



# Reproductive Pathology

## What is new?

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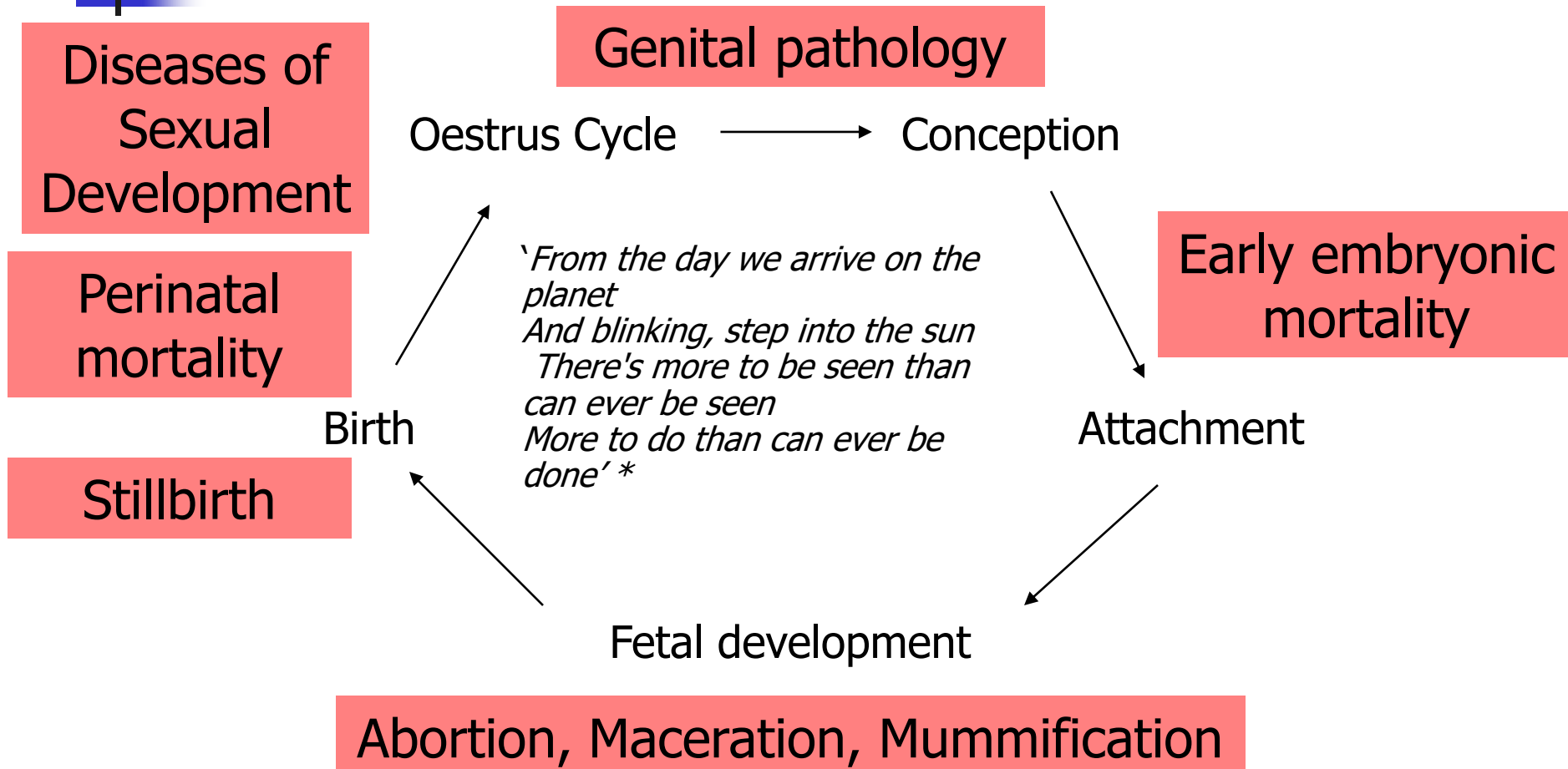


# Sponsors

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- Australian Animal Pathology Standards Program
  - ❖ Australian Society for Veterinary Pathology
  - ❖ Subcommittee on Animal Health Laboratory Standards
  - ❖ Animal Health Australia
- CL Davis Foundation

# The Circle of Life\*



\* "Circle of Life" Music by Elton John, lyrics by Tim Rice, Performed by Elton John



# Day 1 – Production animals

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Bovine

Ovine

Caprine

Porcine



# Failure of Pregnancy

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## The trilogy

Infectious

Non infectious

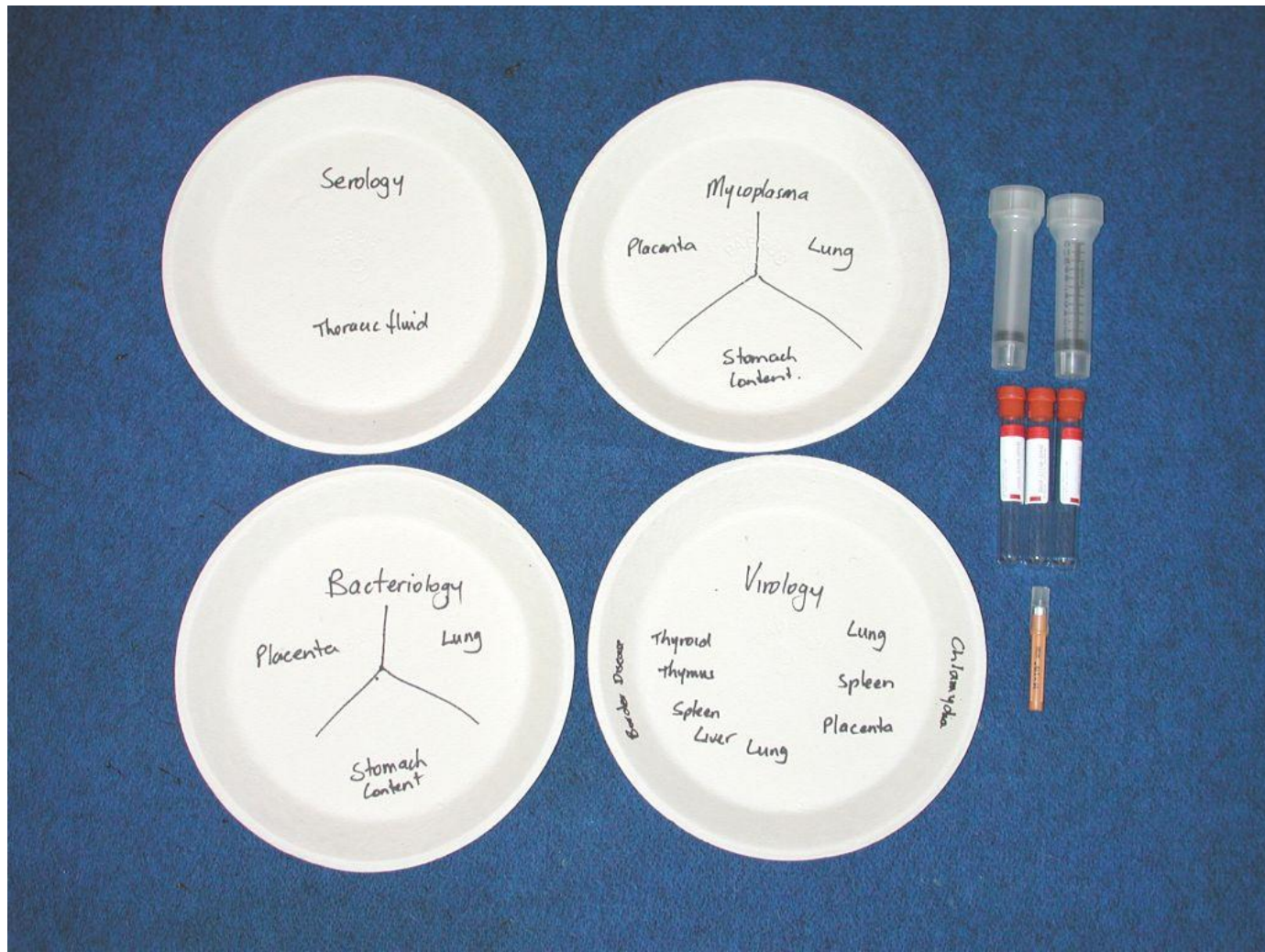
Unknown

Mother

Foetus

Placenta

# Pragmatic approach



# Practical approach





# Results of investigation of fetus and placenta (sporadic)

Species	No Dx (%)	Infection
Cattle	58	42
Sheep	55	40
Goats	52	40
Pigs	72	28





# Why the low rate

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- Selection of cases to submit
  - Sporadic
  - Outbreaks
- Samples (or lack thereof)
- Laboratory challenges
  
- Physiology



# Do pathologists have a role?

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- 'Why are you involved, this is a herd health/epidemiology/microbiology problem'
- Herd approach
  - Males are expendable
- Define the disease



# The awakening

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- Failure is not a bad thing
- Put on a positive spin.
- Expectation, expectation, expectation  
(prognosis)



# Conception

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Estrus activity

Mating

Fertilization



# Postpartum subclinical endometritis of dairy cattle

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- Cytology

- Steven Leblanc
- Ram Kasimanickam et al
- Cyril Stephen

- Uterine biopsy



# General microbial environment

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- Sterile environment
  - Ovaries
  - Uterine tubes
  - Uterus
  - Cervix
- Contamination
  - Cranial vagina
  - Caudal vagina
  - Vulva



# Specific pathogens acquired

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- *Campylobacter fetus*
- *Tritrichomonas foetus*
  - mummification
- *Ureaplasma*
  - Amnionitis
  - Plante, Ruhnke, Miller
- *Chlamydophila*
  - Papp, Halbert, Shewen
- Viruses
  
- Low pathogenicity/toxicity



# Defences

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## ■ Innate

- Conformation
- Barrier
  - Cervical barrier
  - Epithelium
- Uterine tone, contraction and secretions
- Microbial Pattern Recognition Receptors (PRR) and Pathogen associated Molecular Patterns (PAMP)
  - TLR,  $\beta$ -defensins
- Neutrophils and macrophages
- Compliment
- Cytokines

## ■ Adaptive

- Humoral
- Cell mediated





# Conceptus enters uterus

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- Cow day 3
- Sow day 2
  
- Defences have time to deal with uterine environment



# Maternal recognition of pregnancy

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- Bovine
  - IFN-t is anti-PGF.
  - Luteostasis inhibits oxytocin production by CL
- Pig
  - Progesterone is continuously produced
  - Fetal estrogens,  $\uparrow$  PGE2/PGF2 ratio
  - Oxytocin secreted by endometrium



# Placental attachment

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Cow day 16

Pig day 13



# Pregnancy is a paradox

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Foetus is an allograft  
Placenta attaches, it doesn't implant

Kristen Lackey



# Placenta

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- Great immunological importance
  - transfer of antibodies
  - tolerance
  - regulation of foetal development
  - release of cytokines
  - many lymphocytes and immune cells
- Inflammatory cells and cytokines used to maintain pregnancy



# Placenta

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- Protection
- Nutrition
- Respiration
- Endocrine control.

G. Schuler, H. Greven, M. P. Kowalewski, B. Döring, GR Özalp , B Hoffmann (2008).  
Placental steroids in cattle: hormones, placental growth factors or by-products of  
trophoblast giant cell differentiation? *Exp Clin Endocrinol Diabetes* 2008 116 429-437



# Antibody transfer

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- All – 0
- Transfer if placentitis
- Requires colostrum
- Failure of passive transfer.



# Immune tolerance

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- Fetus is genetically different
  - Inert
  - Immune modification
- Transfer of cells, nutrients and wastes between mother and fetus
- Uterus is temporarily immune privileged
- No agreement as to how.





# Trophoblast is key

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- Effective foreign object
- MHC 1 expression
- Fas/Fas ligand system
  - Apoptosis of activated immune cells expressing Fas (trophoblasts have FasL)
- Indoleamine 2,3-dioxygenase
  - Degrades tryptophan, inactivates T cells
- What about the NK cells?

# Placenta - human/primate speak

- 'A flat cake' = disc
- 'Membranes' are a different structure

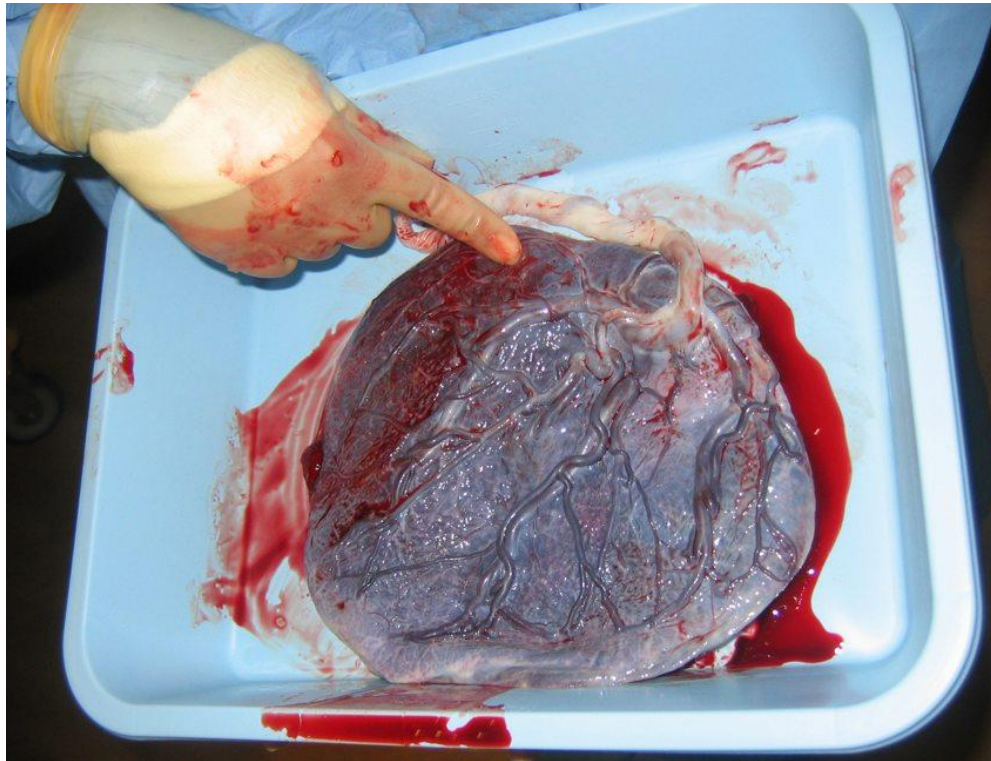
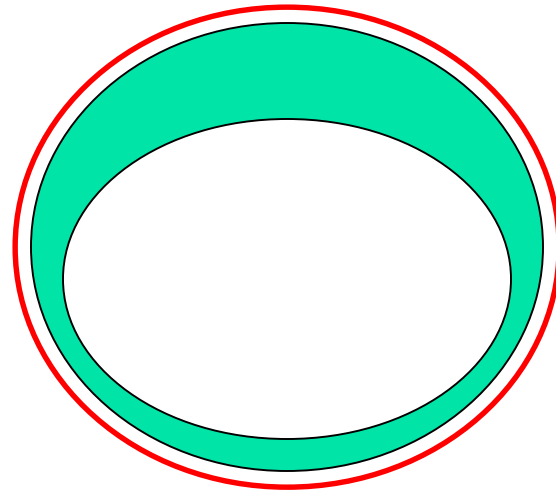


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# Basic embryology

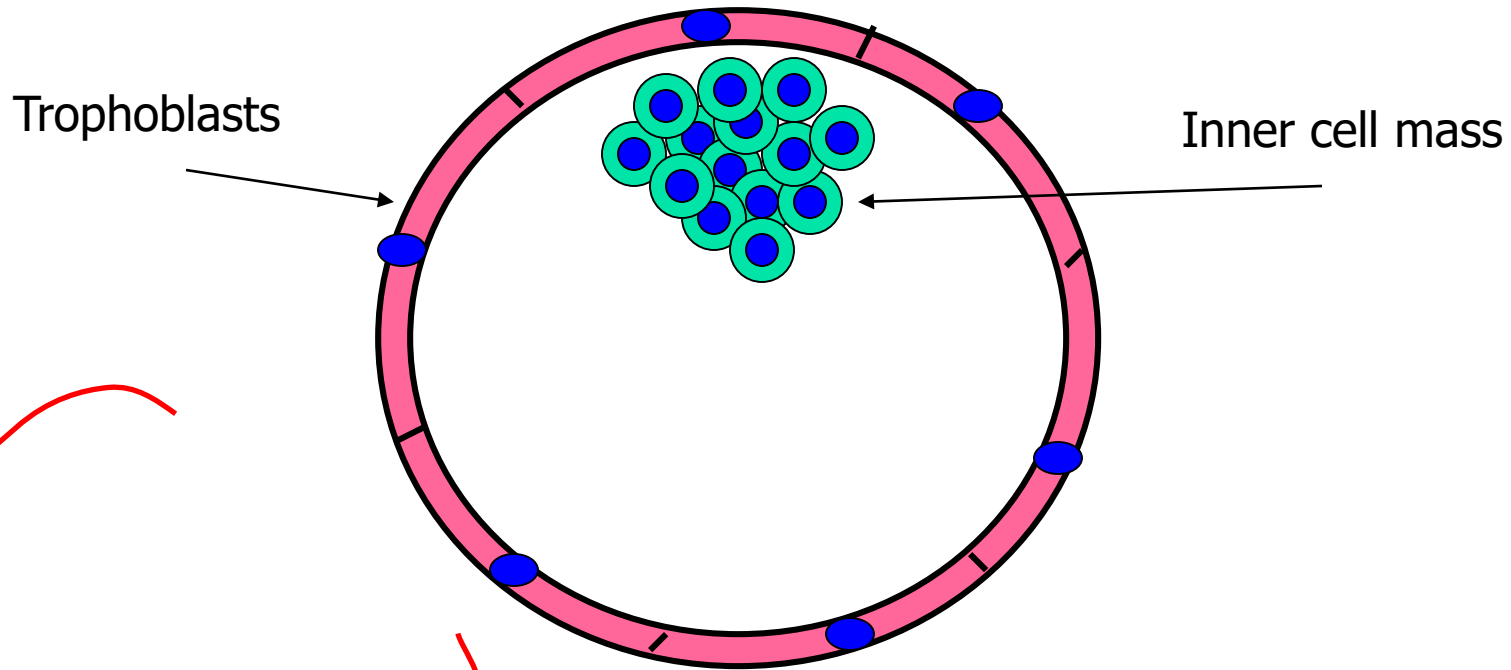
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blastocyst

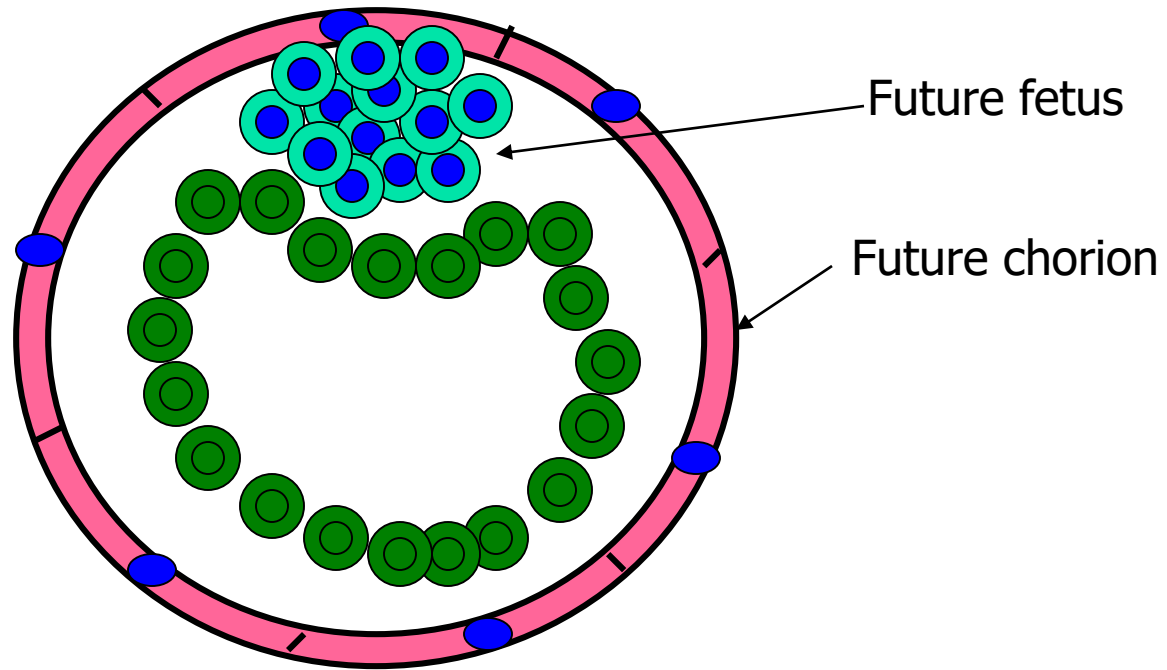
# Formation of Chorion

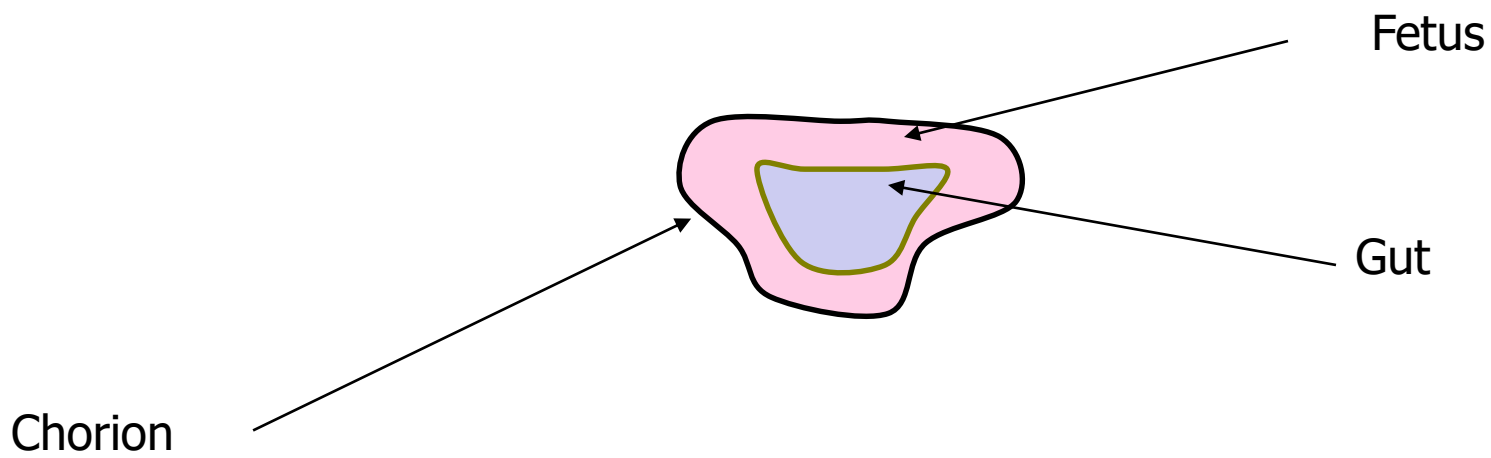
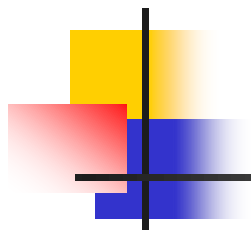
Trophoblasts (and mesoderm) form Chorion



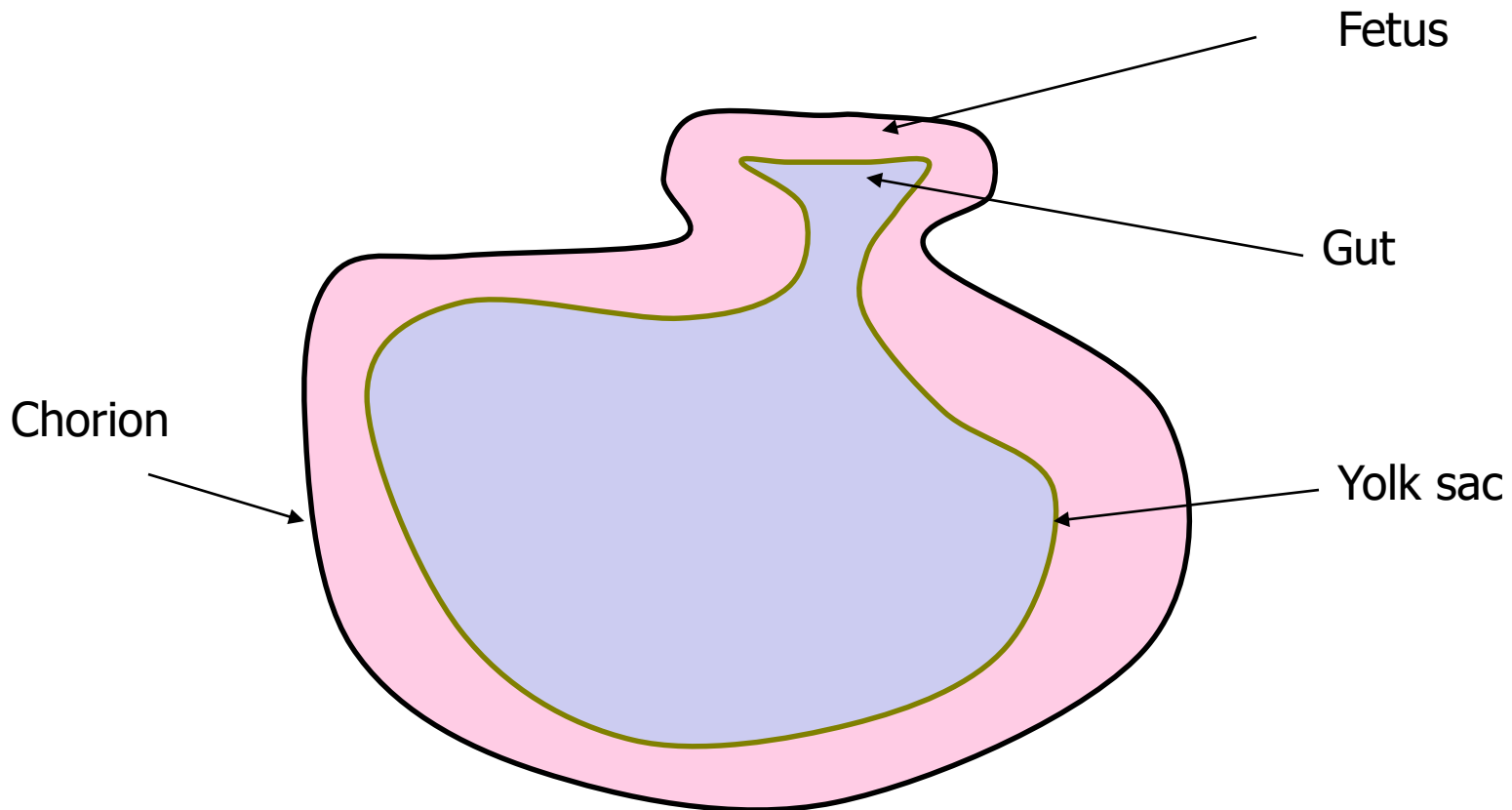
# Formation of endoderm

- Endoderm = gut + yolk sac

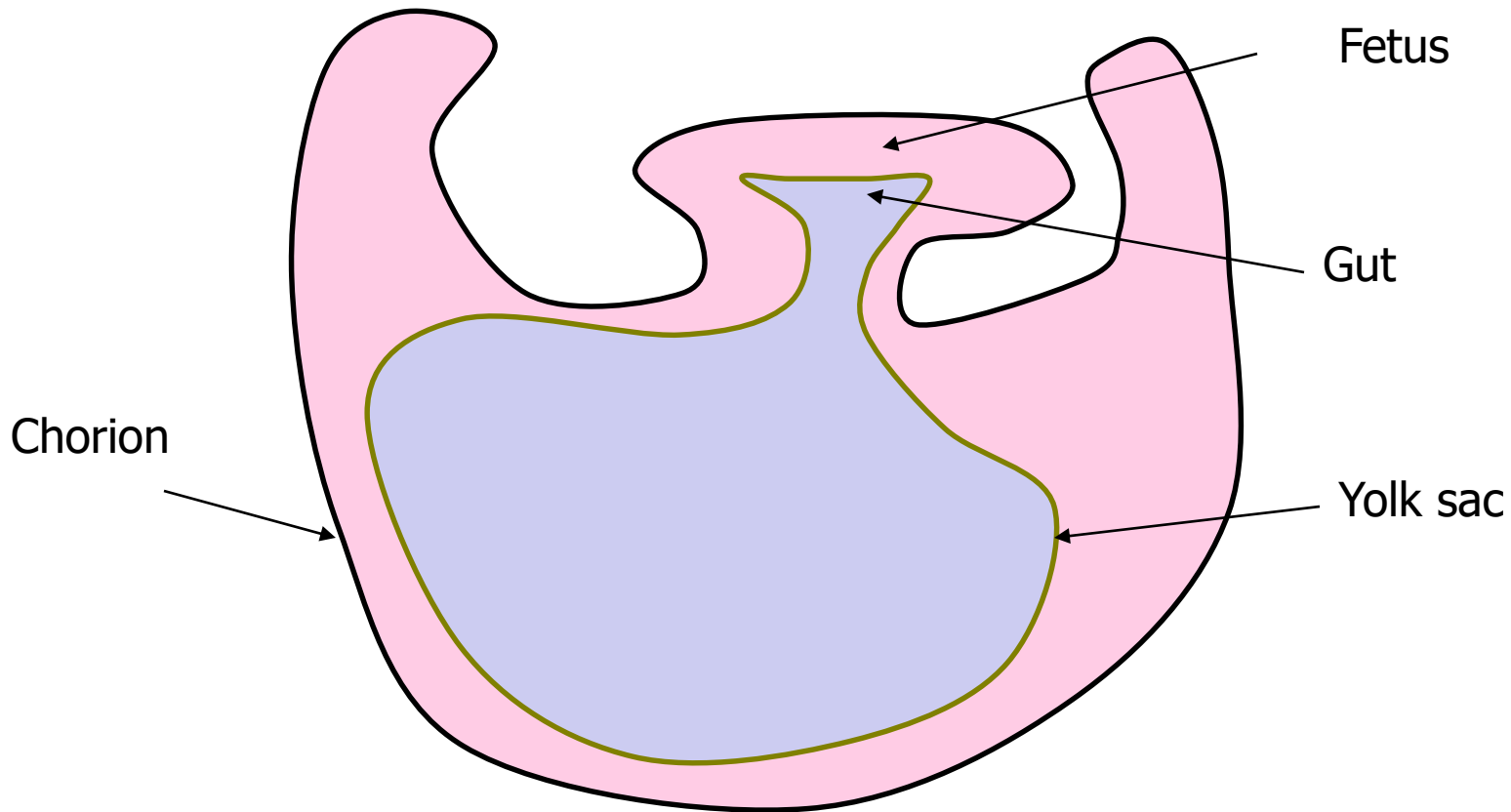




# Formation of Yolk sac

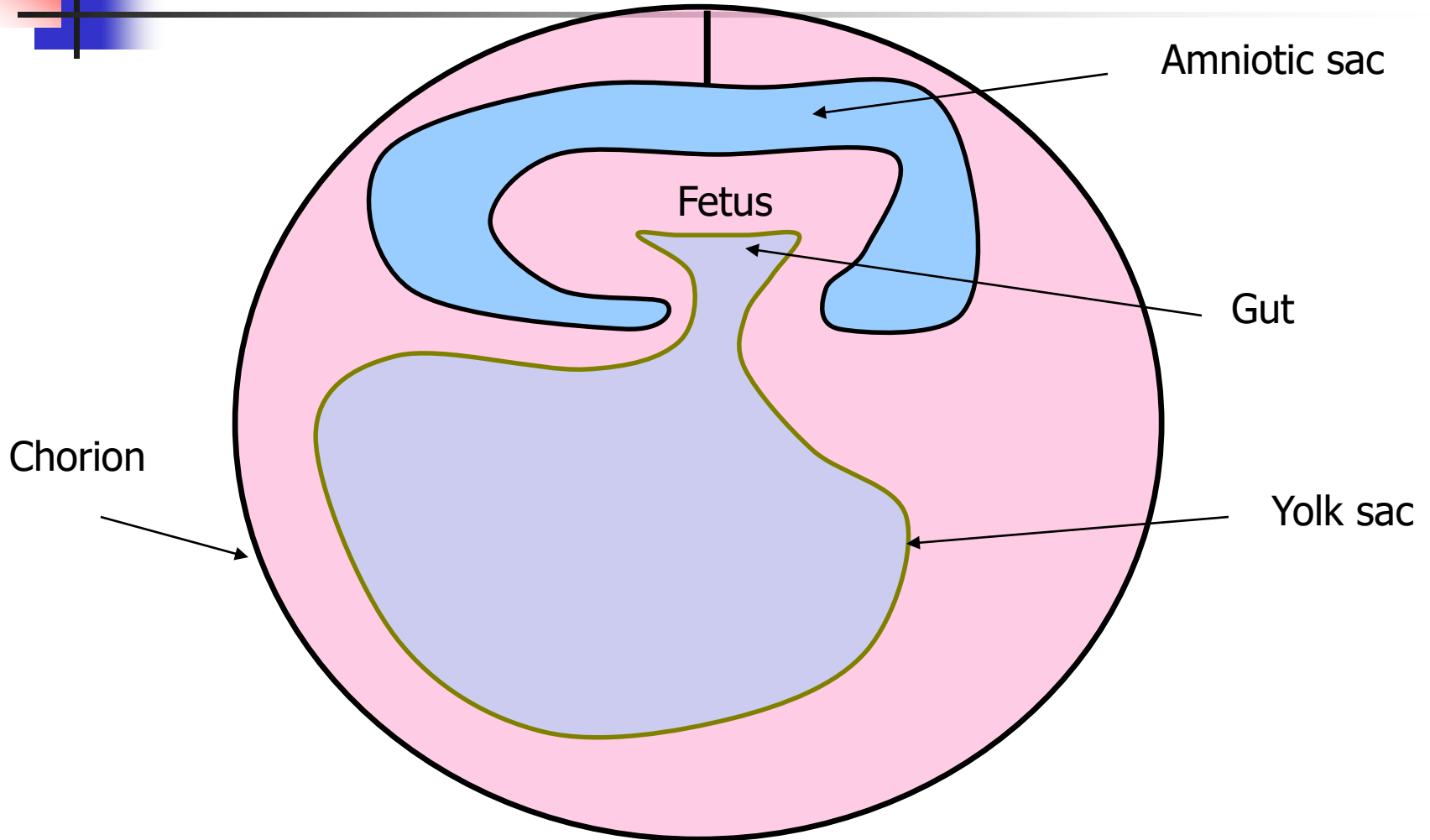


# Formation of Amnion

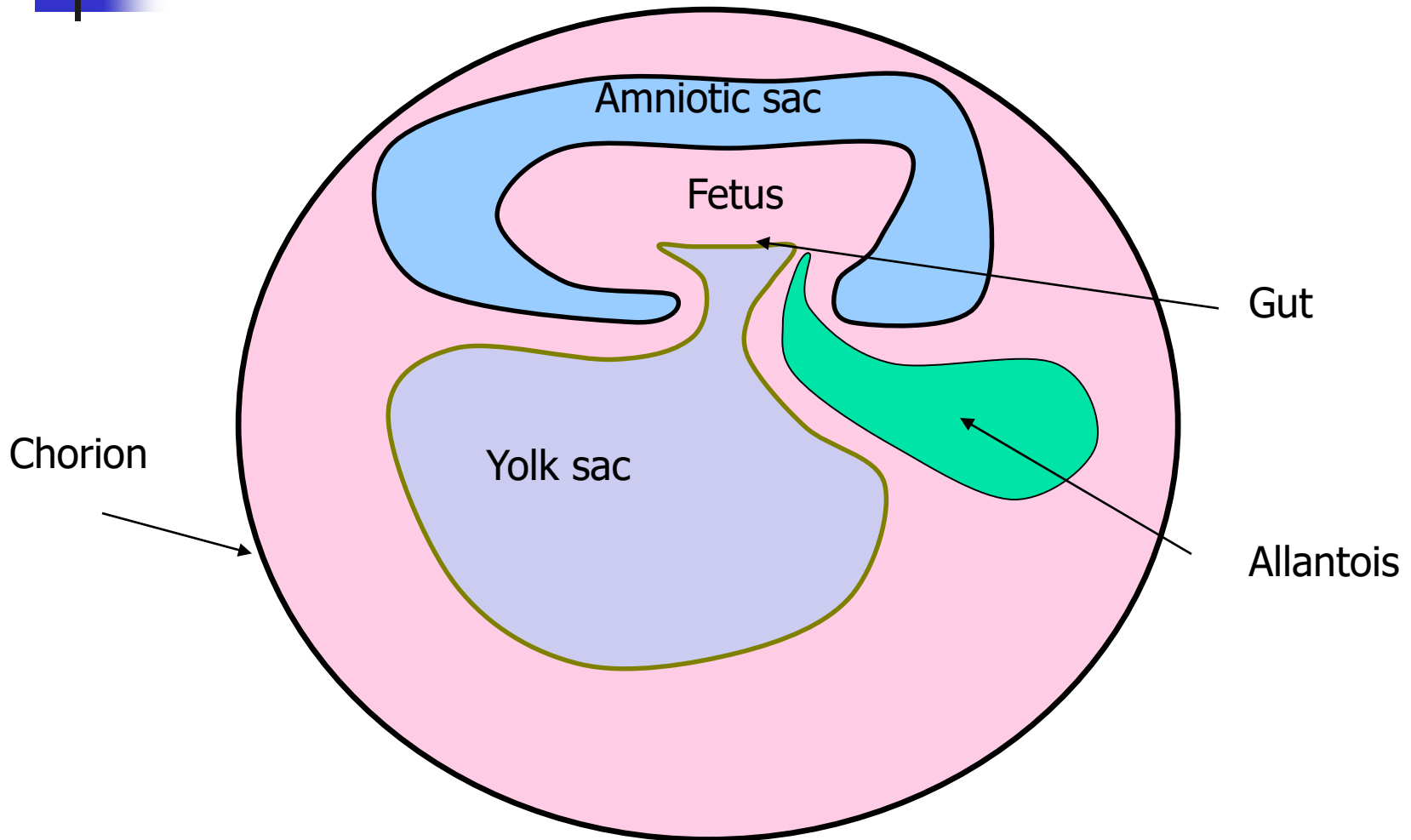




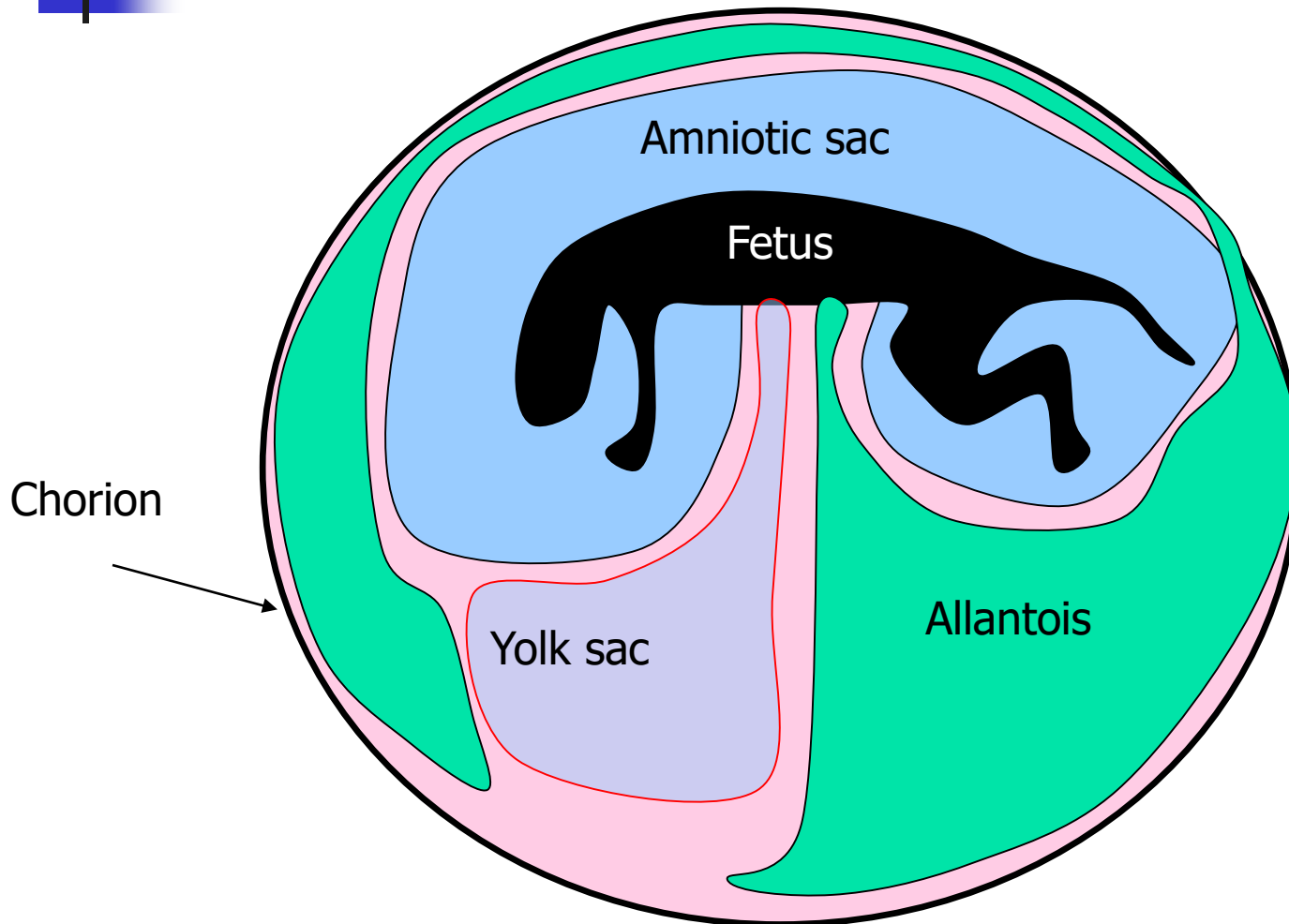
# Formation of amnion

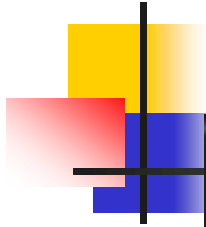


# Formation of allantois



# Formation of allantois



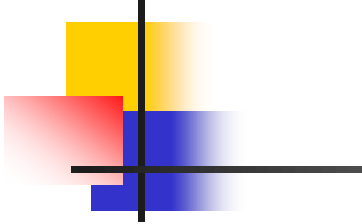
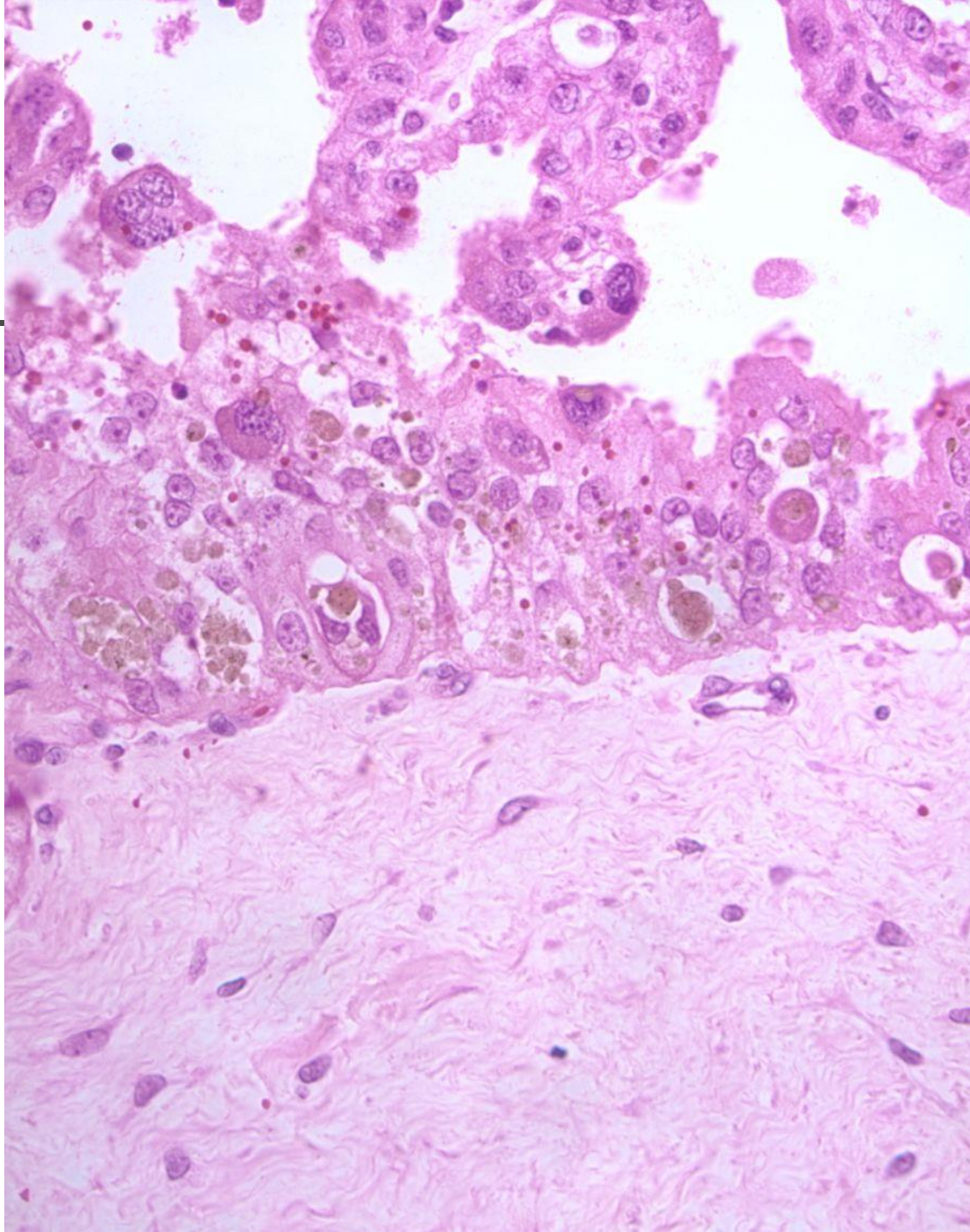


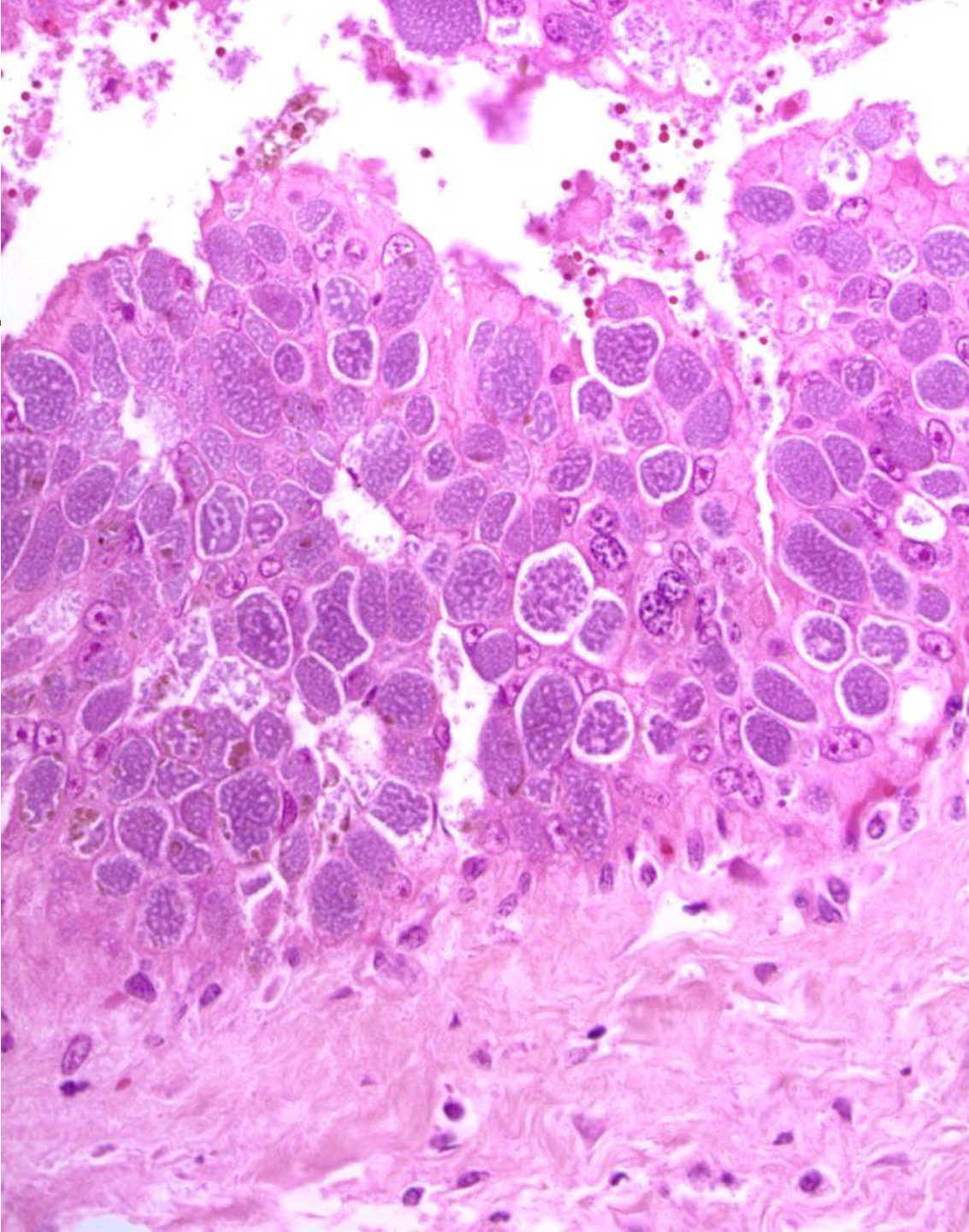
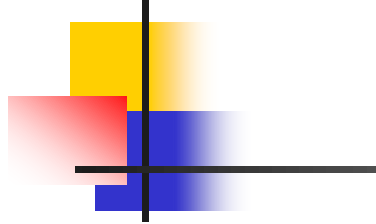


# Trophoblasts

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- Recognition of pregnancy
  - Bovine trophoblasts release IFN- $\tau$  that inhibit COX-2 expression and therefore PGF<sub>2 $\alpha$</sub>  release – luteotrophic.
- Immune barrier
- Phagocytic
  - Histotrophic nutrition
    - Hemophagic 'organ'
  - Brucella abortus
  - Placentitis.







# Uteroplacental unit

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- Cytokine balance
- Prostaglandins  $F_{2\alpha}$ , E
- Macrophages
- NK cells
- T cells





# Establishment of pregnancy

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- Maternal recognition of pregnancy
  - Attachment
  - Immune modulation
  - Endocrine cross talk
- 
- Embryonic period (cow: 1 - 45 days)
  - Foetal period

F Lopez-Gatius, I Garcí a-Ispuerto (2010) Ultrasound and Endocrine Findings that Help to Assess the Risk of Late Embryo/Early Foetal Loss by Non-Infectious Cause in Dairy Cattle. *Reprod Dom Anim* 2010 45: (Suppl 3)15–24



# Failure of pregnancy

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Embryonic mortality



# Embryonic mortality

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- Early embryonic mortality
  - Most are Day 8 – 17 in cattle
- Late embryonic - early foetal
  - 10-12% are prior to day 90, but >20% in high production herds - suboptimal progesterone
- Chromosomal abnormalities
- Living cattle have traits that are heterozygous only!
- Twinning (25% of bovine twins die)
- Summer heat
- Alteration of immune profile.

F Lopez-Gatius, I Garcí a-Ispuerto (2010) Ultrasound and Endocrine Findings that Help to Assess the Risk of Late Embryo/Early Foetal Loss by Non-Infectious Cause in Dairy Cattle. *Reprod Dom Anim* 2010 45: (Suppl 3)15–24



# Failure of Pregnancy

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Abortion



# Maternal disease

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- Systemic disease
  - Cytokine/inflammation
- Stress and luteolysis
- Ischemia/hypoxia
- Hyperthermia



# Infectious Failure of Pregnancy

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## Infection

Not all agents are as 'pathogenic' as we might expect.

## Inflammation

This is more important than we think!



# Infectious FOP: routes of infection

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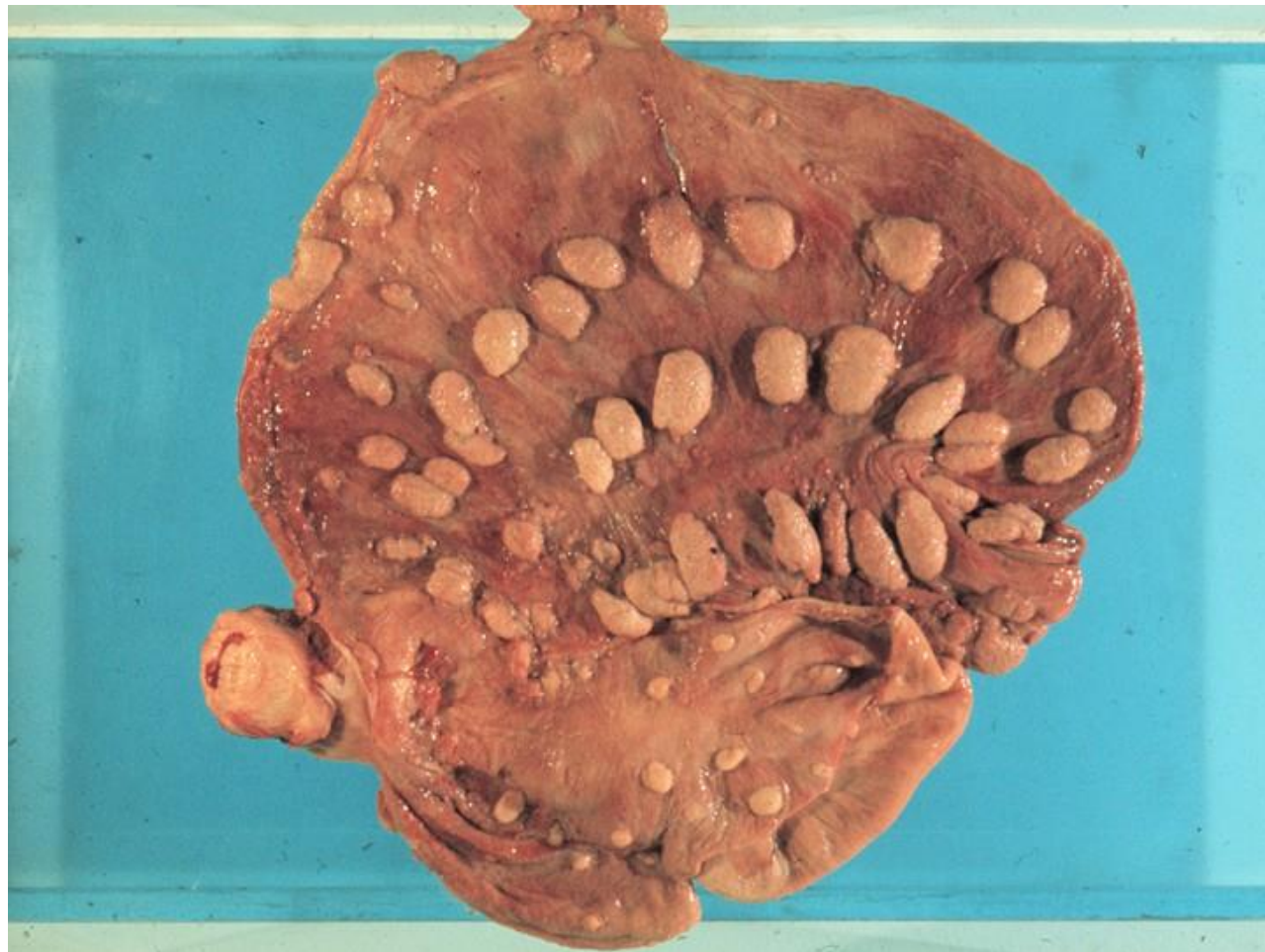
- Ascending at mating
  - STI's
    - Tritrichomonas
    - Ureaplasma diversum
- Ascend from vagina (not in ruminants and pigs)
- Descending from ovary
  - BVDV
- Hematogenous
  - Herpesvirus
  - Campylobacter
  - Toxoplasma

# Normal uterus

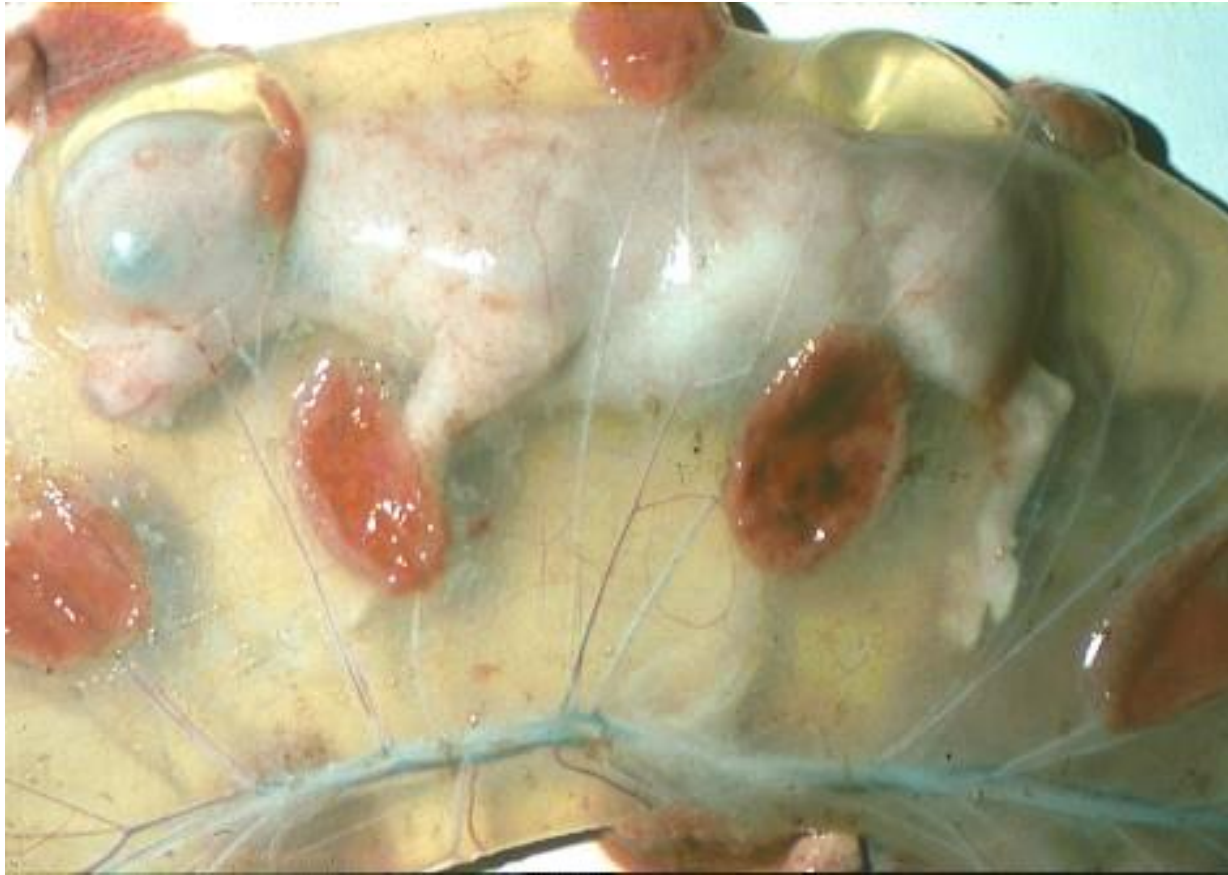




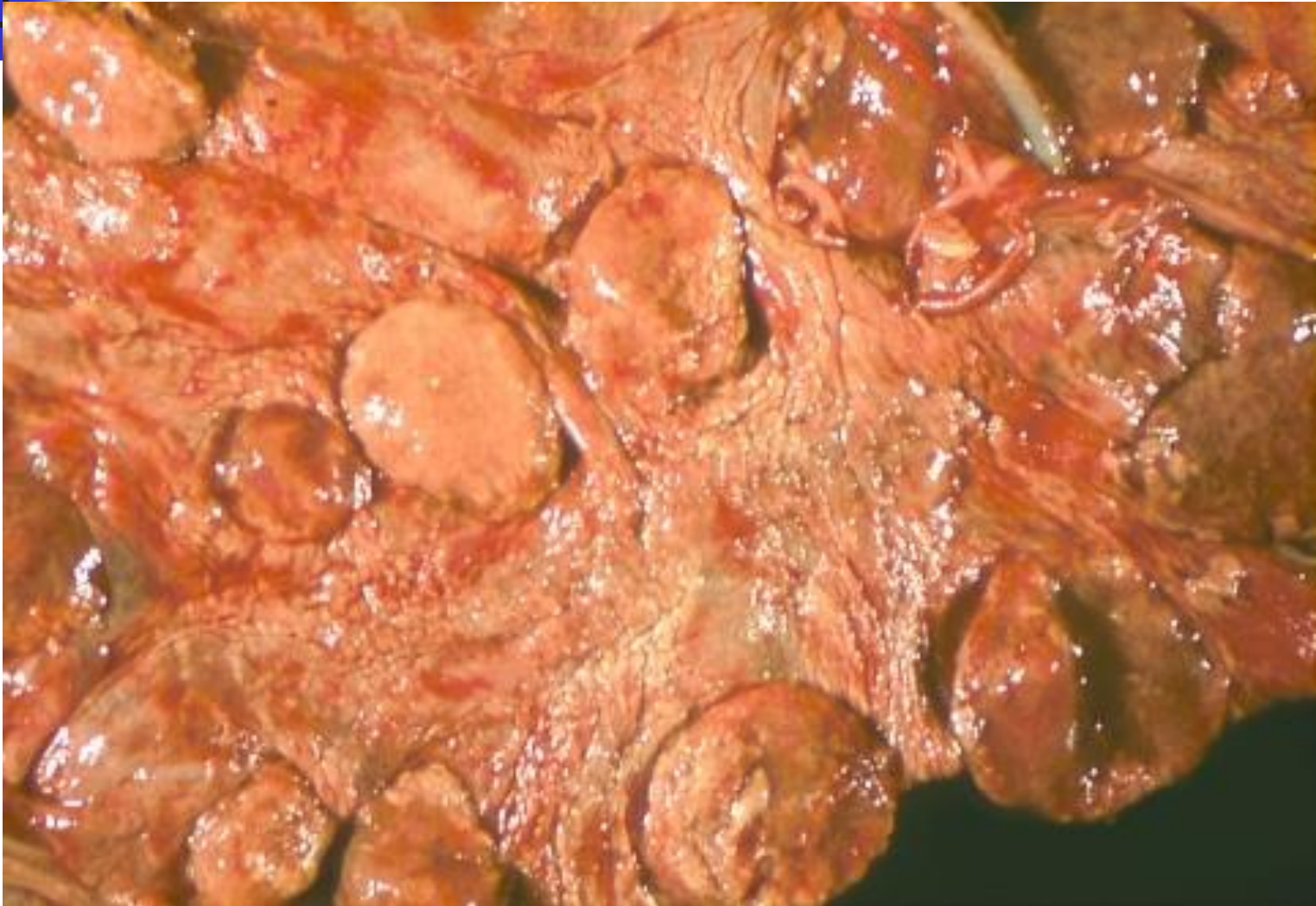
# Normal uterus

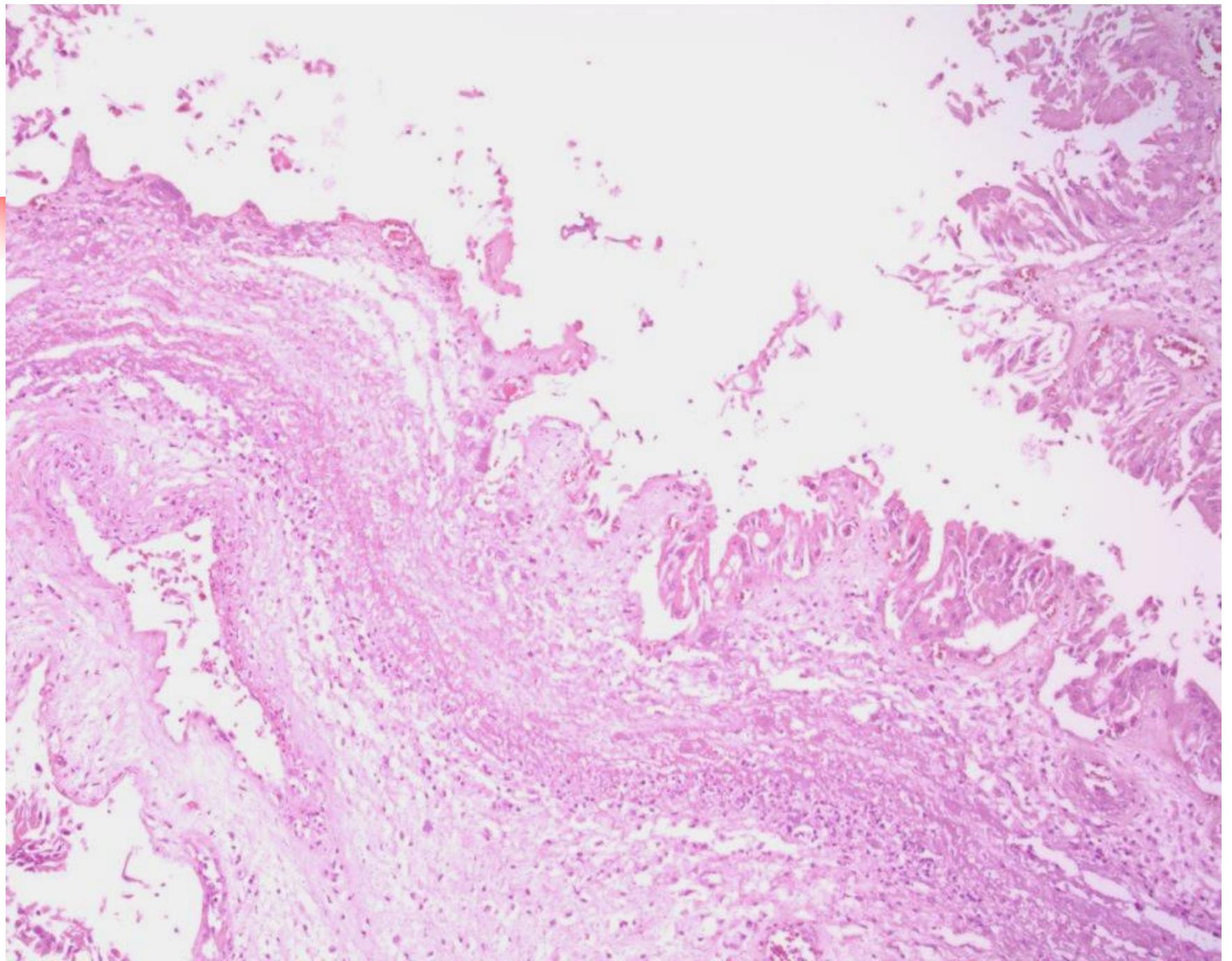


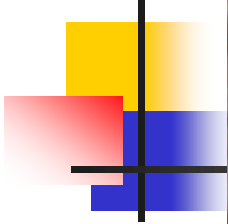
# Normal Chorionic surface

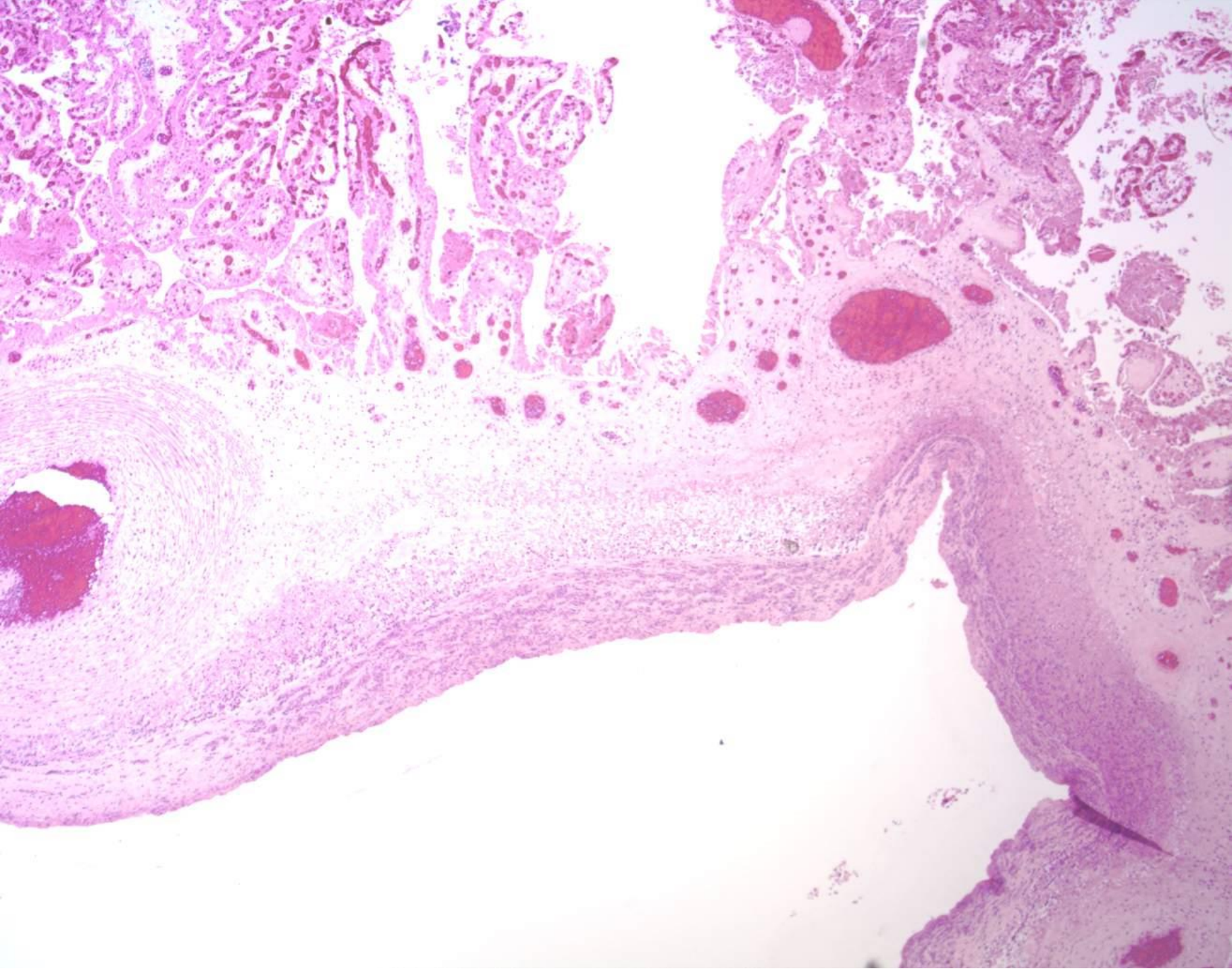


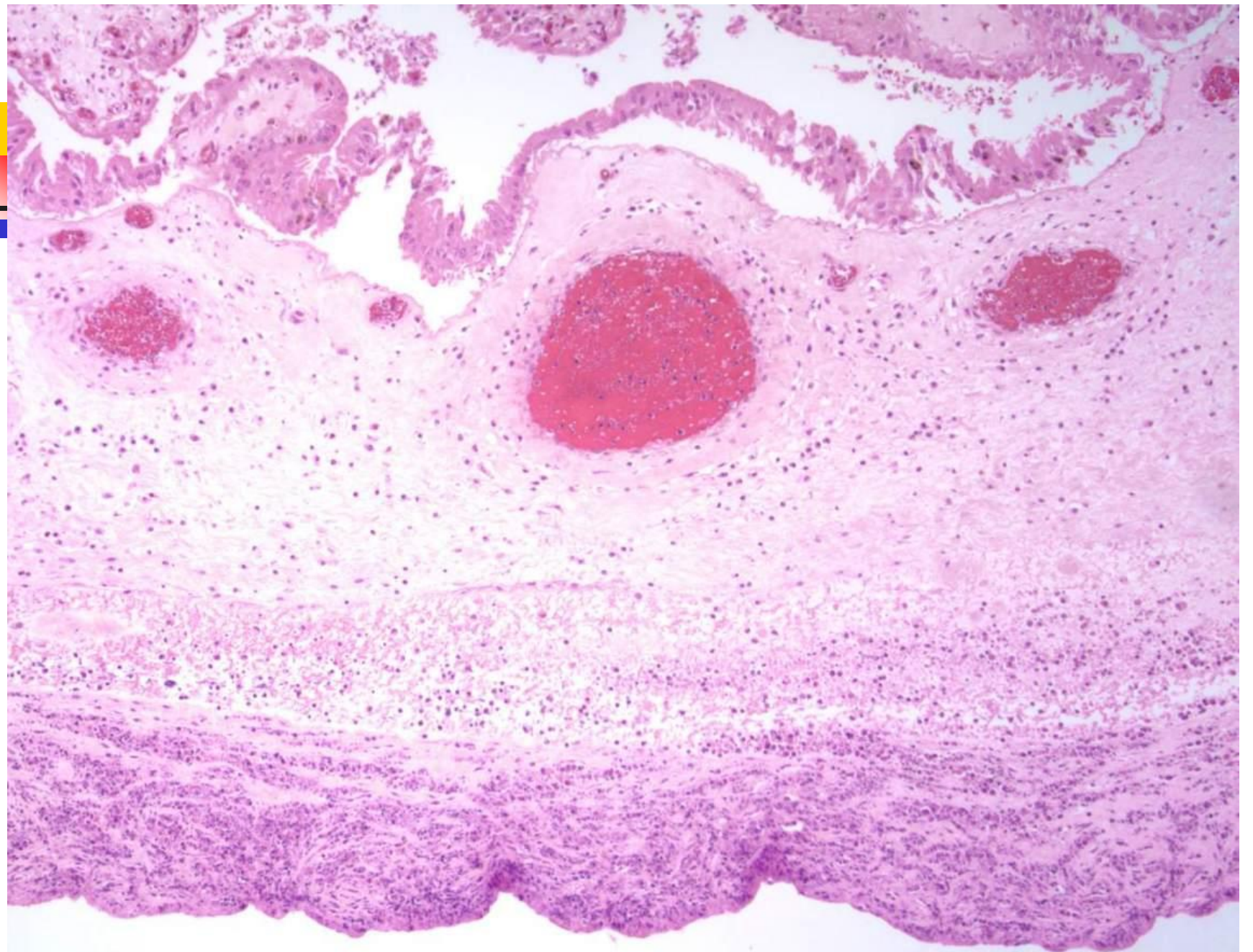
# Placentitis

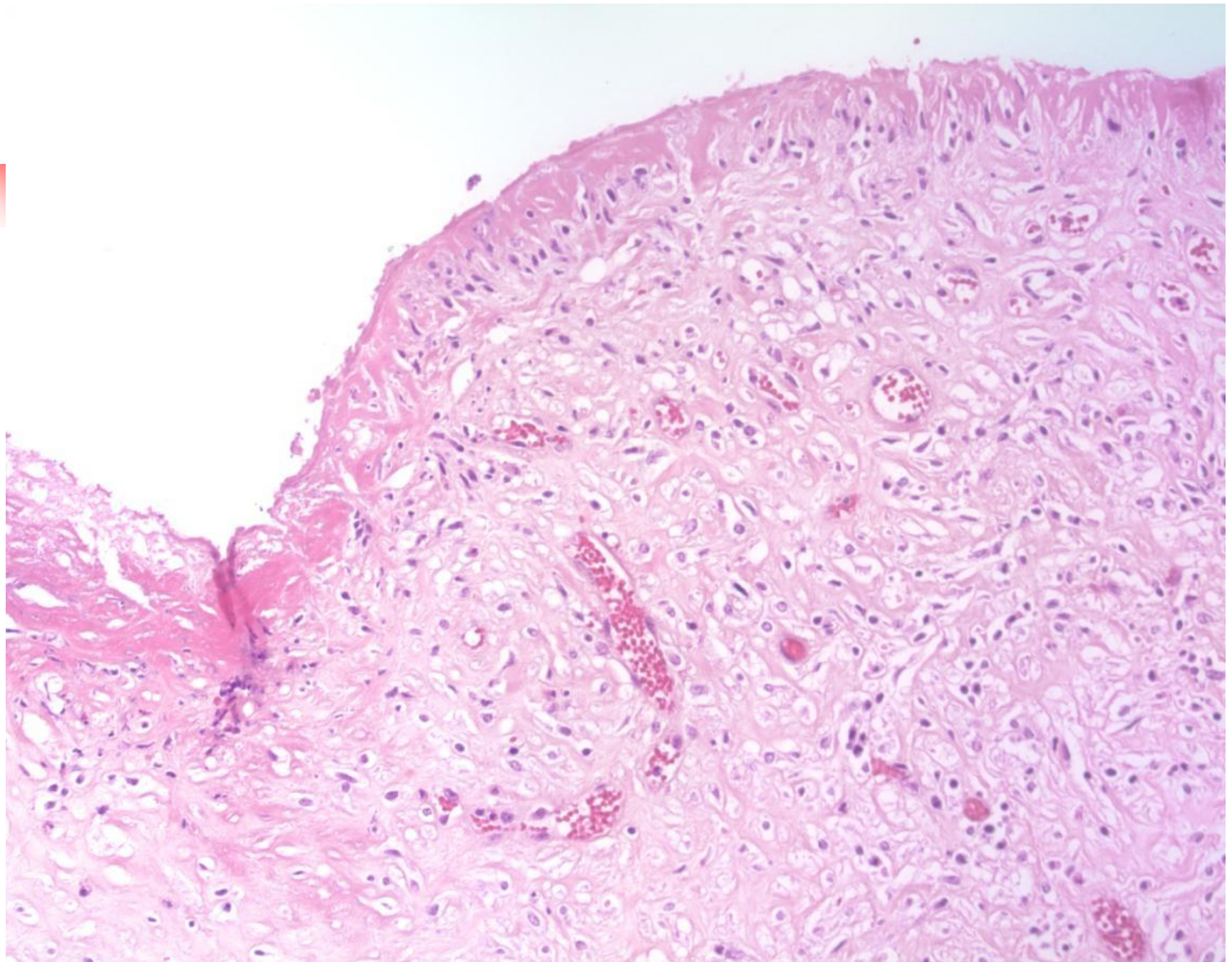












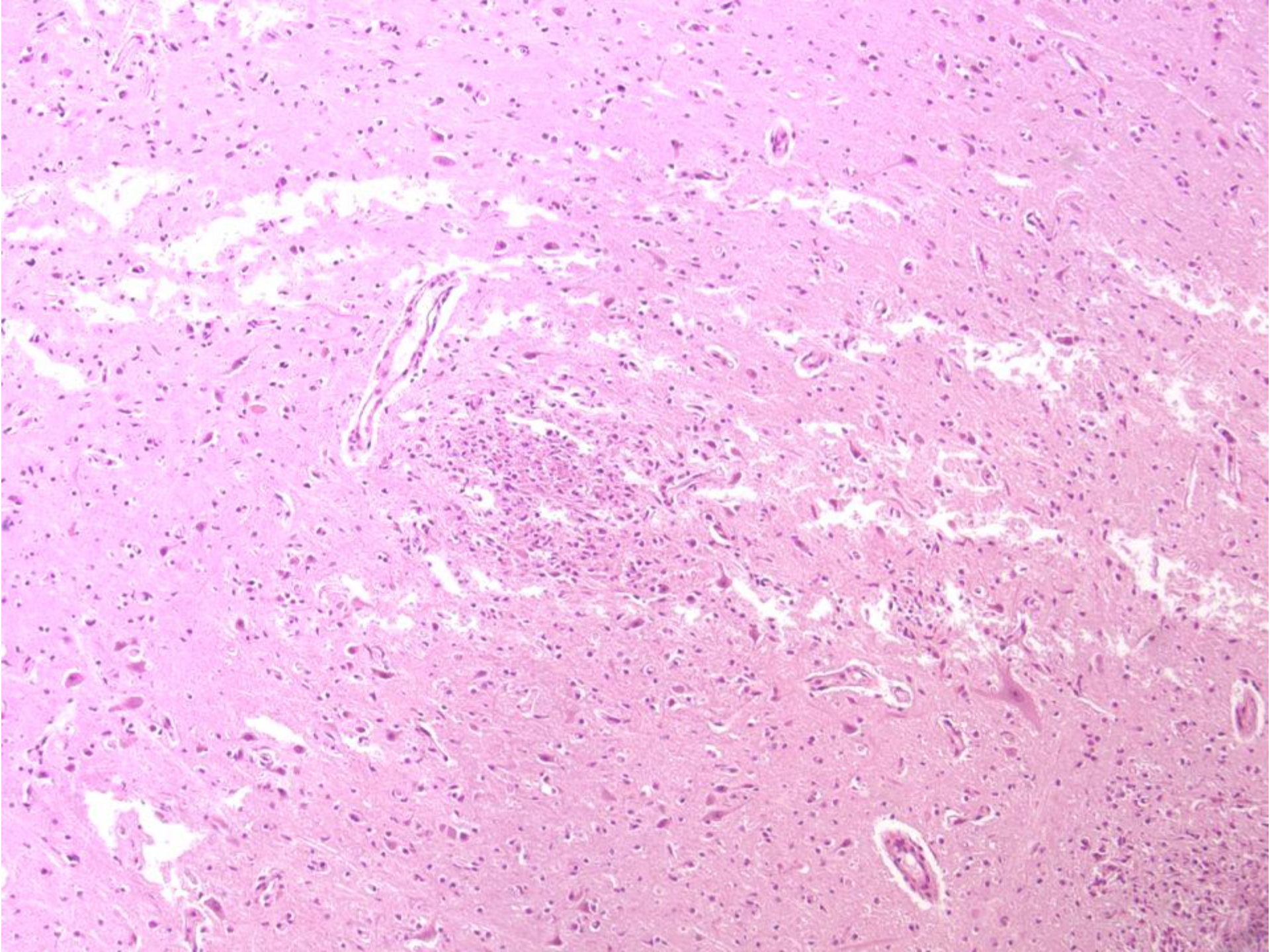


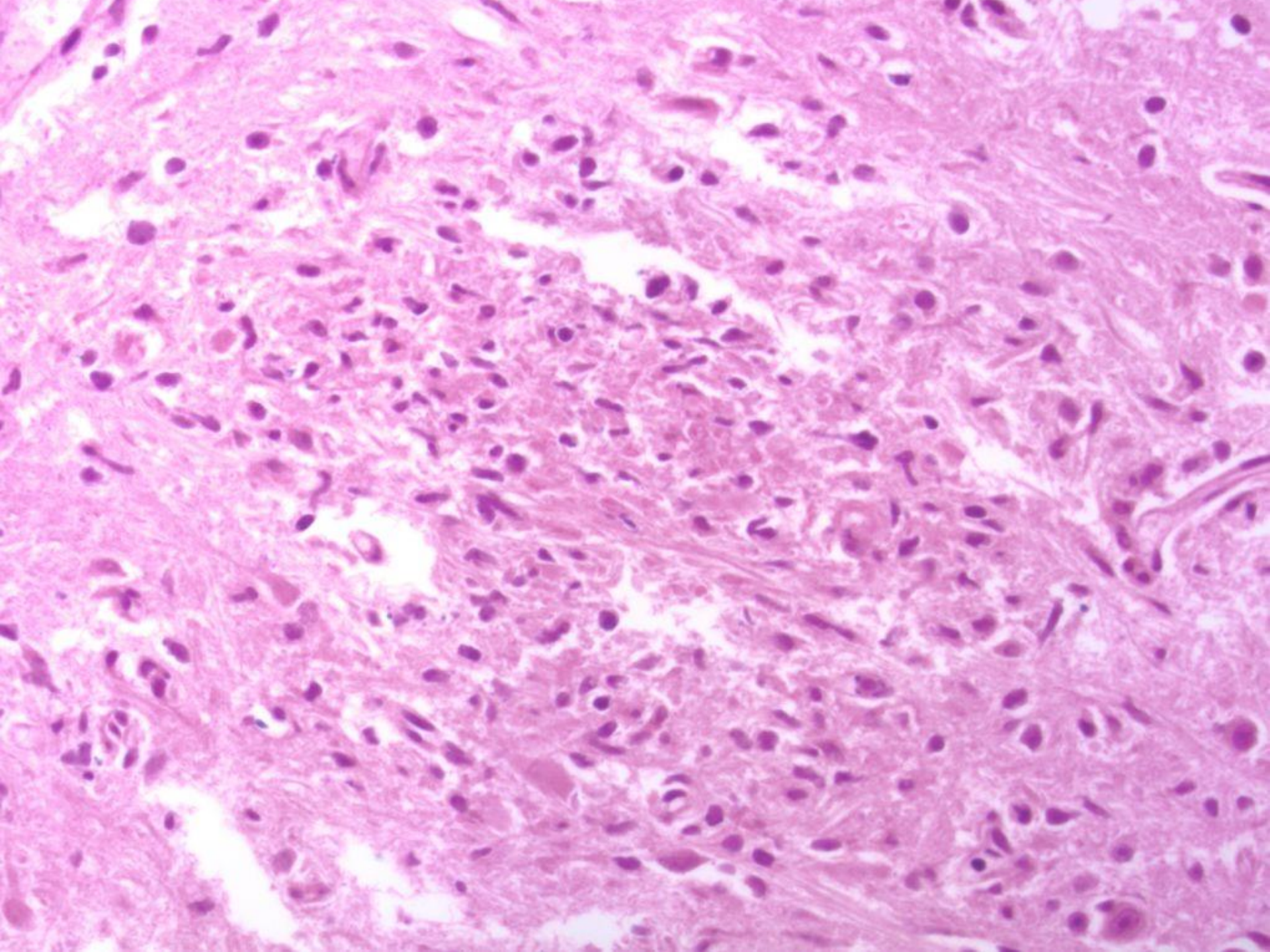


# Bovine FOP

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■ <b>No diagnosis</b>	<b>58</b>
■ <b>Noninfectious</b>	<b>1</b>
■ <b>Infectious</b>	<b>42</b>
■ Bacteria	17
■ Protozoal	16
■ Viral	4
■ Fungal	4
■ Ureaplasma	2







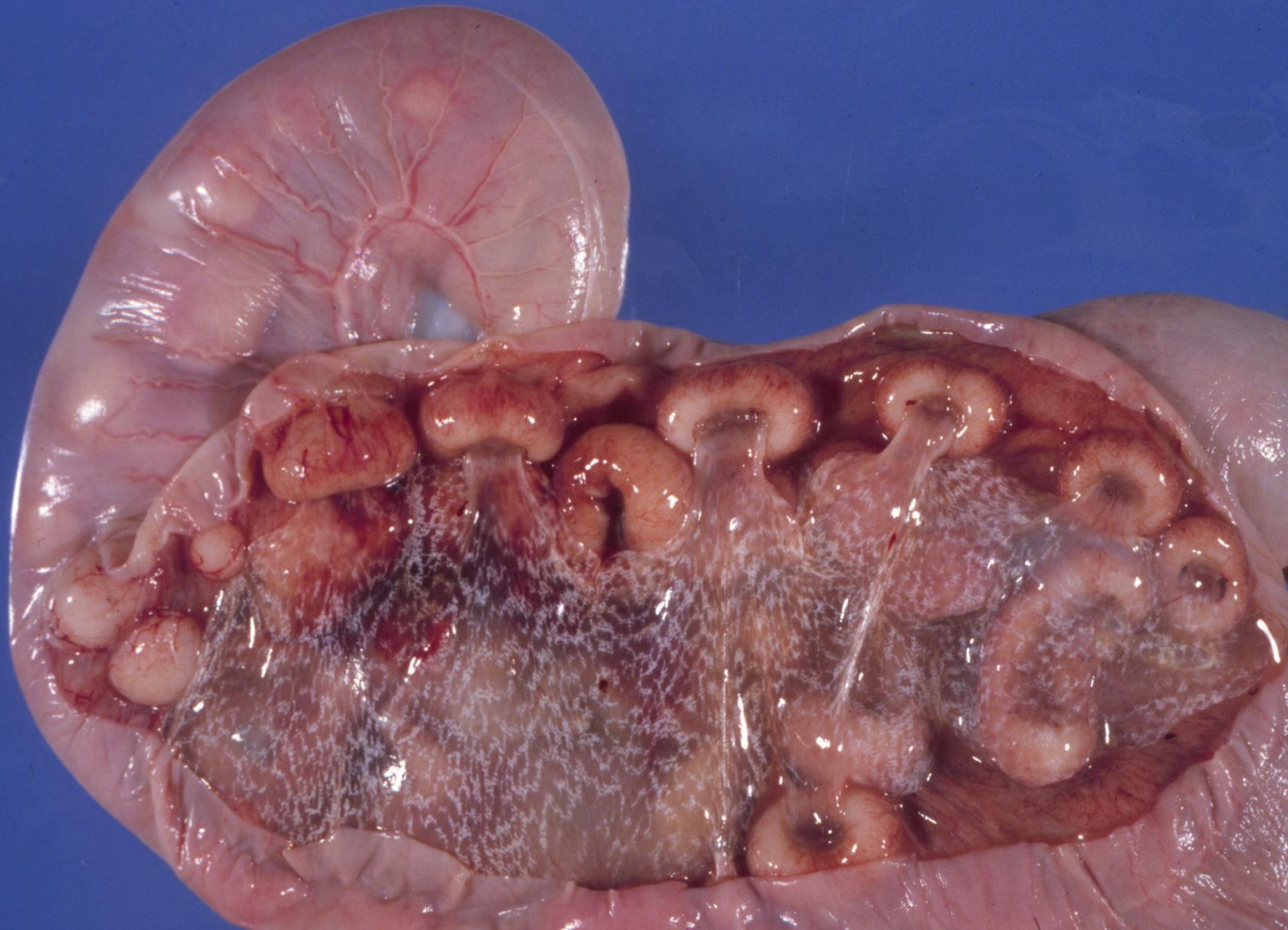
# Ovine Abortion\*

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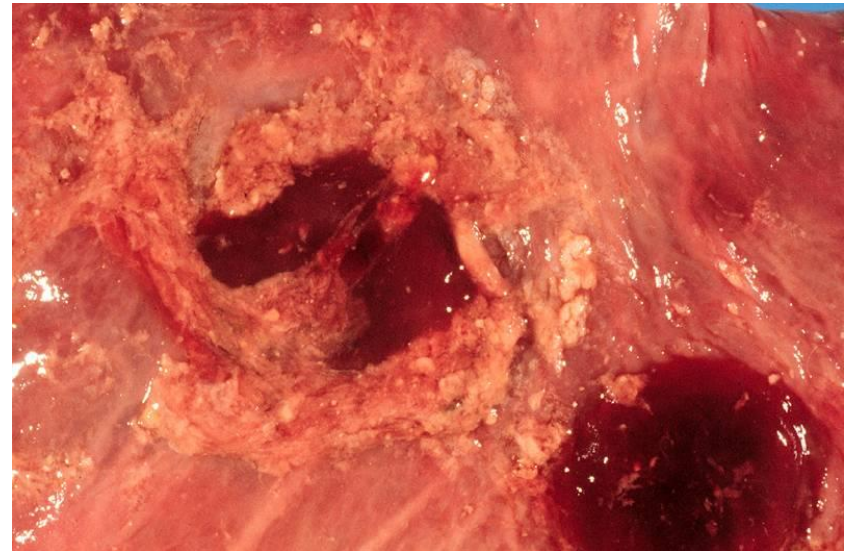
■ No Diagnosis	48
■ Noninfectious	2
■ Infectious	50
■ <i>Chlamydophila abortus</i>	17
■ <i>Campylobacter</i>	4
■ <i>Toxoplasma gondii</i>	19
■ <i>Coxiella burnetti</i>	5
■ Virus (Border disease)	0

\* Animal Health Laboratory, University of Guelph

# Ruminant

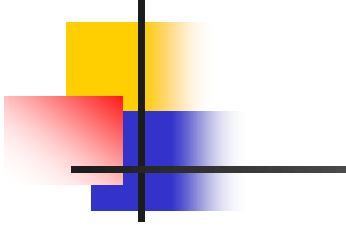
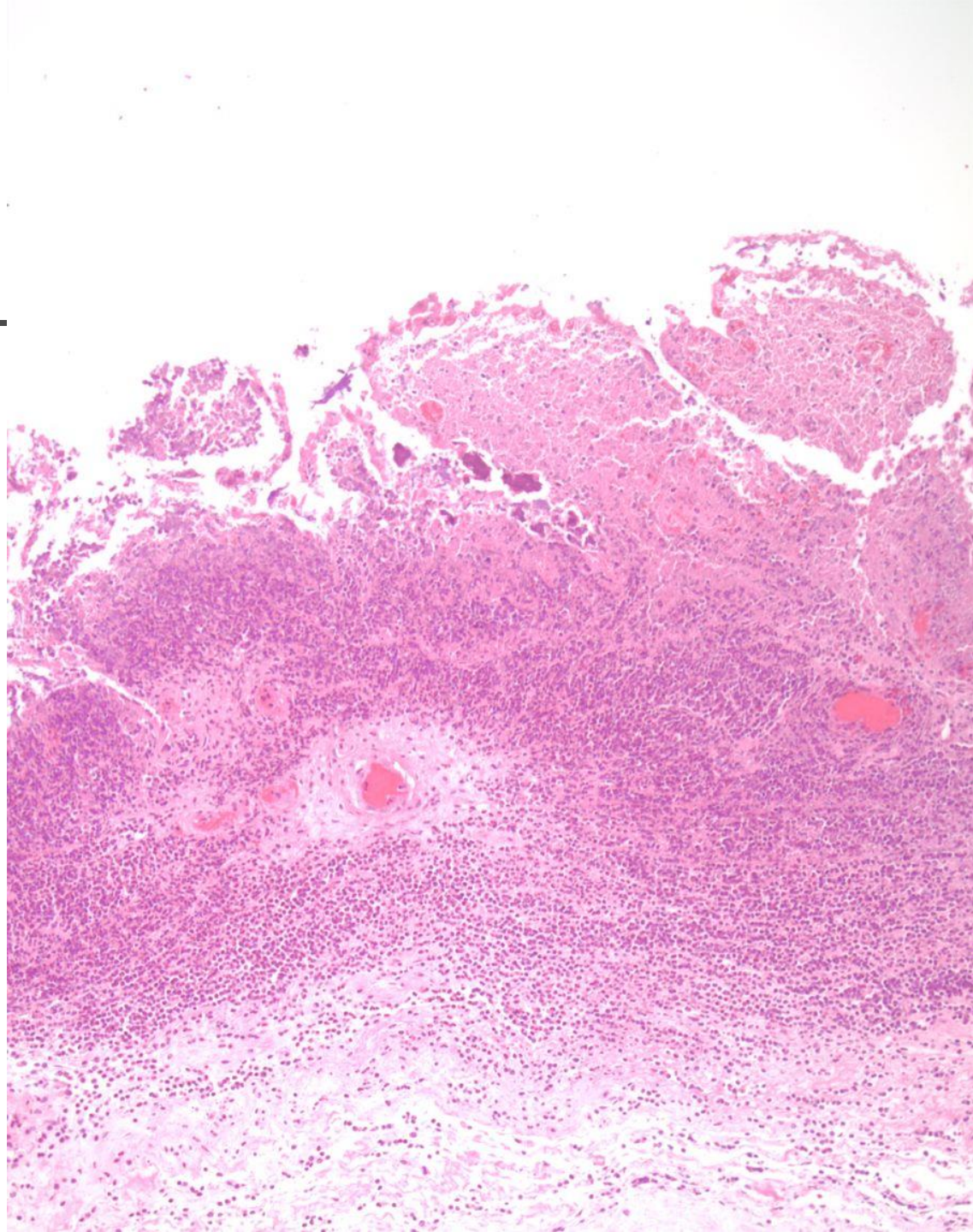


# Placentitis

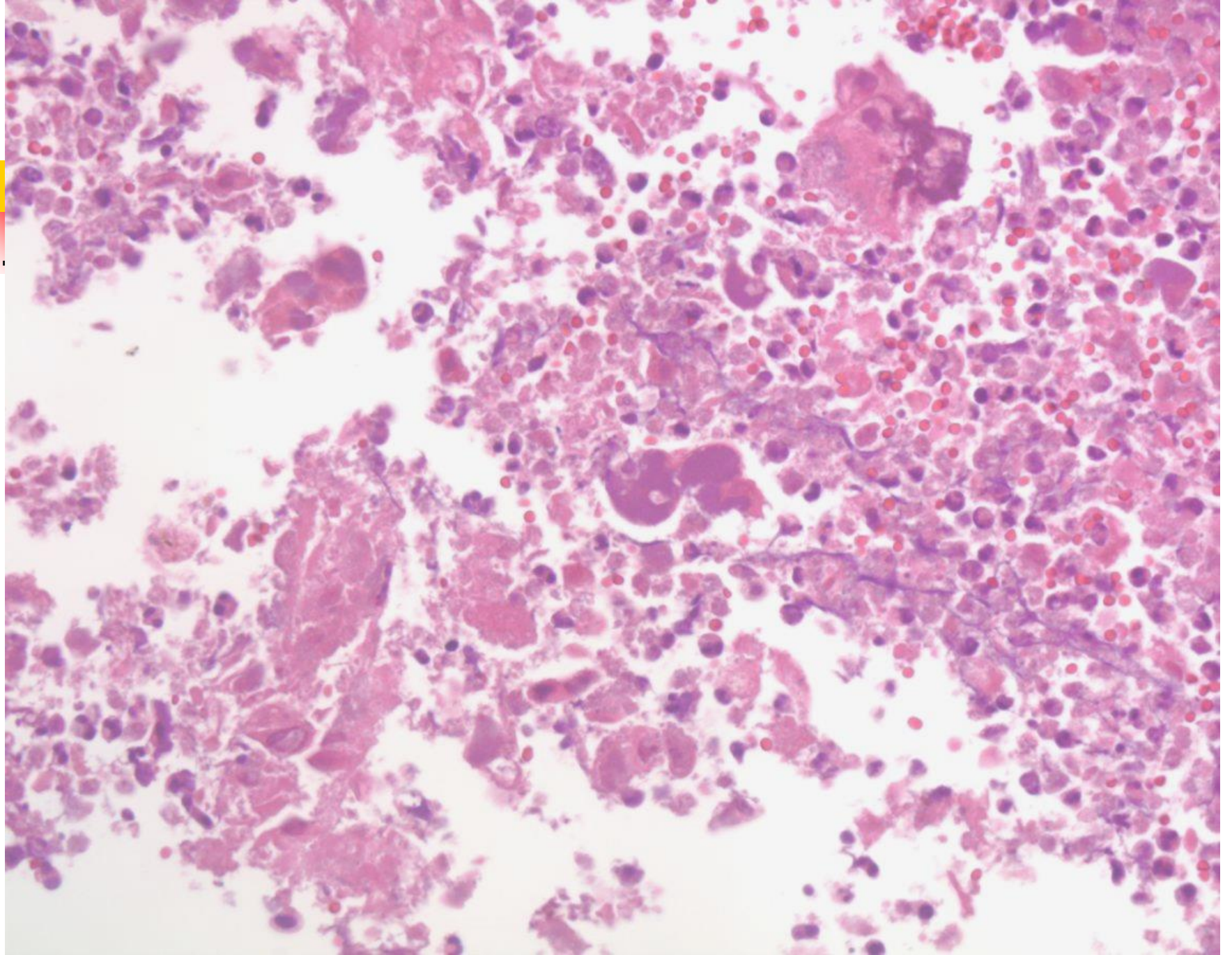


# *Chlamydia abortus*











# *Pathogenesis*

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- Exposure of mucous membranes
  - Uterine discharge and fluids, aerosols.
  - Carrier ewes – secretions at estrus
  - Rams temporarily – semen, prepuce
- Ewe develops Ab in 15 d, mild lesions for month, then latency.
  
- Mononuclear cells in endometrium
- Endometrial cells of placentome, neutrophils control infection here
- Trophoblasts around placentome
- Logarithmic growth of organism
- Necrosis, neutrophilic inflammation,

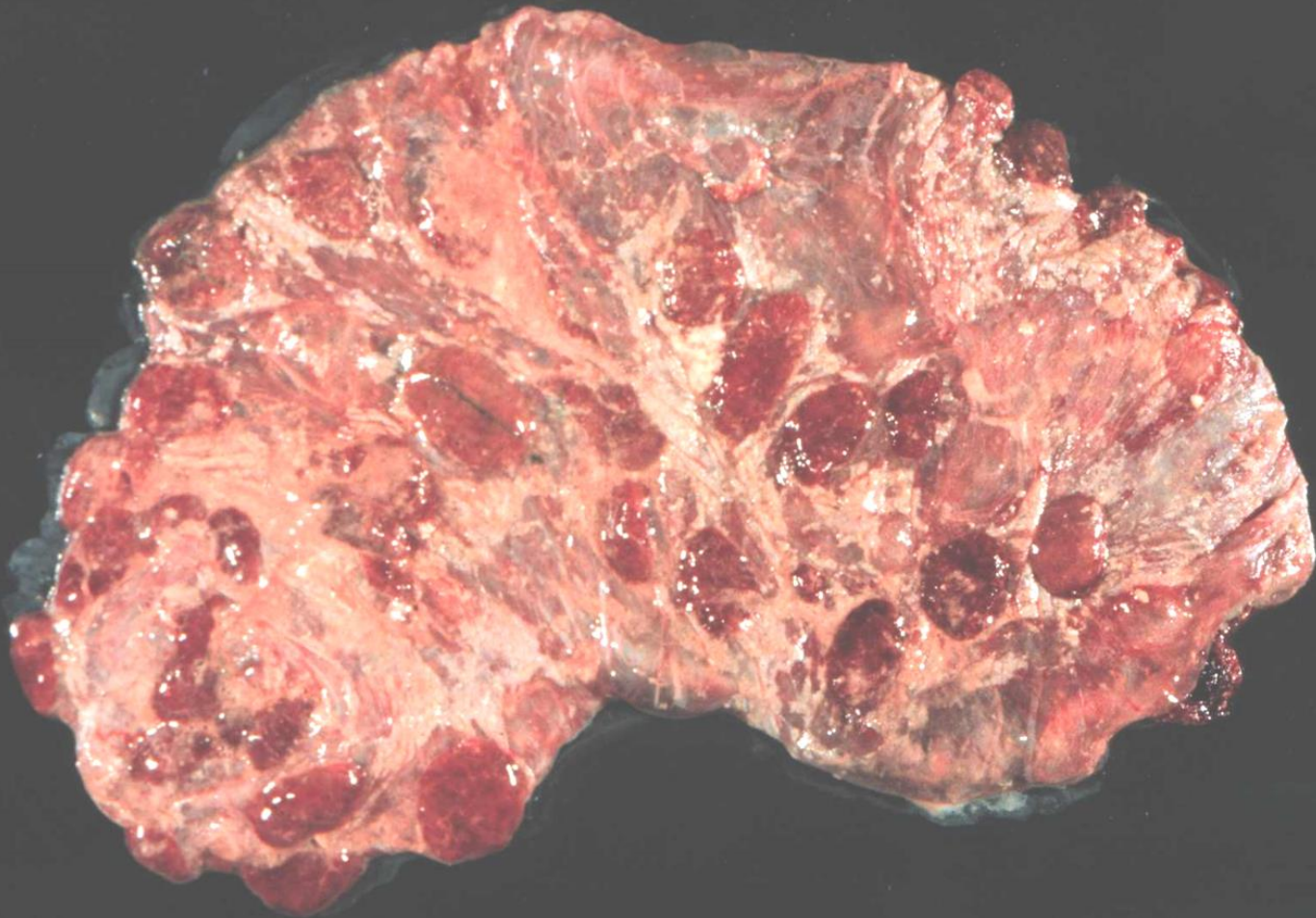


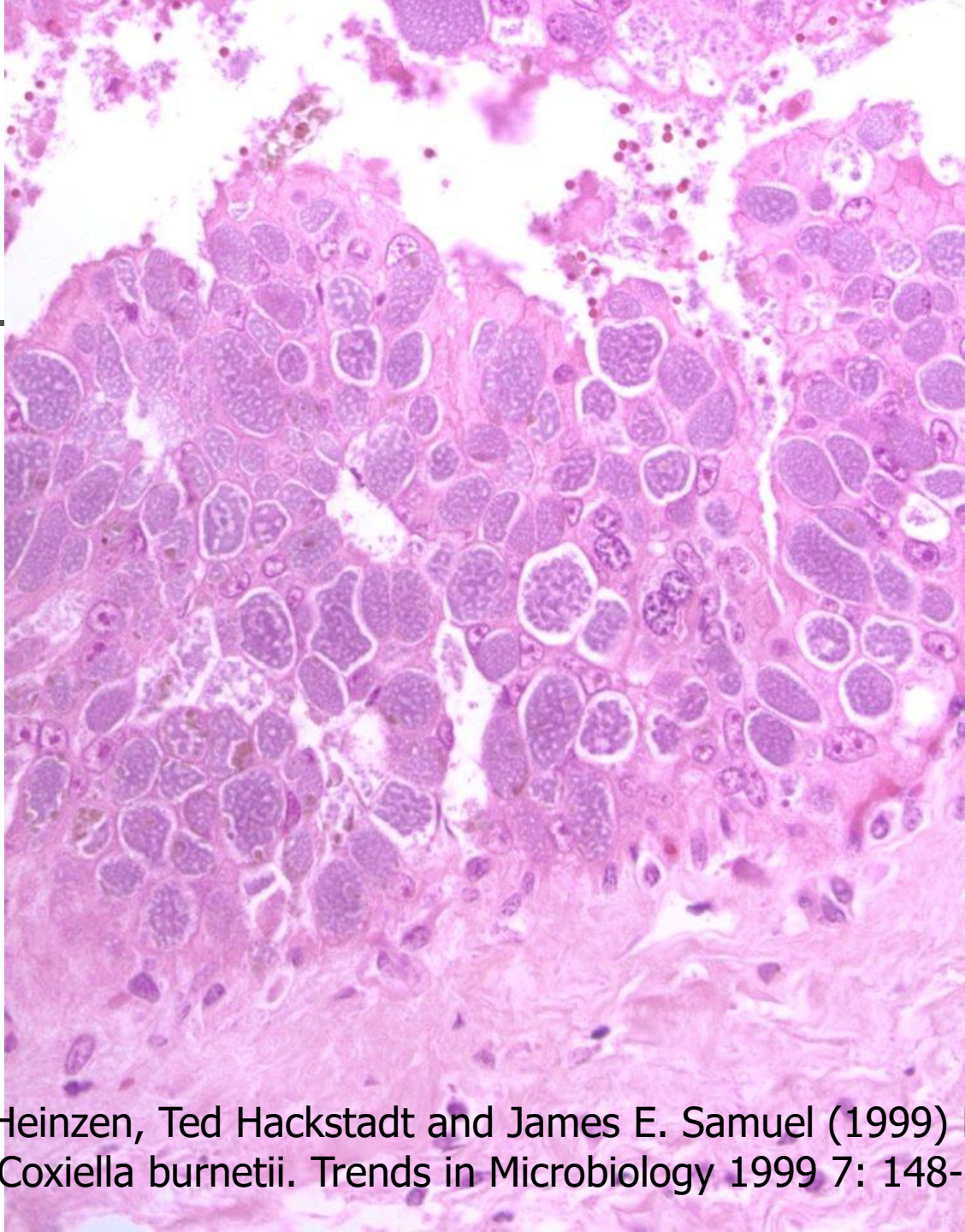
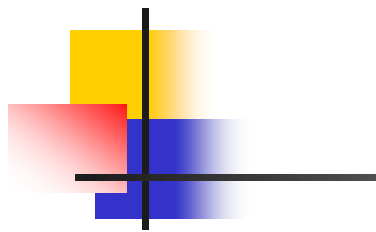
# Individual history

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- Incubation (FOP) 50-90 days during gestation
- Gestation 150 d. (138-159)
- Infection early to middle gestation – abort.
- Infection late in gestation – abort next gestation.
- Ewe lambs abort at first pregnancy
- Carrier state despite immunity.

# *Coxiella burnetii*





Robert A. Heinzen, Ted Hackstadt and James E. Samuel (1999) Developmental biology of *Coxiella burnetii*. Trends in Microbiology 1999 7: 148-154

# Focal necrosis





# *Toxoplasma gondii*

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- Cat – rodent lifecycle
- Cat sheds oocysts for 7 days post infection
- Herbivores infected from contaminated feed – stored and pasture
- Adults develop immunity
- Infection during pregnancy
  - Placental and fetal infection
  - Abortion with characteristic lesions, mummification, stillbirth, weak lambs

# Necrotic tips







# Foetus in FOP

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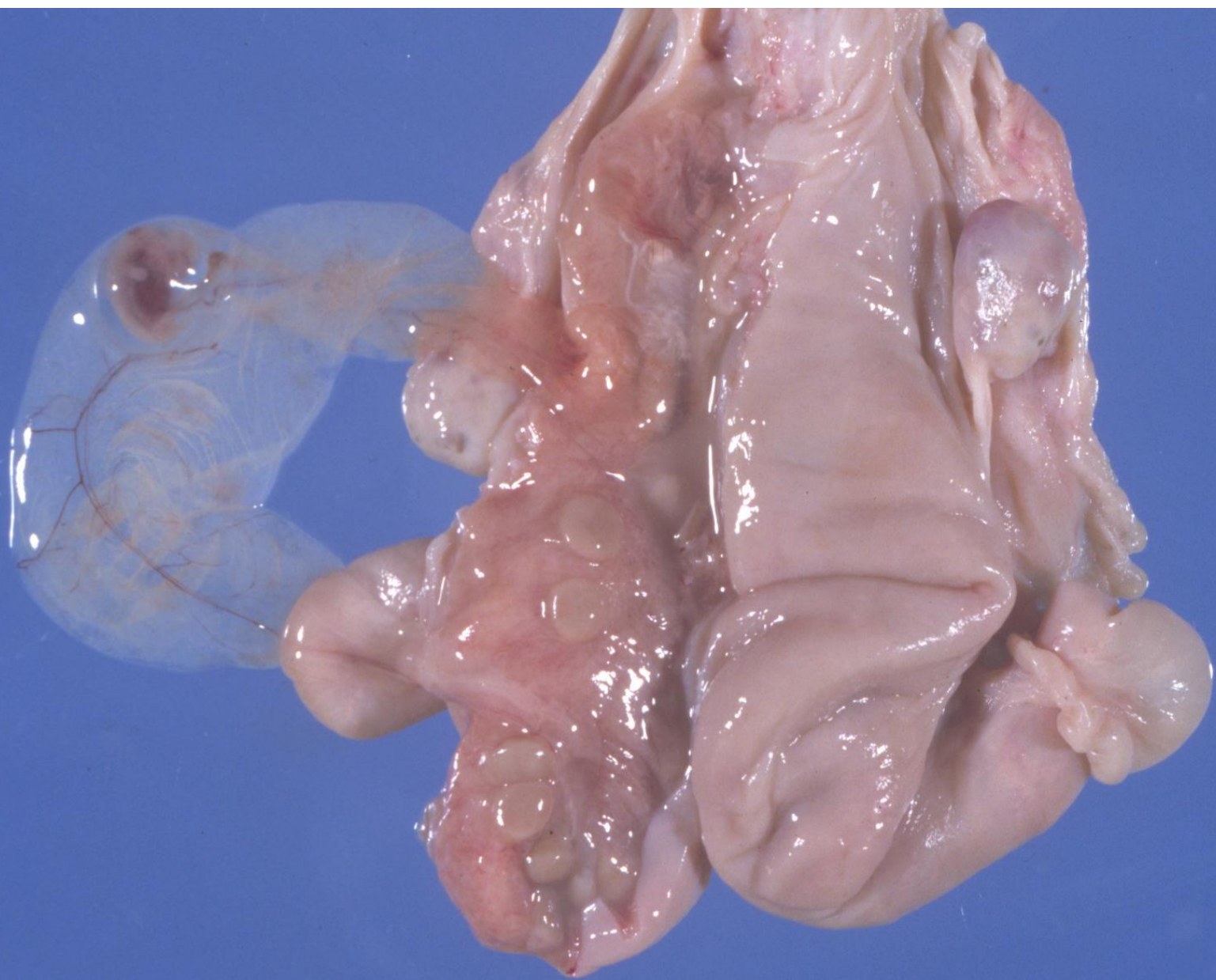


# Time of Death

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- 12 hr            cornea cloudy
- 24 -36 hr      fluid in cavities
- 72 hr            dehydration begins
- 144              mummy







# Fetus *en utero*

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- Receives nutrients, oxygen, protection
- Wastes are removed
  
- Moves
- Swallows
- Doesn't 'breath'
  
- Initiates parturition

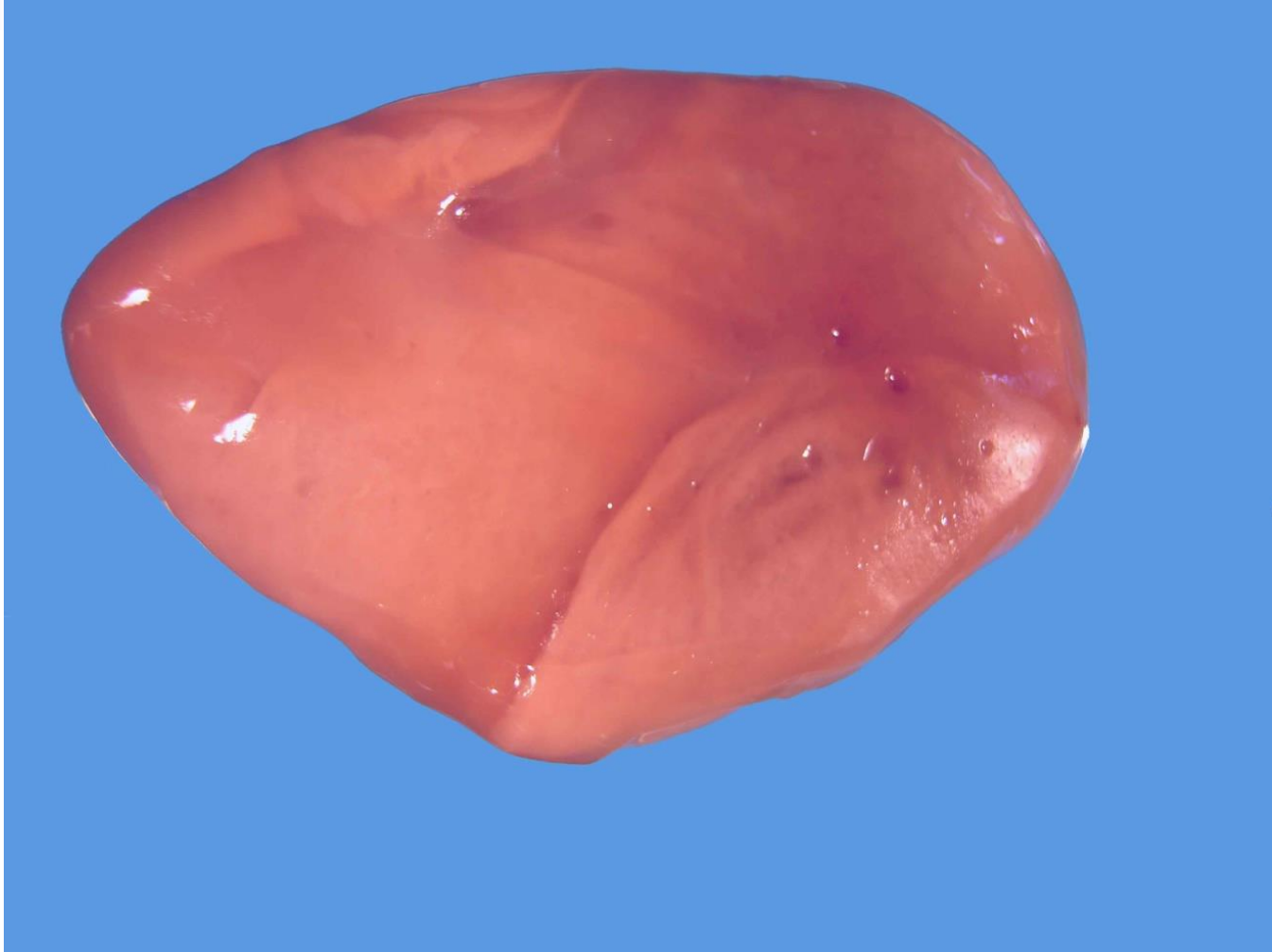
# Amorphous globosis



OVC PATHOLOGY



# Hippomane



# Adventitial placentation





# Adventitial placentation



# Amniotic plaques





# Non-lesion lesions

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- Amorphous globosis (bovine)
- Hippomane
- Amniotic plaques

# Dystocia







# Arthrogryposis

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- Definition
- Pathogenesis
  - Causes?
    - Cattle
    - Sheep
    - Goats
    - Pigs
  - Movement disorder
  - Lesions

# Dermatitis









# Congenital anomalies

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- Obvious anomalies
- Less obvious anomalies
  - No look, no find
    - Cleft palate
    - Osteopetrosis
- Lethal defects with no lesions.

# Iodine deficiency





# Thyroid disease

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- Goitre
  - Iodine deficiency
  - Goitrogenic substances
  - Dyshormonogenic

# Heart failure

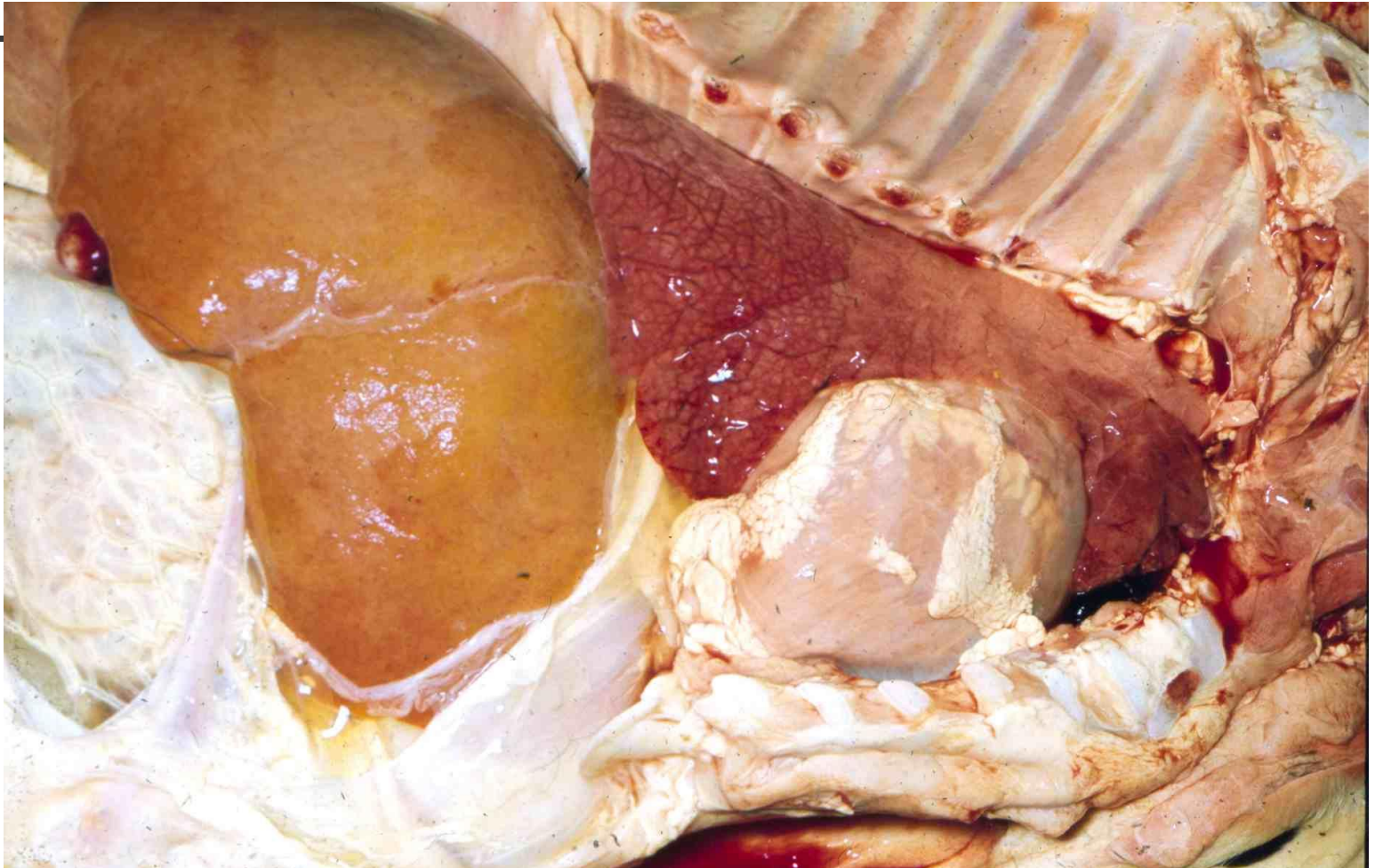


Photo compliments of Dr RB Miller

# Campylobacter

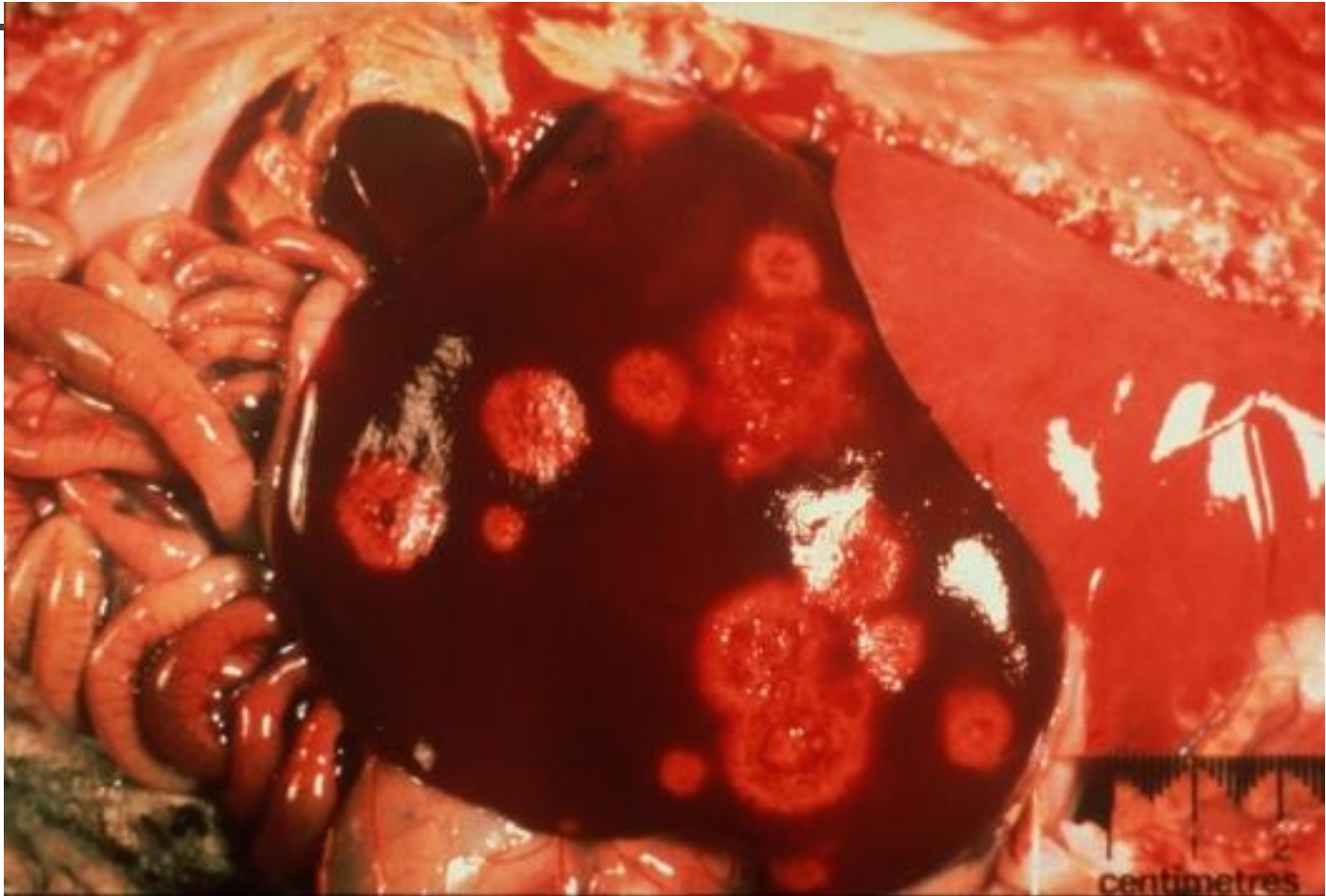


Photo complements of Dr D Wilson



# Summary

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- Expectation, expectation, expectation.
- Sporadic vs outbreak
- Maternal, fetal, placental



# Birth

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Adjustments

Breathing

Circulation



# Breathing

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- Inhibited before birth
- Lungs atelectatic
- Begins immediately
- Hypoxia
  - Compression of umbilical cord
  - Premature separation of placenta
  - Excessive contraction of uterus (maternal supply)
  - Intracranial hemorrhage





# Expansion of lungs

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- Surface tension of pulmonary fluid keeps it collapsed
- First breath requires large amount of negative pressure, second is easier



# Circulatory readjustments

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- Fetal circulation
  - Aorta is low resistance (and BP)
  - Pulmonary artery is high resistance.
  - Blood from umbilical vein bypasses the liver and enters vena cava to be shunted to the left through the foramen ovale (atria).
  - Blood from head of fetus goes to ventricle and across ductus arteriosus



# Circulation at birth

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- Umbilical flow ceases, increases pressure in aorta
- Foramen ovale closes – back pressure closes flap valve
- Blood flow ceases through ductus arteriosus. High O<sub>2</sub> tension causes it to close (prostaglandin keeps it open).
- Ductus venosus closes



# Stillbirth and perinatal mortality





# Basic algorithm

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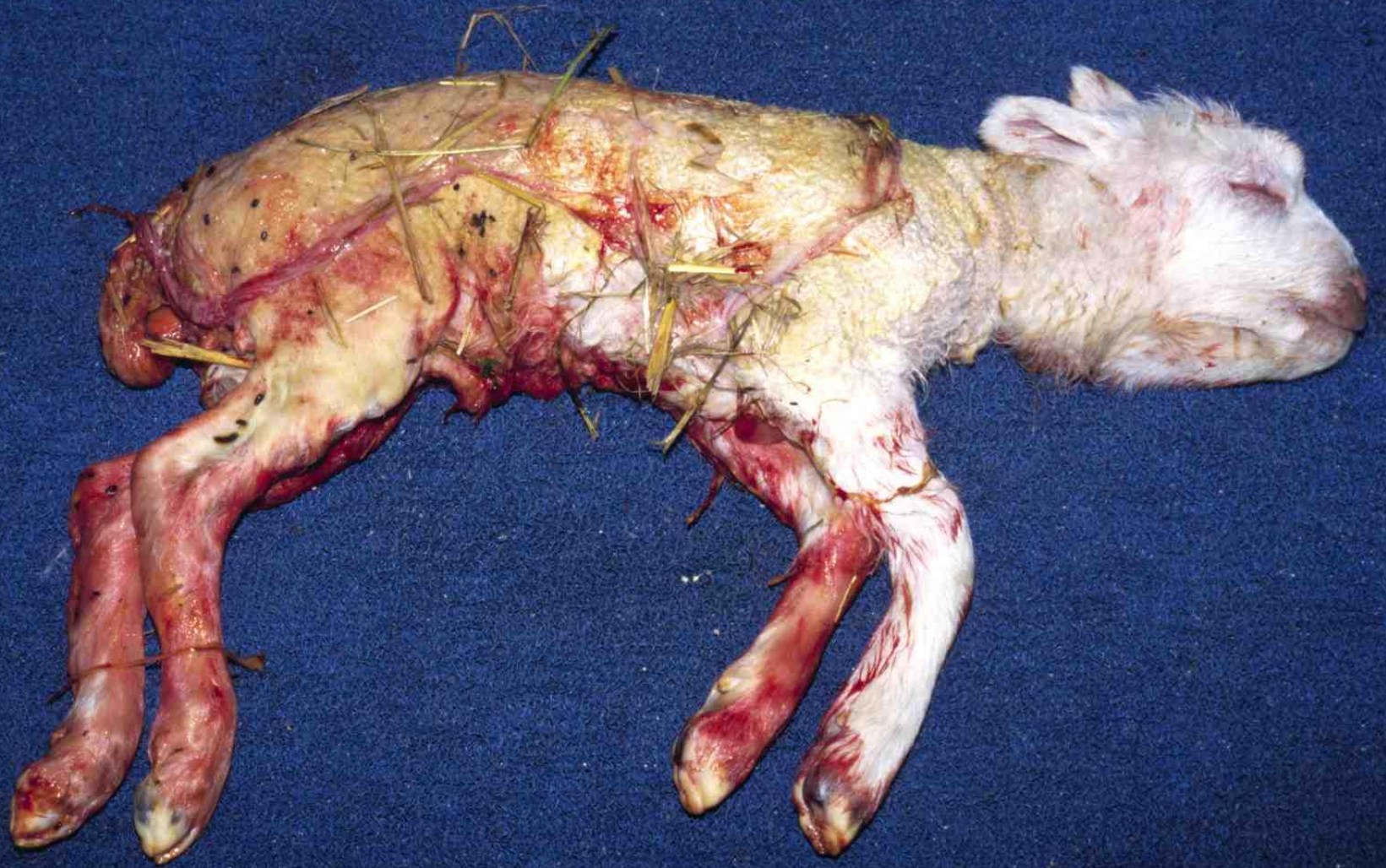
- Abortion or
- Stillbirth or
- Dystocia or
- Neonatal mortality (breathed)



# Size and maturity

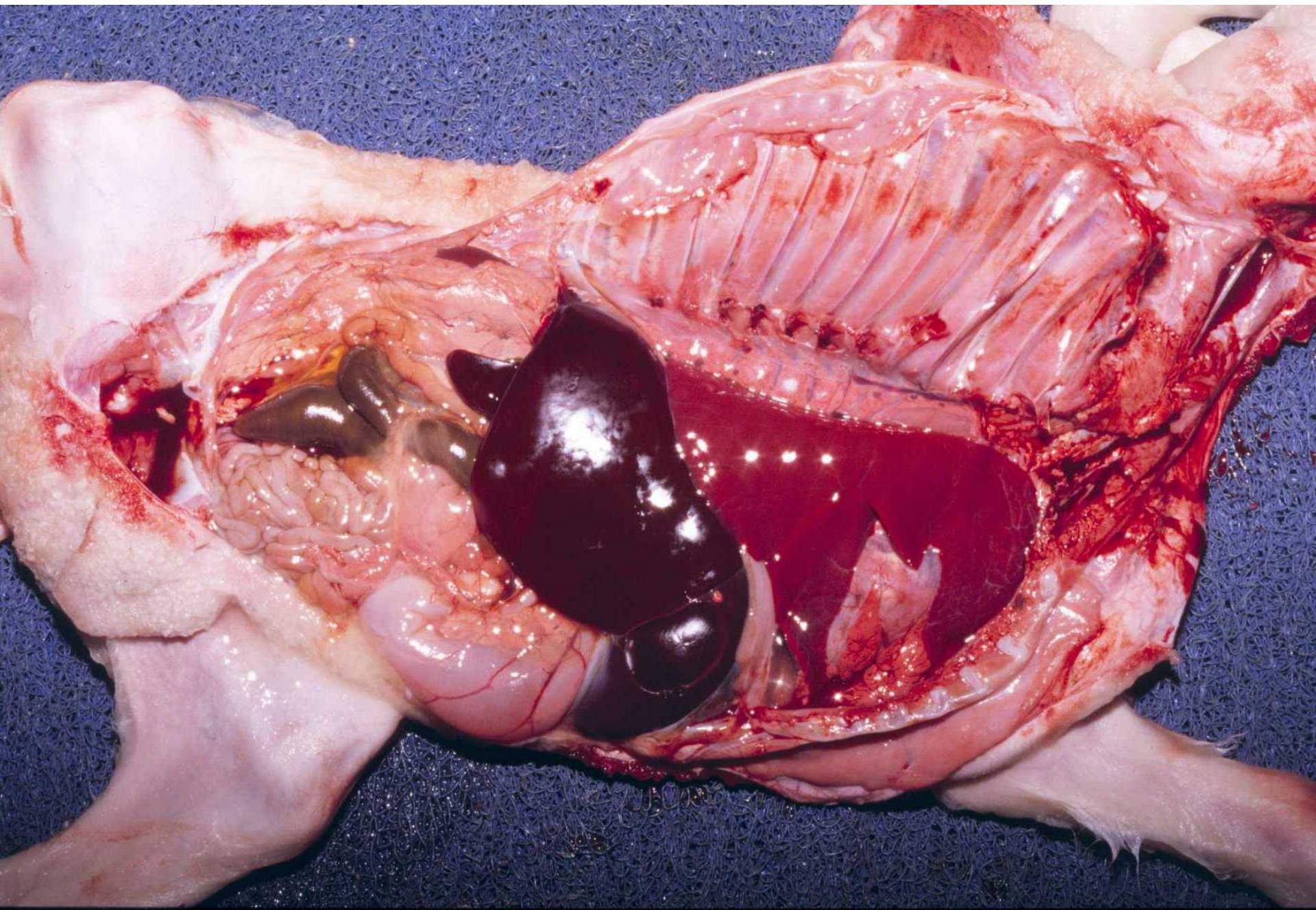
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- Too small
  - Perinatal mortality
  - Placentitis
  - Lambs <3 kg
- Too large
  - Lambs >5kg
  - Dystocia

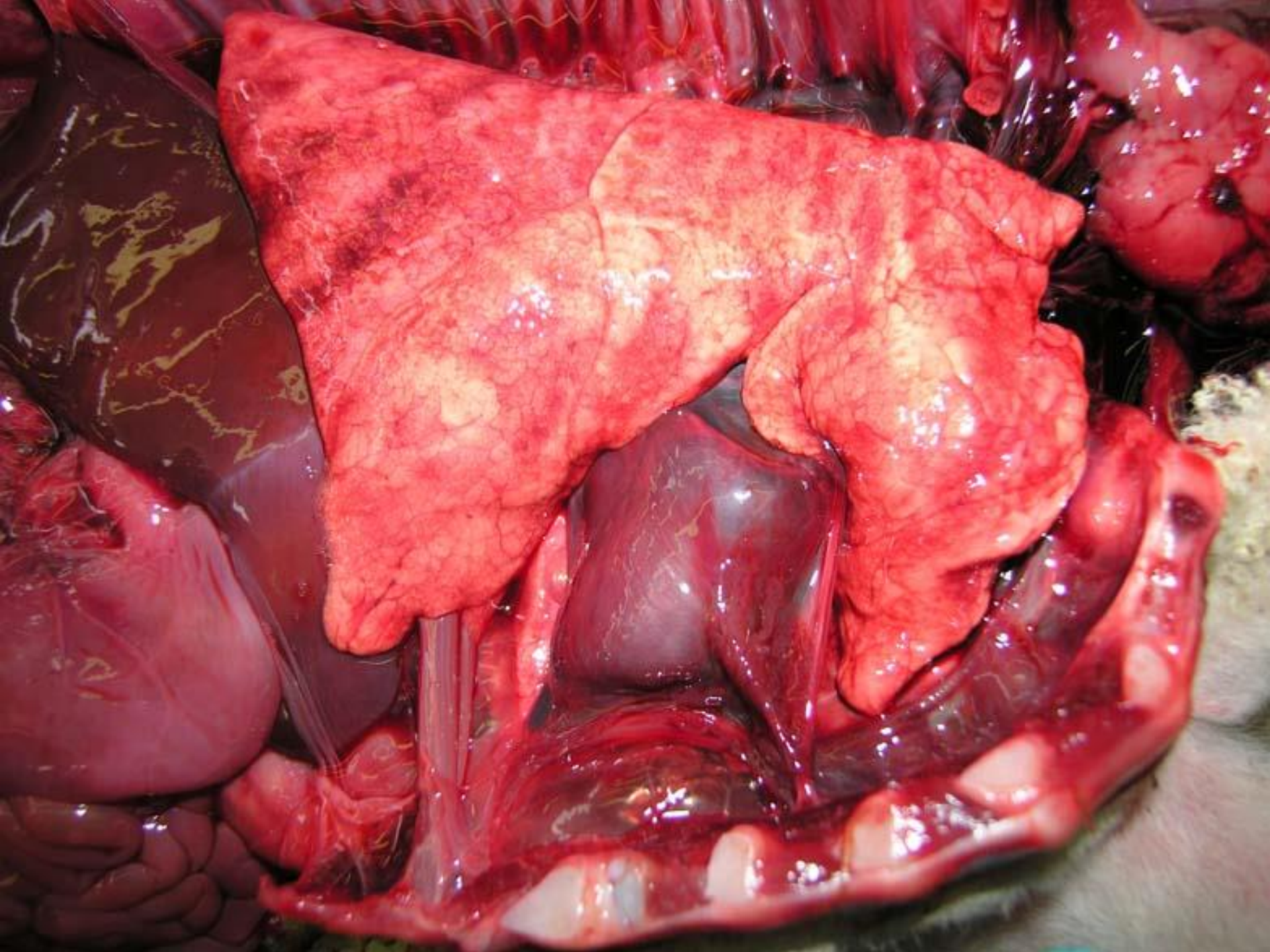




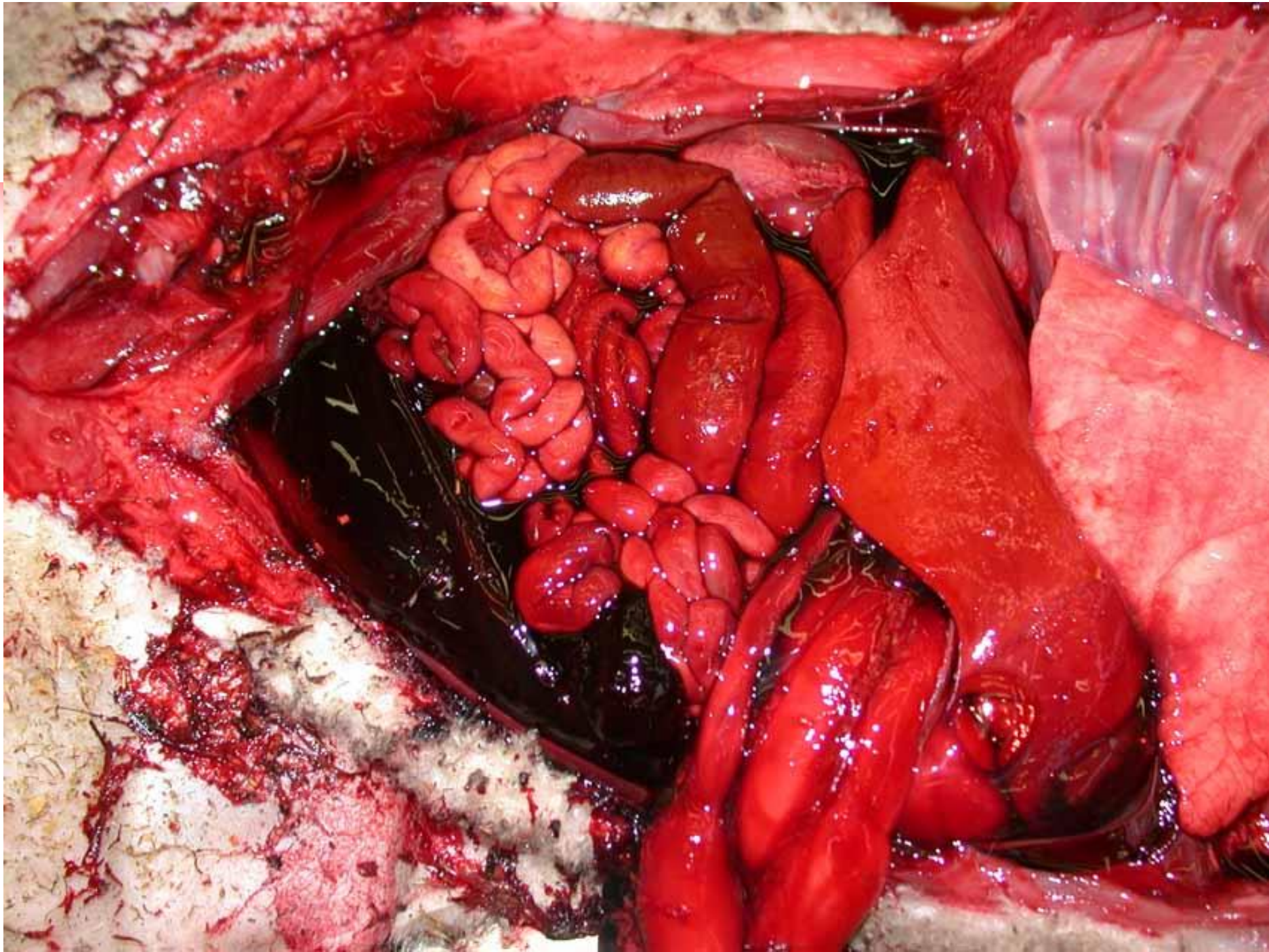


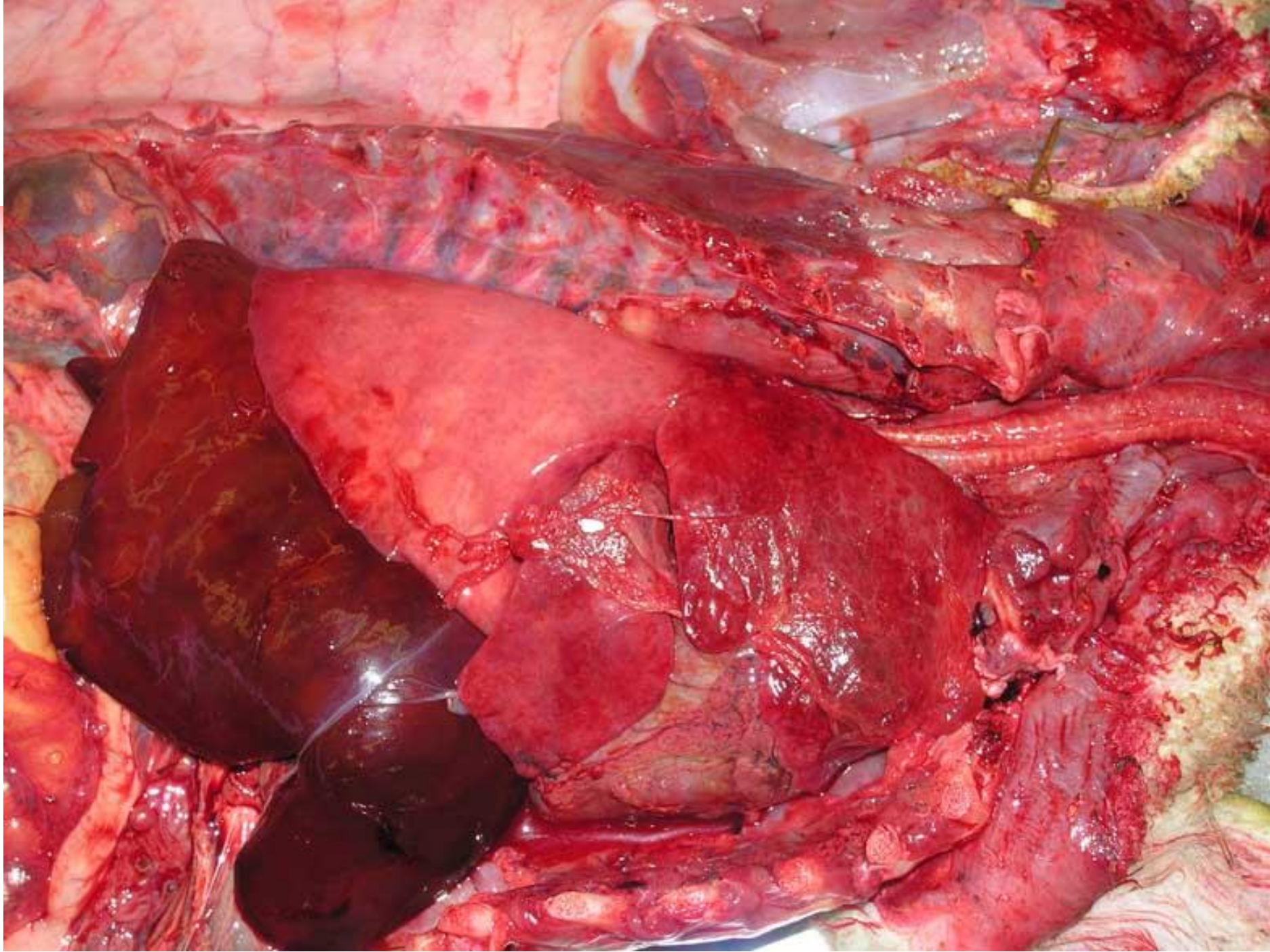




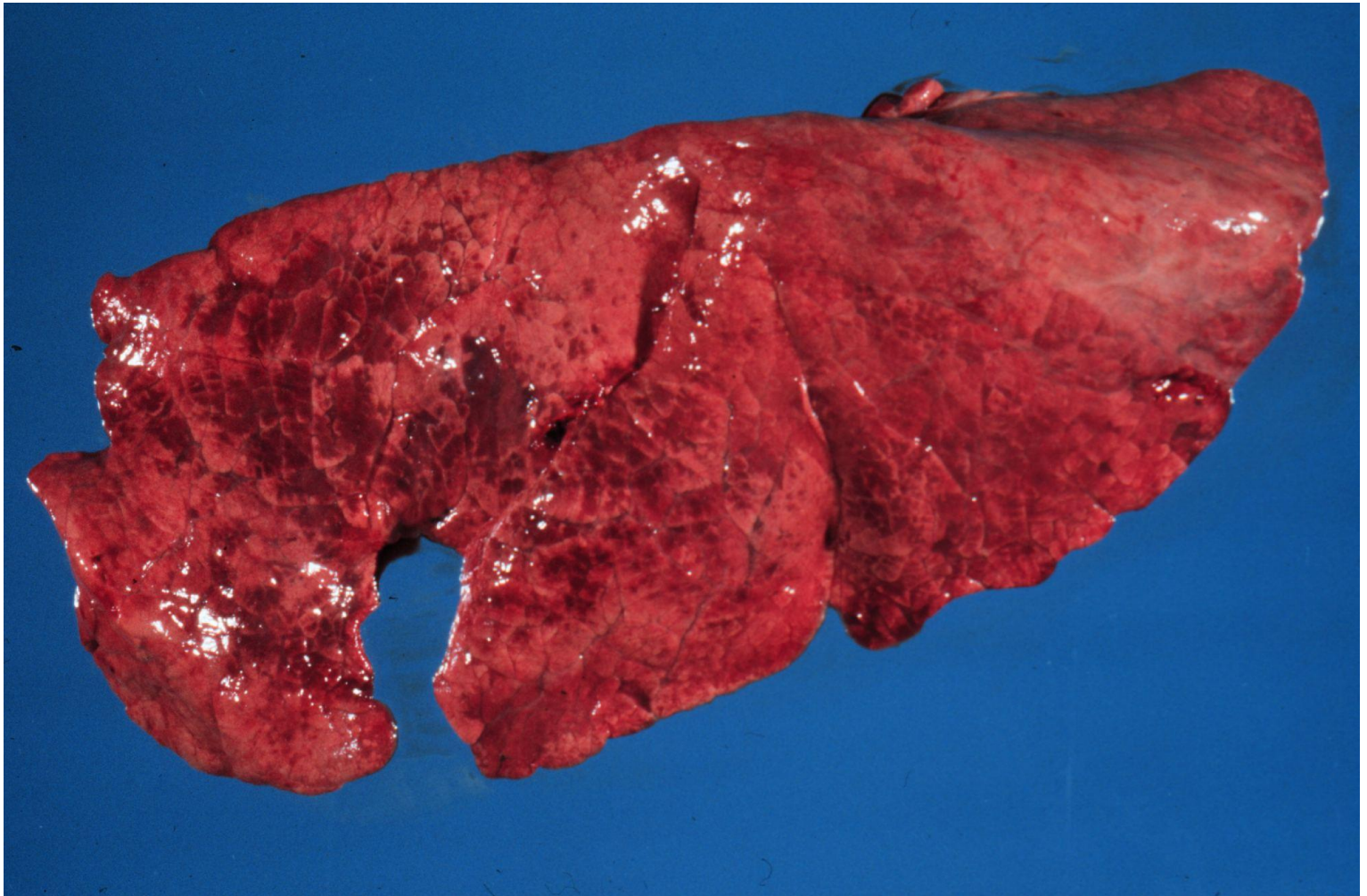








# Aspiration of amniotic contents





# Bovine neonatal pancytopenia

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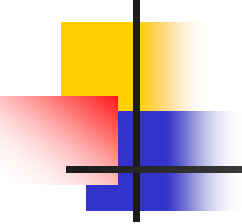
- Bleeding calf syndrome
- Pancytopenia with leukopenia and thrombocytopenia
- Association with a BVD vaccine
- Immune mediated, colostrum related disease





# Female Genital Pathology









# Retained foetal membranes

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1. Reduced collagenase activity of fetal cotyledon-maternal caruncle interface.
  - Foetal cortisol induction of placental enzymes
  - Steroid synthesis from progesterone to estrogen
  - upregulation of oxytocin receptors on the myometrium
  - secretion of prostaglandin F2 alpha (PGF2a).
  - Prostaglandin initiates myometrial contractions and lysis of the corpus luteum (CL).
  - Lysis of the CL leads to secretion of relaxin and a further decline in progesterone.



# Retained foetal membranes

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2. Increased serotonin inhibits separation
  - High fetal and placental serotonin maintains placental attachment
  - promotes placental cell proliferation and inhibits matrix metalloproteinase (MMP) activity.
3. Reduced leucocyte chemotaxis and activity
4. Reduced maternal immunological recognition of foetal MHC 1 molecules
5. Reduced cytokine production necessary for maturation and shedding of placenta



# Retained Foetal Membranes – risk factors

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- Induced parturition
- Shortened gestation
- Abortion
- Twinning
- Dystocia
- Fetotomy
- Cesarean section
- Nutritional deficiencies - vitamin E, selenium, and carotene
- Infectious agents – BVDV
- Immunosuppression including dexamethasone for induction
- Serum calcium and uterine tone



# Disorders of Sexual Development

Intersex

Sex reversal

Hermaphrodite

Pseudohermaphrodite

Ambiguous development





# Normal female development

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- Female specific genes are activated
- *WNT1*, *DAX1*, *FOXL2*, are important genes
- Upregulate *FST* (follistatin gene)
- Paramesonephric ducts develop (*WNT4*)
- Urogenital sinus – vulva, part of vagina.
- Urogenital tubercle - clitoris





# Normal male development

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- *SRY* gene, *TDF*,
- *WT1+KTS*, *GATA4* and *FOG2* - Sertoli cell differentiation
- *SOX9* – testis determining pathway
- *SF1* activates *AMH* gene and inhibits the paramesonephric duct
- *WNT* responsible for mesonephric duct development
- Interstitial cells produce testosterone
- External genitalia develop from urogenital sinus and tubercle.



# Basis of new nomenclature - pathogenesis

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- Genetic
  - Chromosomes (XX, XY, X\_ mosaics, chimeras)
  - Genes (*SRY*)
- Gonadal
  - Testis
  - Ovary
  - Ovotestis
  - dysgenesis
- Phenotype





# Chromosomal DSD

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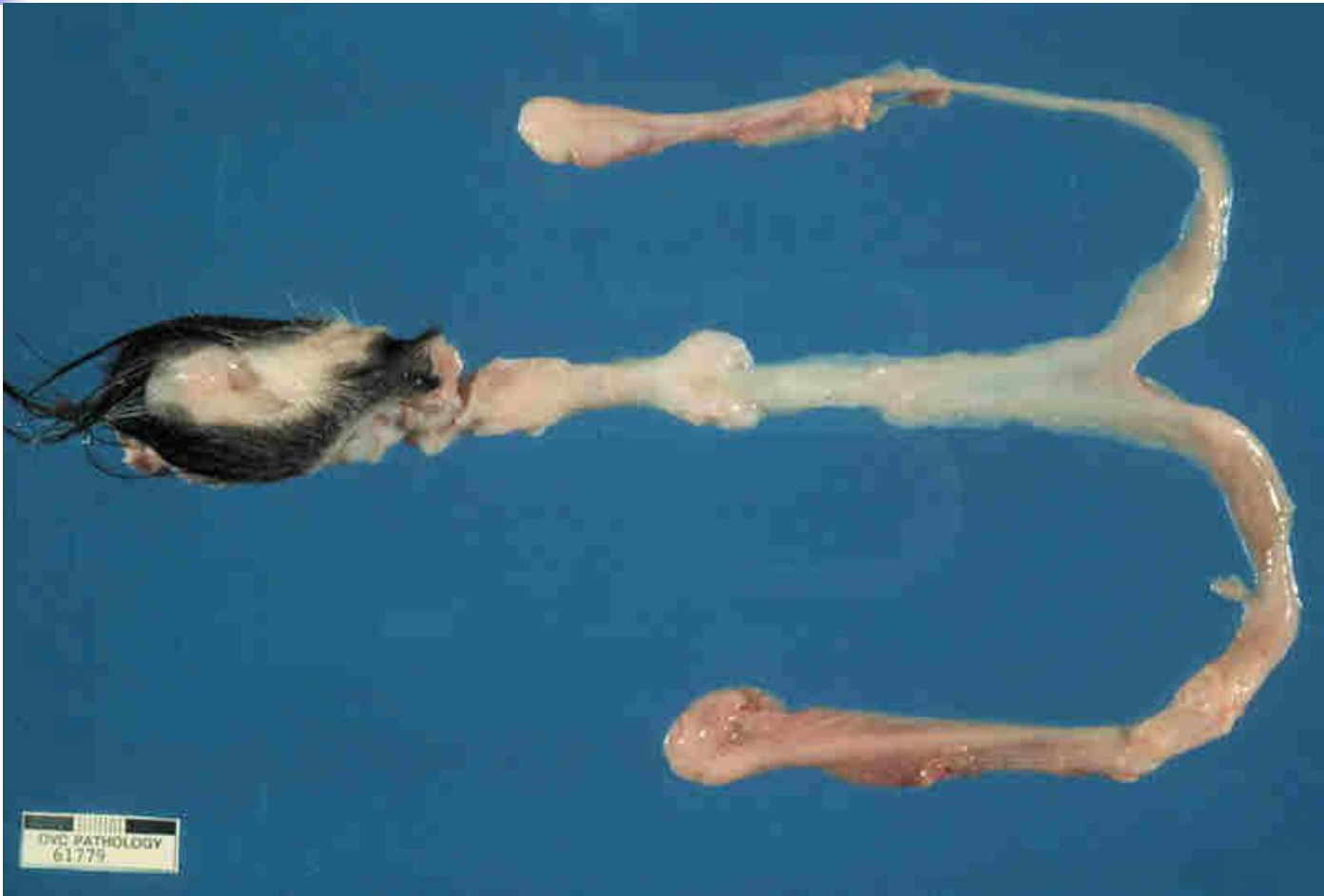
- Aneuploidy
  - X<sub>0</sub> - Turner
  - XXX – Trisomy X
  - XXY - Klinefelter
- Mosaics and Chimeras
  - Chimera (XX/XY) cells of different zygotes fuse – Freemartin
  - Mosaic – non disjunction in a single zygote



# Freemartinism

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- Twin and single born freemartins
- XX/XY chimera
- Ovary but paramesophric ducts don't develop.
- Masculinized external genitalia



# Goat – Polled intersex syndrome XX testicular DSD





# Polled intersex syndrome

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- XX testicular DSD
  - female tubular genitalia
  - Mammary glands
  - Phenotype male or female
- PIS gene causes loss of *FOXL2* locus and failure of aromatase (*CYP19*) expression





# XX DSD

---

- Abnormal gonads
  - XX Gonadal dysgenesis DSD
  - XX Ovotesticular DSD
  - XX Testicular DSD
- Normal gonads
  - XX ovarian DSD

# Ovotestis – XX ovotestis





# XY DSD

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- Abnormal gonads
  - XY gonadal dysgenesis DSD
  - XY ovotesticular DSD
  - XY testicular regression DSD
- Normal gonads
  - XY testicular DSD (PMDS, cryptorchidism)



# Male Reproductive Pathology





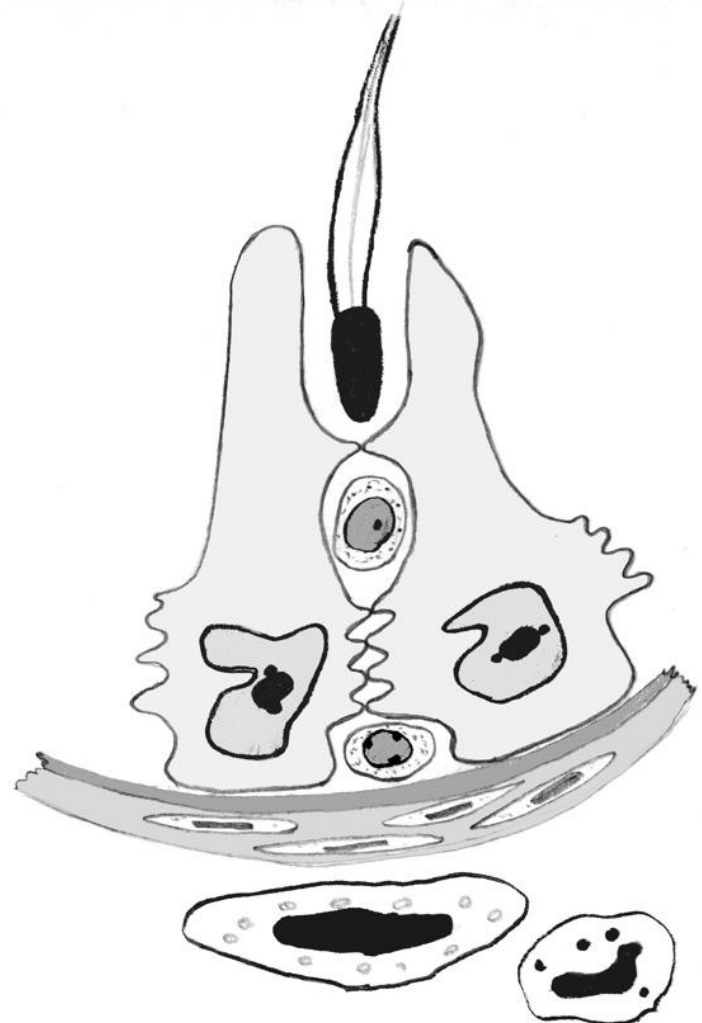
# Overview

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- Scrotum and contents
  - Testis
  - Epididymis
  - Spermatic cord
- Accessory genital glands
  - Vesicular glands
  - Prostate
- Penis and prepuce

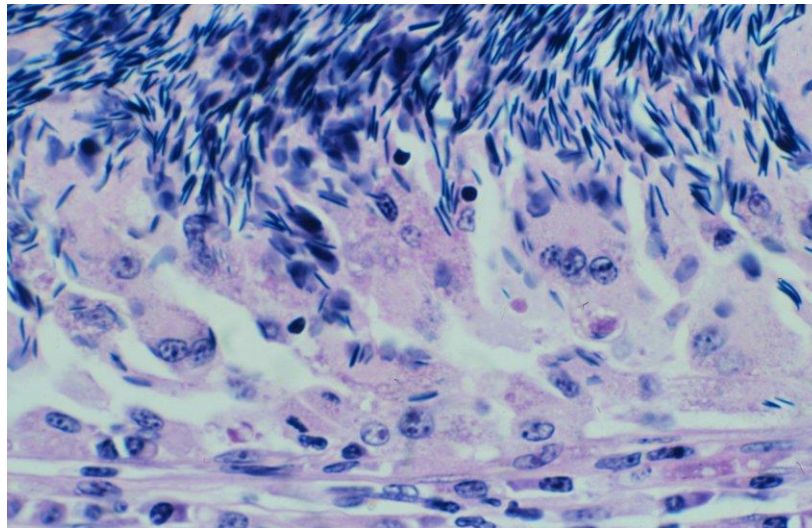
# Spermatid granuloma

- Blood testis barrier
  - Sertoli cells
  - Basement membrane
  - Myoid cells
- Immune suppression
  - 'Immune privilege'
  - Antiinflammatory environment,



# Immune suppression - why

- Gametes develop after self-tolerance
- Structure of spermatozoa
  - Foreign body reaction
  - Antigenic – adaptive immunity





# Immune suppression - how

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- Macrophages – diminished capacity
- Antiinflammatory cytokine environment
  - Immune cells
  - Somatic cells
- Androgens
  - Suppress proinflammatory cytokines
  - Shift cytokine balance
- Testicular dendritic cells suppress.





# Physical barriers

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- Sertoli cells
  - Highly complex alteration of cell junctions to allow spermatogenesis
- Peritubular cells
  - Pressure
  - Minimal barrier
  - Cytokines, growth and differentiation factors

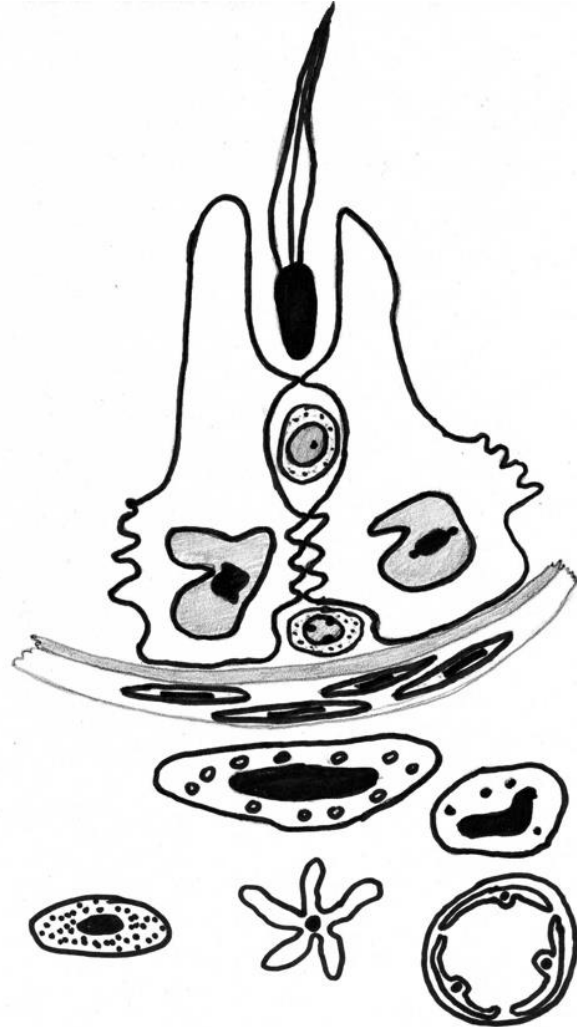


# Oxidative stress

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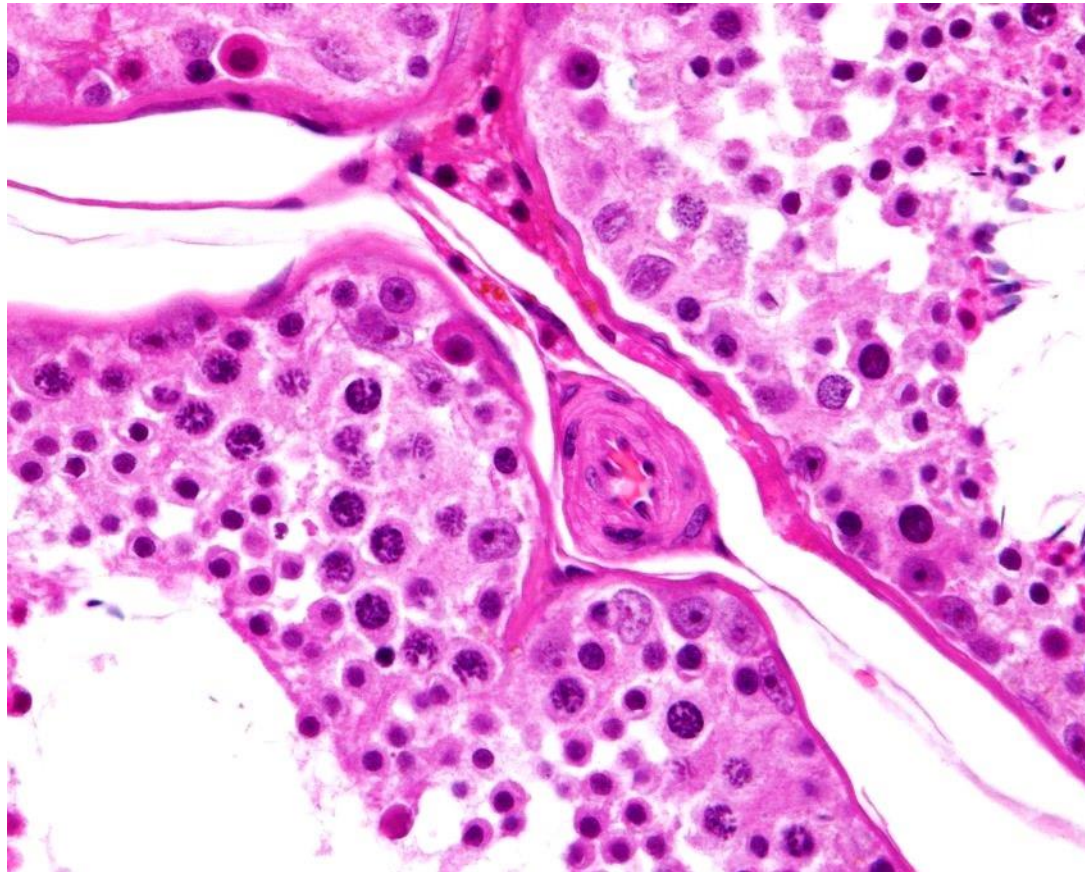
- Reactive oxygen species vs antioxidant systems
- High metabolism and cell generation
- Increasing oxidative stress
  - Toxicant exposure
  - Chemotherapy
  - Ionizing radiation
  - Inflammation
  - Varicocele
  - Cryptorchidism
  - Aging
  - Torsion

# New view of testis



# Spermatogenesis

Interstitial  
endocrine cell



Peritubular  
myoid cell

Sertoli cell

Germ cell

Hormonal and biomolecular soup



# Biomolecular soup

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- Androgens and estrogens
- Inhibin and activins (TGF family)
- Transferrin
- IGF-1
- Relaxin like factor
- POLMC and  $\beta$  endorphin
- Oxytocin
- Toll-like receptors



# Take home message

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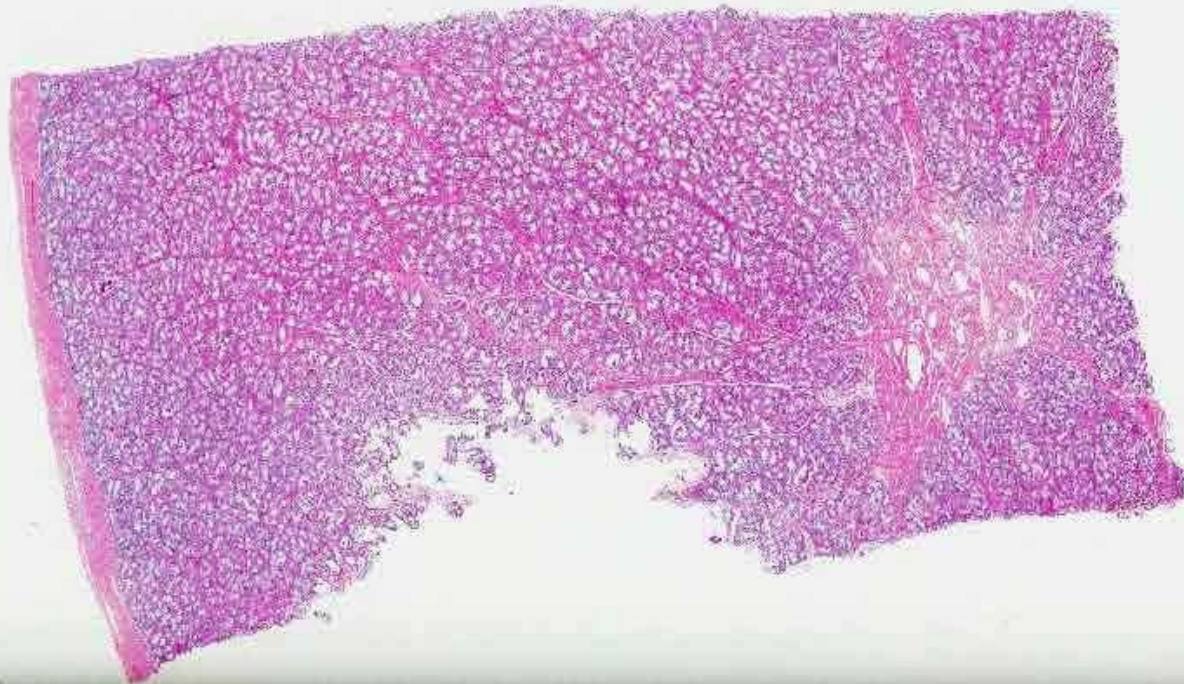
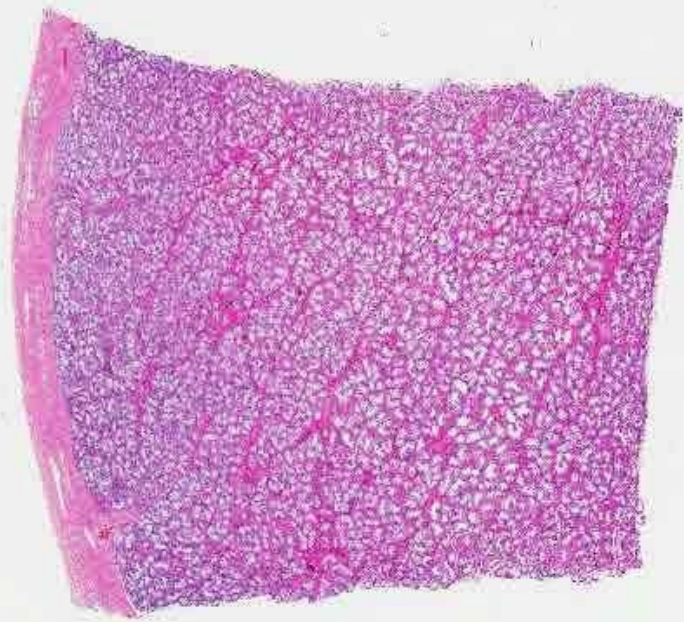
- Hormonal, paracrine and autocrine interactions are complex
- Interfer with soup = hypoplasia or degeneration
- Oxidative stress is very important in disturbing soup.



# Diagnostic case

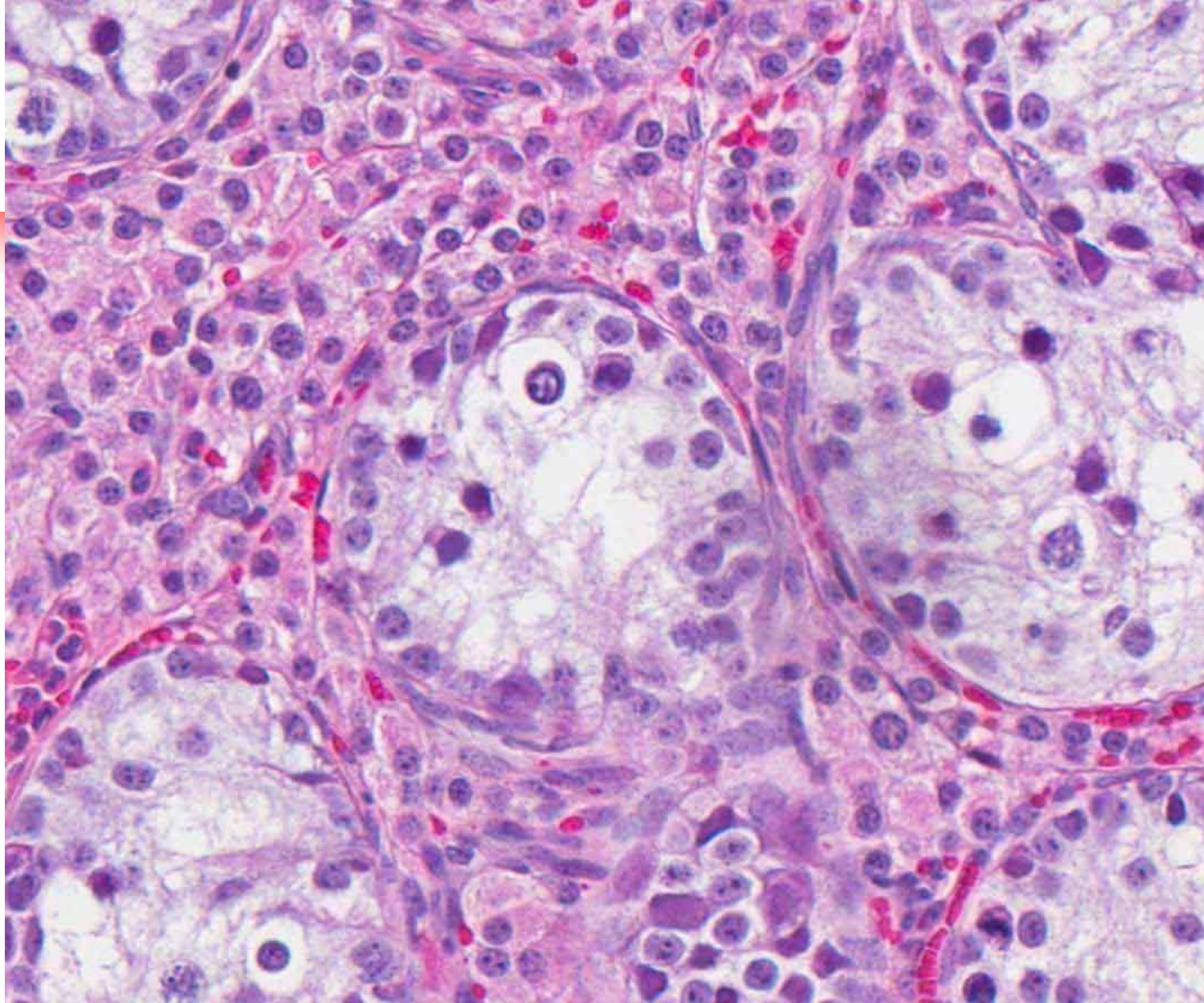
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- Very large boar stud supplying major pork producer
- Problem: Poor semen quality of young boars.
- Approach: euthanasia and collection of reproductive tracts. Histology by several pathologists.



7







# Small testes

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- Hypoplasia
  - Testes and epididymides are small at puberty
- Degeneration/atrophy
  - Testes are smaller than they were
  - Occurs in hypoplastic testes
  - Epididymides larger than in hypoplasia alone



# Hypoplasia - Degeneration

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- Mechanisms similar
  - Alteration of 'biomolecular soup'
- Timing of insult is different



# Hypoplasia

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- Disorders of Sexual development
  - Chromosomal DSD
    - XXY cat
  - XX DSD
    - American Cocker, polled goat
  - XY DSD
    - Persistent Müllerian duct syndrome
    - Cryptorchidism
    - 'Uncomplicated hypoplasia'



# 'Uncomplicated' hypoplasia

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- XY *SRY*+ testicular DSD
- Common in bulls
- Scrotal circumference at puberty
- Cull rate is up to 50% in some species



# Testicular hypoplasia

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- Chromosomal anomalies
- Genetic
- Testicular artery branching and blood flow
- BVDV
- Nutrition





# Cryptorchidism

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- XY *SRY*+ testicular DSD
- Genetic
  - Heredity basis
- Hormonal
  - Androgen?
- Structural
  - Fusion
  - Gonadal ligaments
- Other

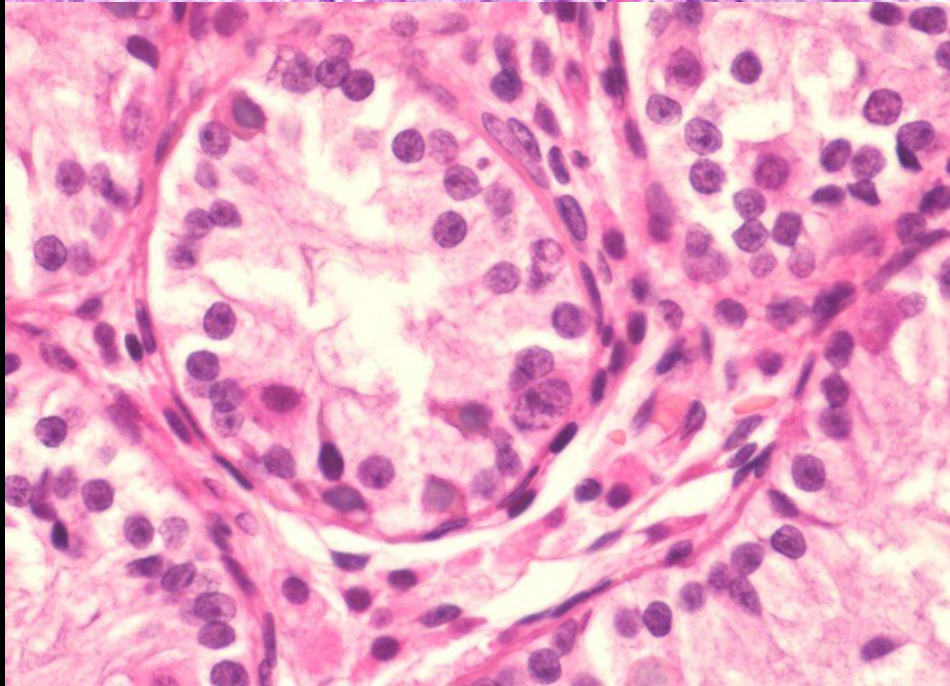
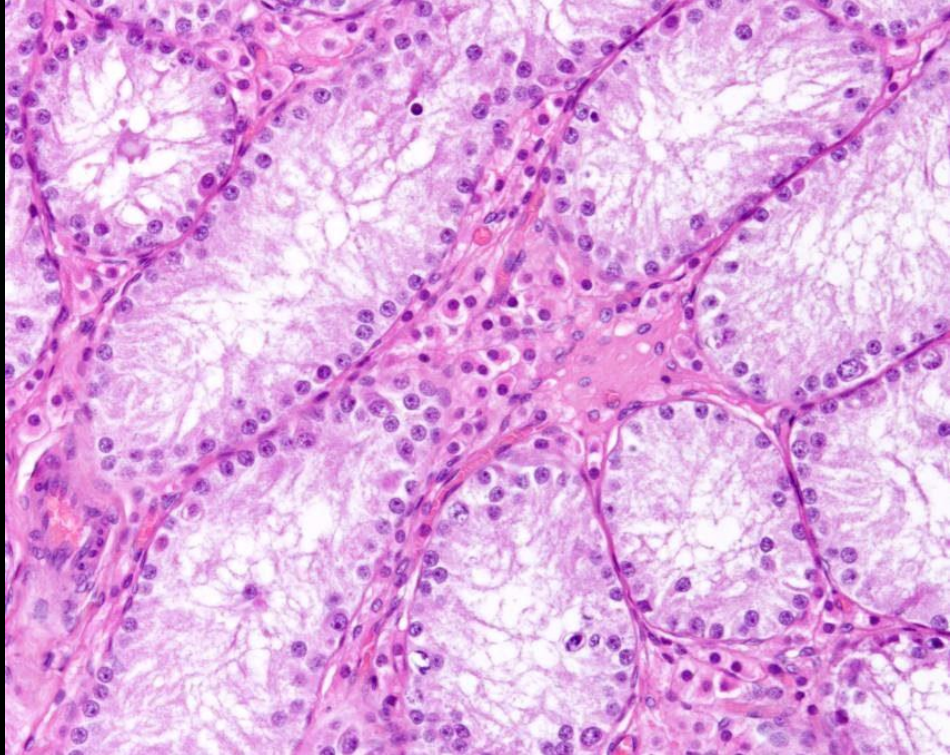




# Cryptorchidism

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- Abdominal translocation
  - Insulin like peptide 3
  - Anti-Müllerian hormone
- Transinguinal migration
  - Gubernacular enlargement
  - Intraabdominal pressure
- Inguinoscrotal migration
  - Androgen
  - Genitofemoral nerve
  - Calcitonin gene related protein



# Testicular atrophy/degeneration

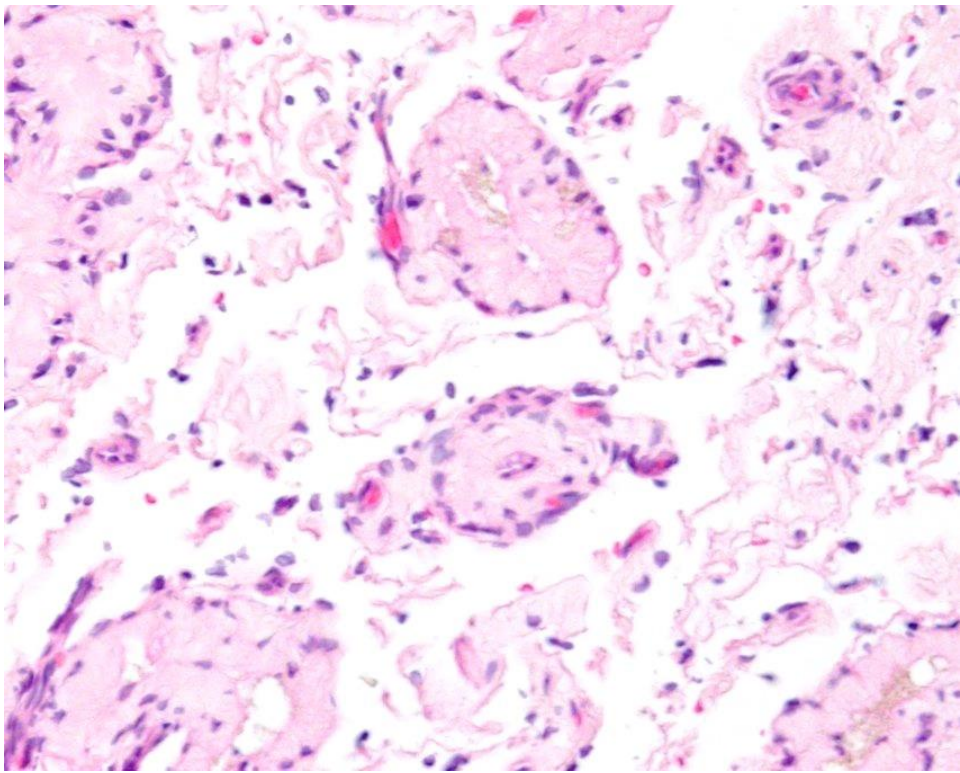
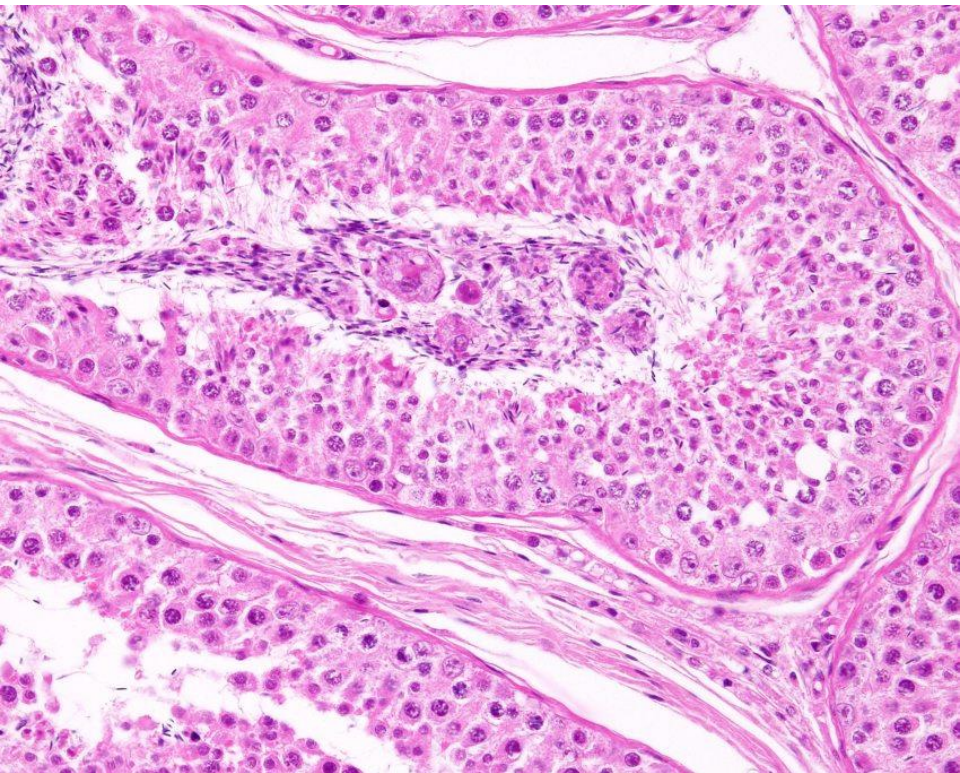
- Age
- Oxidative injury
- Blood flow
- Temperature
- Chemicals
- Hormones
- Neoplasia
- Nutrition





# Degeneration

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# Orchitis!

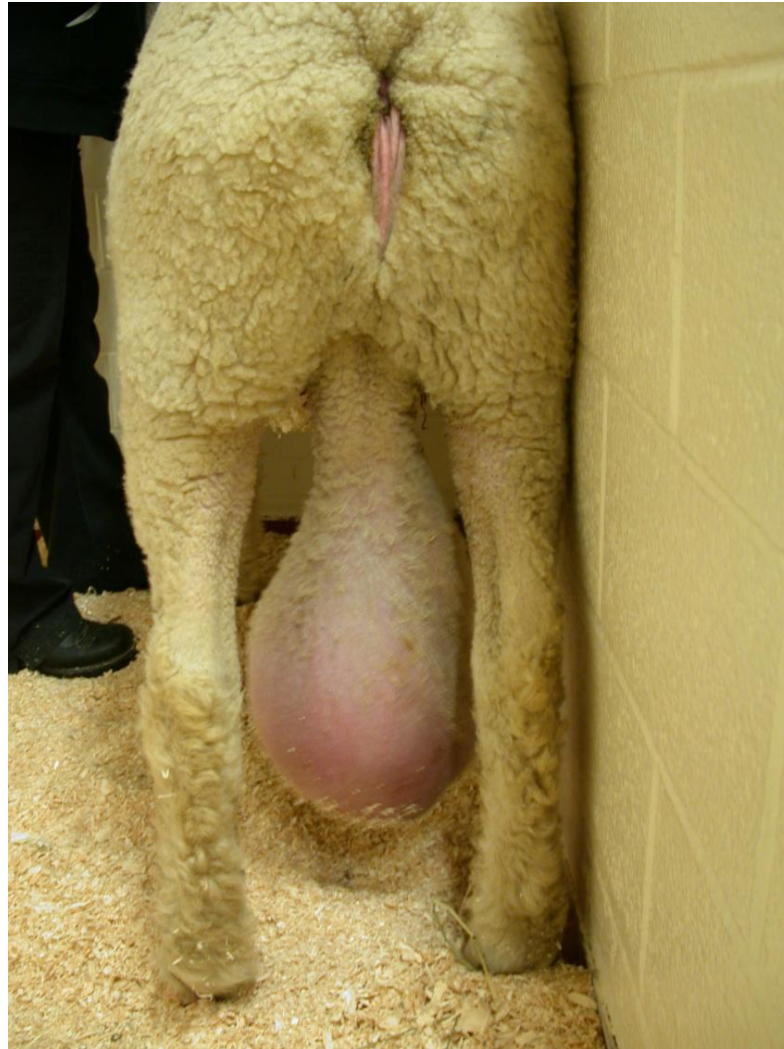



Photo by Tracey Chenier



Bull

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Spermatic granuloma  
of epididymal head



OVC PATHOLOGY  
35.36-92



Ram





# Ram







# Spermatic cord

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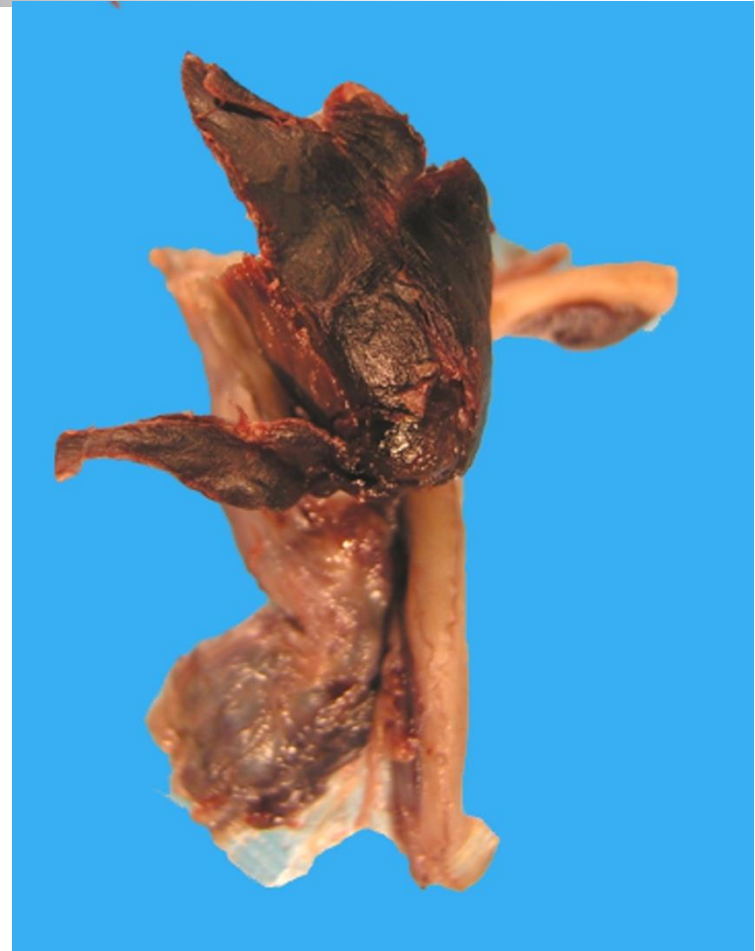
Deferent duct

Cremaster muscle

**Pampiniform plexus**

Nerves

# Varicocele



Increased levels of oxidants and reduced antioxidants in semen of infertile men with varicocele. Fertil Steril 2010



# Accessory genital glands

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Ampullae

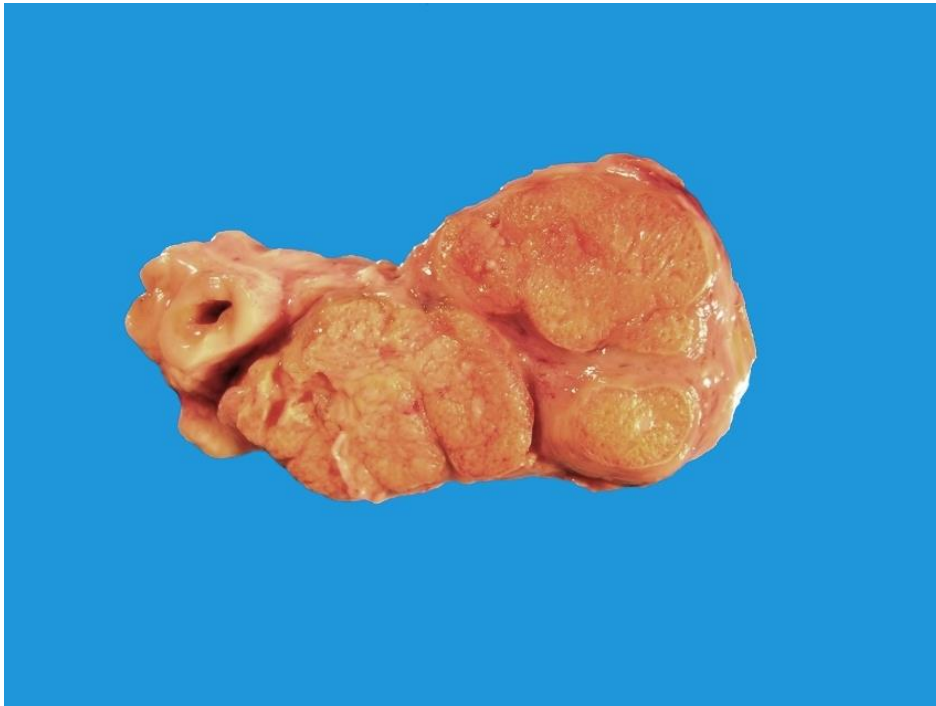
Prostate

**Vesicular glands**

Bulbourethral glands

# Vesicular adenitis

- Acute fibrinopurulent form
- Chronic interstitial form

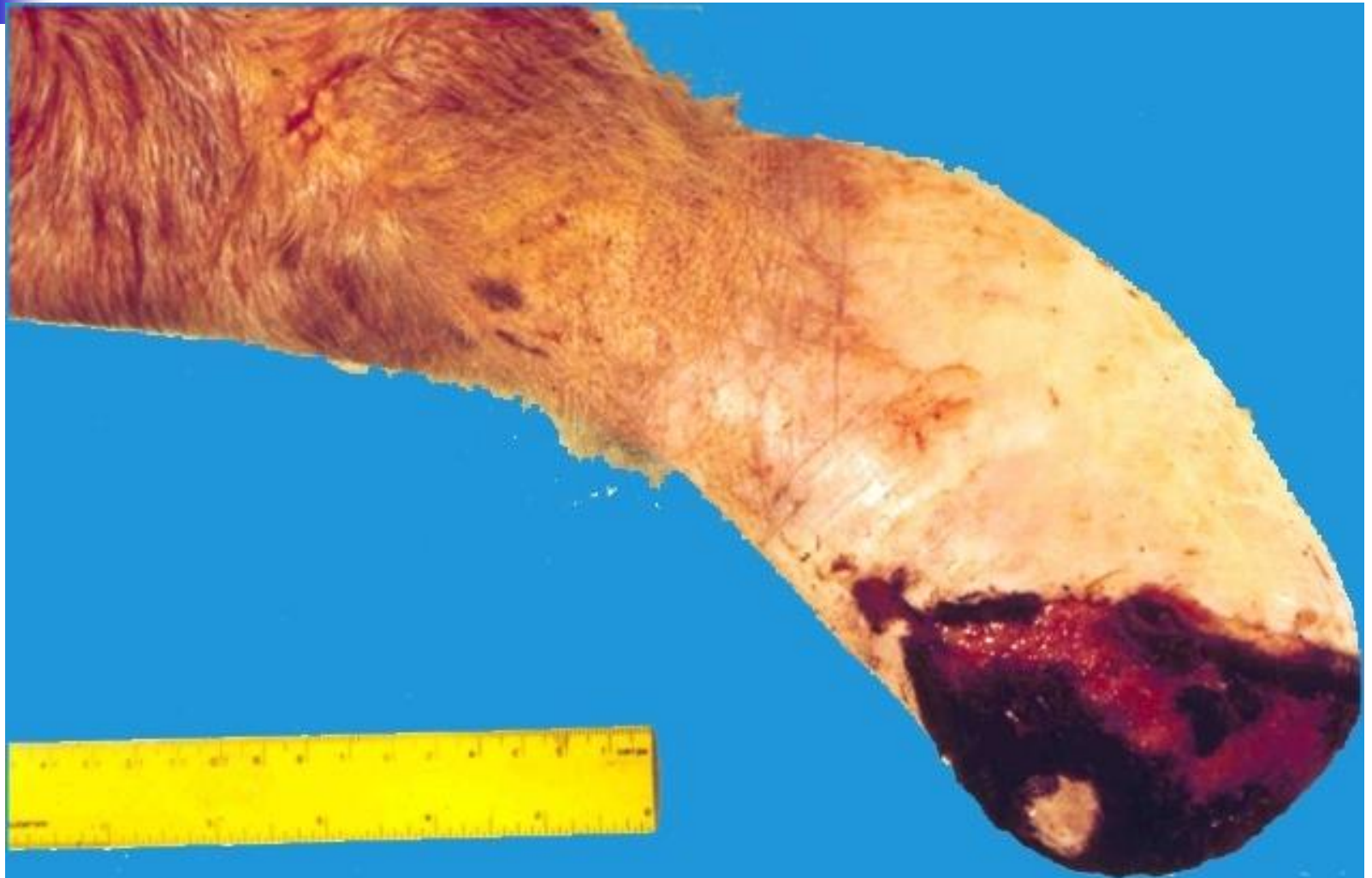




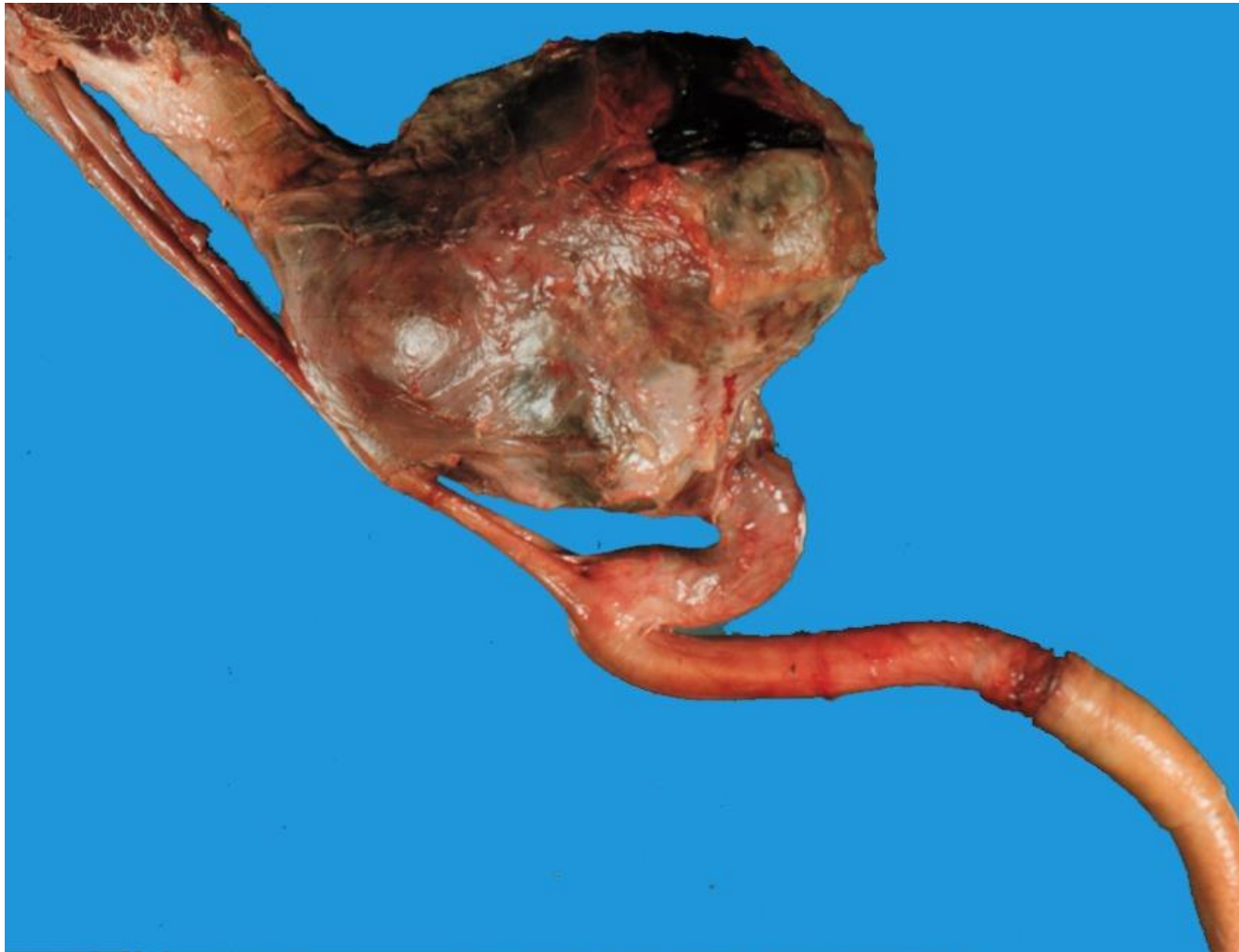
# Penis and prepuce

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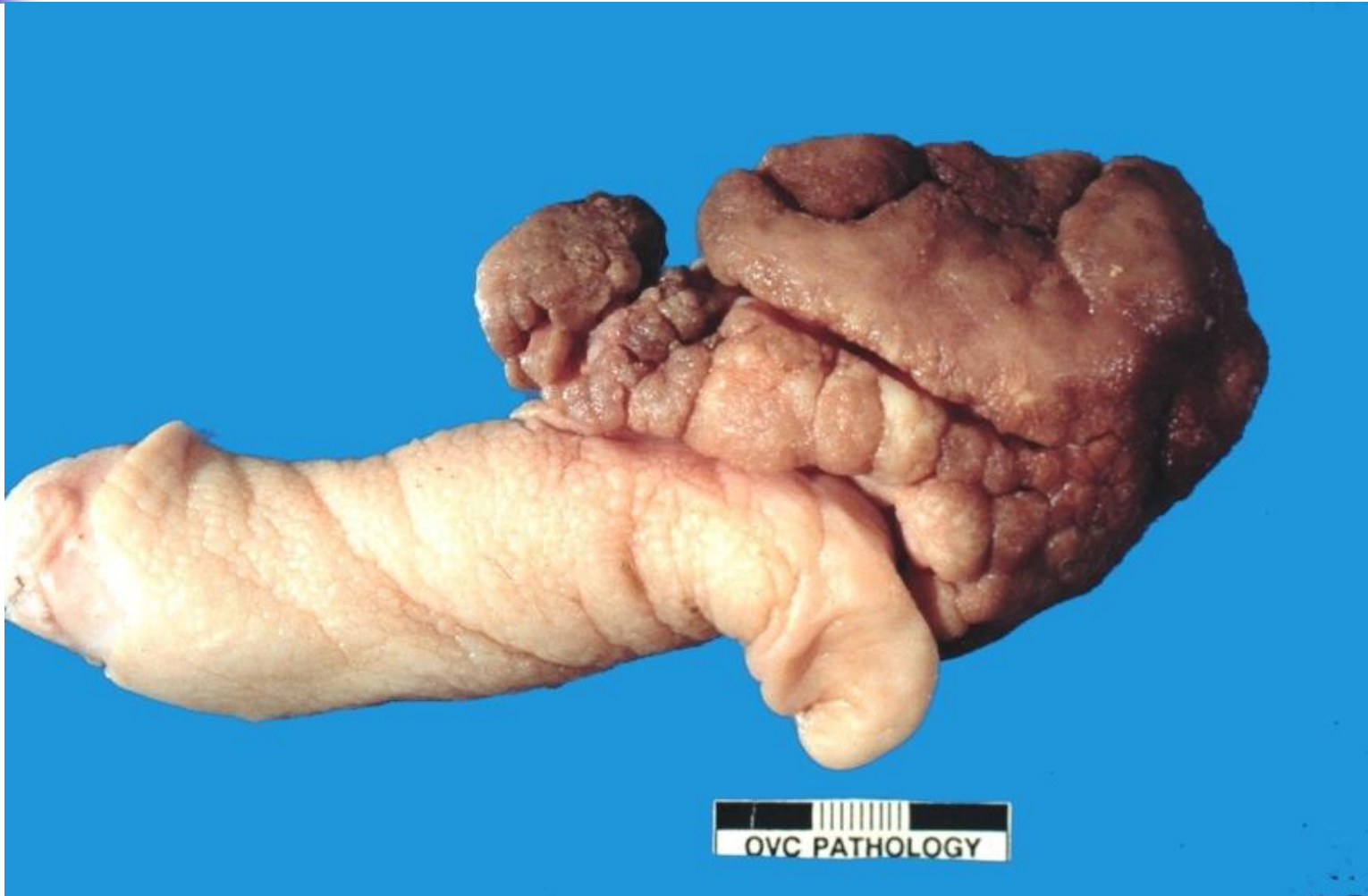
# Preputial eversion and prolapse



# Forced deviation and hematoma



# Neoplasia - fibropapilloma





# Balanopreputial bands

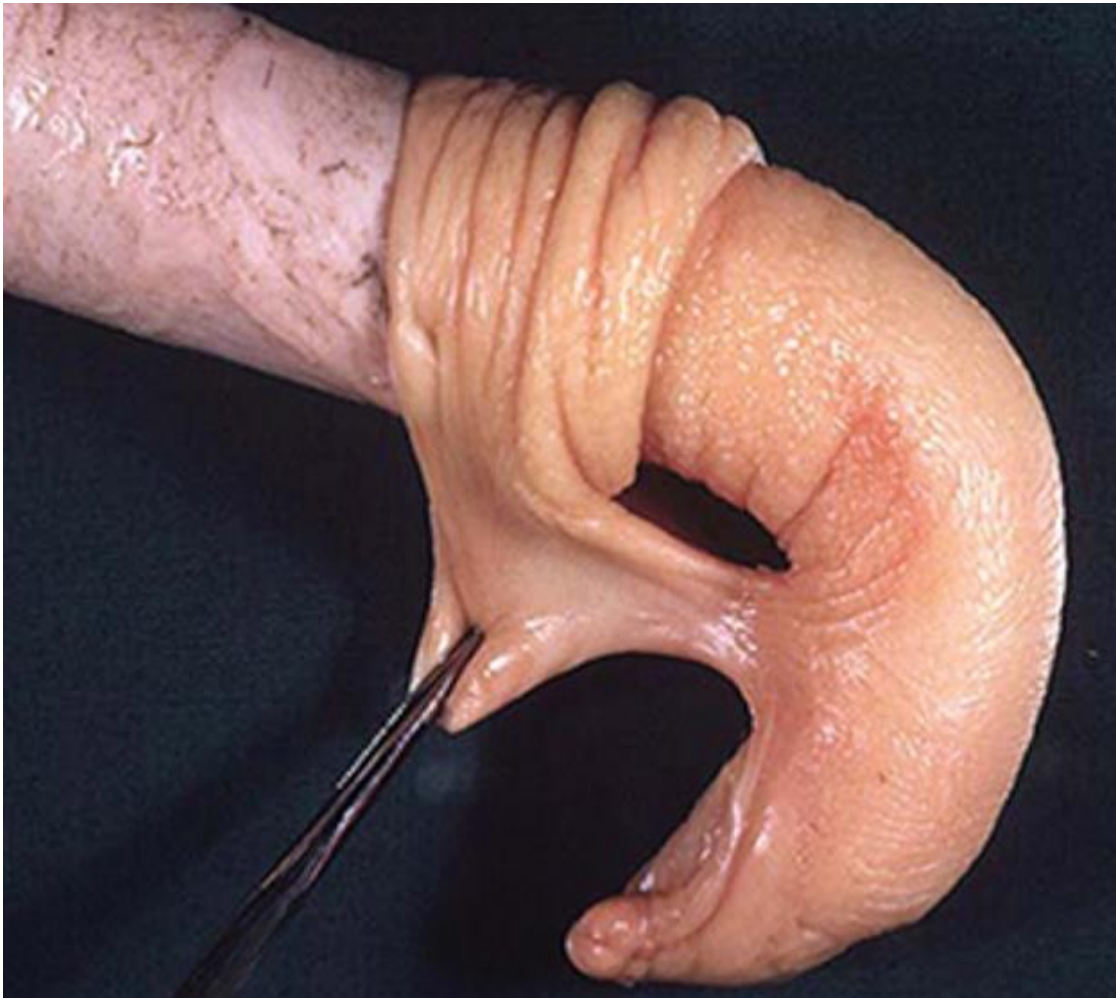


Photo complements  
of Mosby and PBVD



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  - Drs Yager and Best
- Histovet Surgical Pathology
  - Dr Wilcock
  
- Submitters and website visitors



# Sponsors

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- Australian Animal Pathology Standards Program
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