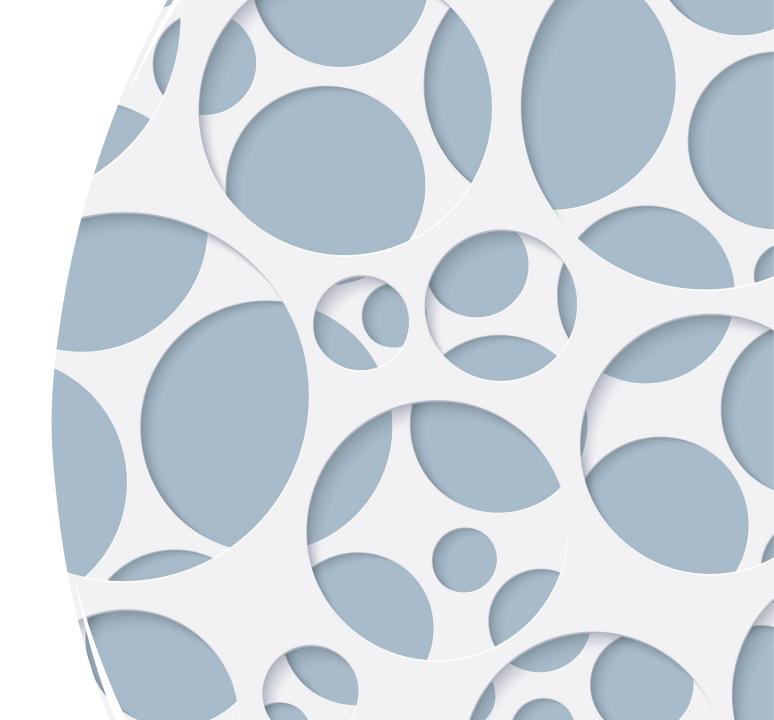
Vascular Lesions in the Breast

Ana L. Ruano, MD

University of Utah

Department of Pathology



Outline

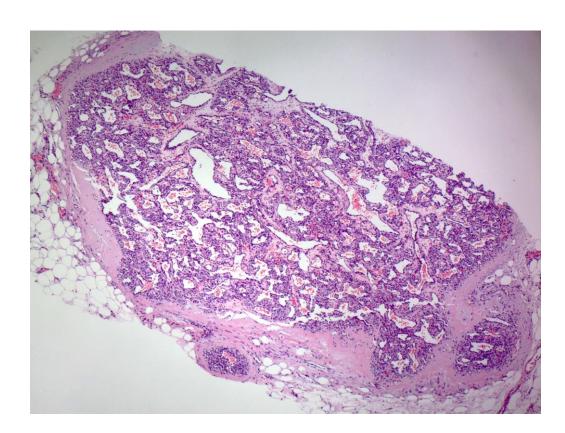
- Benign vascular lesions
 - Hemangiomas
 - Angiomatosis
 - Angiolipoma
- Atypical vascular lesions
- Angiosarcoma
 - Primary
 - Secondary
- Differential Diagnoses

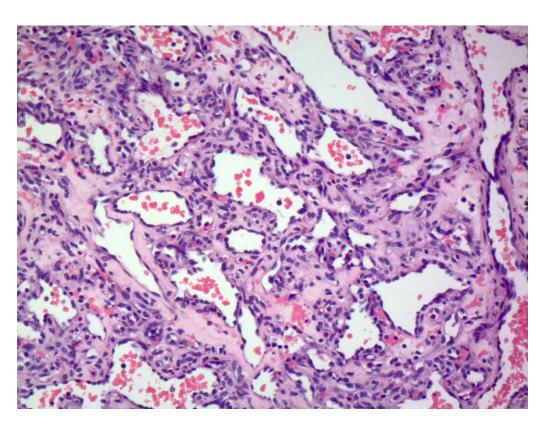
Benign vascular lesions

- Diagnostic challenge in core needle biopsies
 - Angiosarcomas can show areas that are very well differentiated and resemble benign lesions
 - Benign lesions can occasionally show atypical cytologic or architectural features (occasional hyperchromasia, anastomosing channels, etc)
- Some recommend excision of all benign appearing vascular lesions to fully exclude an angiosarcoma
- Others advocate for conservative management of patients whenever there is pathologic-radiologic concordance.

- Benign vascular lesion, likely non-neoplastic vascular malformations
- Located in skin or breast parenchyma
- Mammography: Lobulated mass, mass with microlobulated margins, rarely calcifications.
- Most are <2.0 cm (range 0.3-6.0 cm)
- 0.4% of all breast tumors.
- Found in approximately 1.2% of mastectomy specimens and 11% of autopsies.

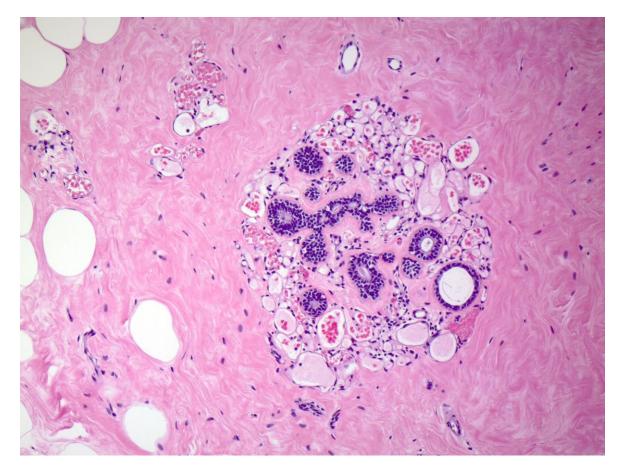
- Most commonly incidentally detected on imaging or excision for unrelated pathology, rarely palpable.
- Histopathology: Non-anastomosing vascular spaces of varying size. Bland nuclei, no increased mitoses. Well circumscribed. Thrombosis with secondary endothelial hyperplasia can occur. Larger feeding vessel can be seen in proximity.
 - Perilobular: Most common subtype. Present within intralobular stroma.
 - Other types: Cavernous, venous, capillary, complex (mixture of small and cavernous vessels)

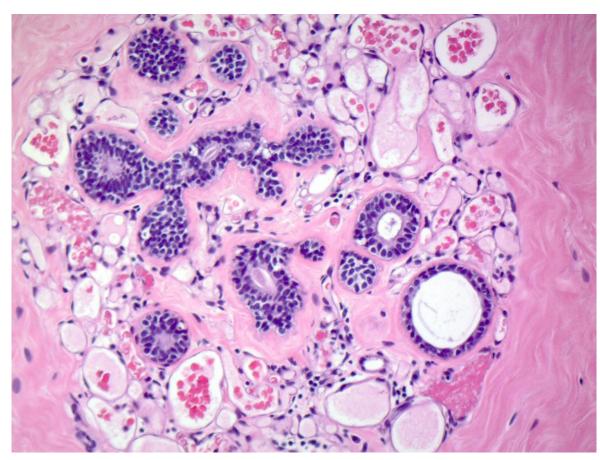




https://www.pathologyoutlines.com - Contributed by Indu Agarwal, MD

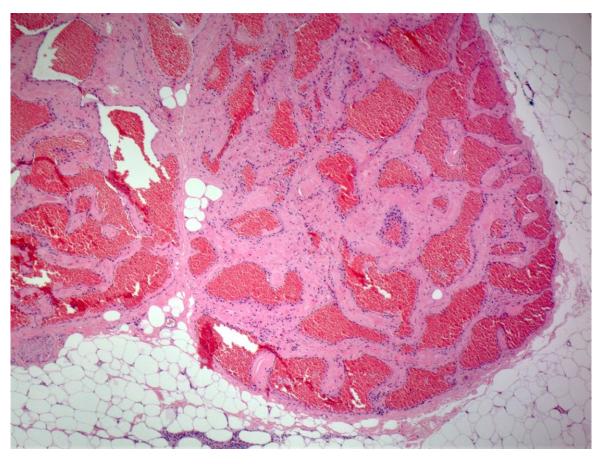
Perilobular hemangioma



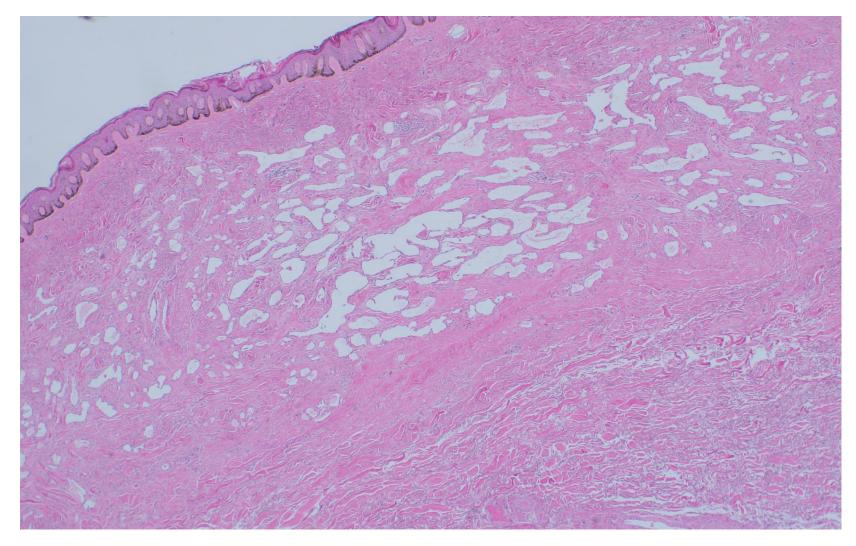


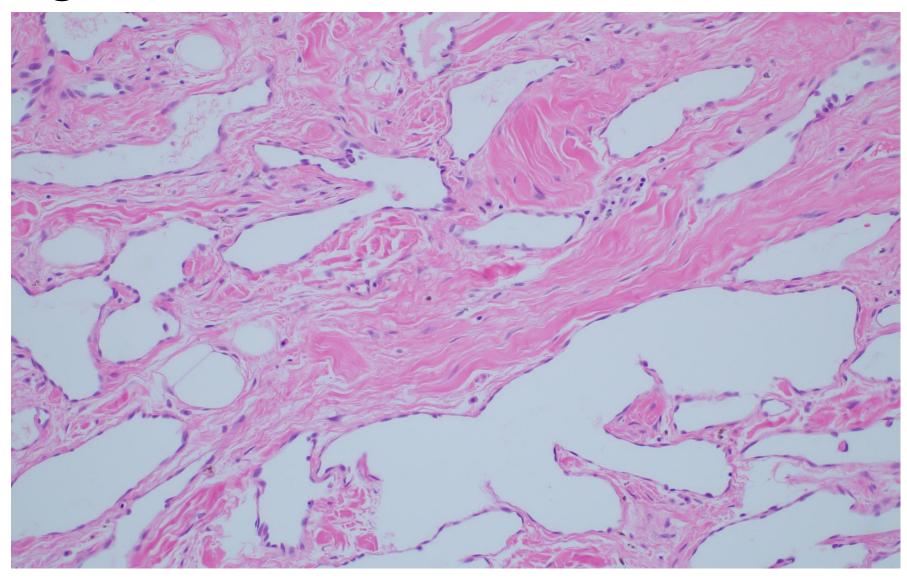
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Cavernous hemangioma

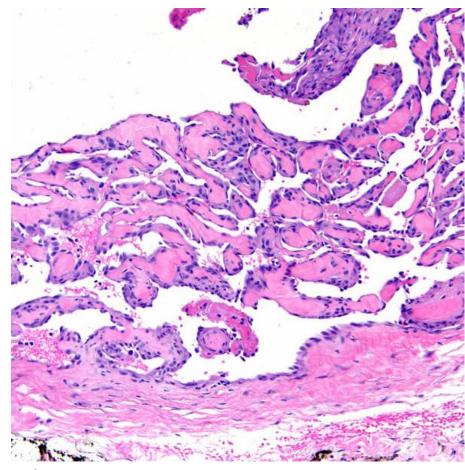


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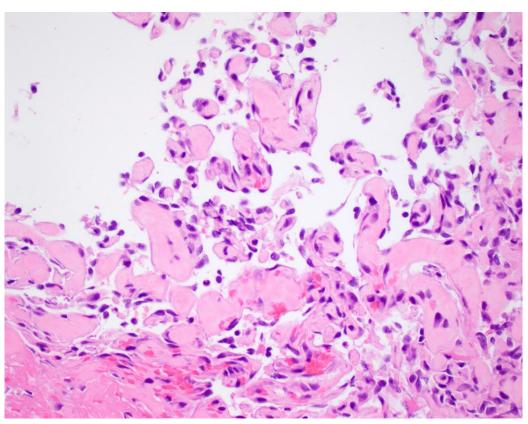




Papillary endothelial hyperplasia



Credit: Liron Pantanowitz



Credit: Laura Warmke, MD

- Endothelial cells show expression of ERG, CD31, D2-40, fVIII.
- AR expression in the stroma of benign and malignant vascular lesions has been described.
- In the past, excision was mandatory to exclude a low grade angiosarcoma.
- Now, if there is radiologic-pathologic correlation, excision following CNB is not mandatory.

Angiomatosis

- Benign vascular proliferation affecting a large area of the breast, sparing the intralobular stroma.
- Rare lesion, can occur in any age but most cases described in young women. Can be congenital or acquired.
- Clinical findings: Breast enlargement or palpable mass. Significant growth can occur in pregnancy. +/- discoloration or hyperpigmentation of overlying skin. Can be transilluminated.
- Imaging can show a vascular or a multicystic septated mass.
 - Moderate blood flow with color Doppler

Angiomatosis - Pathology

- Macroscopic: Multicystic, spongy appearing mass.
- Microscopic:
 - Poorly defined borders
 - Vascular spaces of varying caliber, can anastomose
 - Even distribution over a large area of the breast
 - Does not involve intralobular stroma
 - Lined by bland endothelial cells
 - Can extend to skin or pectoralis muscle
 - Capillary subtype: Nodular arrangement of small vessels with a central larger vessel (less common)

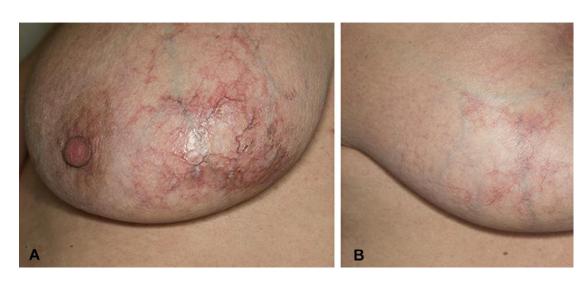
Angiomatosis

- Main critical DD is angiosarcoma:
 - Angiomatosis shows uniform distribution of vessels
 - Bland nuclei
 - No endothelial tufting, papillae, necrosis or blood lakes.
 - Spares the TDLUs
 - Ki-67 usually low (<2%)
- Prognosis: Incompletely excised lesions are at high risk for local recurrence. Can be locally aggressive but metastases or malignant transformation have not been documented.

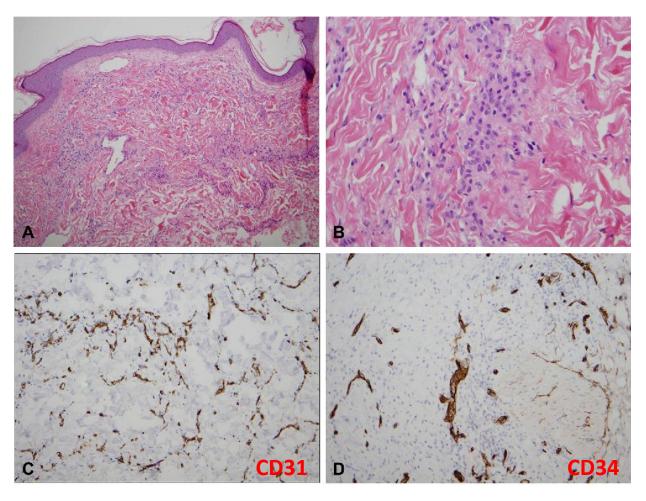
Diffuse Dermal Angiomatosis

- Distinct rare variant of reactive angioendotheliomatosis associated with smoking, hypercoagulable states, trauma, underlying veno-occlusion, pendulous macromastia
- Clinical presentation: Painful cutaneous erythematous to violaceous plaques and papules that tend to ulcerate. Surrounding tissue necrosis.
- Lesions tend to grow over time
- Treatment: Lifestyle modifications for atherosclerosis, revascularization, reduction mammoplasty or excision of lesions

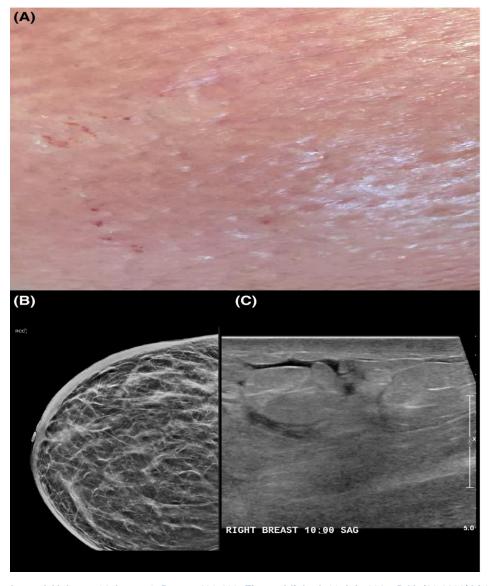
Diffuse dermal angiomatosis



Tollefson M et al Diffuse dermal angiomatosis of the breast: clinicopathologic study of 5 patients. Journal of American Academy of Dermatology; 2014

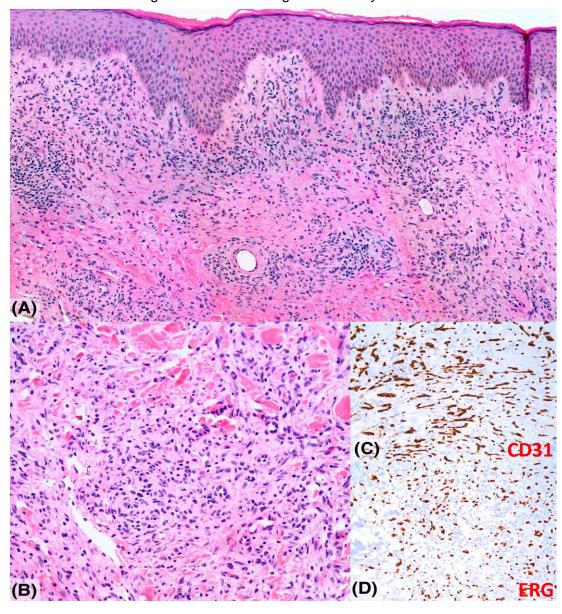


Diffuse dermal angiomatosis mimicking inflammatory breast carcinoma



The Breast Journal, Volume: 24, Issue: 2, Pages: 196-198, First published: 26 July 2017, DOI: (10.1111/tbj.12866)

Diffuse dermal angiomatosis mimicking inflammatory breast carcinoma

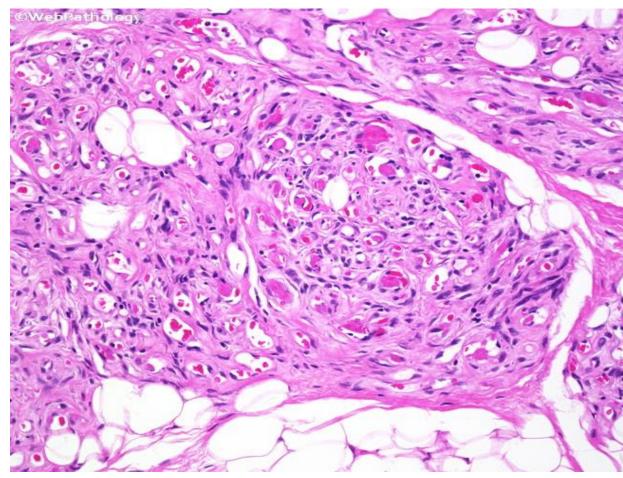


The Breast Journal, Volume: 24, Issue: 2, Pages: 196-198, First published: 26 July 2017, DOI: (10.1111/tbj.12866)

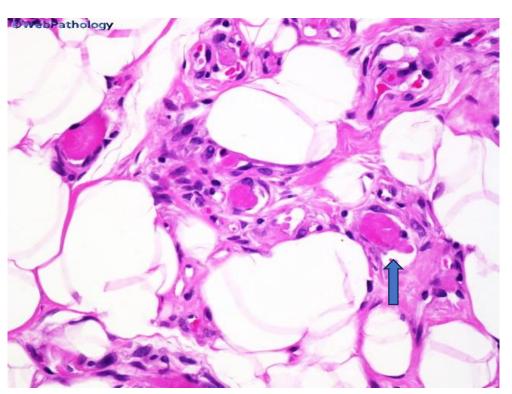
Angiolipoma

- Benign lesion with variable proportion of adipose tissue and vascular elements
- More frequent in subcutaneous tissue than in breast parenchyma
- Palpable mass or incidental finding on imaging studies
- Microscopic: Capillary sized vessels often containing thrombi admixed with adipose tissue. Vessels are unevenly distributed and tend to be clustered in the periphery.
 - Cellular variant: Vascular elements represent >50% of lesion

Angiolipoma

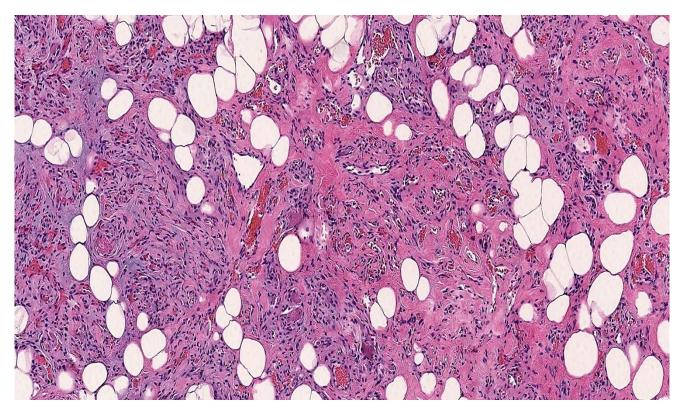


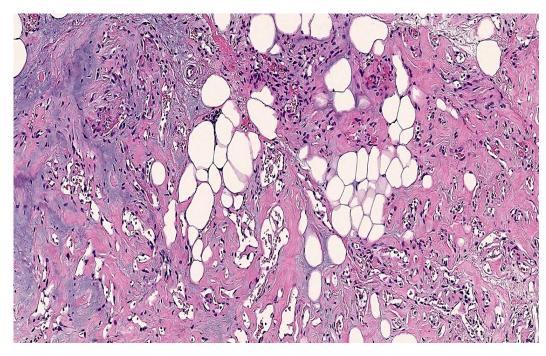
https://www.webpathology.com



https://www.webpathology.com

Cellular Angiolipoma





https://www.pathologyoutlines.com - Contributed by Jeanne Meis, MD

Conservative vs Surgical Management in Benign vascular lesions

- A study by Zhang et al (*The Breast Journal*, 2019) in 117 patients (106 with diagnosis of hemangioma and 17 with diagnosis of atypical hemangioma)
 - All of the atypical cases were surgically excised
 - 7 reclassified to benign diagnosis
 - 4 remained atypical hemangioma
 - One case recurred 3 years after excision with no evidence of disease at 87 months
 - 16.9% of benign hemangiomas were excised with no upgrades
 - At 87 months, 5 patients died from unrelated caused and the rest were alive with no evidence of vascular lesions.

Atypical Vascular Lesions (AVL)

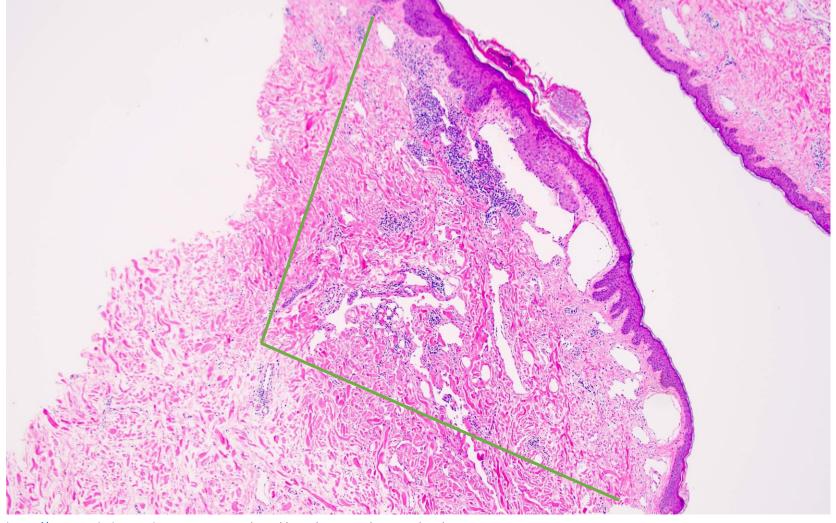
- Described in 1994 by Fineberg and Rosen
- Vascular lesions in irradiated skin, often small and multiple
- Most common in 6th-7th decade
- Total median radiation dose is 50 Gy.
- Clinical findings: Affects breast skin or anterior chest wall. Multiple erythematous to brown papules, rarely plaques. Usually appear 3-4 years post radiation, but latency period can be as short as 1 year.



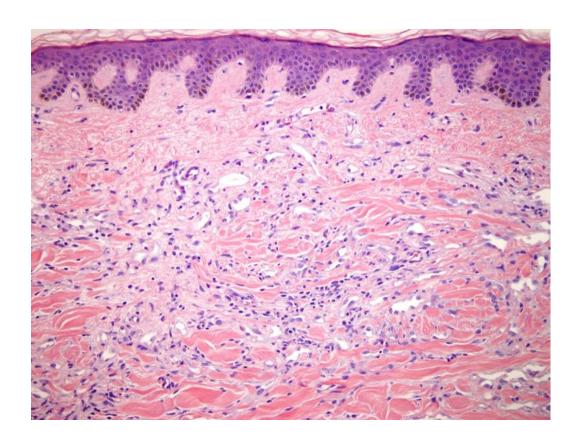
Berrebi, K et al Multiple atypical vascular lesions following breast-conserving surgery and radiation. *Cutis*; 2019

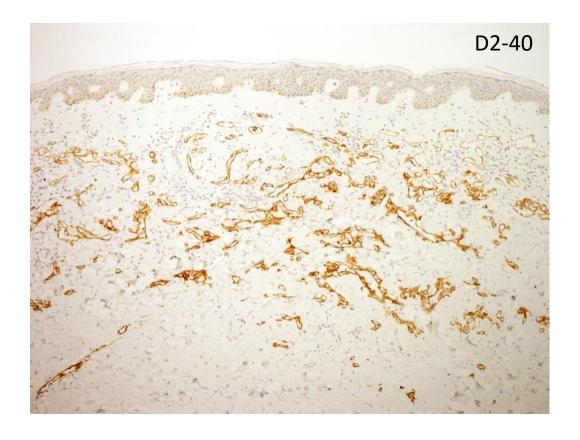
Atypical vascular lesions - Pathology

- Thought to arise as a result of lymphatic obstruction
- Microscopy: Well circumscribed, usually wedge shaped and located in superficial to mid dermis.
 - Lymphatic subtype: Most common. Irregular, thin walled vessels that can show branching and anastomoses. Valve-like structures can be seen. Lining endothelium can show hobnailing or hyperchromasia. Surrounding lymphoid infiltrate. Expresses CD31, CD34 (variable), and D2-40
 - Vascular subtype: Resembles microvenular or hobnail hemangioma. Lacks D2-40 expression. Vessels are surrounded by pericytes (highlighted with smooth muscle markers).
- Negative for MYC amplification or overexpression

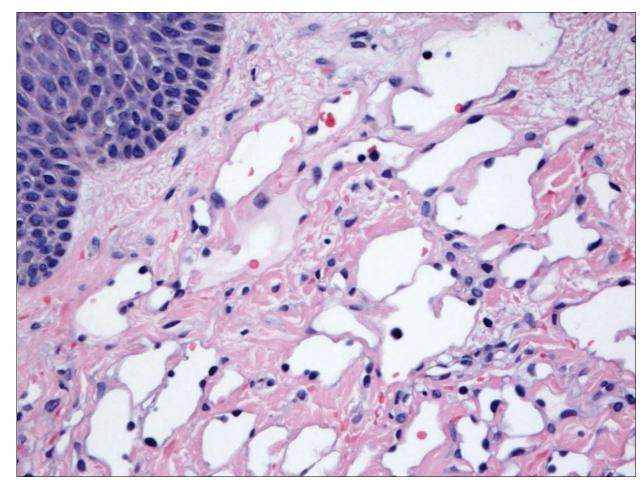


https://www.pathologyoutlines.com - Contributed by Indu Agarwal, MD and Sarlene See, MD

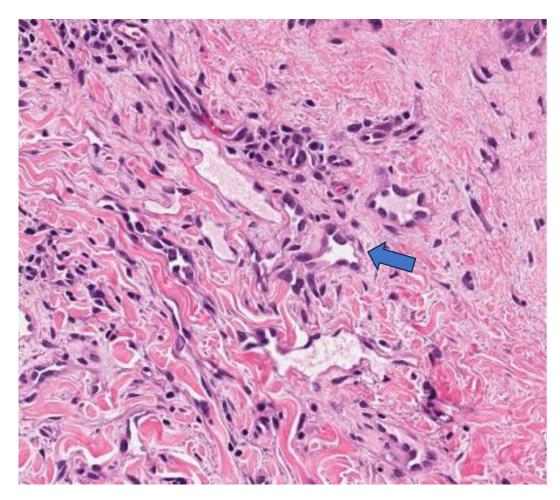




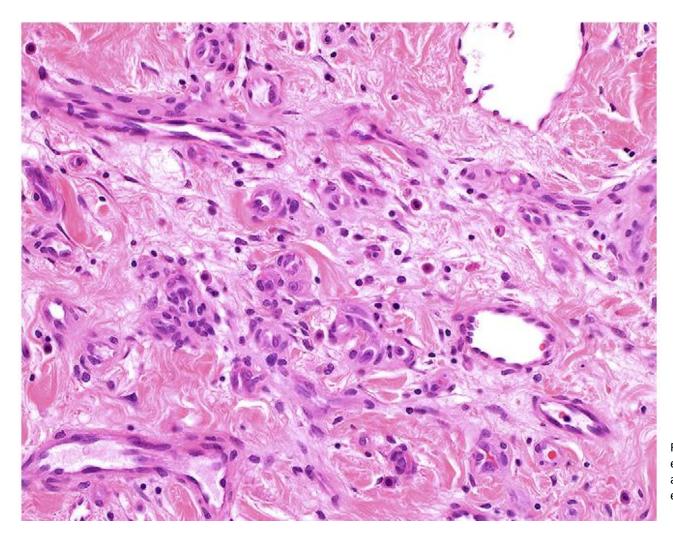
https://dermpath.weill.cornell.edu



Mandrell, J et al Multiple Primary Atypical Vascular Lesions Occurring in the Same Breast Cutis; 2017



Kaley, J et al Dropping the MYC: A review of post-radiation atypical vascular lesions and angiosarcoma of the breast. *Global Dermatology*; 2016



Fisher, C. Unusual myoid, perivascular, and postradiation lesions, with emphasis on atypical vascular lesion, postradiation cutaneous angiosarcoma, myoepithelial tumors, myopericytoma, and perivascular epithelioid cell tumor. Seminars in Diagnostic Pathology; 2014

- Molecular characteristics not very well known
- Low numbers of HRAS and TERT promoter mutations
- Very rare mutations involving TP53 or MYC amplification
- A study by Corradini et al (*Histopathology*; 2020)
 - 8 AVLs and 62 angiosarcomas
 - 1 AVL case was positive for MYC by IHC but negative for rearrangement by FISH
 - 10/17 secondary angiosarcomas positive for MYC
 - 2/4 AVLs showed hTERT mutations

- Prognosis:
 - Usually benign clinical course. No deaths or metastases have been reported.
 - Can recur (16-46%) or patients can develop new lesions
 - Progression to angiosarcoma is rare
 - Relationship to angiosarcoma still under debate
 - Radiation dermatitis pattern of angiosarcoma has been proposed as an intermediate lesion between AVL and angiosarcoma
- Avoid diagnosing in CNB
 - "Atypical vascular proliferation"
- Excision with negative margins is recommended
- Close clinical follow up

- Main DD is with angiosarcoma
 - "Tip of the iceberg" phenomenon
 - In one series of 11 cases diagnosed as AVL on biopsy, 5 were upgraded to angiosarcoma on excision (Mattoch et al, 2007)
 - No strict histologic parameters
 - AVLs are typically well demarcated; oftentimes wedge-shaped
 - Extension into subcutis can rarely happen in AVLs
 - AVLs are diverse lesions, but the architectural complexity of angiosarcomas is not seen
 - Nuclear hyperchromasia and hobnailing should be distinguished from the more prominent atypia in angiosarcoma.
 - Necrosis, increased mitotic activity and blood lakes are not seen.
 - MYC expression/rearrangement useful in distinguishing AVL from secondary angiosarcoma

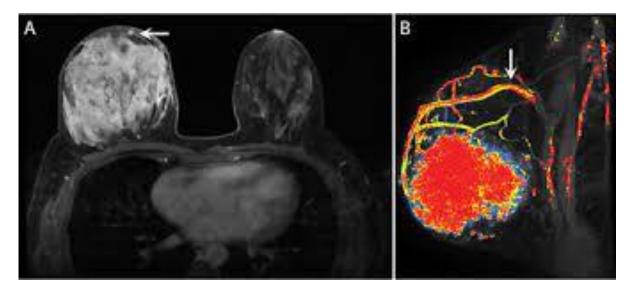
Other terminologies encountered

- Benign lymphangiomatous papule (BLAP)
 - Benign lesion resulting from radiation
 - Flesh colored to hyperpigmented papules
 - Similar histology to AVLs but without infiltration
 - Believed to be another manifestation of AVL
- Atypical hemangioma
 - Benign vascular lesions with atypical features (anastomoses, papillary endothelial hyperplasia, ill appearing borders, mitoses, nuclear atypia)
 - No prior history of radiation

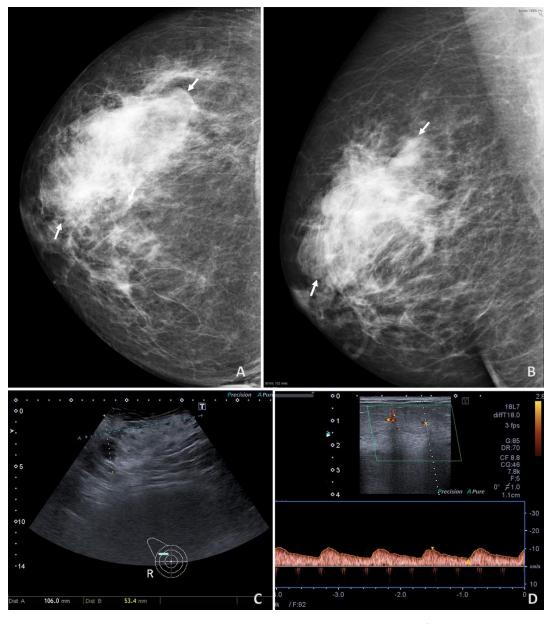
Primary Angiosarcoma

- Rare (<0.05% of malignant breast tumors)
- Malignant primary vascular neoplasm involving breast parenchyma, not associated with prior radiation
- Clinical Features:
 - Median age is 40 years (compared to 70y for secondary angiosarcoma)
 - Most patients present with painless mass, swelling or asymmetry
 - 2/3 of tumors measure > 5 cm
 - Ultrasound: Hyperechoic or mixed hypo and hyperechoic mass or architectural distortion
 - MRI shows malignant enhancement characteristics
 - 20% present with regional disease at diagnosis

Primary angiosarcoma



Brown A and Wahab R MRI of Primary Angiosarcoma of the Breast. Radiology; 2020



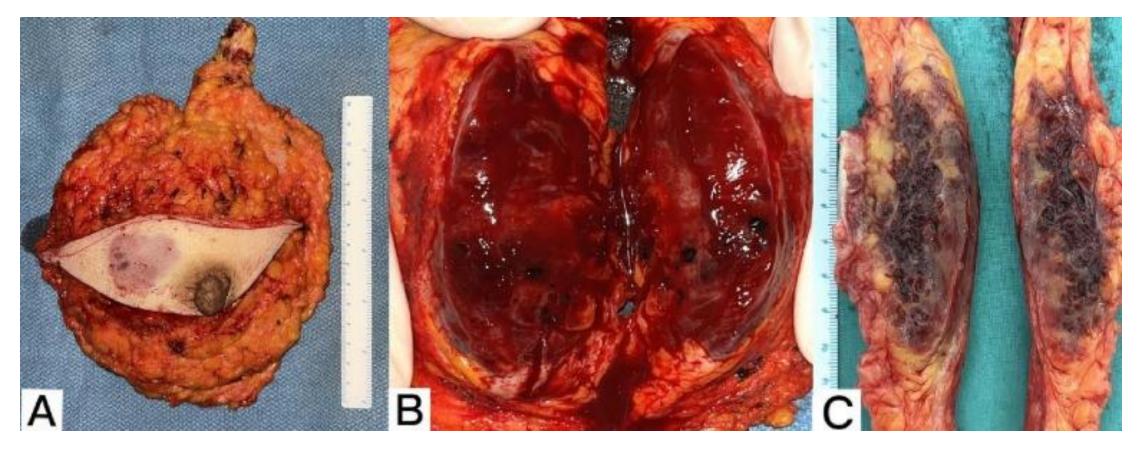
Costa et al Imaging Tips to Recognize Primary Breast Angiosarcoma *Journal of the Belgian Society of Radiology* 2022

Primary Angiosarcoma

- Pathogenesis
 - Higher frequency of KDR and PIK3CA mutations compared to angiosarcomas in other body sites
 - A subset shows mutations in PLCG1
 - Rare cases show MYC gene amplification

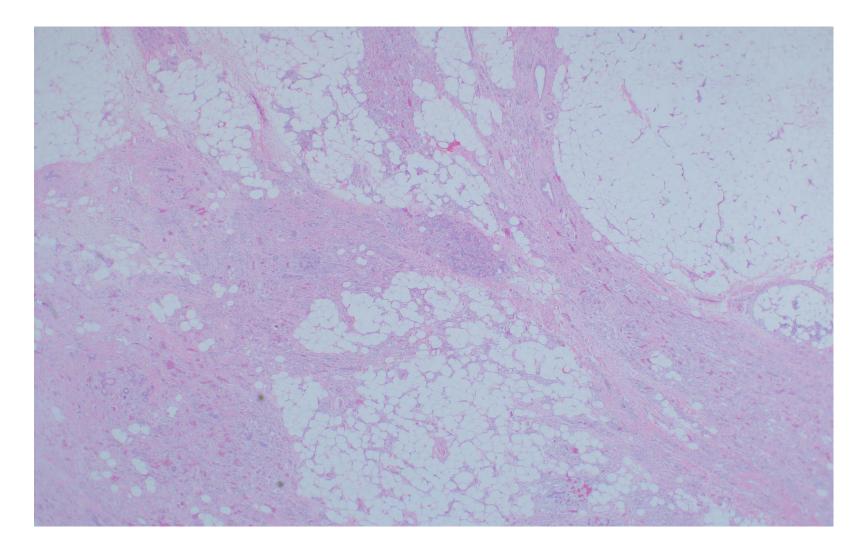
• Macroscopic:

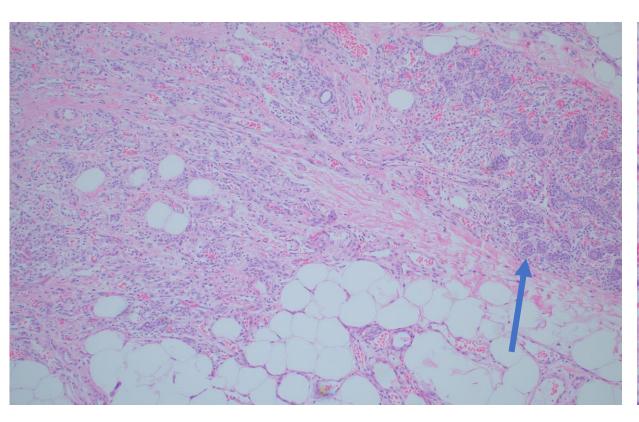
- Mean size is 6.7 cm (range 0.7-25 cm)
- Better differentiated tumors tend to be hemorrhagic and spongy, while more poorly differentiated ones have a more fleshy to solid appearance
- Well or poorly circumscribed
- Most are centered in the breast parenchyma and can extend into subcutis or skin

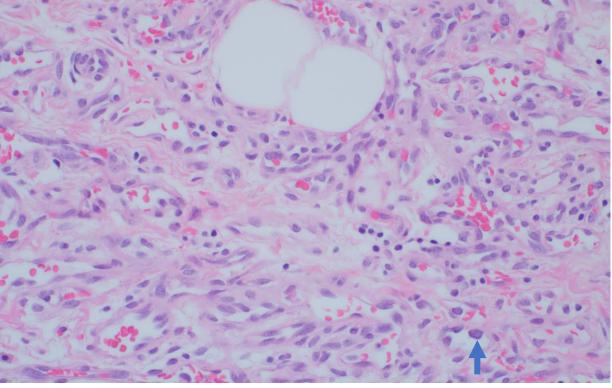


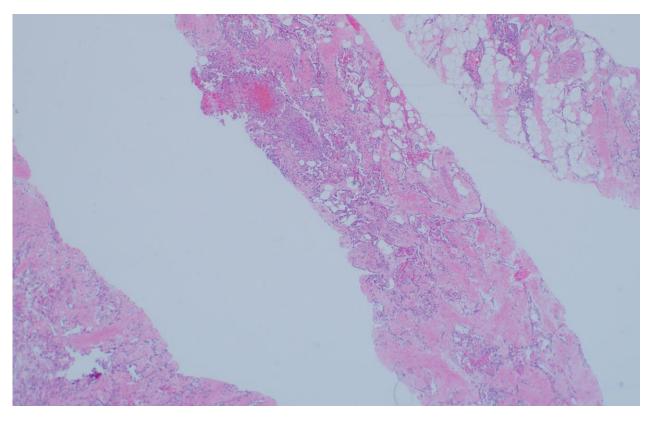
Min L. et al Primary angiosarcoma of breast: A case report and literature review *International Journal of Surgery Case Reports*; 2023

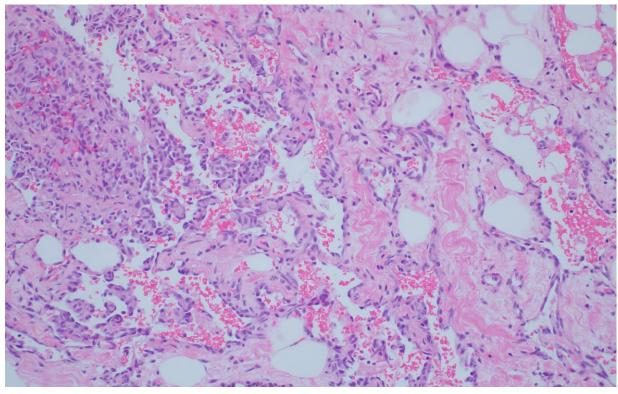
- Infiltrative borders
- Diverse morphologic spectrum
- Well differentiated: Well formed vascular channels that can be angulated, dilated or compressed and dissect through adipose tissue and lobular units. Variable degree of nuclear atypia and mitoses
- Intermediate cases show more prominent hobnailing, endothelial multilayering, or papillary formations
- Poorly differentiated cases have a more predominant solid growth pattern composed of spindled to epithelioid cells with variably admixed well differentiated areas.
- IHC: Positive for endothelial markers (CD31, CD34, ERG, FLI1), Most lack MYC overexpression.
 - Pitfall: Epithelioid angiosarcoma can express epithelial markers

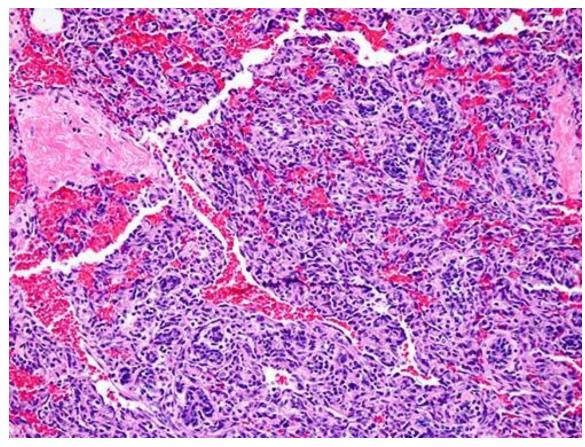




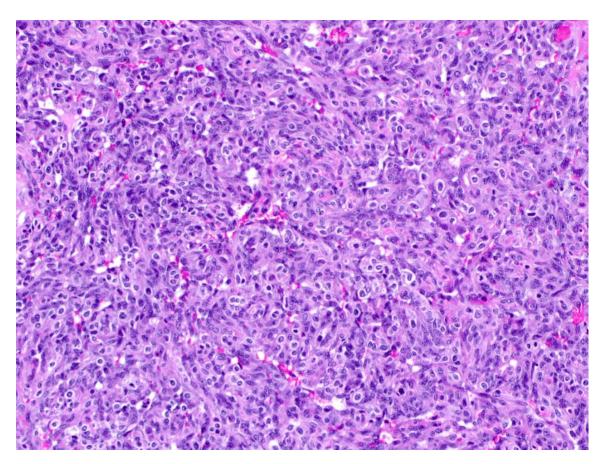








Charnoff-Katz et al. A Case of Primary Breast Angiosarcoma. Radiology Case Reports; 2013



https://www.pathologyoutlines.com – Contributed by Melinda Lerwill, MD

Primary Angiosarcoma - Grading

Histologic features	Low grade	Intermediate grade	High grade
Lesions involving breast	+	+	+
parenchyma			
Anastomosing vascular	+	+	+
channels			
Hyperchromatic endothelial	+	+	+
cells			
Endothelial tufting	minimal	+	++
Papillary formation	-	Focally +	+
Solid and spindle cell foci	-	-/minimal	+
Mitoses	Rare/-	+ in papillary areas	++ even in
			low-grade
			areas
"Blood lakes"	-	-	+
Necrosis	-	-	+

Primary Angiosarcoma - Grading

- Nascimento et al (Am J Surg Pathol; 2008)
 - 49 primary angiosarcoma cases
 - Tumors were graded using the 3 tier Rosen system
 - 17 (35.4%) low grade
 - 17 (35.4%) intermediate grade
 - 14 (29.2%) high grade
 - Follow up available for 41 patients for a median duration of 29 months
 - 10 showed local recurrence at a median of 36 months (11-60 mo)
 - 24 patients (58.5%) had metastatic disease
 - 18 patients (44%) died of disease
 - No correlation between tumor grade and local recurrence, metastasis, and death.

Primary Angiosarcoma – Grading

- Kuba et al (Am J Surg Pathol; 2023)
 - 49 primary breast angiosarcomas
 - Median follow up time was 33 months
 - Graded according to mitotic count, necrosis, and extent of solid component (modified Rosen system).
 - 29% low grade
 - 20% intermediate grade
 - 51% high grade
 - 22% showed locoregional recurrence
 - 63% developed metastatic disease
 - 47% died of disease
 - Two and three tier grading systems showed strong impact on survival
 - The 2 tier system was found to be independent predictor of disease specific and overall survival
 - 5 year overall survival: 38% for high grade vs 74% for low grade
 - Targeted DNA NGS in 11 cases showed KDR mutations in 78% and PIK3CA mutations in 44% of high grade lesions
 - PIK3CA mutations associated with worse outcome

Primary Angiosarcoma

- Mastectomy with or without radiation is standard of care
- No randomized clinical trials comparing lumpectomy vs mastectomy
 - Lumpectomy could be considered with small tumors
- Rate of lymph node metastasis is relatively low, therefore axillary dissection is not routinely performed in patients with clinically negative lymph nodes
- Anthracycline and taxane-based regimens have been the frontline chemotherapy
 - Patients with locally advanced or metastatic disease have had a 25% complete or partial response rate

Secondary Angiosarcoma (radiation-associated)

- It is the most common radiation-induced sarcoma of the breast
- Lesions arise in skin of chest wall or in prior lumpectomy scar, in the irradiated field.
- Stewart-Treves syndrome: Angiosarcoma arising in setting of chronic lymphedema (less common today due to less aggressive axillary surgeries)
- Median age 70y (in contrast to 40y for primary angiosarcoma)
- Mean latency period is 5-6 years, rare cases can have a much shorter (1-2y) or longer (30-40y) latency periods
- Clinical findings: Single or multiple skin plaques, nodules, or papules, erythematous to violaceous. Rarely it can present as a focal thickening of the skin.
- More common in the setting of lumpectomy followed by radiation than in cases of mastectomy followed by adjuvant radiation



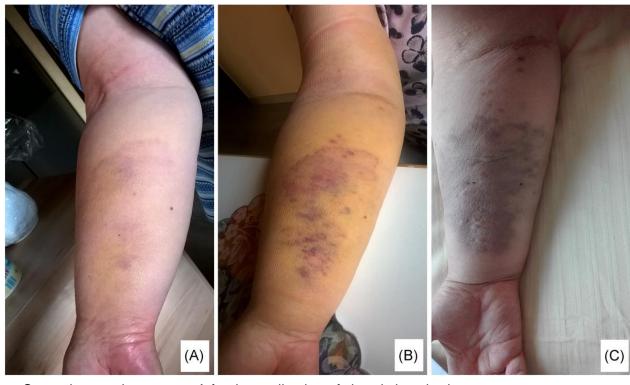
Cohen-Hallaleh et al Radiation induced angiosarcoma of the breast: outcomes from a retrospective case series. *Clinical Sarcoma Research*; 2017



Mergancova et al Radiation-associated angiosarcoma of the breast: An international multicenter analysis. *Surgical Oncology;* 2022



Rose and Owuscu-Brackett Loss of TSC1 in secondary angiosarcoma of the breast. *Clinical Case Reports*; 2023

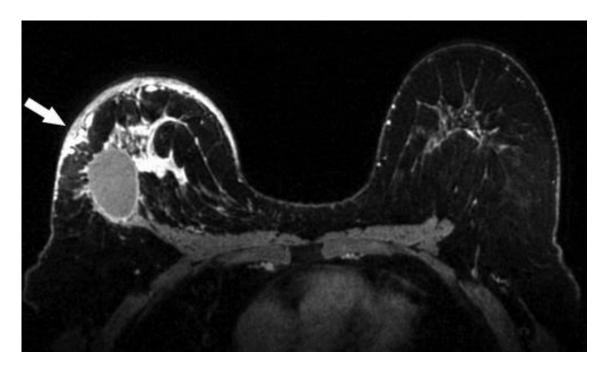


Secondary angiosarcoma: A fatal complication of chronic lymphedema

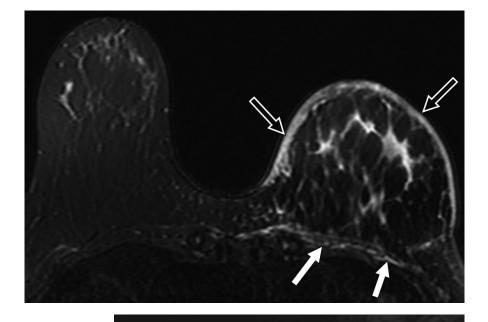
Secondary angiosarcoma: A fatal complication of chronic lymphedema
Journal of Surgical Oncology, Volume: 121, Issue: 1, Pages: 85-90, First published: 24 June 2019, DOI: (10.1002/jso.25598)



Mesli, S et al Case Report Stewart-Treves Syndrome Involving Chronic Lymphedema after Mastectomy of Breast Cancer. *Medicine*; 2017



Disharoon et al Case 242: Radiation-induced Angiosarcoma. Radiology; 2017





Chesebro, A et al. Radiation-Associated Angiosarcoma of the Breast: What the Radiologist Needs to Know. American Journal of Roentgenology; 2016

Secondary Angiosarcoma - Pathogenesis

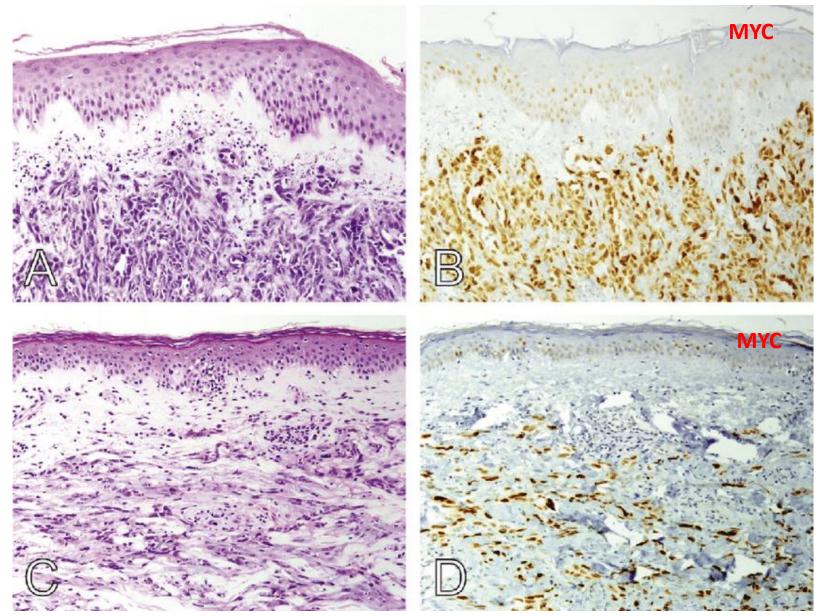
- Upregulation of vascular specific receptor tyrosine kinases such as TIE1, KDR, TEK, FLT1
 - Mutations in KDR, PLCG1, PTPRB
 - FLT4 amplification (5% of these are co-amplified with MYC)
- MYC amplification seen in >90% of secondary angiosarcomas

Secondary Angiosarcoma - Pathology

- Arise in dermis and can extend into subcutis or rarely into breast parenchyma
- Variable morphology
 - Well differentiated: Irregular, dilated, or angulated vessels in sieve-like configuration
 - Intermediate: Papillary formations or endothelial multilayering
 - Poorly differentiated: Solid growth of epithelioid or spindle cells, necrosis, blood lakes
 - Nuclear atypia: Hyperchromasia, prominent nucleoli, increased mitoses
 - Less common patterns: Capillary lobule and radiation dermatitis-like pattern
- Grading not recommended

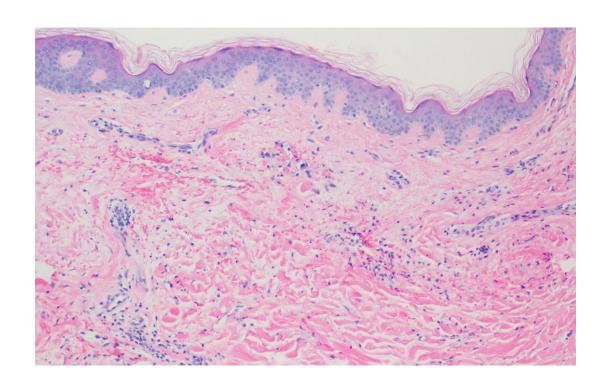
Secondary Angiosarcoma - Pathology

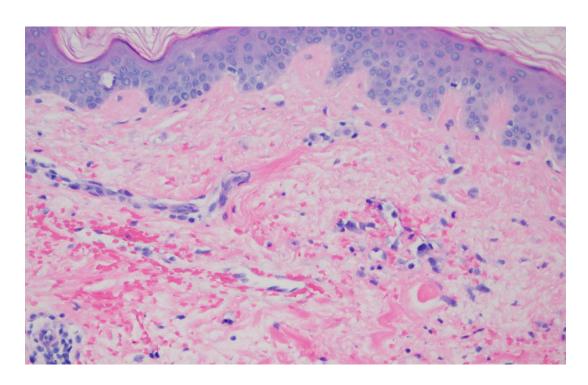
- IHC: Strong expression of CD31 and ERG. Variable expression of CD31, D2-40, and FLI1.
 - Epithelioid subtypes can express EMA or cytokeratin
- MYC nuclear over expression
- Loss of H3K27me3
 - Retained in atypical vascular lesions (AVL) and benign entities
- FISH: High level amplification (>100 copies of *MYC*) in the form of homogenously staining regions or multiple focal amplicons



<u>Udager, A et al MYC immunohistochemistry in angiosarcoma and atypical vascular lesions: practical considerations based on a single institutional experience</u>. *Pathology*; 2016

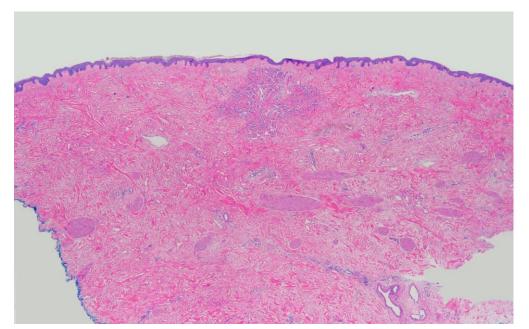
Skin punch biopsy

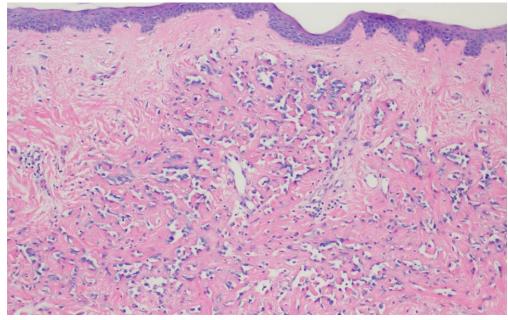


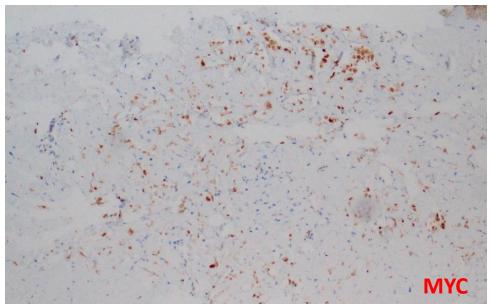


Javed, N and Stowman, A Educational Case: Radiation-Induced Angiosarcoma of the Breast. *Academic Pathology*; 2021

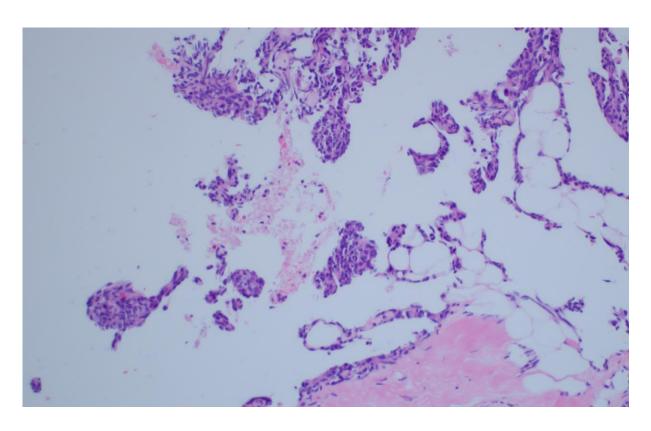
Wide skin excision

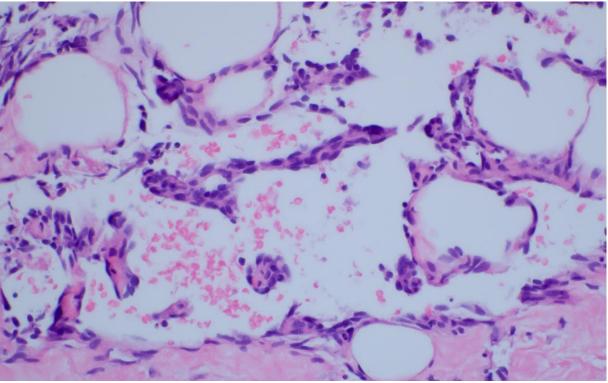


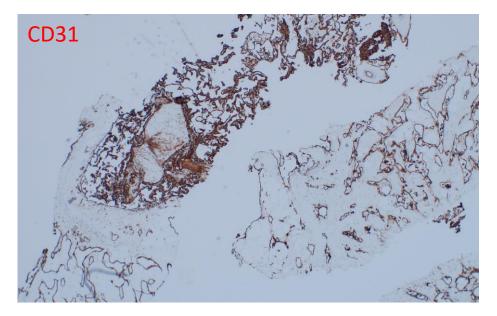


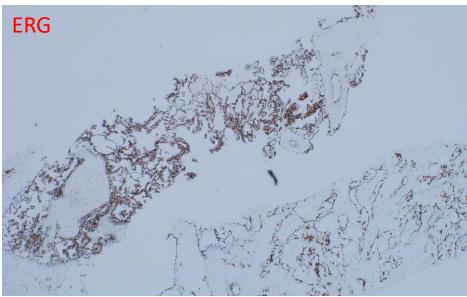


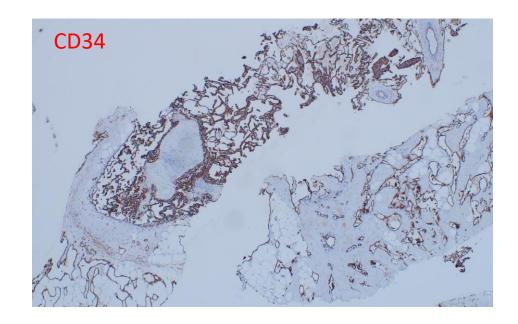
Javed, N and Stowman, A Educational Case: Radiation-Induced Angiosarcoma of the Breast. *Academic Pathology*; 2021

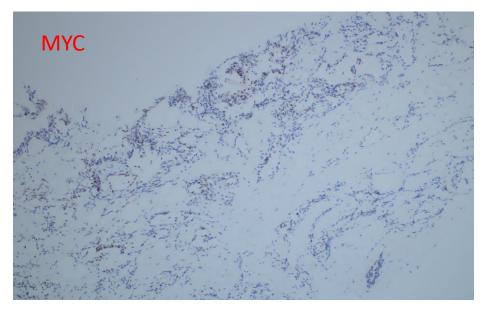


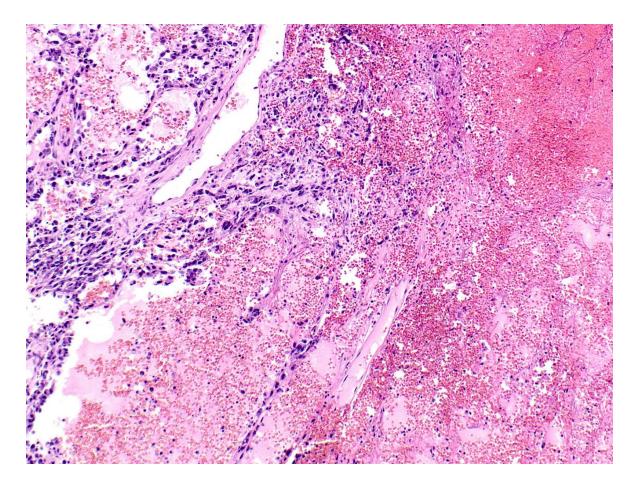


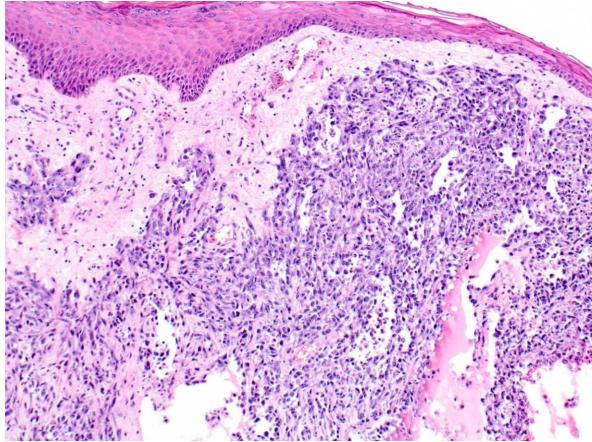






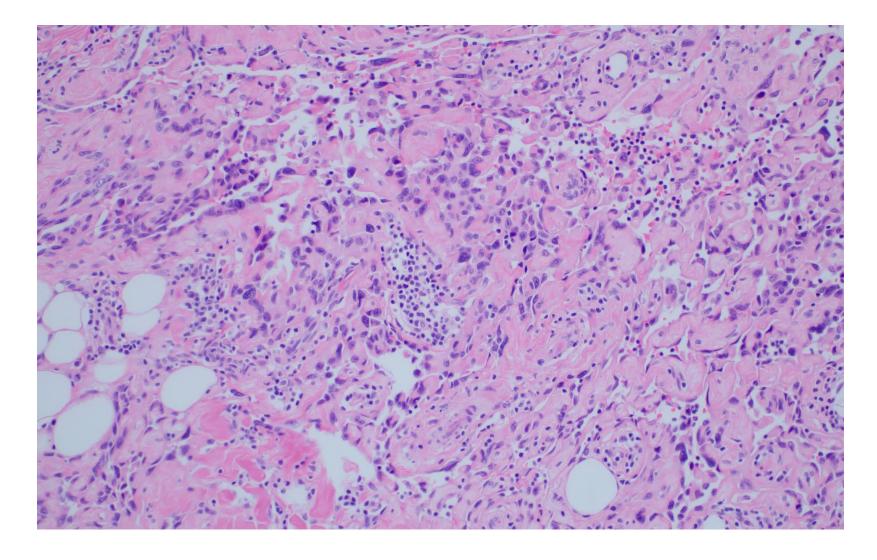




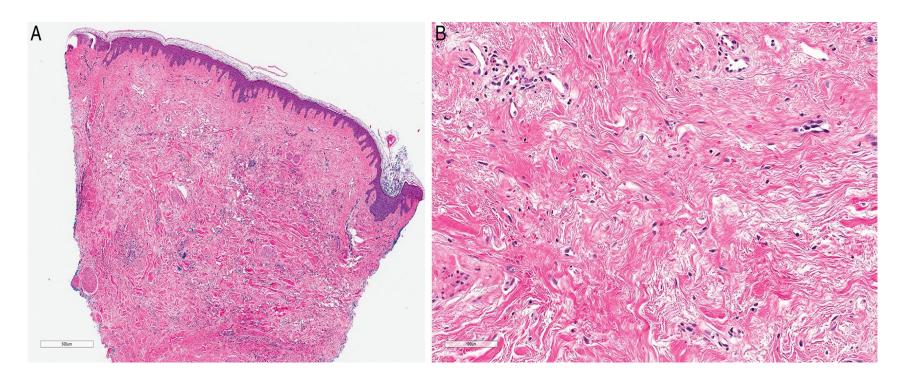


<u>https://www.pathologyoutlines.com</u> – Contributed by Melinda Lerwill, MD

• Epithelioid angiosarcoma

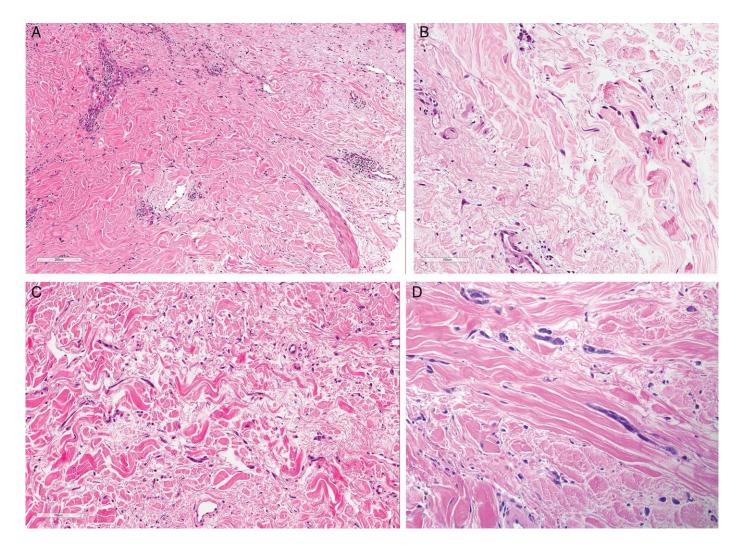


Radiation-associated angiosarcoma in the setting of breast cancer mimicking radiation dermatitis: A diagnostic pitfall

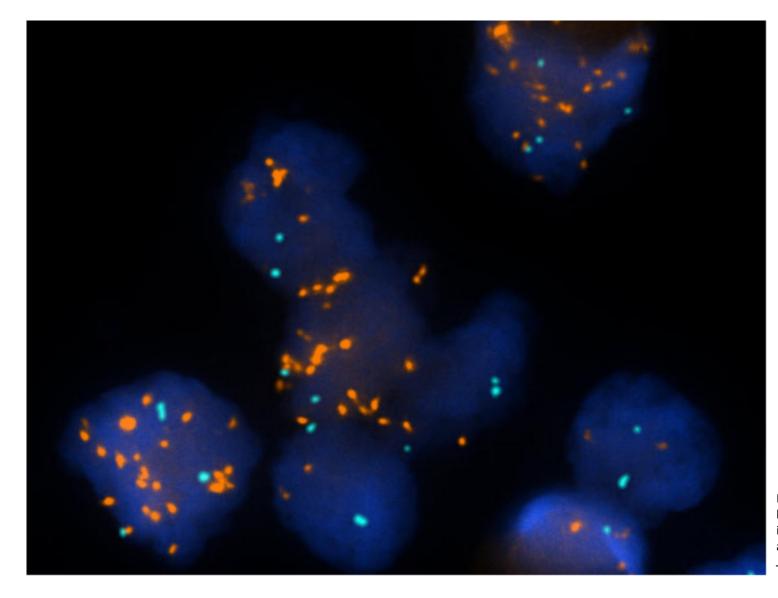


J Cutan Pathol, Volume: 44, Issue: 5, Pages: 456-461, First published: 07 February 2017, DOI: (10.1111/cup.12917)

Radiation-associated angiosarcoma in the setting of breast cancer mimicking radiation dermatitis: A diagnostic pitfall



J Cutan Pathol, Volume: 44, Issue: 5, Pages: 456-461, First published: 07 February 2017, DOI: (10.1111/cup.12917)



Motaparthi et al MYC gene amplification by fluorescence in situ hybridization and MYC protein expression by immunohistochemistry in the diagnosis of cutaneous angiosarcoma: Systematic review and appropriate use criteria. *Journal of Cutaneous Pathology;* 2020

Secondary Angiosarcoma – Prognosis and Treatment

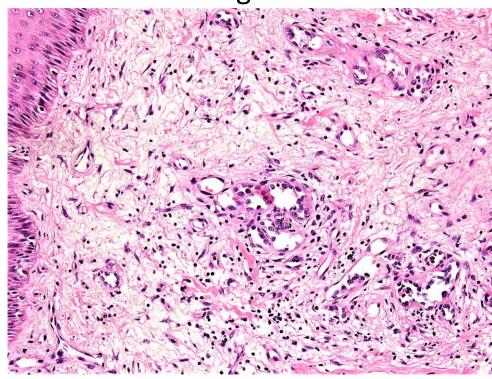
- Surgical excision with negative margins
- Postoperative radiotherapy is used to reduce the risk of local recurrences and improve overall survival
- Recent investigations have demonstrated benefit with high doses of radiation (>70 Gy) as definite therapy without surgery
- Metastatic setting
 - Cytotoxic chemotherapy with taxanes and anthracyclines
 - Initial response rates can be 20-60%
 - Targeted agents
 - VEGF inhibitors (bevacizumab) have benefit in locally advanced and metastatic settings
 - TKI (pazopanib, regorafenib) in patients with metastatic disease
 - Immune checkpoint inhibitors
- Chemotherapy has also shown benefit in the adjuvant setting for patients with locally advanced disease and it has been increasingly used in the neoadjuvant setting

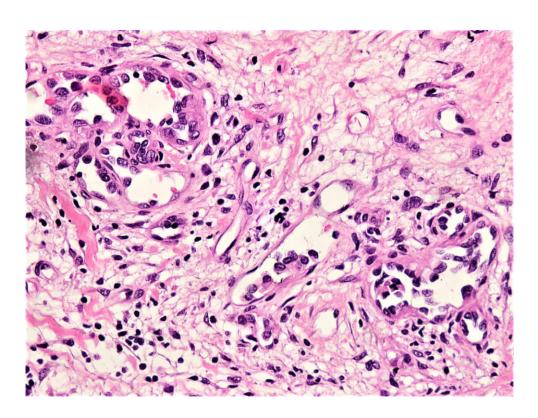
Secondary Angiosarcoma – Prognosis and Treatment

- Recurrences are common (≥50% of cases) even after surgery with negative margins
- Common metastatic sites include lungs, liver, bone, and the contralateral breast.
- Axillary lymph node metastases are rare
- Median recurrence-free survival is <3y and median OS is <5y

Vascular Differential Diagnoses

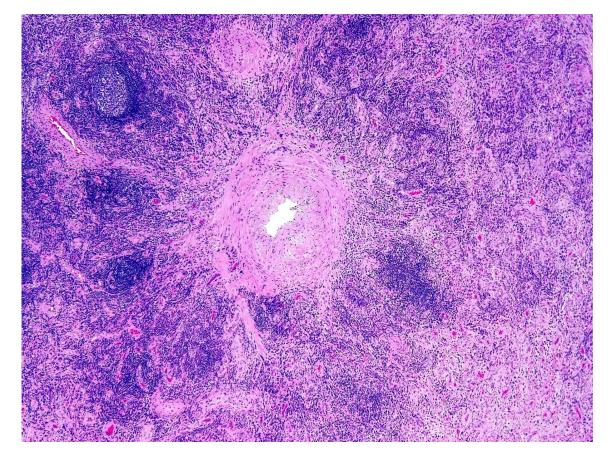
Hobnail hemangioma

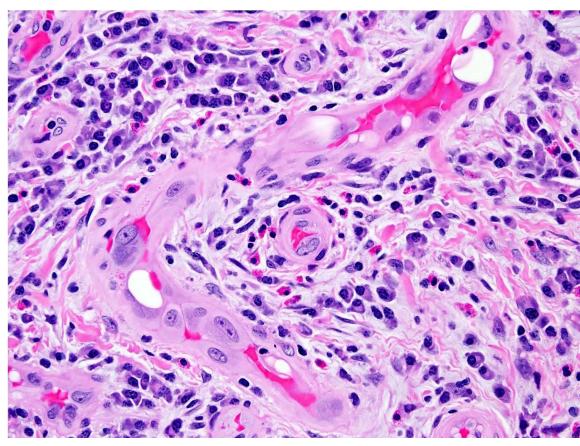




https://www.pathologyoutlines.com

• Epithelioid hemangioma

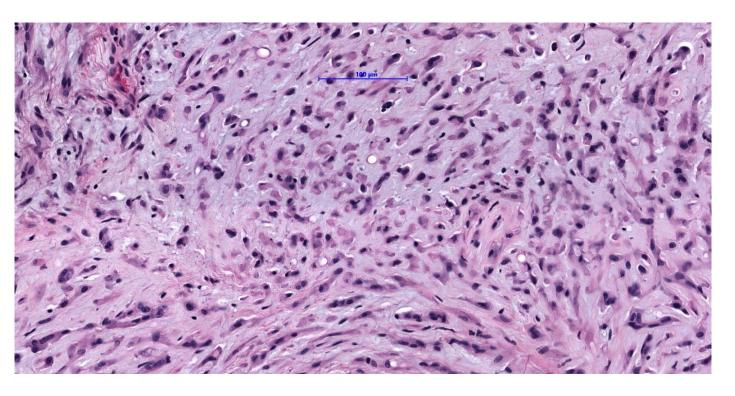




https://www.pathologyoutlines.com - Contributed by Borislav Alexiev, MD

FOSB IHC positive FOS or FOSB gene rearrangements

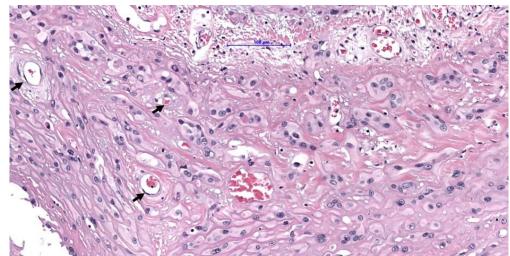
• Epithelioid hemangioendothelioma

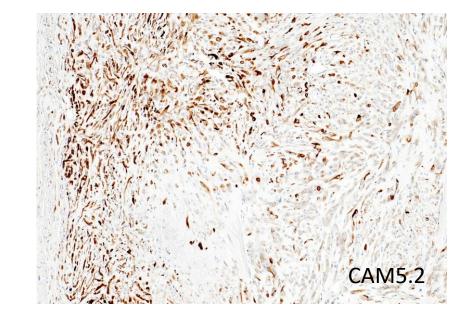


<u>Pathology Outlines - Epithelioid hemangioendothelioma</u> Contributed by Iva Brčić, M.D., Ph.D. and Bernadette Liegl-Atzwanger, M.D

WWTR1:CAMTA1 (classic type)

YAP-TFE3: alveolar type

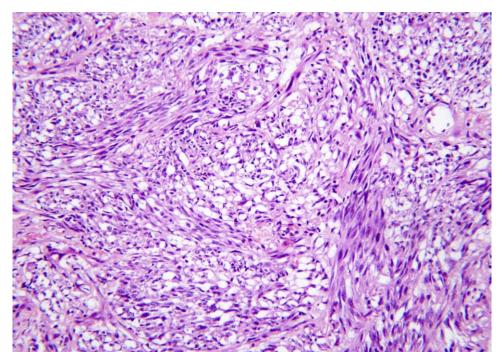




Kaposi sarcoma



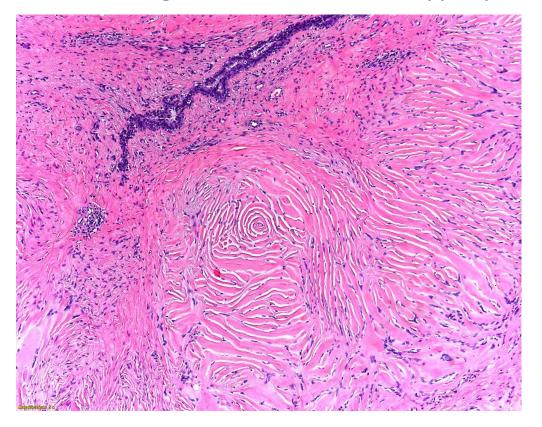
Qian et al Atypical presentation of classic Kaposi's sarcoma. The Lancet; 2019

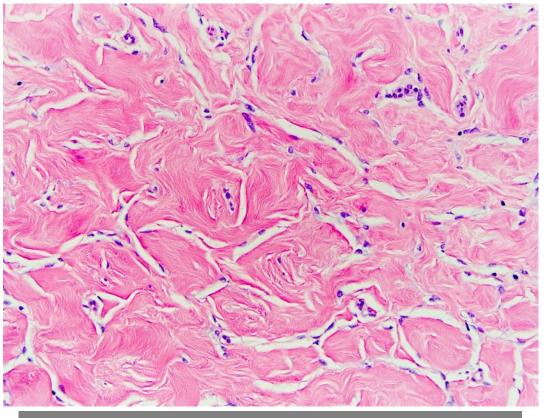


 $\underline{www.pathologyoutlines.com} \text{ - Contributed by Michella Whisman, M.D}$

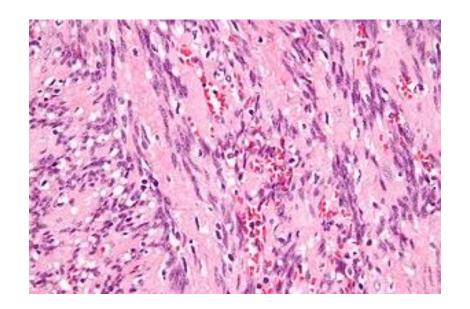
Non-Vascular Differential Diagnoses

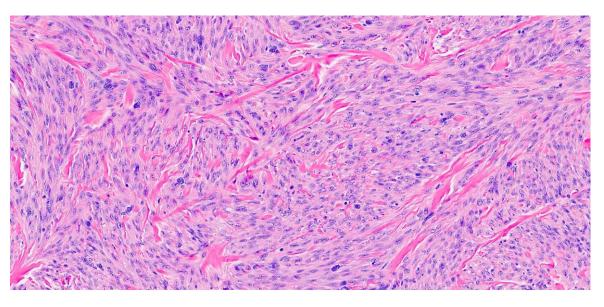
Pseudoangiomatous stromal hyperplasia (PASH)





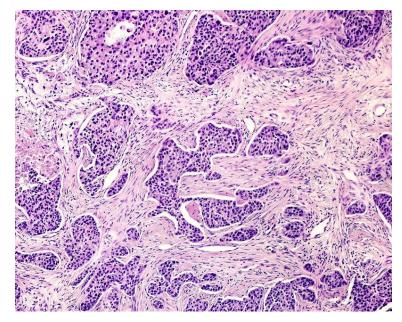
Myofibroblastoma

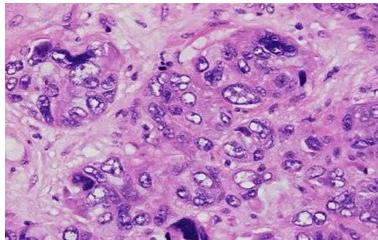




Contributed by Kristen E. Muller, D.O

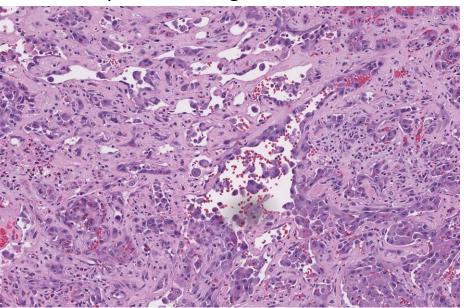
• High grade invasive carcinoma

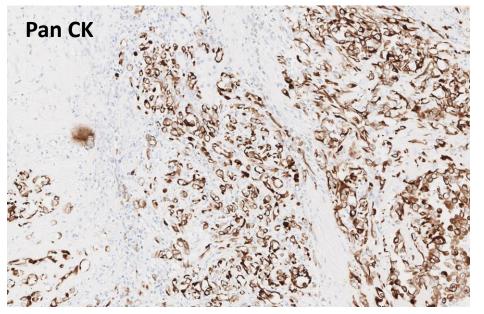




Credit: Jose Calvo

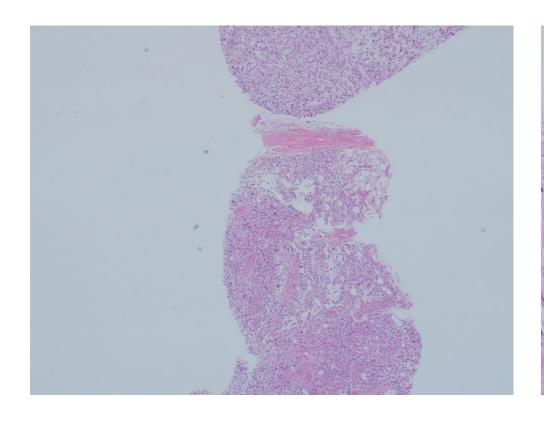
Epithelioid angiosarcoma

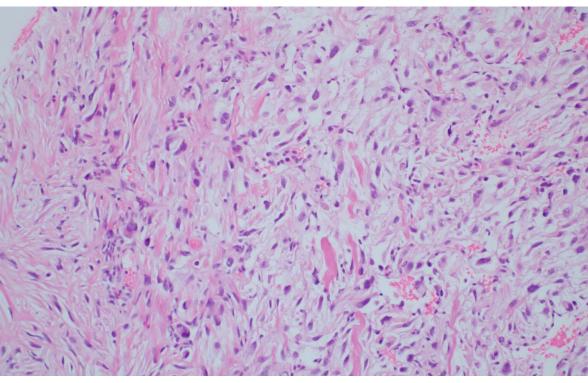


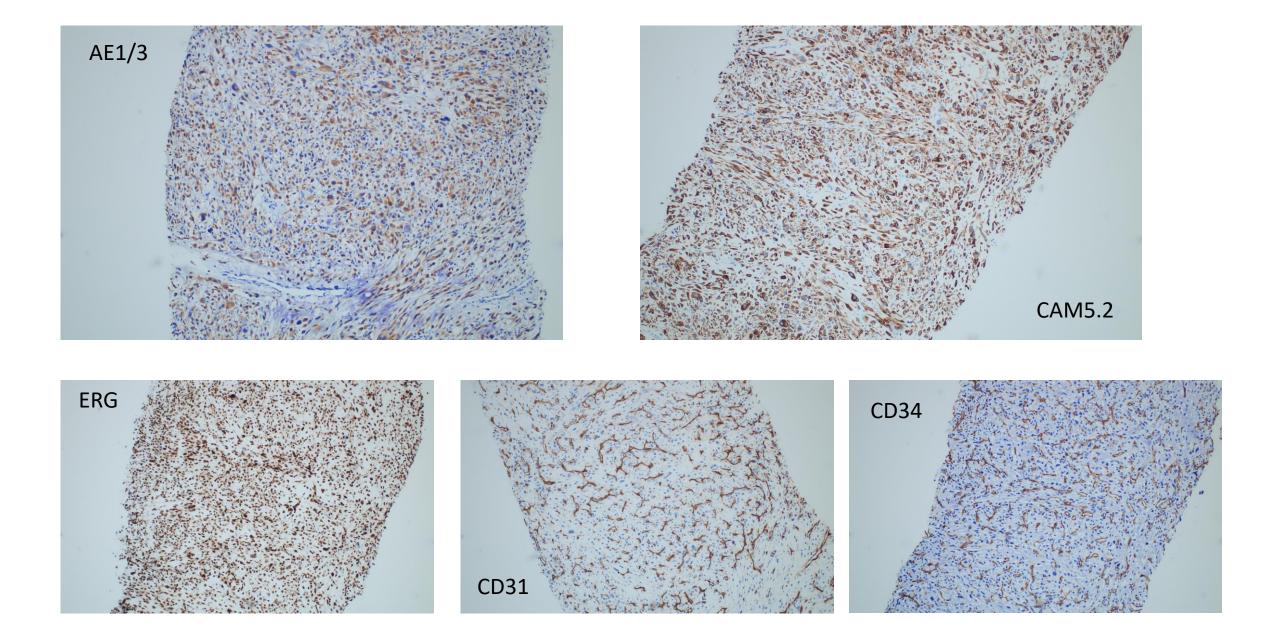


Credit: David Loeffler

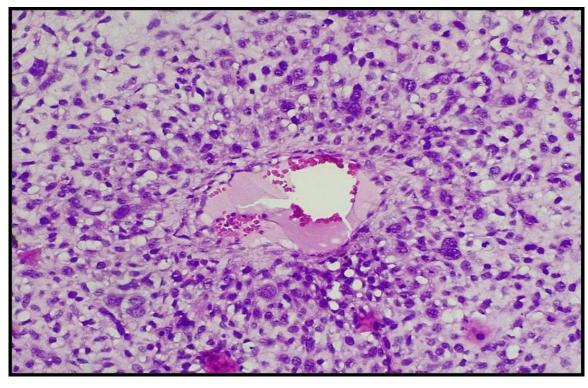
• Metaplastic spindle cell carcinoma



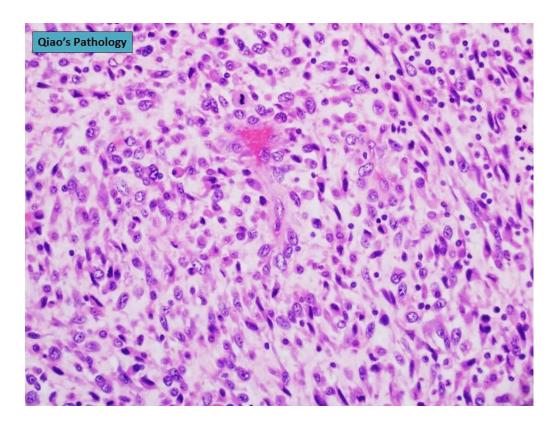




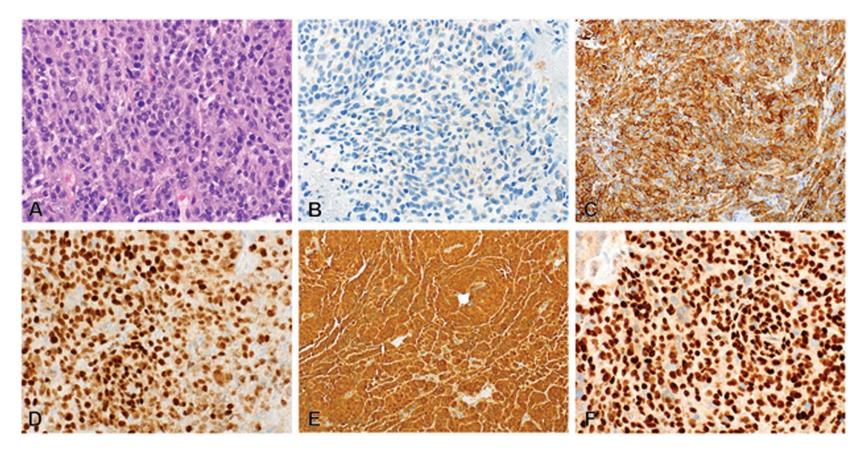
Malignant phyllodes tumor



Nemsadze et al Female Pediatric Malignant Heterogenic Phyllodes Tumor: A Rare Case Report with Literature Review. *J Med Case Rep*; 2023



• Metastatic melanoma



Cimino-Matthews, A Novel uses of immunohistochemistry in breast pathology: interpretation and pitfalls. *Modern Pathology;* 2020



Thank you!