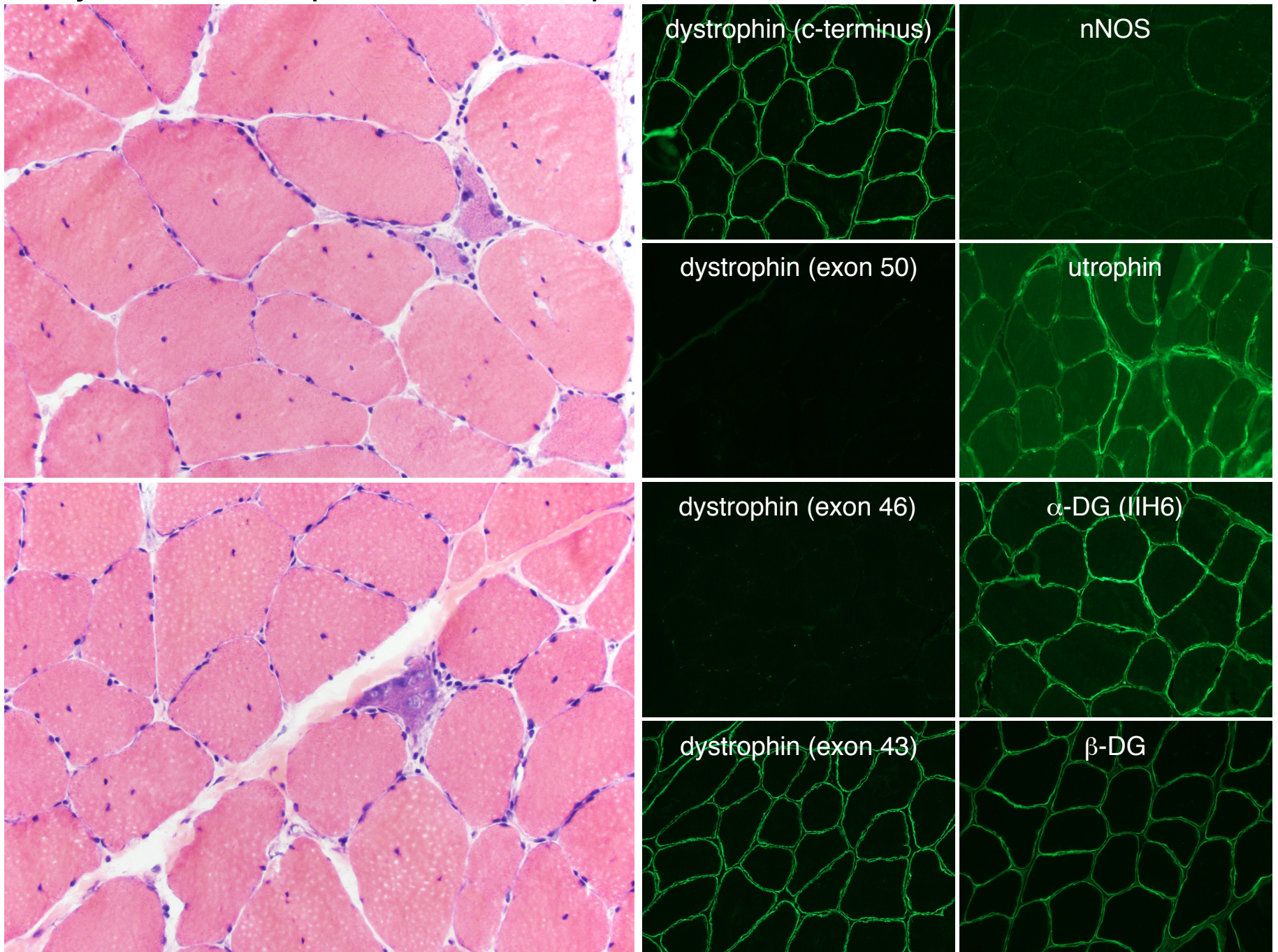
exon 46 or exon 50 antibodies detect 87% of hot spot deletions

data from Table 1
Hum Mut 30:394-945, 2009

Other anti-dystrophin antibodies can be added to pick up deletions in “hot spot” regions. Illustrated here are antibodies to exons 46 and 50.



42 year old BMD patient with hot spot in frame *DMD* deletion



muscle biopsies evaluated at Iowa: 20-year period from May 1998 through May 2018

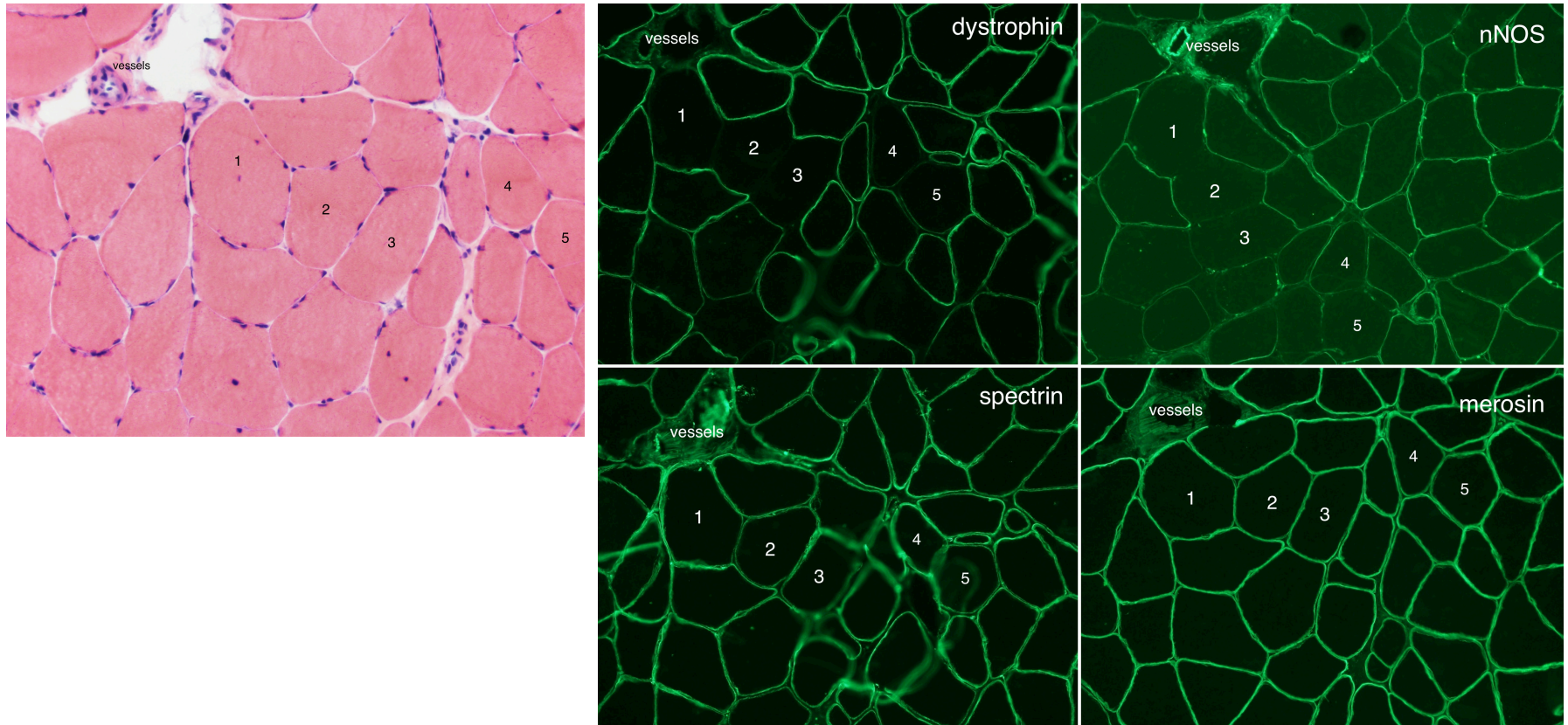
years	total muscle biopsies	male dystrophinopathy cases	female dystrophinopathy cases	total dystrophinopathy cases	% of total that are dystrophinopathy cases	% of dystrophinopathy cases that are female carriers
1998-2002	957	64	6	70	7.3%	9.4%
2003-2007	1465	59	4	63	4.3%	6.8%
2008-2012	2057	57	5	62	3.0%	8.8%
2013-2018	1780	63	8	71	4.0%	12.7%
1998-2018	6259	243	23*	266	4.2%	9.5%

* Female dystrophinopathy cases evaluated between May 1998 and May 2018.

**Dystrophinopathy cases are 4.2% of all biopsies.
DMD carriers are 9.5% of all dystrophinopathies.**

immunostaining for diagnosis of carriers

loss of dystrophin and nNOS

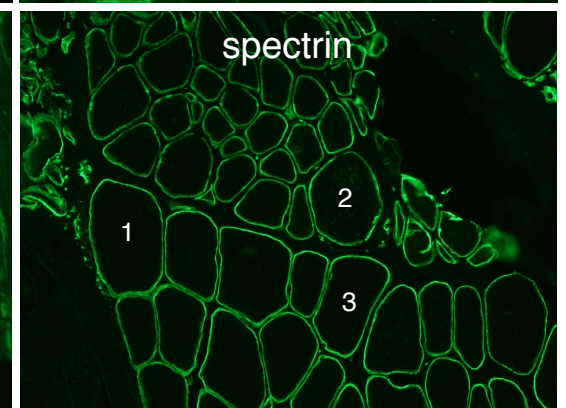
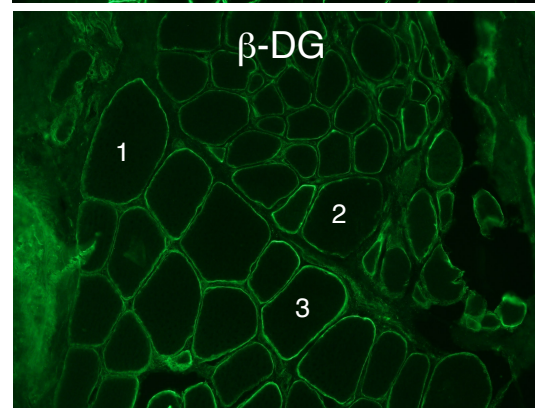
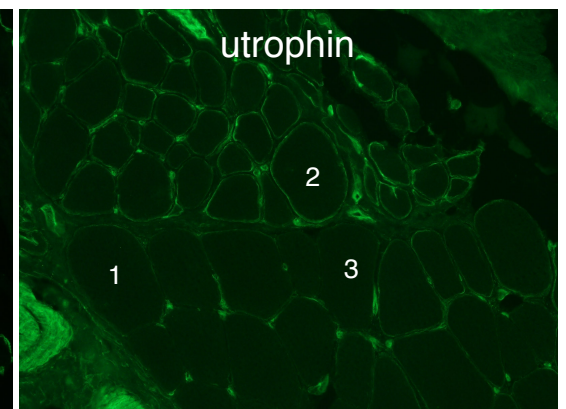
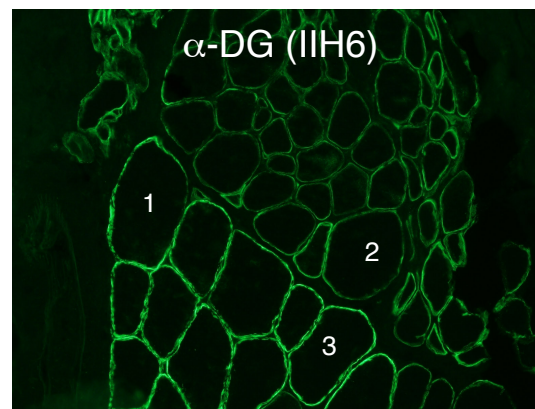
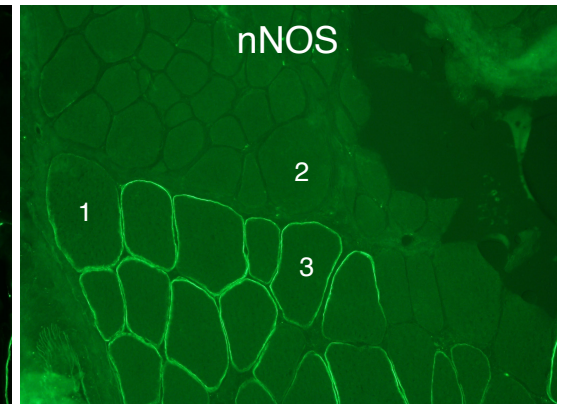
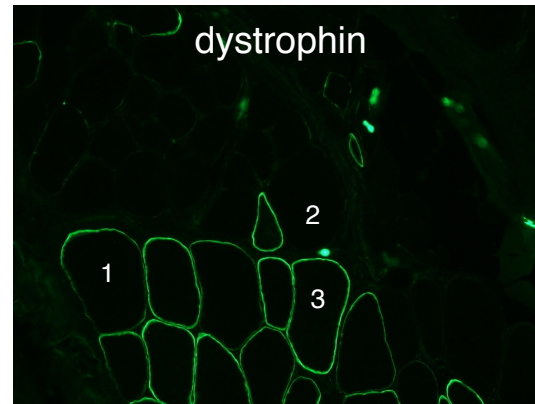
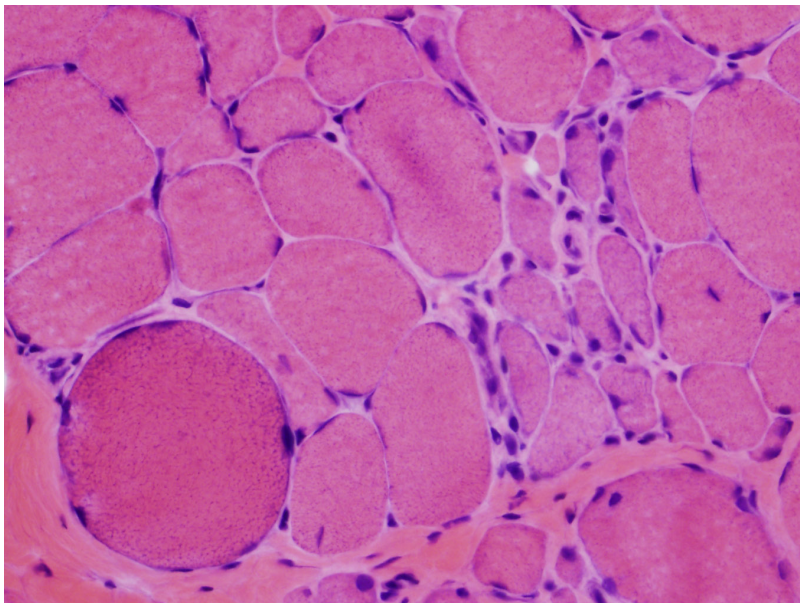
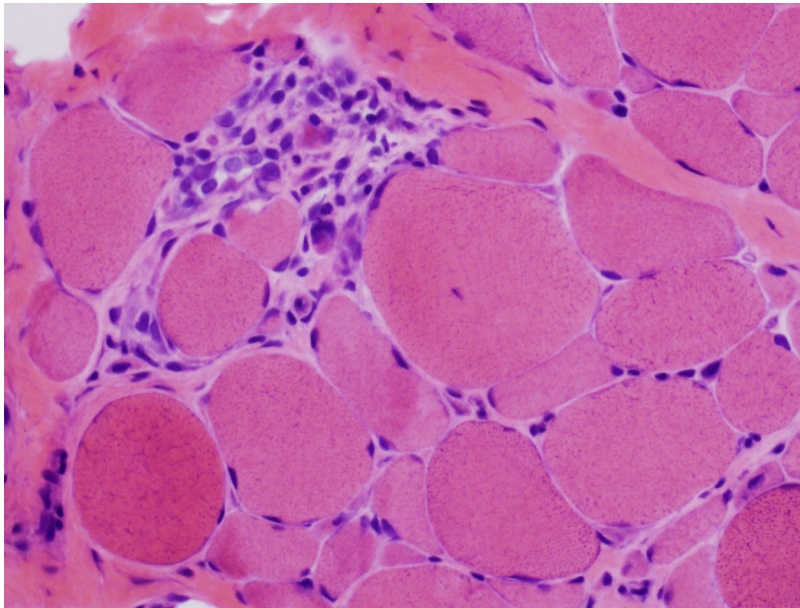


dystrophin-negative, non-necrotic muscle fibers

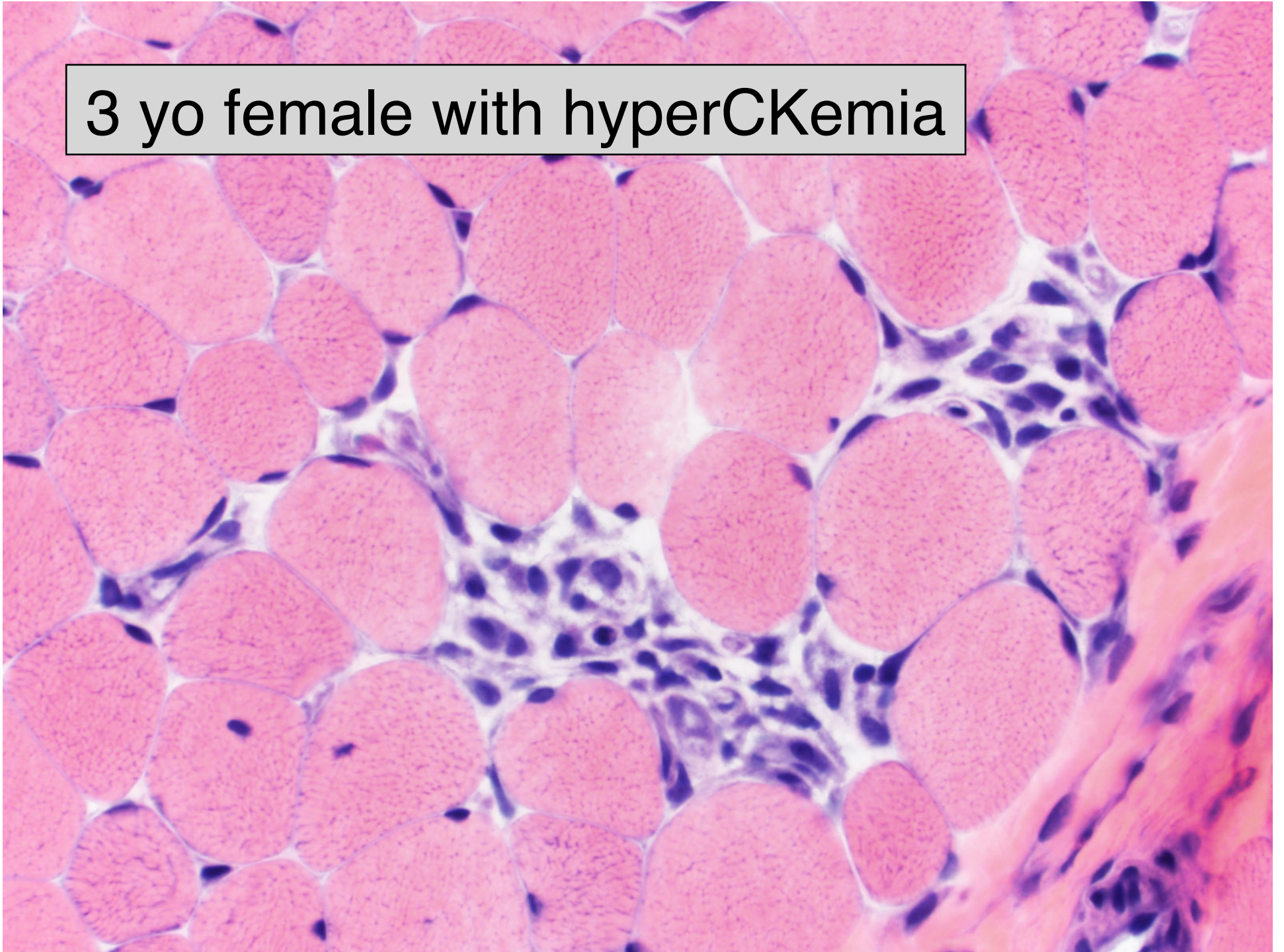
9 yo female

- proximal weakness and positive Gowers
- CK 19,000 to 24,000
- mother and brother with large calves

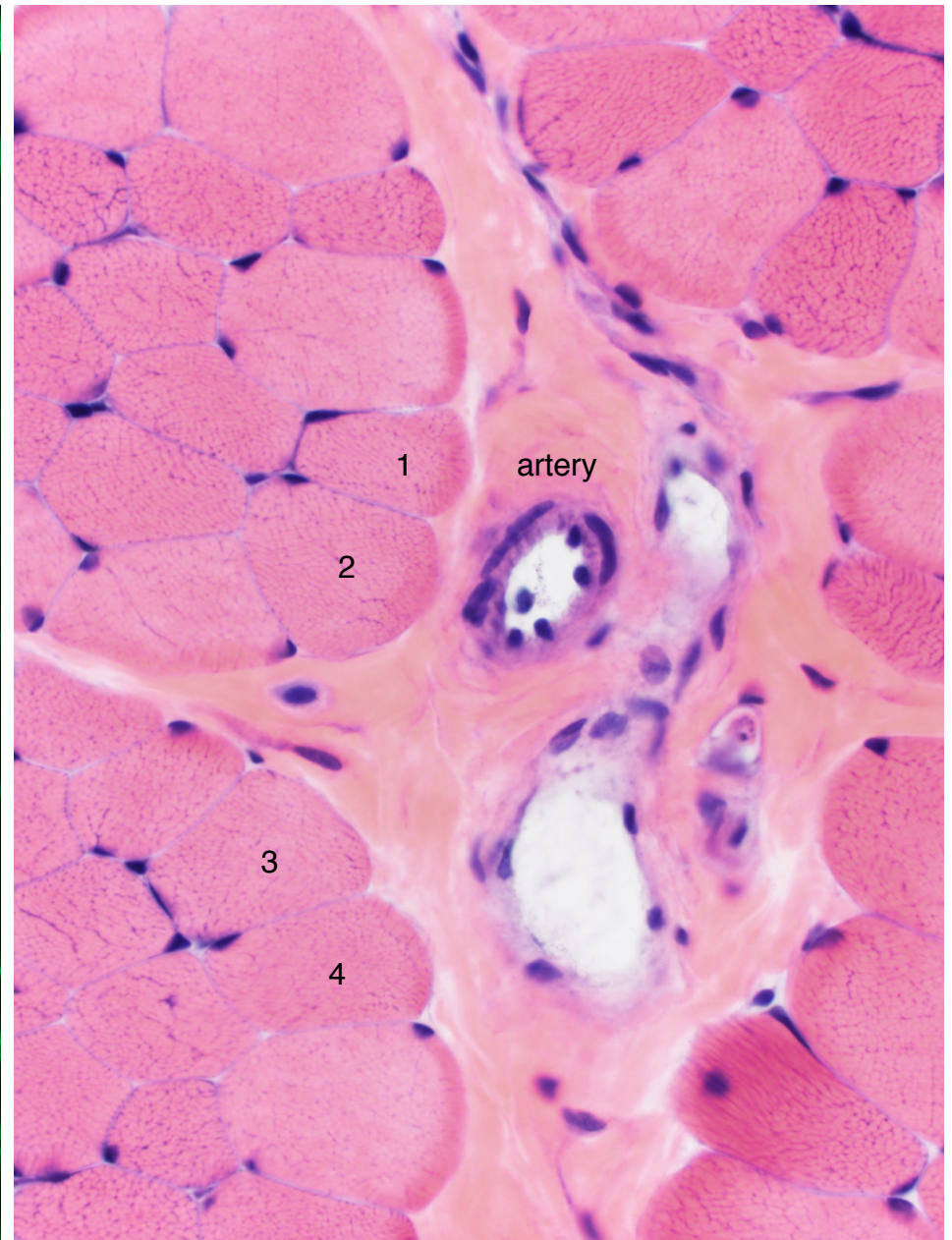
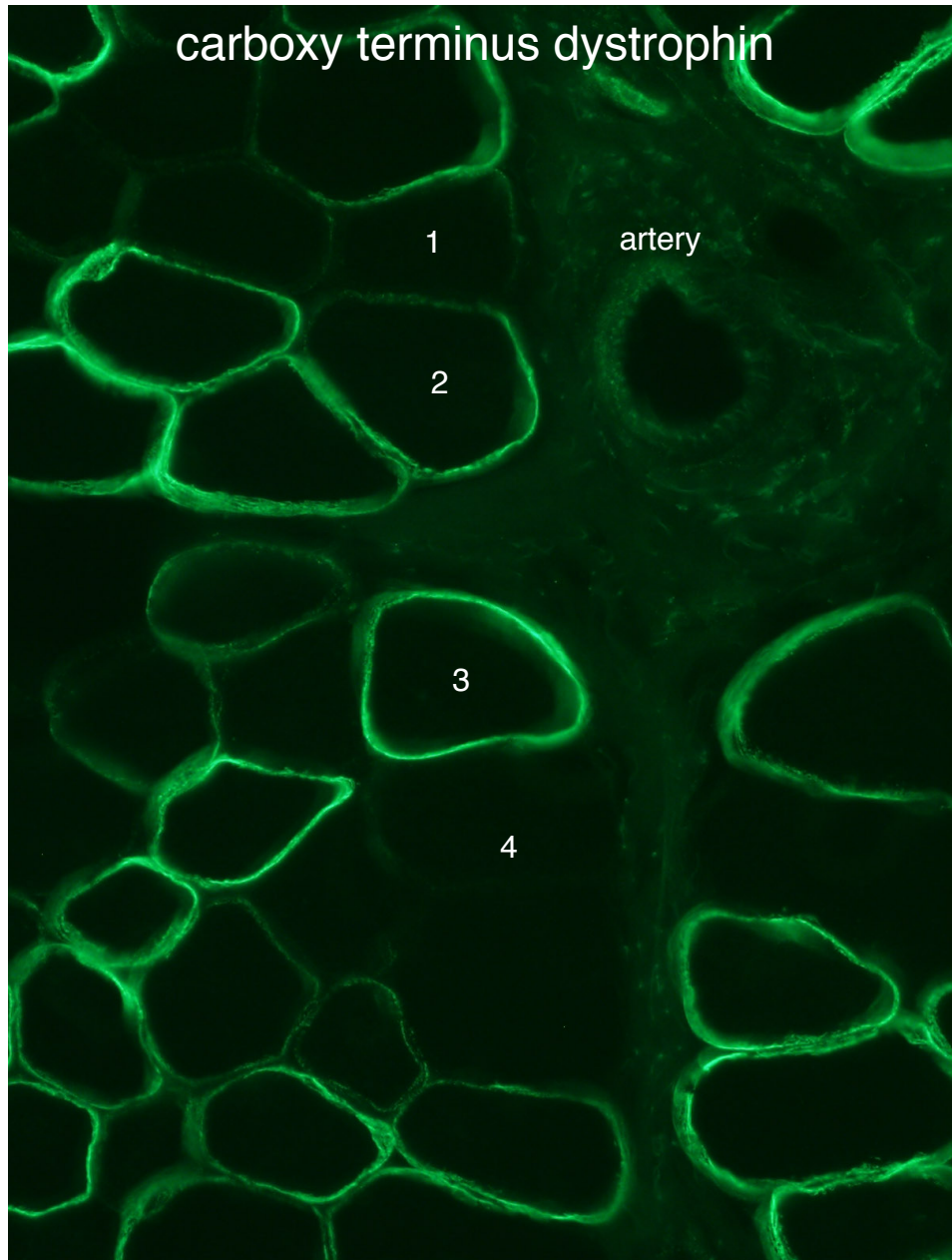
9 year old, probable manifesting *DMD* female carrier



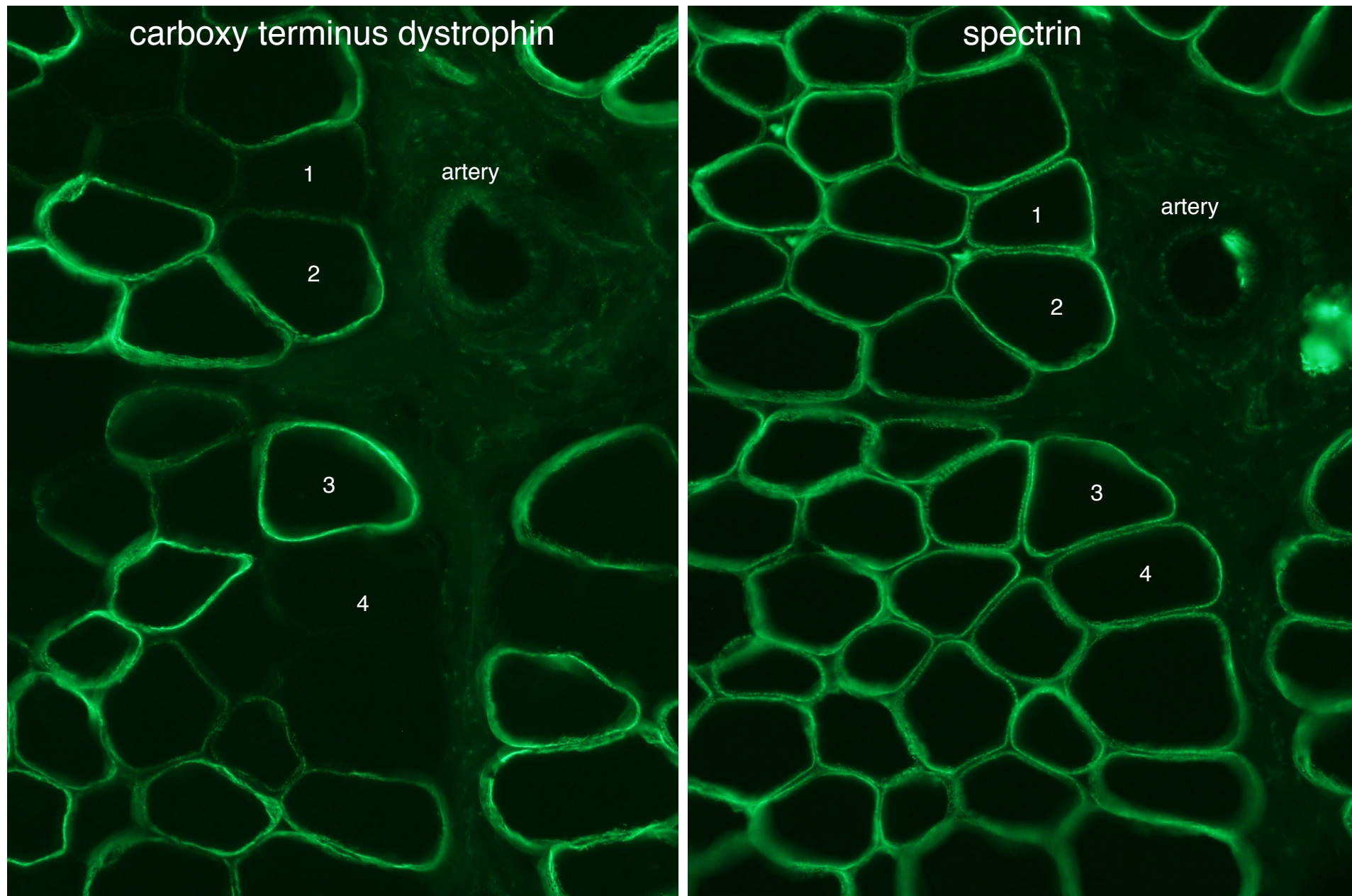
3 yo female with hyperCKemia



3 yo female with hyperCKemia



3 yo female with hyperCKemia



dystrophinopathy summary

- More than 95% of dystrophinopathy patients can be diagnosed by readily available molecular genetic testing.
- However, dystrophinopathy patients of all ages (male and female) are likely to continue to undergo muscle biopsies for a wide variety of reasons.
- Be vigilant and diligent!

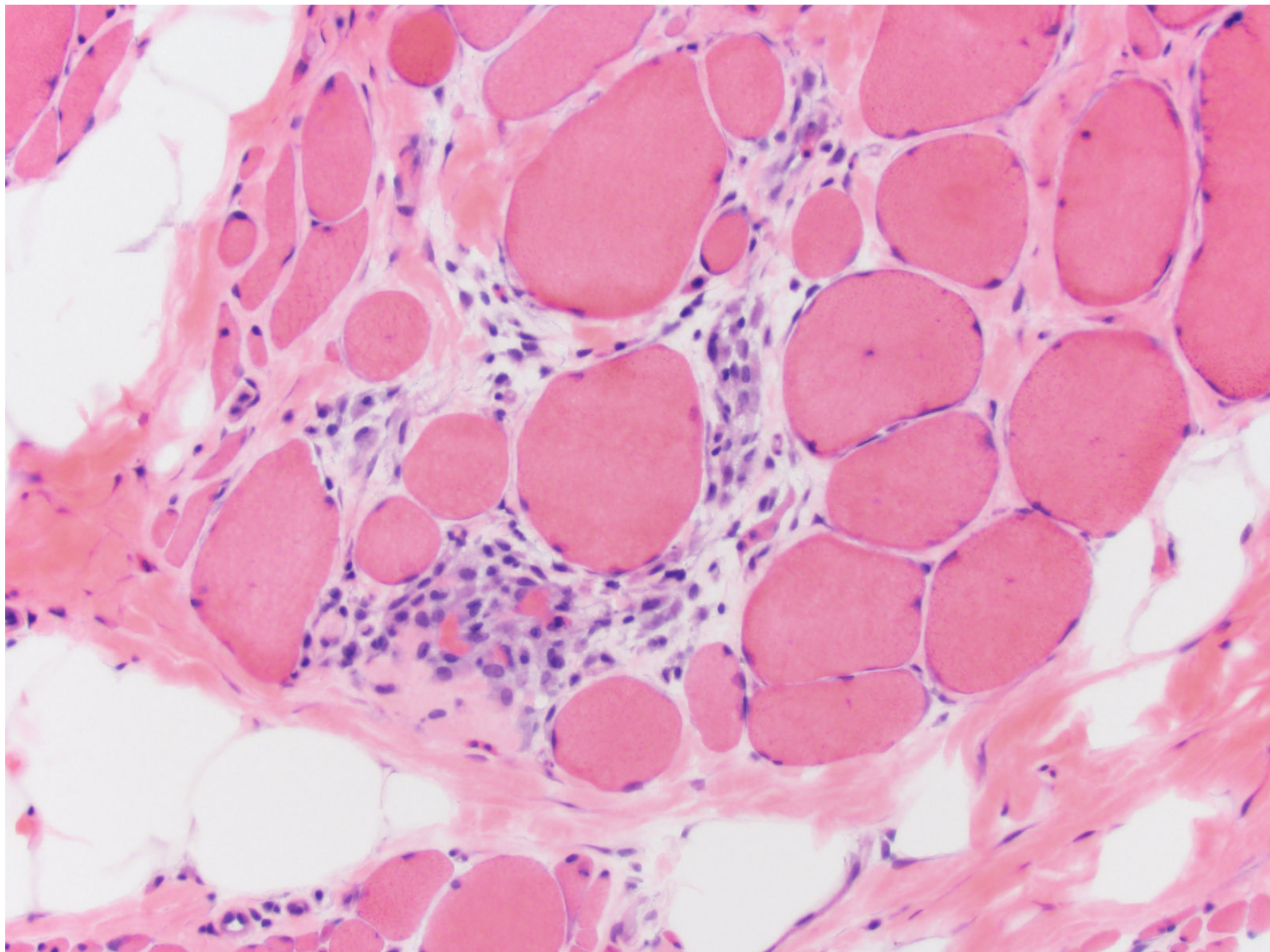
variants of unknown significance

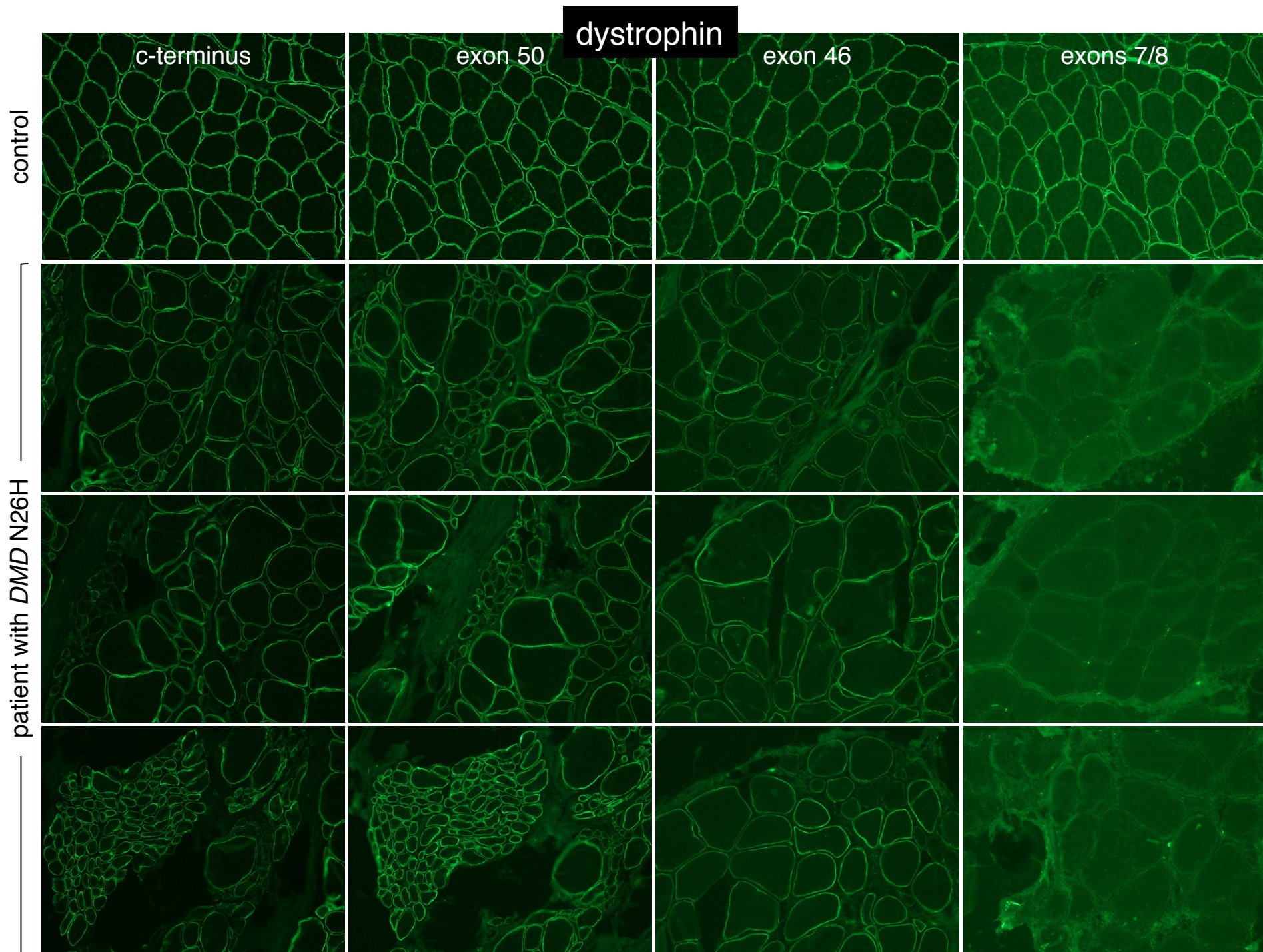
– VUS or VOUS –

- increasing utilization of next generation sequencing panels for diagnosis prior to muscle biopsy
- increasingly stringent criteria for sequence variants to be classified as pathologic
- muscle biopsies increasingly utilized to verify pathogenicity of VUS
 - apply classic biomarkers of disease and/or specific immunostaining panels

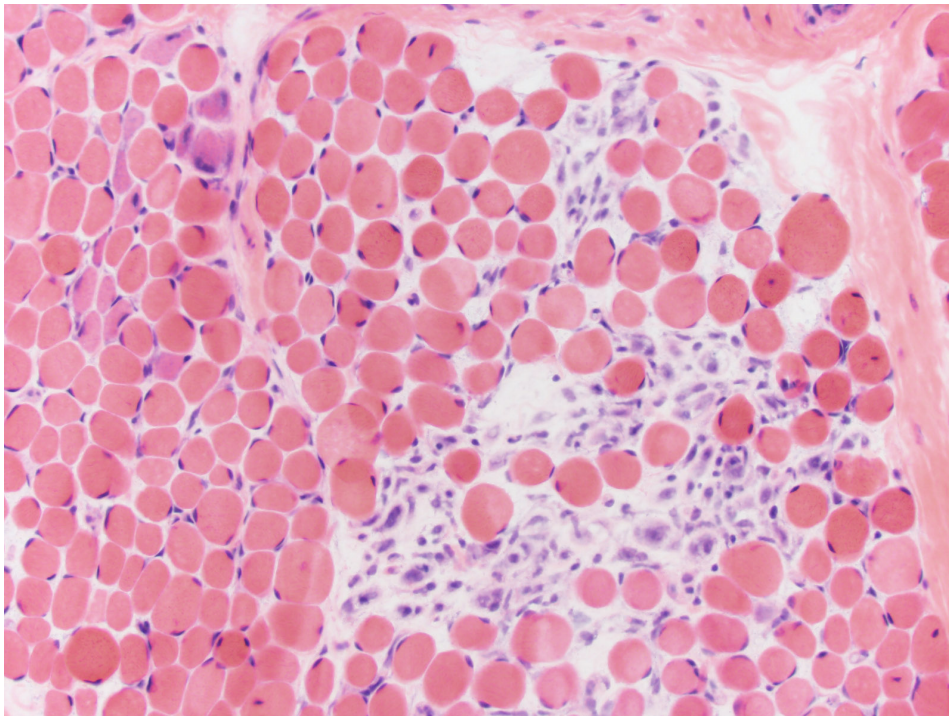
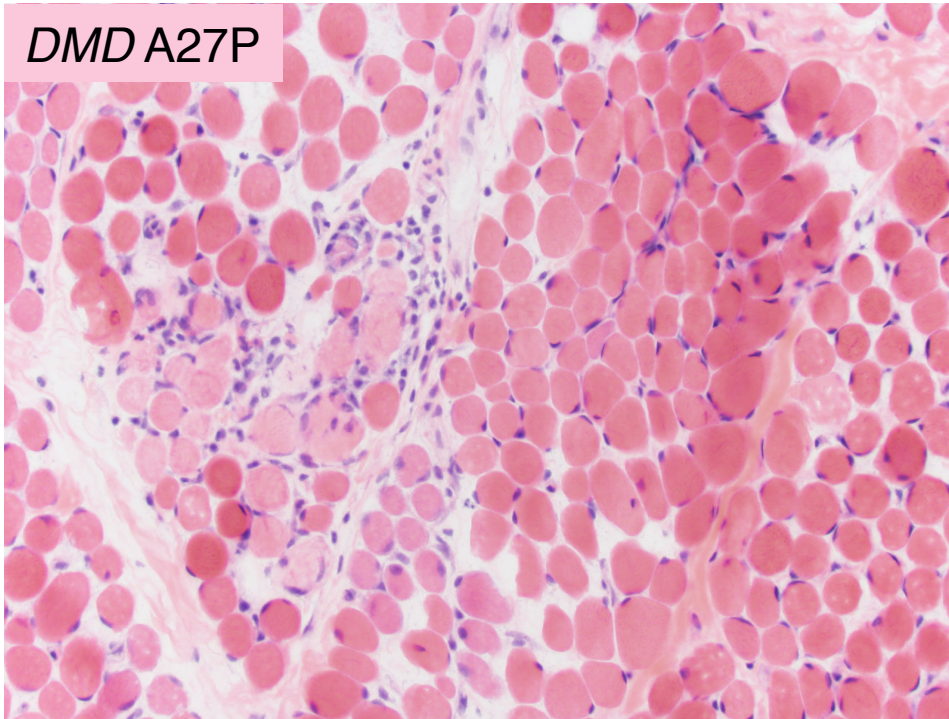
11 yo male

- proximal weakness
- CK >3000
- *DMD* variant of unknown significance (VUS):
c.76A>C, p.N26H
- muscle biopsy done to evaluate dystrophin
- also, a 20 month old male with weakness and hypotonia, CK 10,000, and VUS in *DMD* found by sequencing: c.79G>C, p.A27P





DMD A27P



control

DMD A27P

C-terminus

exon 50

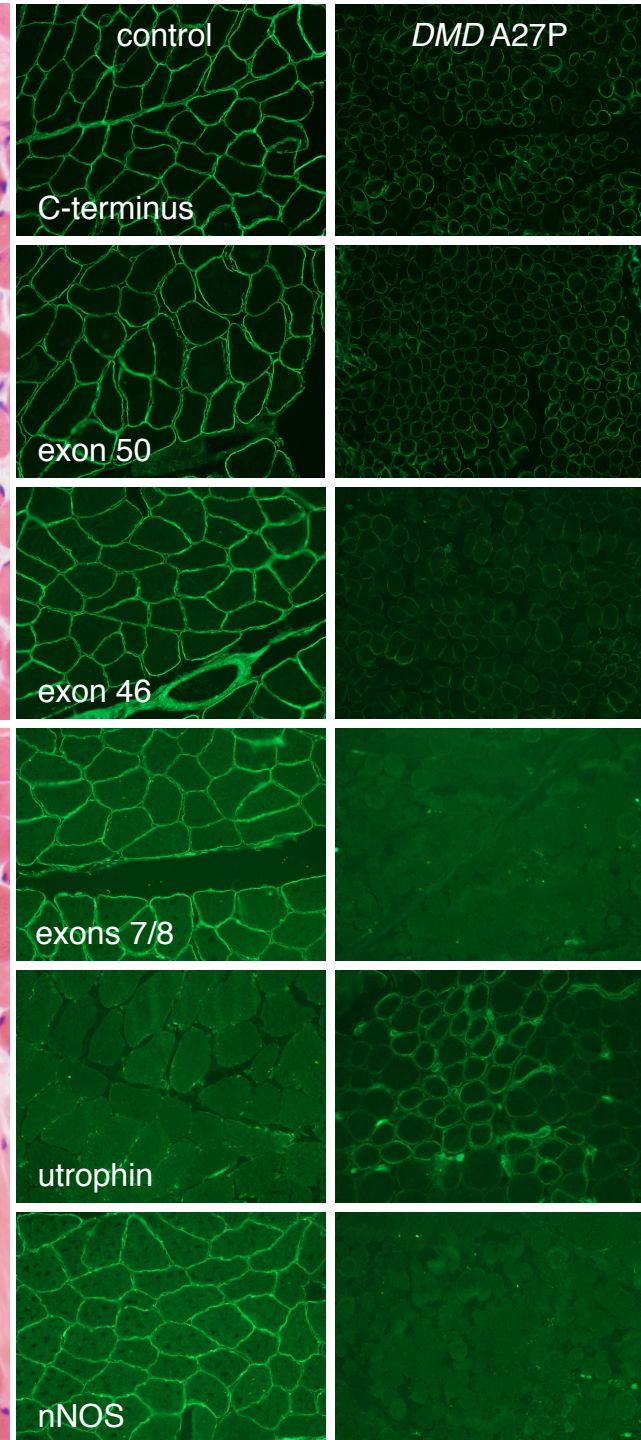
exon 46

exons 7/8

utrophin

nNOS

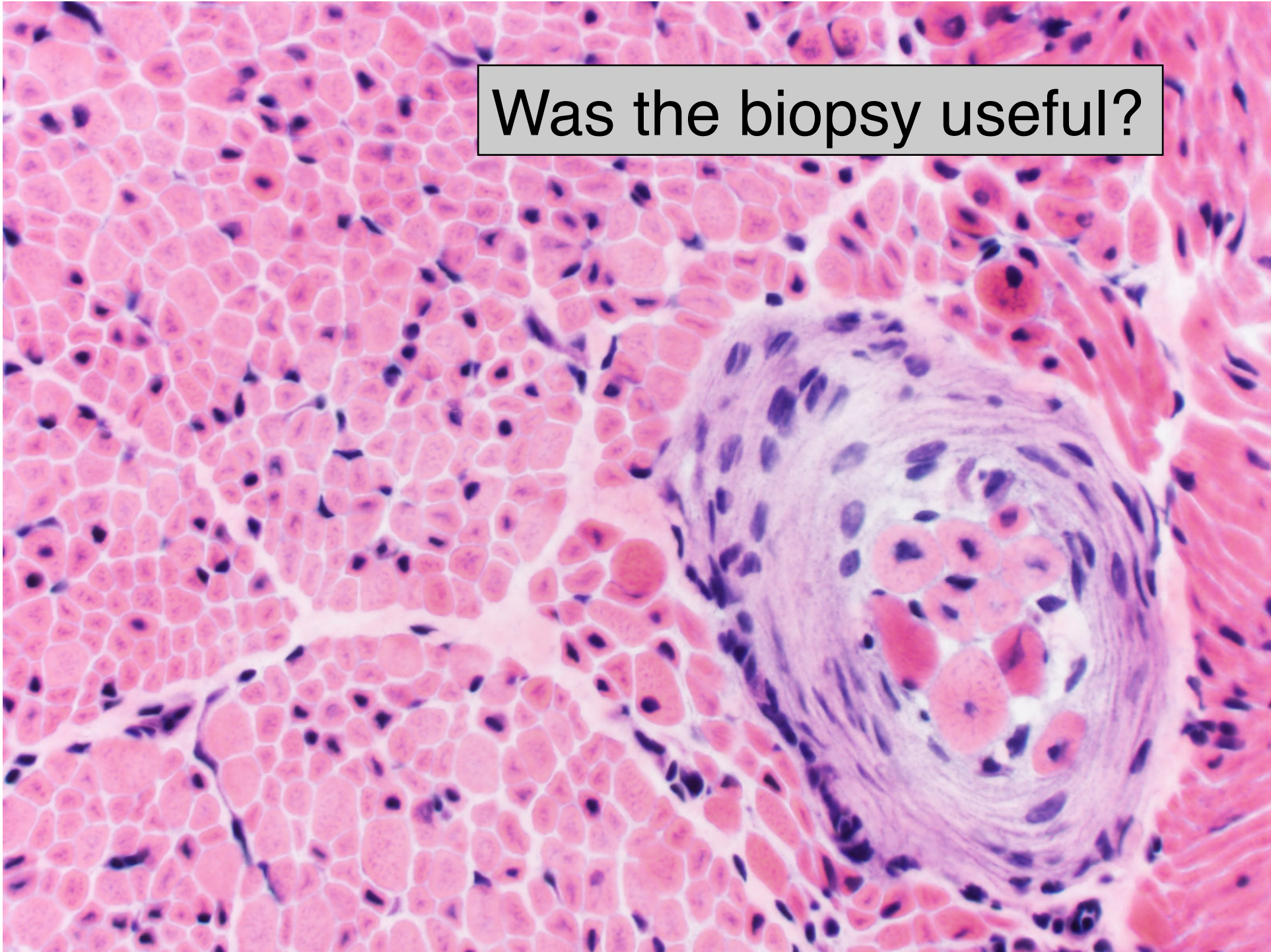
dystrophin



newborn male

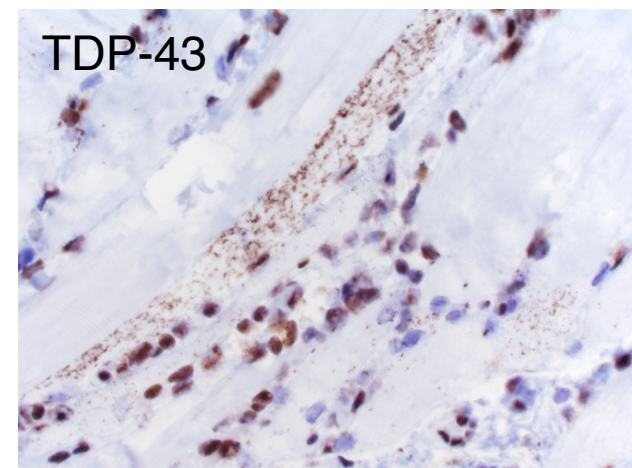
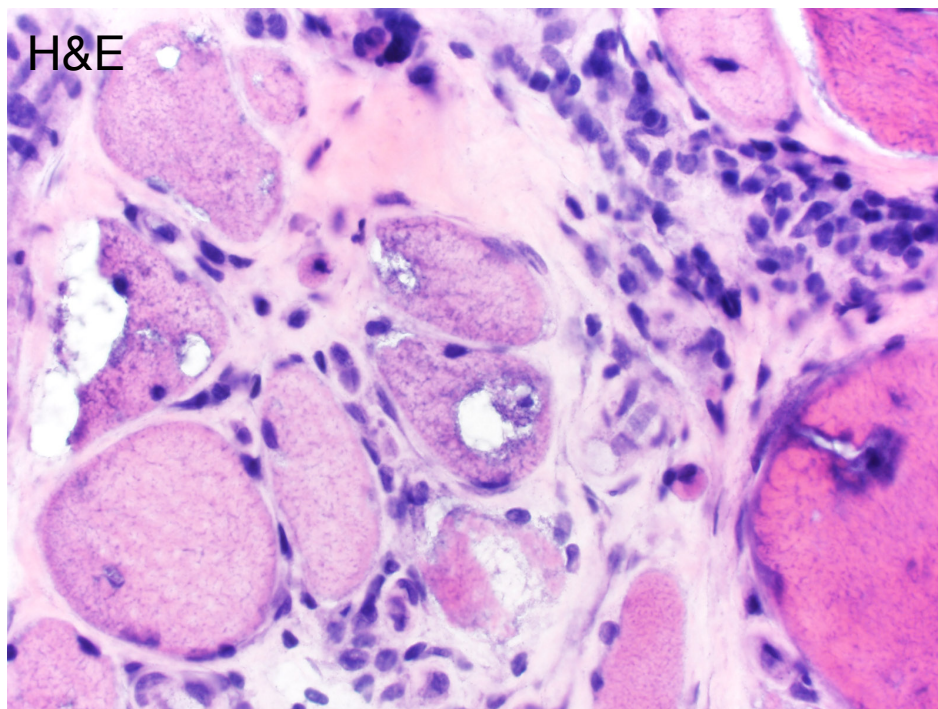
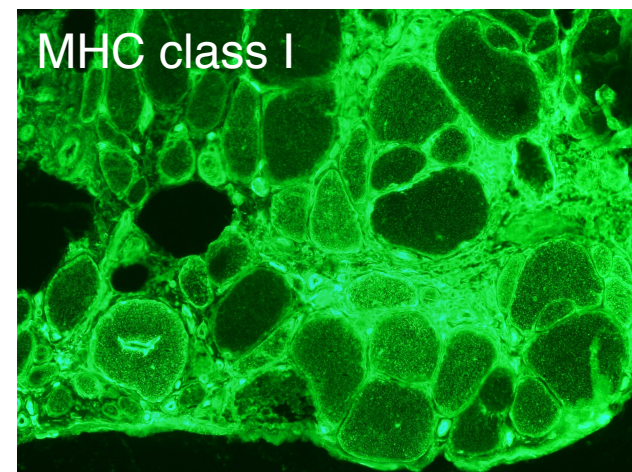
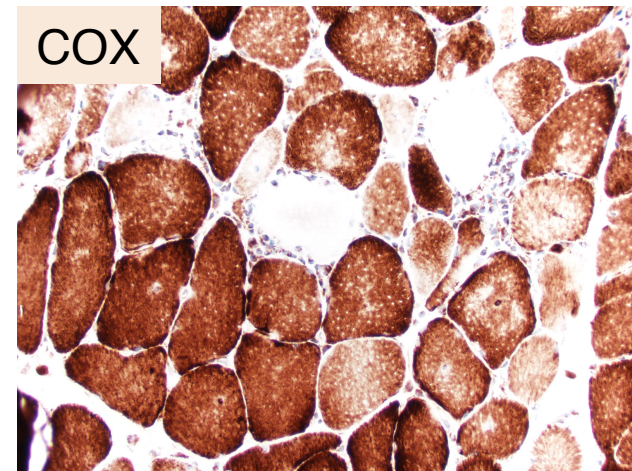
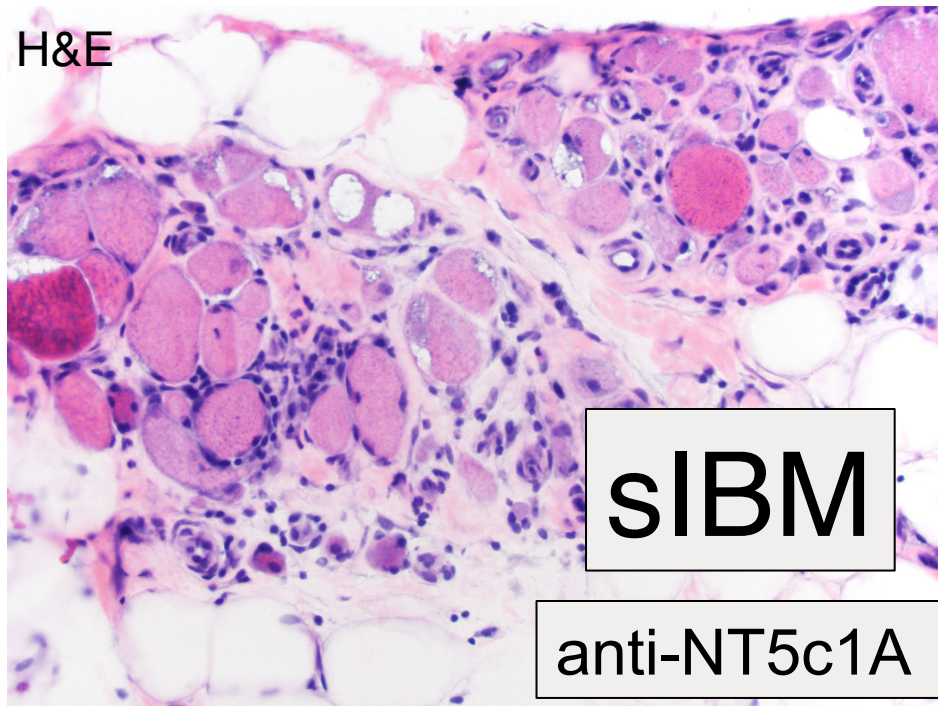
- at birth – hypotonia, very little spontaneous movement, no tongue fasciculations, required intubation
- a prior pregnancy – *in utero* fetal demise (male)
- metabolic disease, SMA, Prader Willi, and congenital myotonic dystrophy testing normal
- CMA detected small X-chromosome deletion at the *MTM1* locus
- commercial testing confirmed an in-frame exon 7 deletion in *MTM1*; reported as a VUS
- muscle biopsy to evaluate pathogenicity of VUS

Was the biopsy useful?



inflammatory myopathies

- The terms dermatomyositis, inclusion body myositis, and polymyositis largely replaced by...
 - dermatomyositis spectrum disorders
 - anti-synthetase syndrome myositis
 - sporadic inclusion body myositis (sIBM)
 - immune-mediated necrotizing myopathy



Integrated classification of inflammatory myopathies

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**Department of Internal Medicine and Clinical Immunology, Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital, DHU I2B, AP-HP, Paris, France, †INSERM U974, UPMC Sorbonne Universities, Paris, France and ‡Department of Neuropathology, Charité – Universitätsmedizin, Berlin, Germany*

Y. Allenbach, O. Benveniste, H-H. Goebel and W. Stenzel (2017) *Neuropathology and Applied Neurobiology* **43**, 62–81

Integrated classification of inflammatory myopathies

Inflammatory myopathies comprise a multitude of diverse diseases, most often occurring in complex clinical settings. To ensure accurate diagnosis, multidisciplinary expertise is required. Here, we propose a comprehensive myositis classification that incorporates clinical, morphological and molecular data as well as

autoantibody profile. This review focuses on recent advances in myositis research, in particular, the correlation between autoantibodies and morphological or clinical phenotypes that can be used as the basis for an 'integrated' classification system.

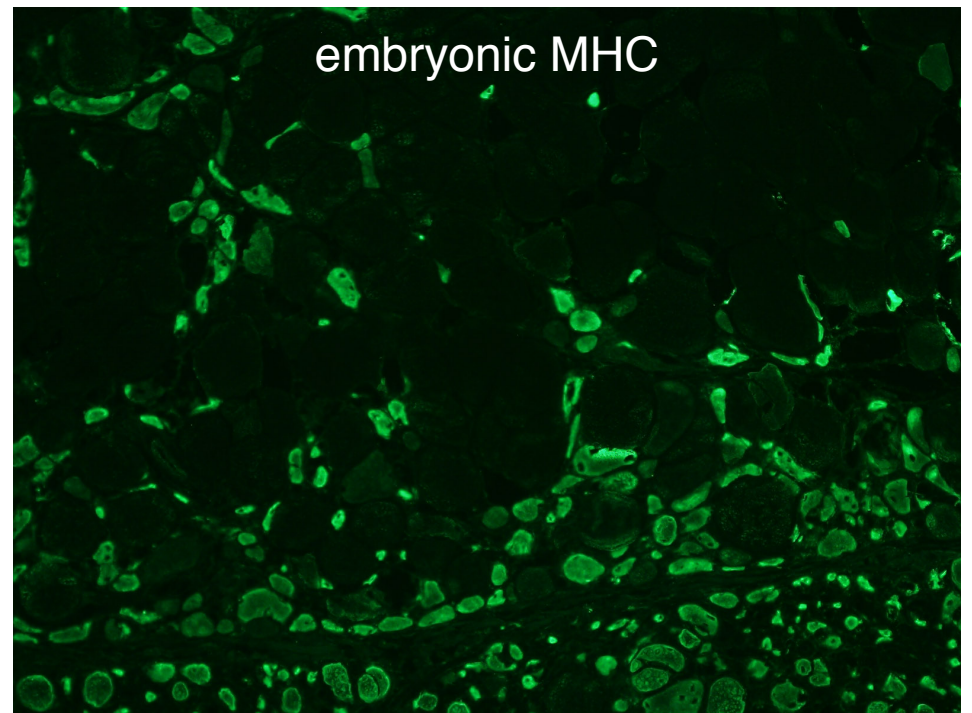
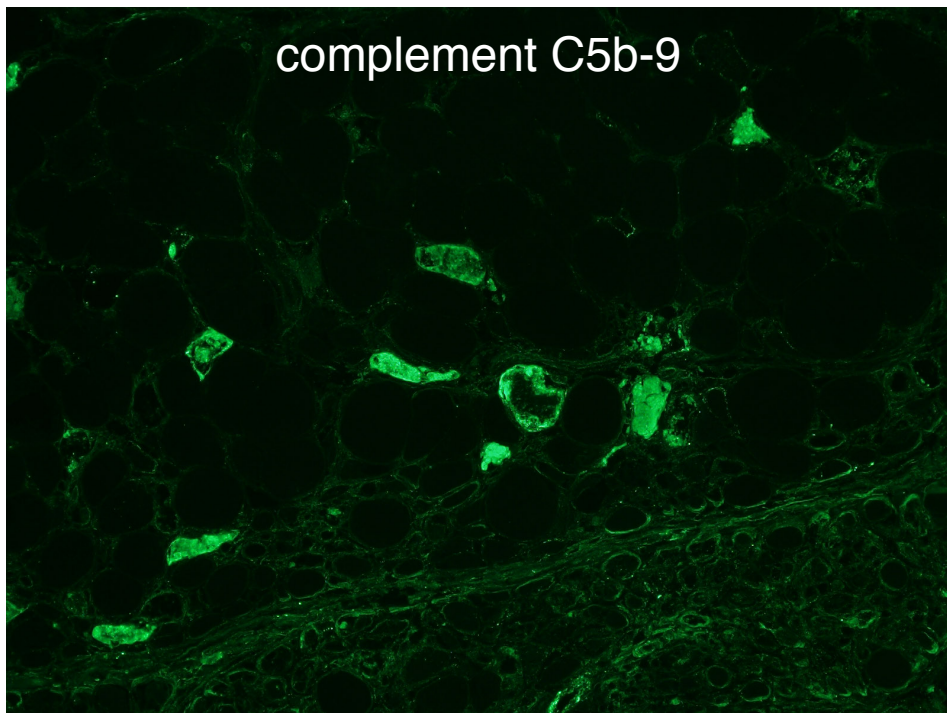
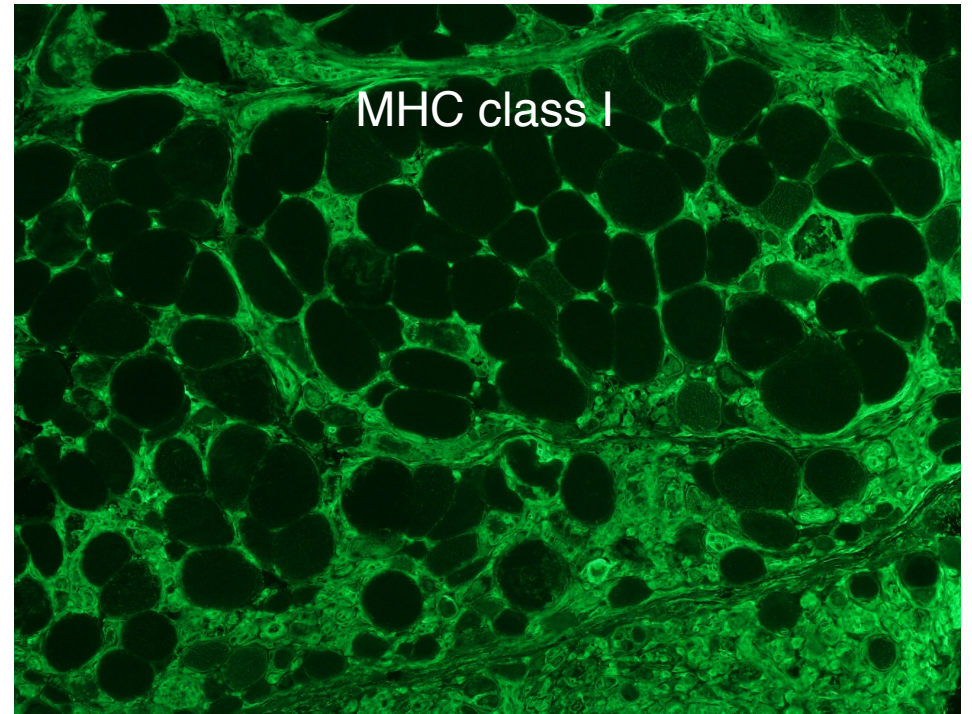
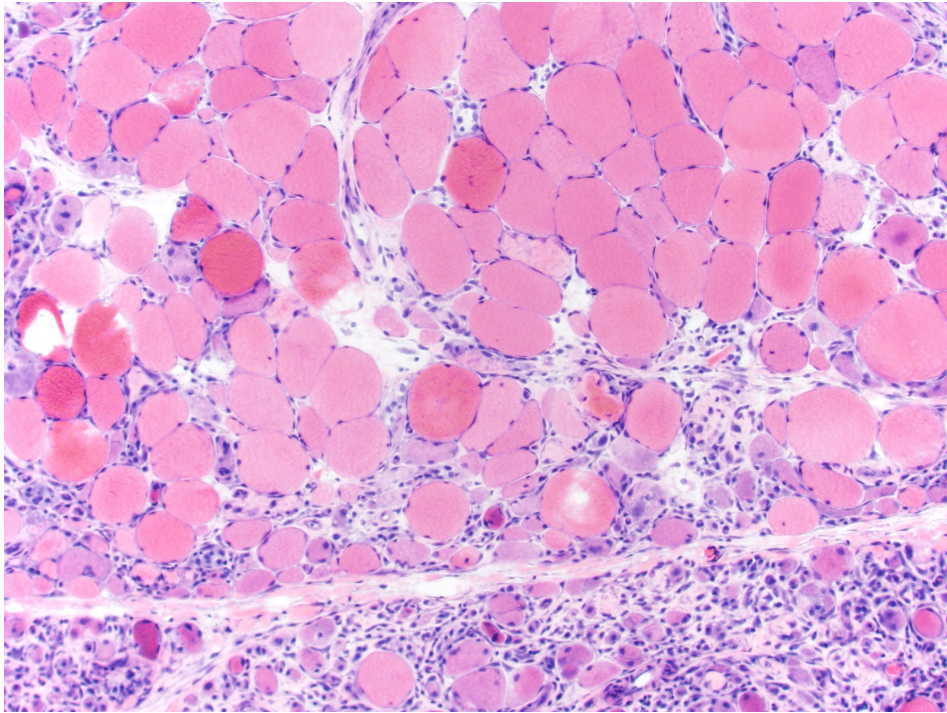
Keywords: autoantibodies, classification of IIMs, Morphology, Myositis

Table 1. Phenotypes of IIM

	DM spectrum					IMNM spectrum					ASS-myositis spectrum	PM	NM
Associated auto-Abs	Anti-Mi-2	Anti-MDA5	Anti-TIF1 γ	Anti-NXP-2	Anti-SAE	Anti-SRP	Anti-HMGCR	CA-IMNM	Pipestem capillaries	with systemic disease	Anti-Jo1, -PL-7, -PL-12, -OJ, -EJ, etc.		
Clinical Phenotype	Proximal muscle weakness Typical DM skin rash *	No or mild proximal muscle weakness IID Ulcers at fingertips	Proximal muscle weakness Typical DM skin rash * Dysphagia	Proximal muscle weakness Variable typical DM skin rash*	Mild proximal muscle weakness Variable DM skin rash*	Proximal muscle weakness Acute-subacute Chronic evolution possible Pulmonary and cardiac involvement possible	Proximal muscle weakness Acute-subacute Chronic evolution possible	Proximal muscle weakness Acute-subacute Chronic evolution possible	Proximal muscle weakness Acute-subacute	Proximal muscle weakness Depending on systemic disease Subacute evolution	Proximal muscle weakness ILD Mechanics hands Raynaud's phenomenon Arthritis Fever Weight loss	Proximal muscle weakness Subacute evolution Variable additional signs No unique features	Proximal muscle weakness Variable additional signs No skin changes typical for DM
Morphological Phenotype	Severe involvement Pf atrophy Single or grouped myofibre necrosis Dense lymphocytic infiltrates in peri- & endomysium Pf MHC class I Complement on sarcolemma UT on EM	Mild involvement No pf atrophy No myofibre necrosis Only focal lymphocytic infiltrates in perimysium Pf MHC class I Mild or no complement on sarcolemma UT in \pm 50% of myofibres	Severe involvement Pf atrophy Punched out vacuoles Lymphocytic infiltrates in peri- and endomysium Pf MHC class I Complement on capillaries and on sarcolemma UT on EM	Severe involvement Pf atrophy Lymphocytic infiltrates in peri- and endomysium Pf MHC class I Complement on sarcolemma UT on EM	Mild involvement Mild pf atrophy No myofibre necrosis Only focal lymphocytic infiltrates in perimysium Pf MHC class I Mild or no complement deposition UT on EM	Diffuse myofibre necrosis in different stages of necrosis & regeneration Mild lymphocytic infiltrate Mild MHC I no MHC II Compl. on sarcolemma Fibre size variation Enlarged capillaries	Diffuse myofibre necrosis in different stages of necrosis & regeneration Mild lymphocytic infiltrate Mild MHC I no MHC II Compl. on sarcolemma Fibre size variation Enlarged capillaries	Diffuse myofibre necrosis in different stages of necrosis & regeneration Mild MHC I no MHC II Compl. on sarcolemma Fibre size variation Enlarged capillaries	Diffuse myofibre necrosis in different stages of necrosis & regeneration Mild lymphocytic infiltrate Mild MHC I no MHC II Compl. on sarcolemma Fibre size variation Enlarged capillaries	Diffuse myofibre necrosis in different stages of necrosis & regeneration MHC I, possible mild MHC II Compl. on sarcolemma Fibre size variation Enlarged capillaries	Perifascicular necrosis Perimysial fragmentation of fibrous tissue Prominent lymphocytic infiltrate in endo- and peri-mysium Complement on sarcolemma of pf fibres MHC I and II in pf region Myonuclear actin inclusions on EM	Nonspecific: Endomysial inflammatory infiltrates surrounding or invading 'non-necrotic' myofibres No perifascicular atrophy	Perimysial/perivascular inflammatory infiltrate No/mild endomysial lymphocytic infiltrate No clear perifascicular atrophy UT on EM possible

inflammatory myopathies

- dermatomyositis spectrum disorders
 - autoantibodies to Mi-2, MDA-5, TIF1 γ , etc.
 - perifascicular pattern of pathology
- anti-synthetase syndrome myositis
 - autoantibodies to Jo-1, PL-7, etc.
 - perifascicular pattern of pathology
- immune-mediated necrotizing myopathy
 - anti-SRP and anti-HMGCR
 - myonecrosis and regeneration with minimal lymphocytic infiltrates; patchy MHC class I
 - clinical and histopathologic overlap with LGMD



inflammatory myopathies

- The terms dermatomyositis, inclusion body myositis, and polymyositis largely replaced by...
 - dermatomyositis spectrum disorders
 - anti-synthetase syndrome myositis
 - sporadic inclusion body myositis (sIBM)
 - immune-mediated necrotizing myopathy
- “Pestronk” classification
 - Current Opinion Rheumatol 23:595-604, 2011
- ENMC workshops
 - De Bleeker et al., Neuromusc Dis 23:945-951, 2013
 - De Bleeker et al., Neuromusc Dis 25:268-272, 2015

myths

- Ring fibers are diagnostic of myotonic dystrophy.
- Numerous internal nuclei are diagnostic of myotonic dystrophy.
- Muscle tissue obtained at autopsy is not useful for methodologies typically applied to muscle biopsies.

autopsy evaluation of neuromuscular diseases

- with standard complete autopsy permission
 - muscle from diaphragm or from thoracic and abdominal/pelvic walls; deltoid is plausible using the standard incision
 - phrenic nerves, lumbar/sacral plexus, spinal nerve rootlets
- or with specific permission to evaluate skeletal muscle and nerves in the limbs
 - sample some or all the standard sites (quad, deltoid, biceps, gastroc, sural nerve, etc.)
 - or target specific muscles or nerves of interest
- use all the special techniques used for biopsy tissue preparation and evaluation

Every neuropathologist needs to ...

- know how to prepare a pristine, frozen muscle biopsy.
- be familiar with and comfortable evaluating a core panel of histologic stains and/or immunostains.
- recognize and interpret core biomarkers of disease.
- understand the tools for diagnosing dystrophinopathy.
- recognize and interpret patterns of inflammatory myopathy.
- partner with the clinical care team to sort through clinical-pathologic correlations.

Resources

