

Disorders of Known Causes: Occupational Lung Diseases/Pneumoconioses and Environmental Lung Disease

Restrictive lung diseases;
low lung volumes

WE KNOW the causes

- Asbestosis
- Silicosis
- Coal Worker's pneumoconiosis
- Berylliosis
- Hypersensitivity Pneumonia

APPROVED

inhalation of
dust

inhaled organic antigens

Asbestos is still used in the US, most other places have banned asbestos

Asbestos-related

Most expensive to take care of and most misery, along with the most legal ads on tv is asbestos

pleuropulmonary disease

- Benign asbestos effusions
- Pleural plaques
- Rounded atelectasis
- Asbestosis interstitial lung disease
- Asbestos-related malignancies- malignant **mesothelioma**, bronchogenic carcinoma

Asbestos:

1. Asbestos can cause the following:
 - a. Benign asbestos effusions
 - b. Pleural plaques
 - c. Rounded atelectasis
 - d. Asbestosis, mesothelioma, bronchogenic carcinoma
2. Microscopically see beaded or dumbbell shapes

Types of Asbestos

naturally occurring products

- **Serpentine**

Accounts for most of the asbestos used in industry

- Chrysotile (white asbestos)

- **Commercial Amphiboles**

- Amosite (brown asbestos)

- Crocidolite (blue asbestos)

Amphiboles are less prevalent but more pathogenic than chrysotiles, particularly with respect to induction of malignant pleural tumors (mesotheliomas)

- **Non-commercial Amphiboles**

Bad problems

- Tremolite, Actinolite, Anthophyllite

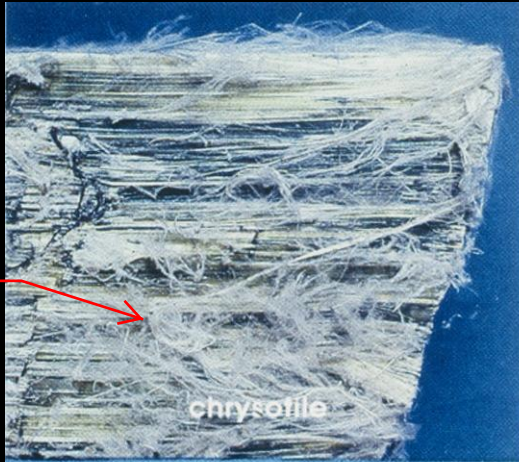
mostly comes from Montana

what asbestos looks like

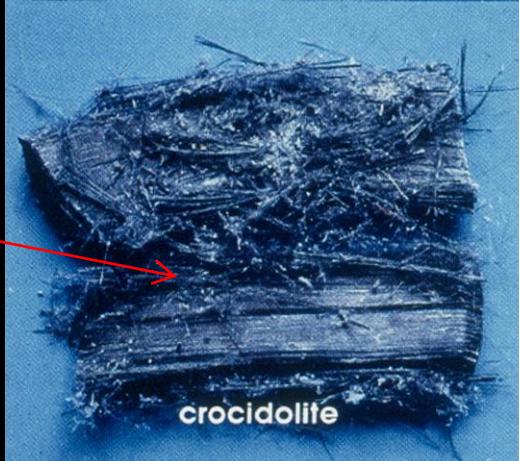
still used in US:

found in South Africa

Still used today:
chrysotile
crocidolite
amosite



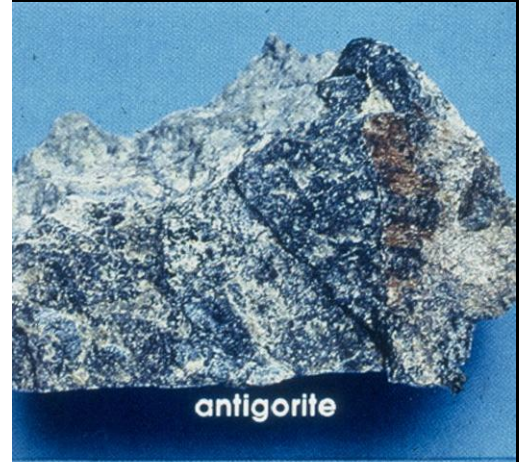
chrysotile



crocidolite



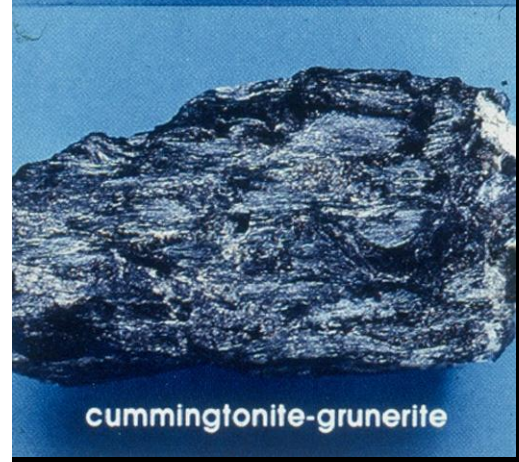
amosite




antigorite



riebeckite



cummingtonite-grunerite




Fiber core in the center; asbestos bodies generated by body to counteract the negative aspects of asbestos

ASBESTOS is EVERYWHERE!!!!
We all have it in us!

asbestos in the lung


We have all inhaled asbestos and we develop macrophages to counteract asbestos



Asbestos fibers can be seen in great abundance in those who worked on warships in the second great world war and with insulation materials

Asbestos bodies appear as golden brown or beaded rods with a translucent center and consist of asbestos fibers coated with an iron-containing proteinaceous material. They arise when macrophages attempt to phagocytose asbestos fibers; the iron is presumably derived from phagocyte ferritin.

We will see patients with asbestos lung problems still today

A transmission electron micrograph (TEM) showing several long, thin, needle-shaped asbestos fibers. The fibers are light gray and stand out against a dark background filled with smaller, irregular particles. One prominent fiber runs diagonally from the lower left towards the upper right. Another fiber is visible above it, and a third is to the right. A scale bar at the bottom center indicates 1 micrometer.

Can sample these fibers and determine their source

Takes more than a causal exposure to asbestos to cause significant harm

1 μ m

Pleural Plaques

Pleural plaques:

- a. Not much clinical significance (just indicates exposure to asbestos)
- b. Very **common**, white rocks seen on parietal pleura
- c. Uniform **acellular collagen proliferation**
- d. Plaques appear on parietal pleura

Damage of asbestos depends on the level of exposure.

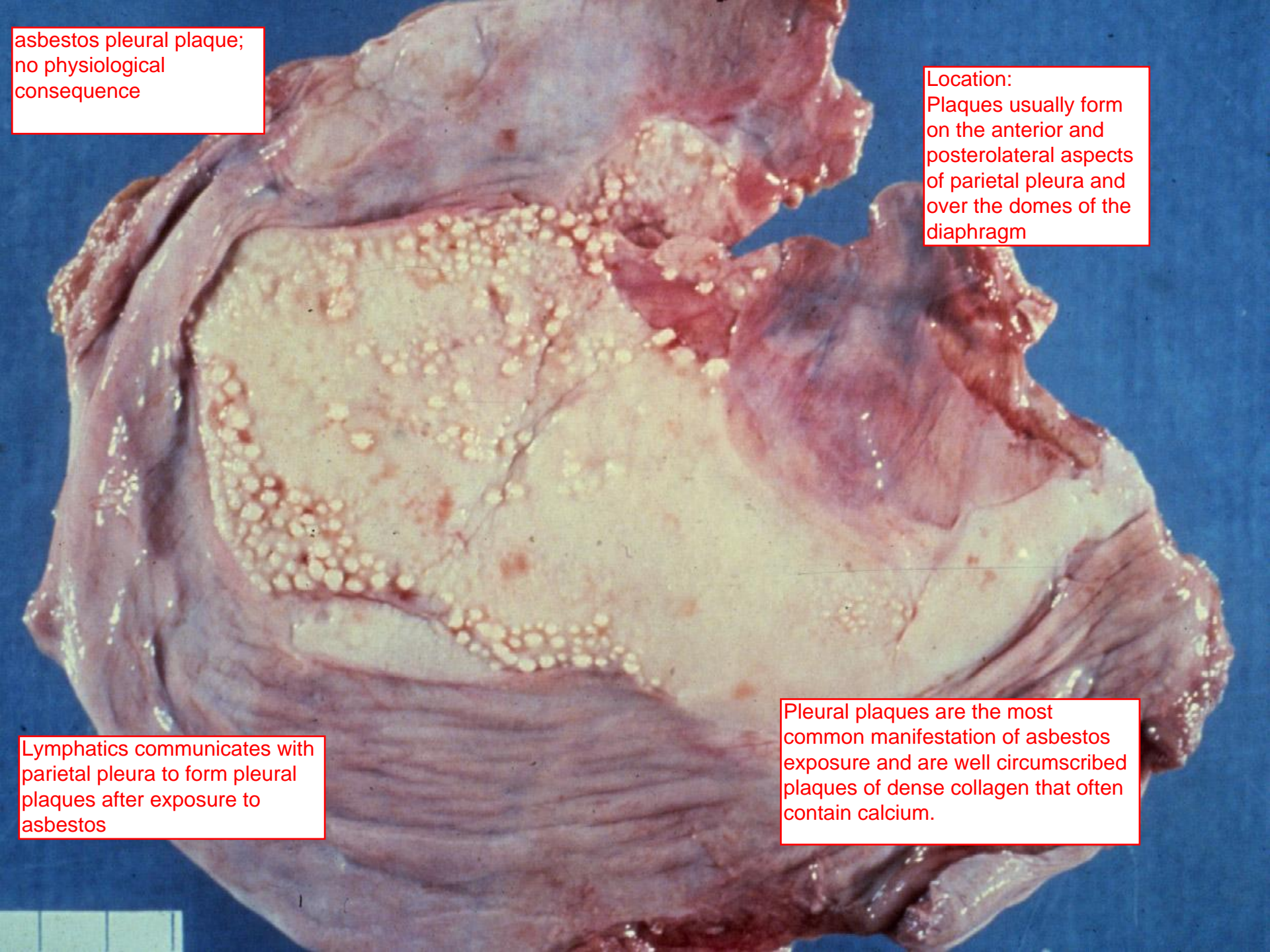
Most people have between 1-20 asbestos bodies. A higher exposure leads to pleural plaques

asbestos pleural plaque;
no physiological
consequence

Location:
Plaques usually form
on the anterior and
posterolateral aspects
of parietal pleura and
over the domes of the
diaphragm

Lymphatics communicates with
parietal pleura to form pleural
plaques after exposure to
asbestos

Pleural plaques are the most
common manifestation of asbestos
exposure and are well circumscribed
plaques of dense collagen that often
contain calcium.

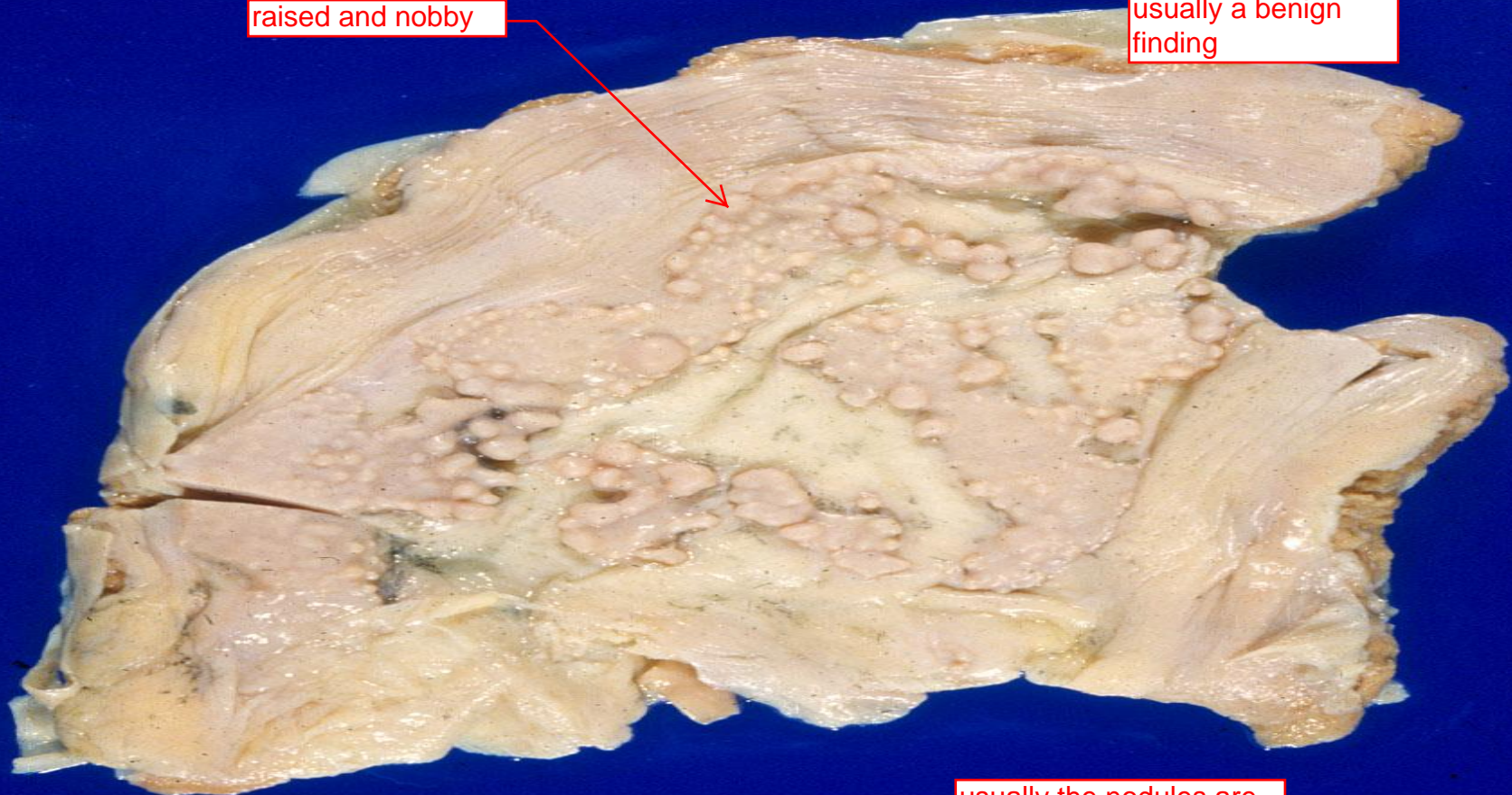


Alerts you that your patient has been exposed to asbestos but usually a benign finding

raised and nobby

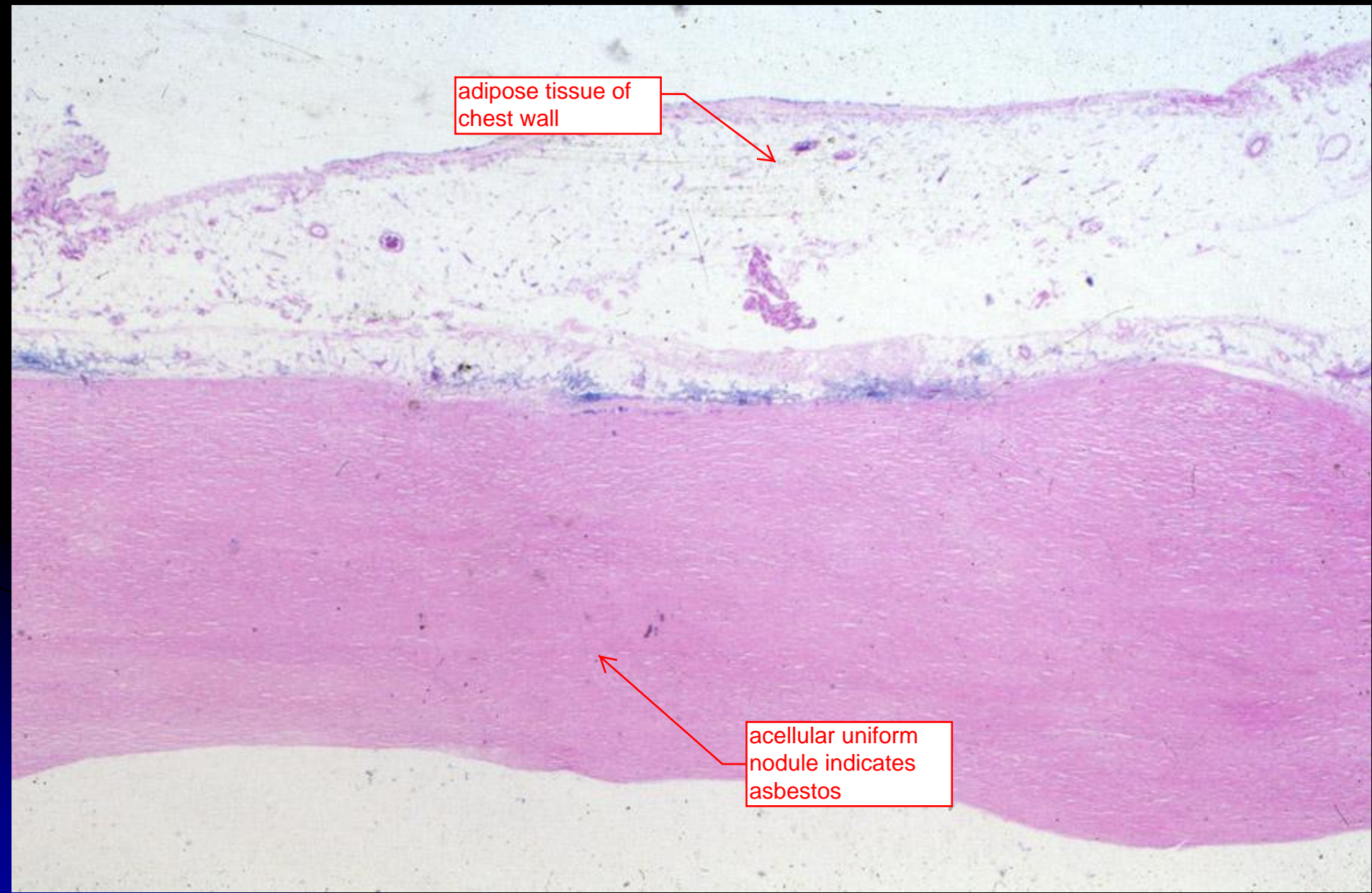


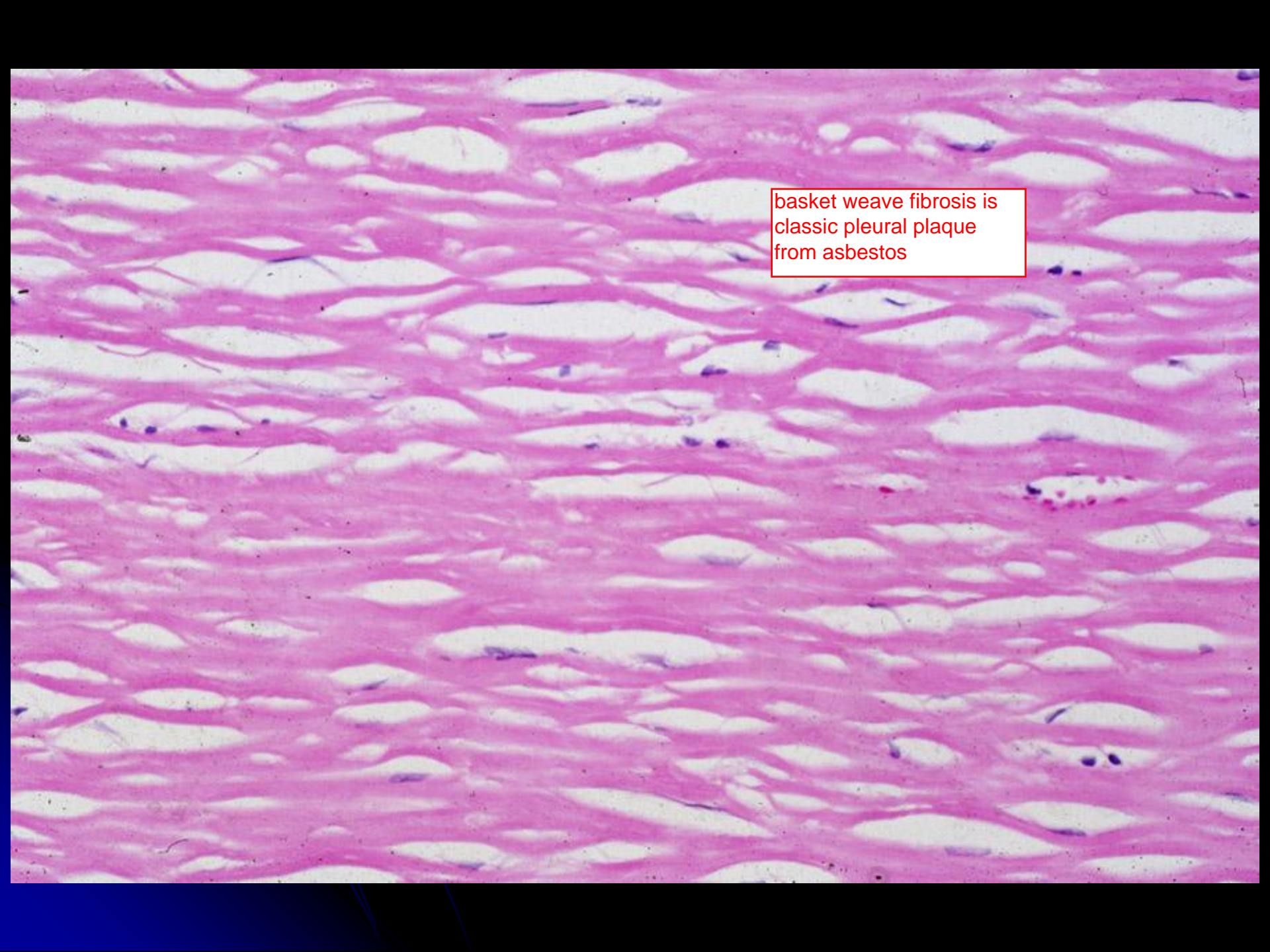
usually the nodules are incidental findings



adipose tissue of chest wall

acellular uniform nodule indicates asbestos

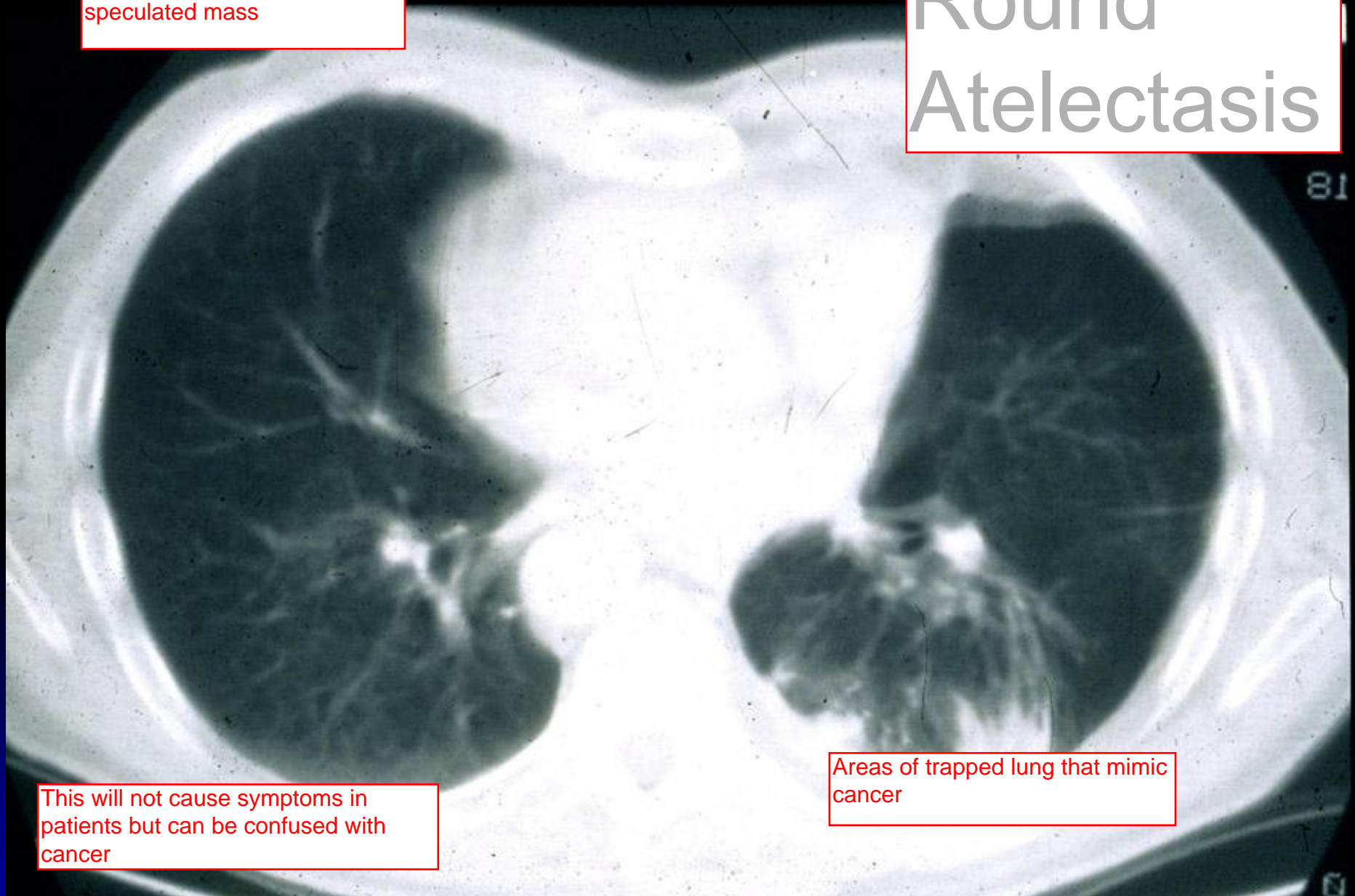


A histological micrograph showing a dense, interlacing network of pink-stained collagen fibers, characteristic of basket weave fibrosis. The fibers are arranged in a complex, woven pattern, creating a mesh-like appearance. Scattered throughout the fibrous tissue are small, dark-stained nuclei of cells. The overall texture is highly organized and repetitive.

basket weave fibrosis is
classic pleural plaque
from asbestos

Round Atelectasis

CT scan speculated mass



This will not cause symptoms in patients but can be confused with cancer

Areas of trapped lung that mimic cancer

Visceral pleural fibrosis and Round Atelectasis

Round atelectasis:

- a. Mimics malignancy in peripheral lung
- b. Is benign without clinical significance



airless lung

The image is a histological slide of lung tissue stained with hematoxylin and eosin (H&E). It shows a large, dense area of consolidation, which is characteristic of round atelectasis. The consolidation is composed of collapsed alveolar spaces filled with proteinaceous material and inflammatory cells. The surrounding lung tissue appears relatively normal. A red arrow points from a box labeled 'airless lung' to the consolidated area.

Round
Atelectasis
could look like
lung cancer
but is
asbestos

This round atelectasis could be
resected

used to be a huge problem for individuals working in shipyards

Asbestosis

seeing less and less as we improve hygiene

- Associated with **prolonged/heavy** occupational exposure to commercial forms
- **Linear interstitial and bronchiolocentric fibrosis**, most sever in **lower lobes, periphery**
- Histologic sine qua non is the asbestos body
- Increased risk for lung cancer

lower lobes is where the asbestos seem to settle out

Asbestos fibers have been linked to increased free radical production. The link between smoking and asbestos and lung cancer could be related to the ability of the asbestos fibers to absorb the carcinogens produced by smoking. If they are absorbed rather than metabolized they stay in the body for a longer period of time; 35 fold increase for lung cancer when individuals is exposed to smoking and asbestos

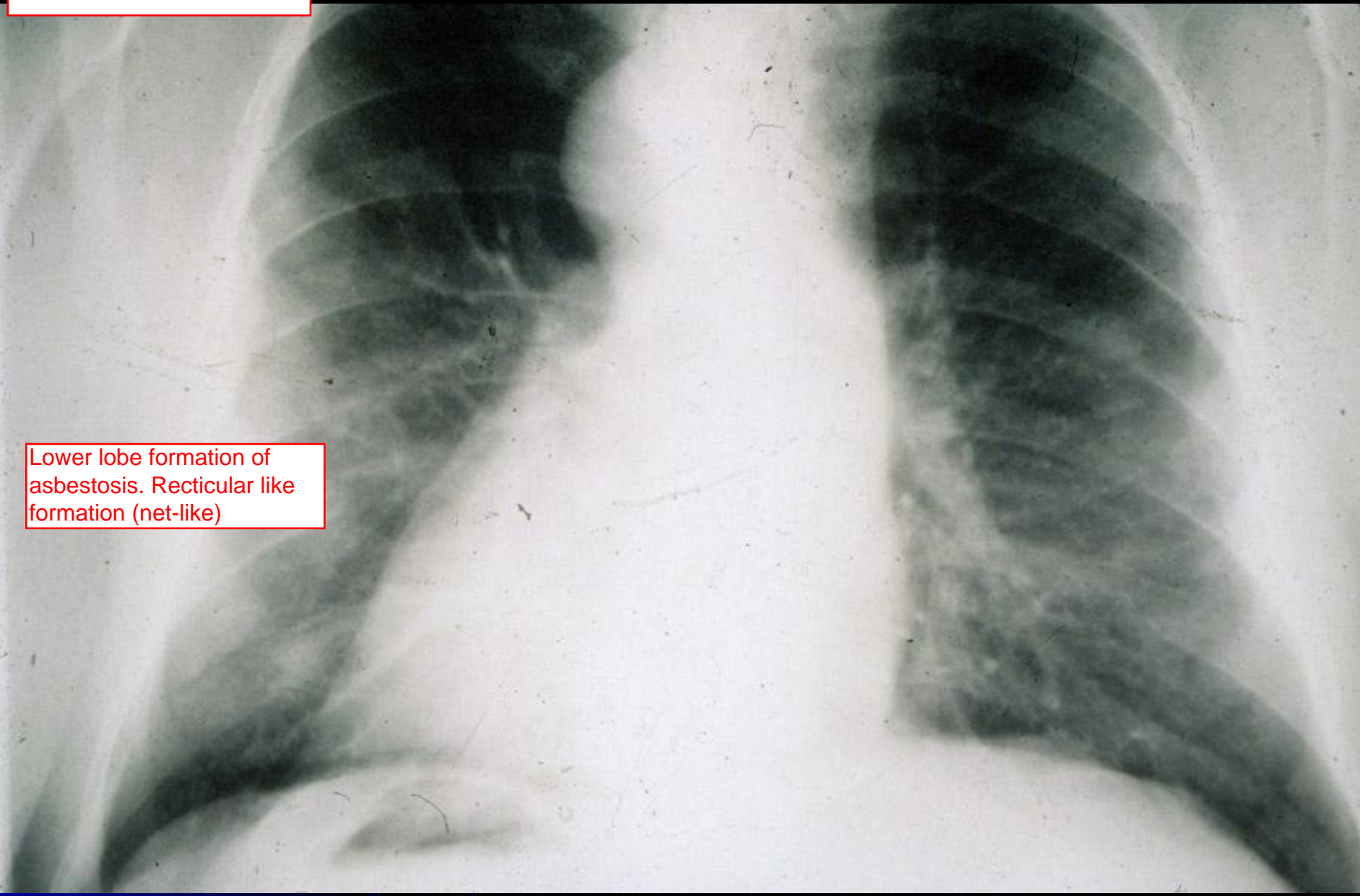
Asbestosis:

- a. Clinical history of exposure
- b. Seen mainly in **lower** lung lobes
- c. Grossly see cobble-stone appearance
- d. Increases risk of bronchogenic carcinoma in smokers

Have to see asbestos bodies to make a diagnosis of asbestosis, because can be confused for other diseases. No treatment for asbestosis

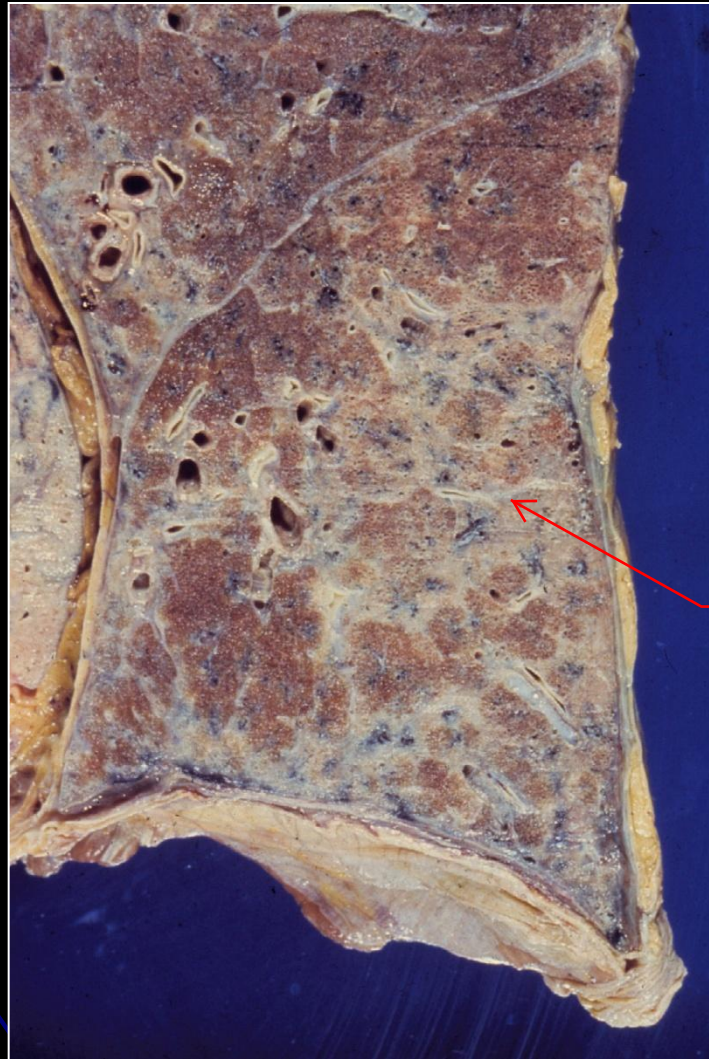
This radiograph is backwards

Lower lobe formation of asbestosis. Reticular like formation (net-like)



Favors lower lungs like UIP but does not appear honeycomb shape, more bridging like

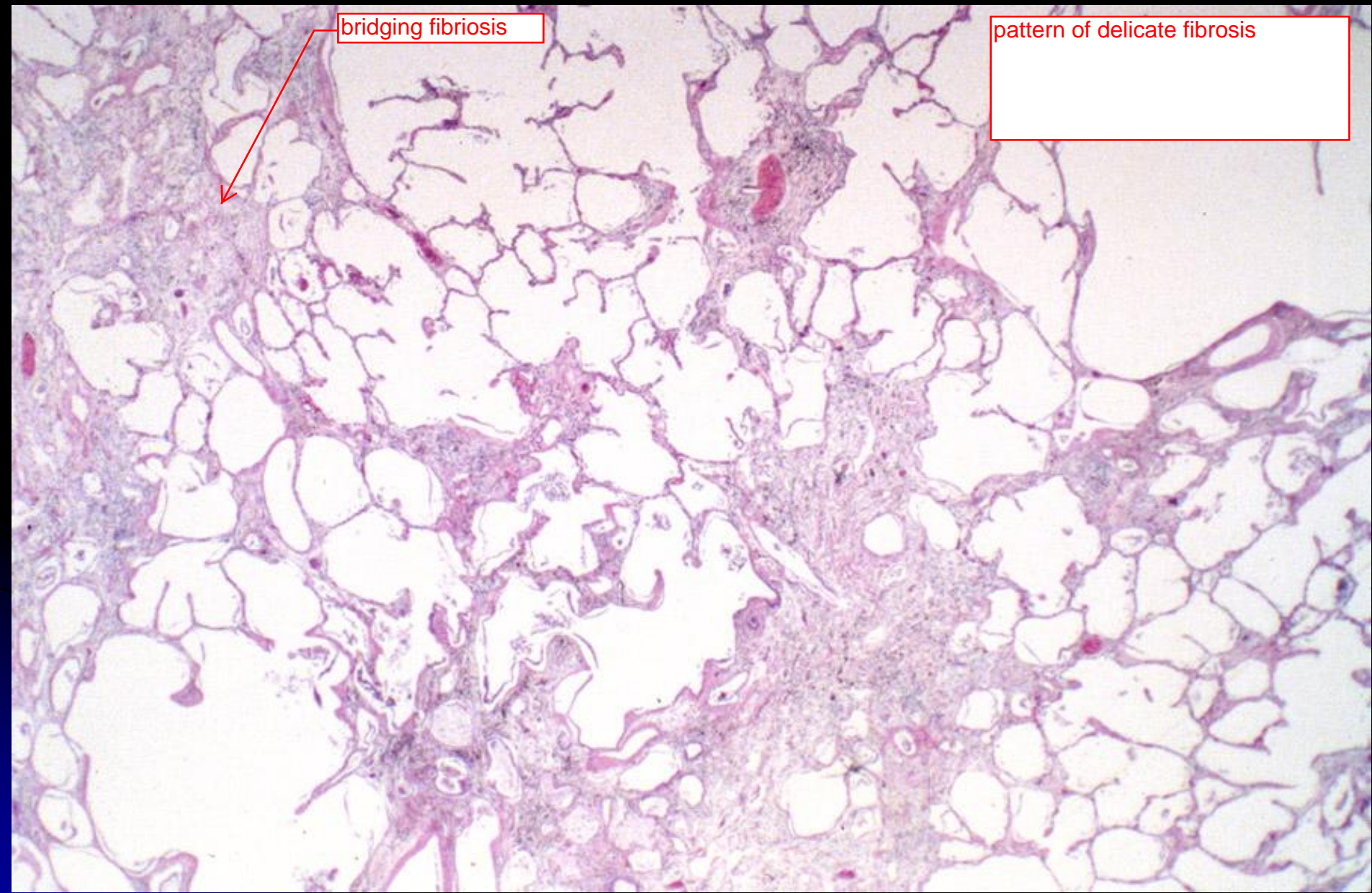
asbestosis
Bridging fibrosis



lacy and reticular

bridging fibrosis

pattern of delicate fibrosis



pearl-iron stain to
bring out asbestos

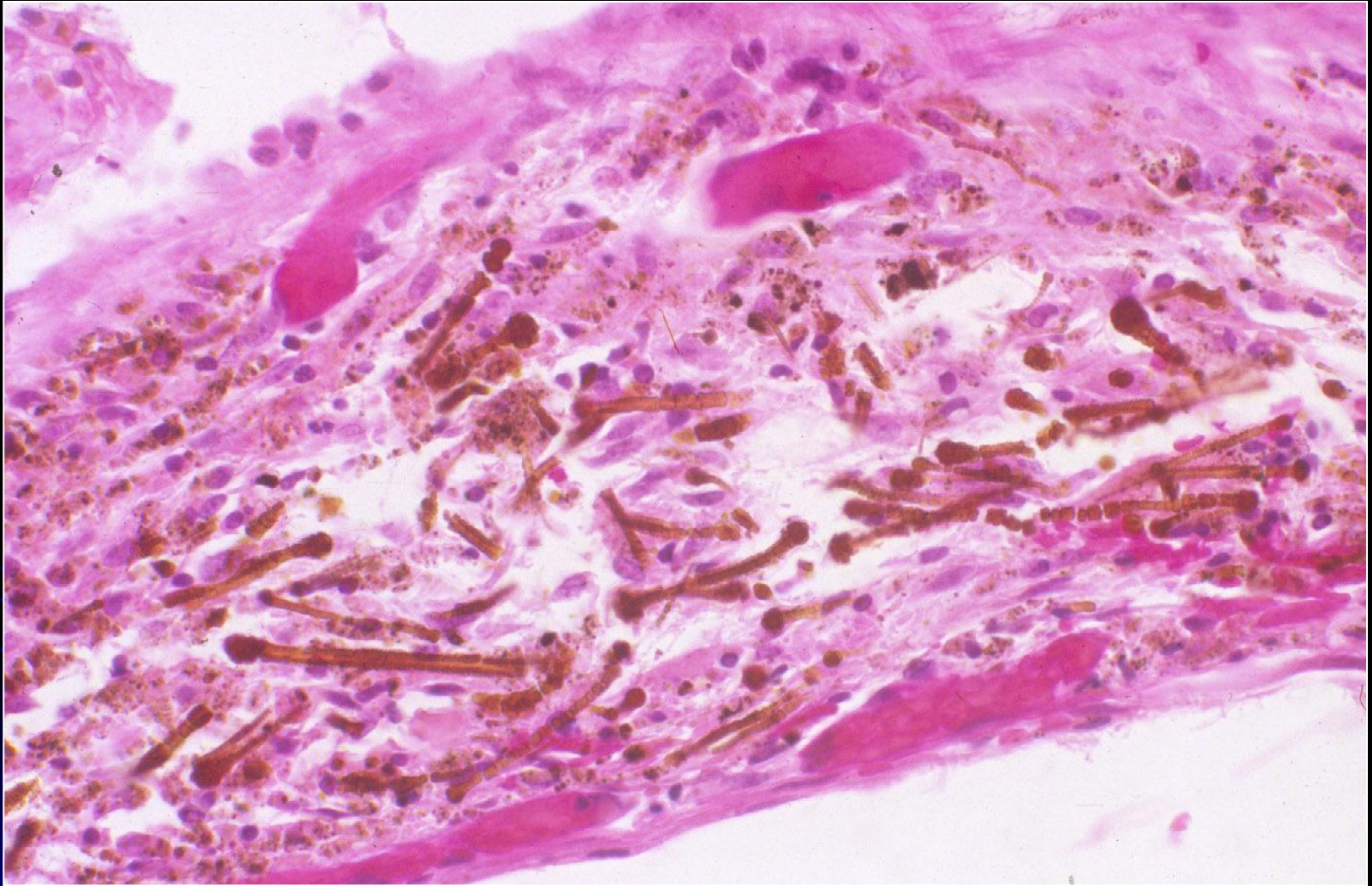
Asbestos bodies

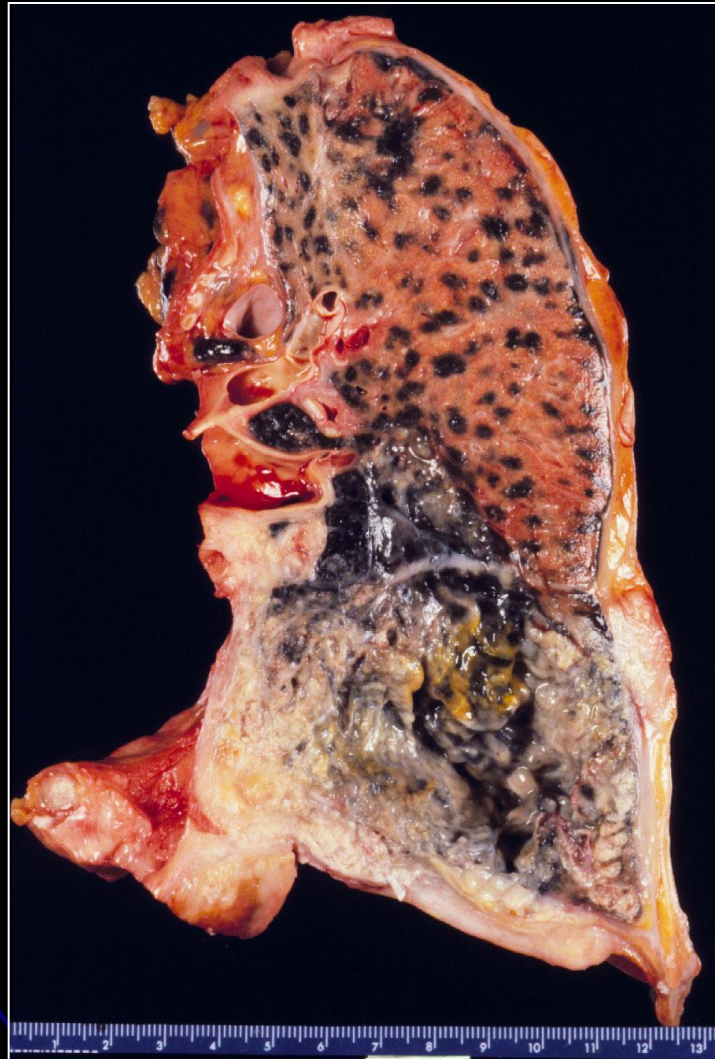
The likelihood of finding
asbestos bodies in normal
individuals is uncommon
unless the levels are high.



Thickened septum and
numerous asbestos bodies

asbestosis





Patients with asbestosis more likely to get lung cancer. Asbestos Initiator and promoter of cancer. Exposure to asbestos and smoking raises the chances of lung cancer almost 35 fold

Silicosis

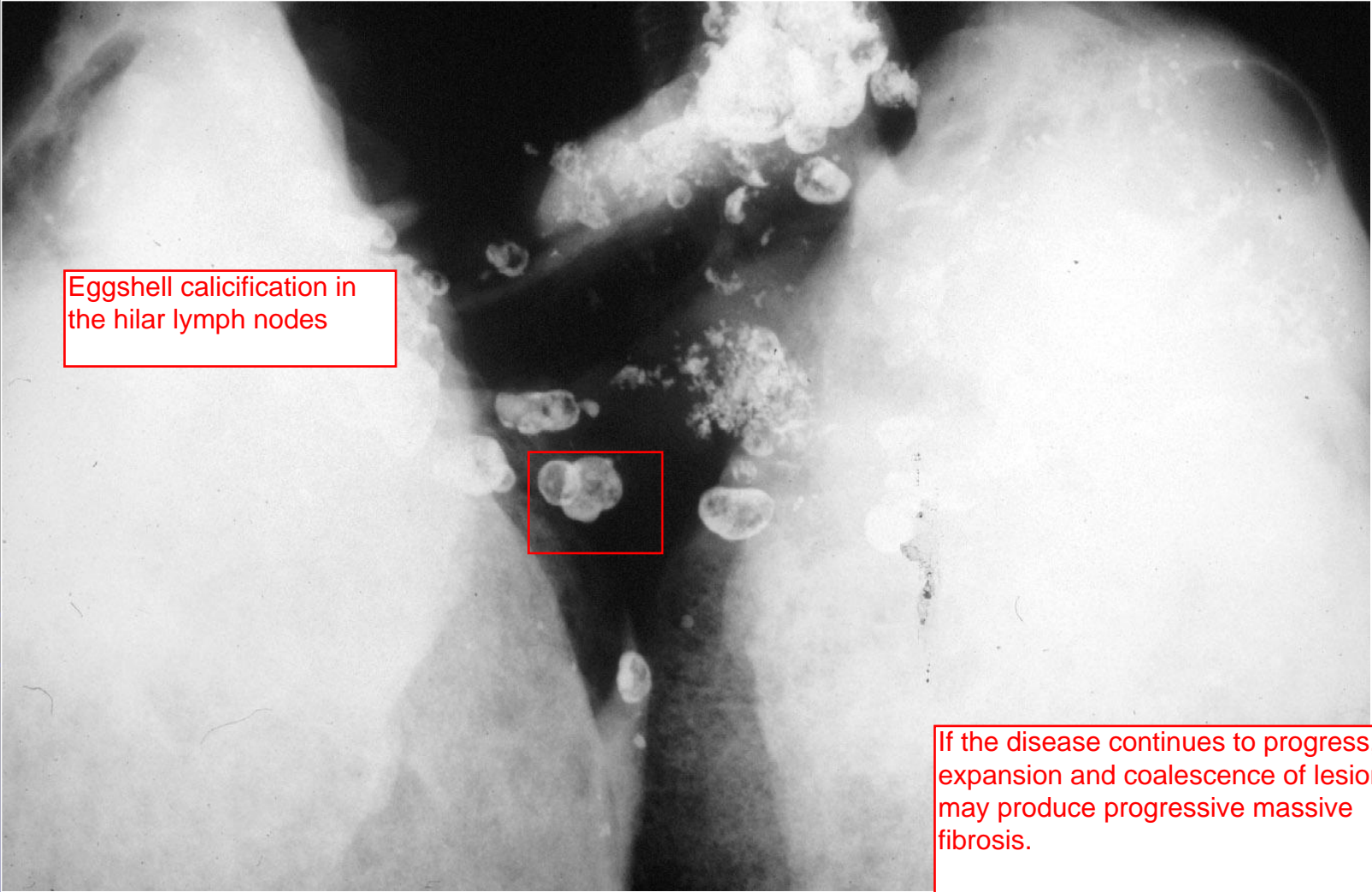
Silicates very common on planet; most prevalent chronic occupational disease in the world

- Associated with occupational exposure to alpha-quartz: sand blasters, miners, masons, quarry workers
- Nodular fibrosis, most severe in upper lobes, “eggshell” calcification of hilar nodes
- Defining histologic feature is the Si nodule
- Increased risk for TB due to macrophage toxicity

upper lobe where ventilation is better is where silicosis is usually located

Macrophages provide a key line of defense for silicosis. When macrophages take in silica it causes the activation of mediators like IL-1, TNF, fibronectin, lipid mediators, oxygen free radicals and fibrogenic cytokines

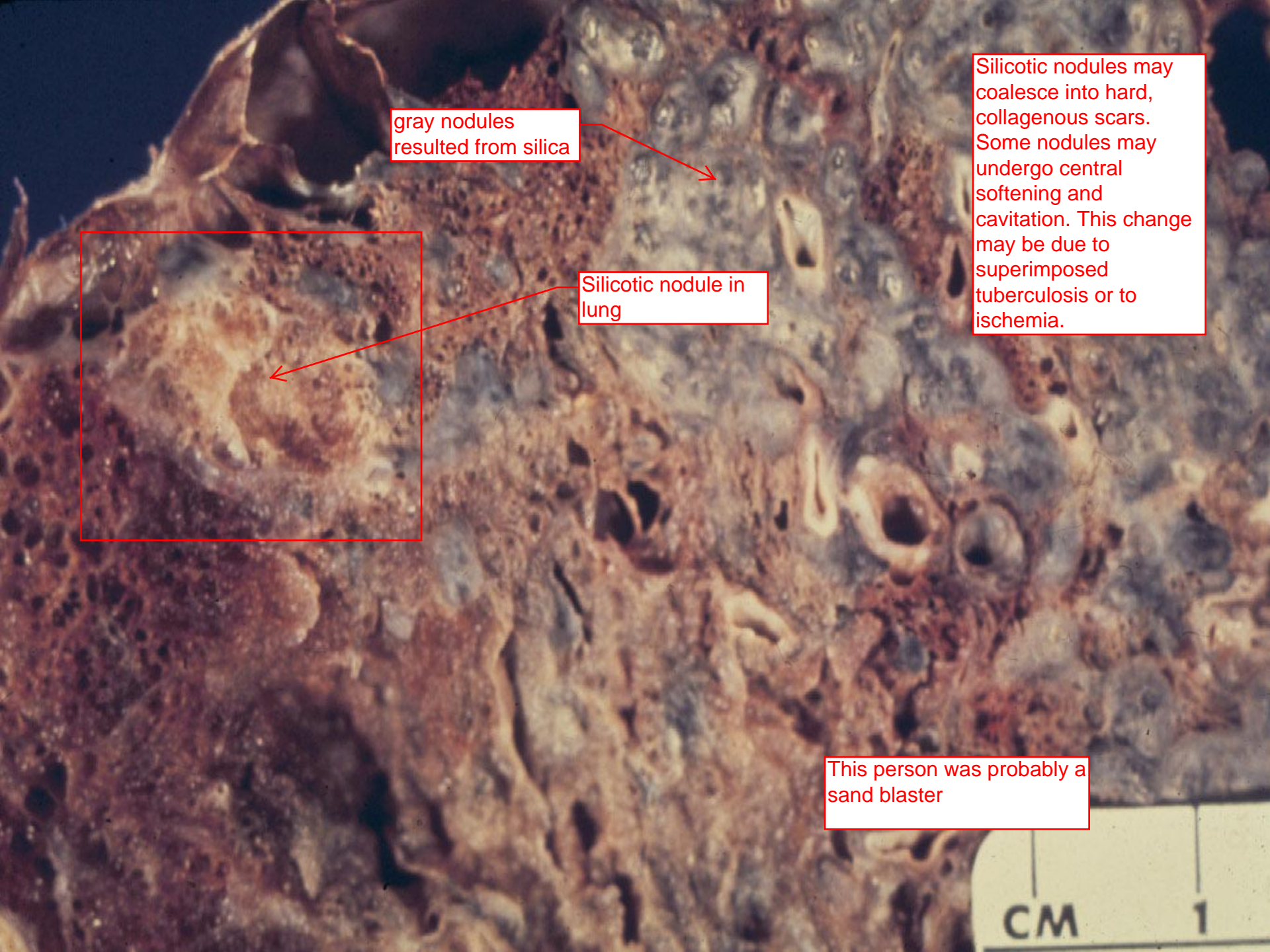
Si is a chick that produced eggshells for easter!



Eggshell calcification in the hilar lymph nodes

A black and white chest X-ray showing the lungs and mediastinum. The image displays characteristic 'eggshell' calcification in the hilar lymph nodes, which are the lymph nodes located at the root of the lung. The calcifications appear as multiple, small, rounded, and densely calcified nodules. A red rectangular box highlights one of these calcified nodes in the lower central region of the lung field.

If the disease continues to progress, expansion and coalescence of lesions may produce progressive massive fibrosis.

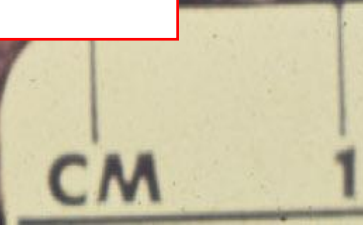


gray nodules
resulted from silica

Silicotic nodule in
lung

Silicotic nodules may
coalesce into hard,
collagenous scars.
Some nodules may
undergo central
softening and
cavitation. This change
may be due to
superimposed
tuberculosis or to
ischemia.

This person was probably a
sand blaster



Nodular fibrosis

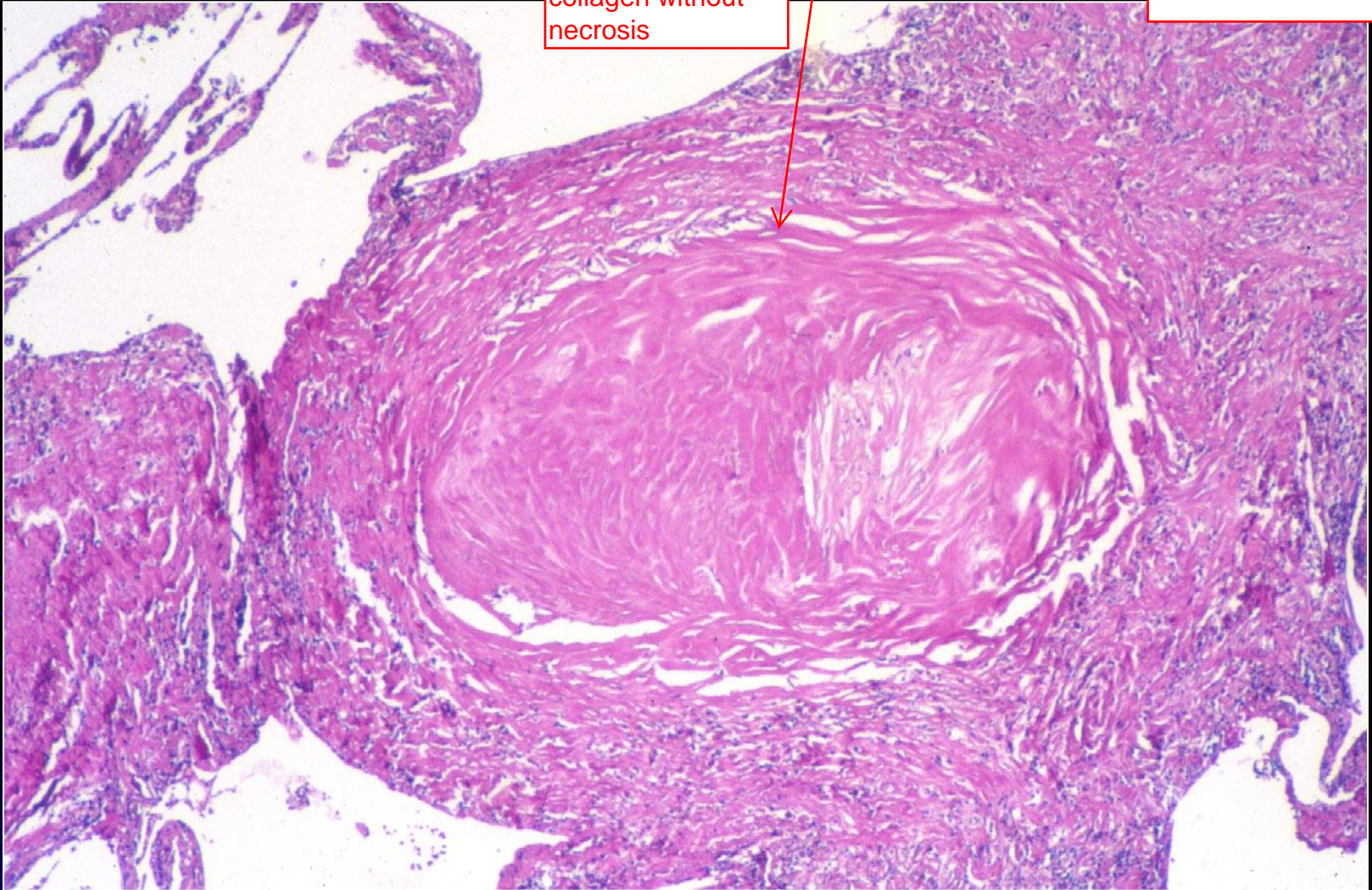
collagen stains green.
Green circles are
Silicotic nodules

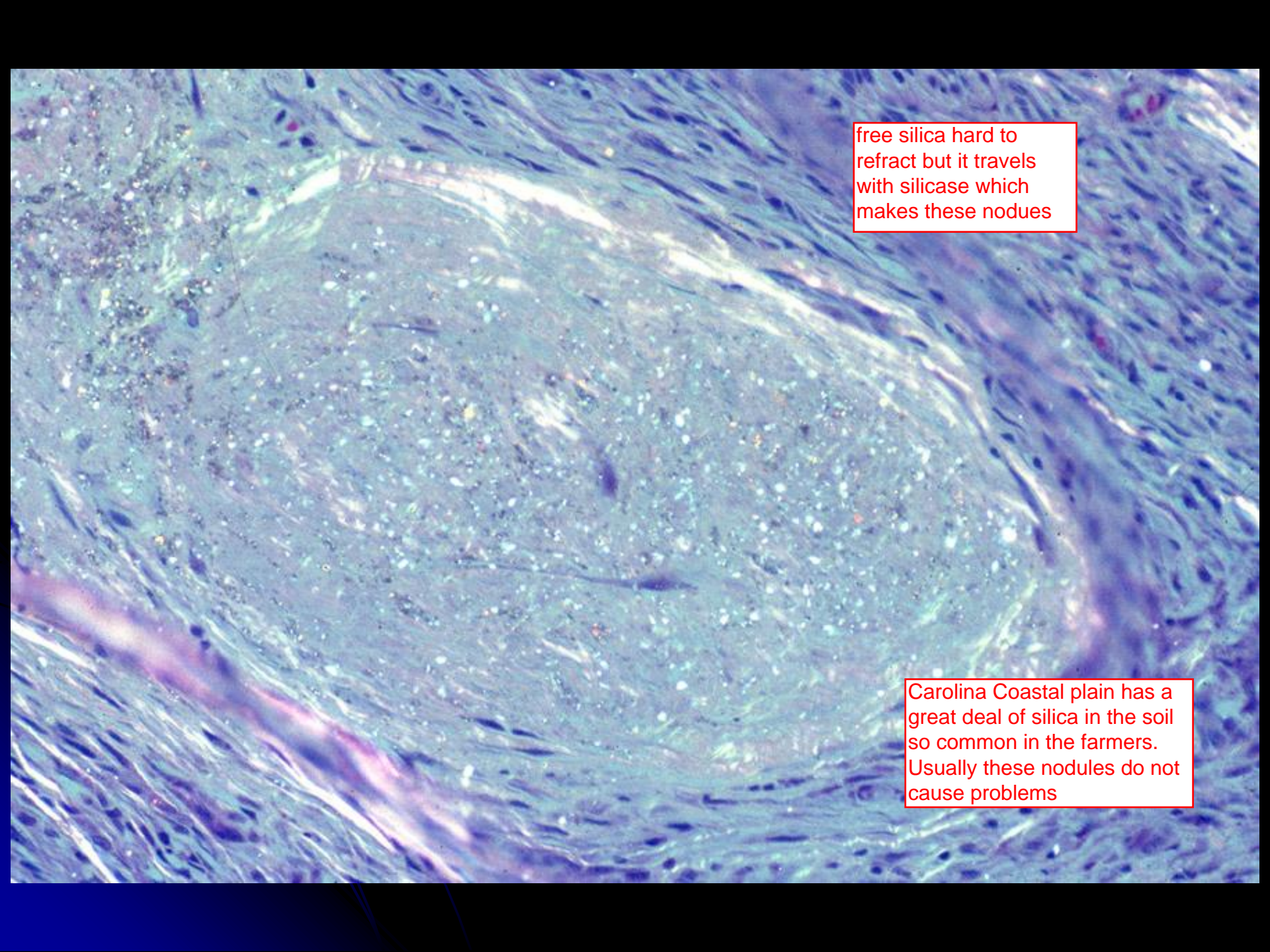


H/E stain

Silicotic nodule

acellular dense
collagen without
necrosis



A microscopic view of a soil nodule, showing a central core of plant roots surrounded by a dense layer of root cells. The roots are stained purple, and the surrounding soil is a light brown color. The nodule has a distinct, rounded shape with a central core.

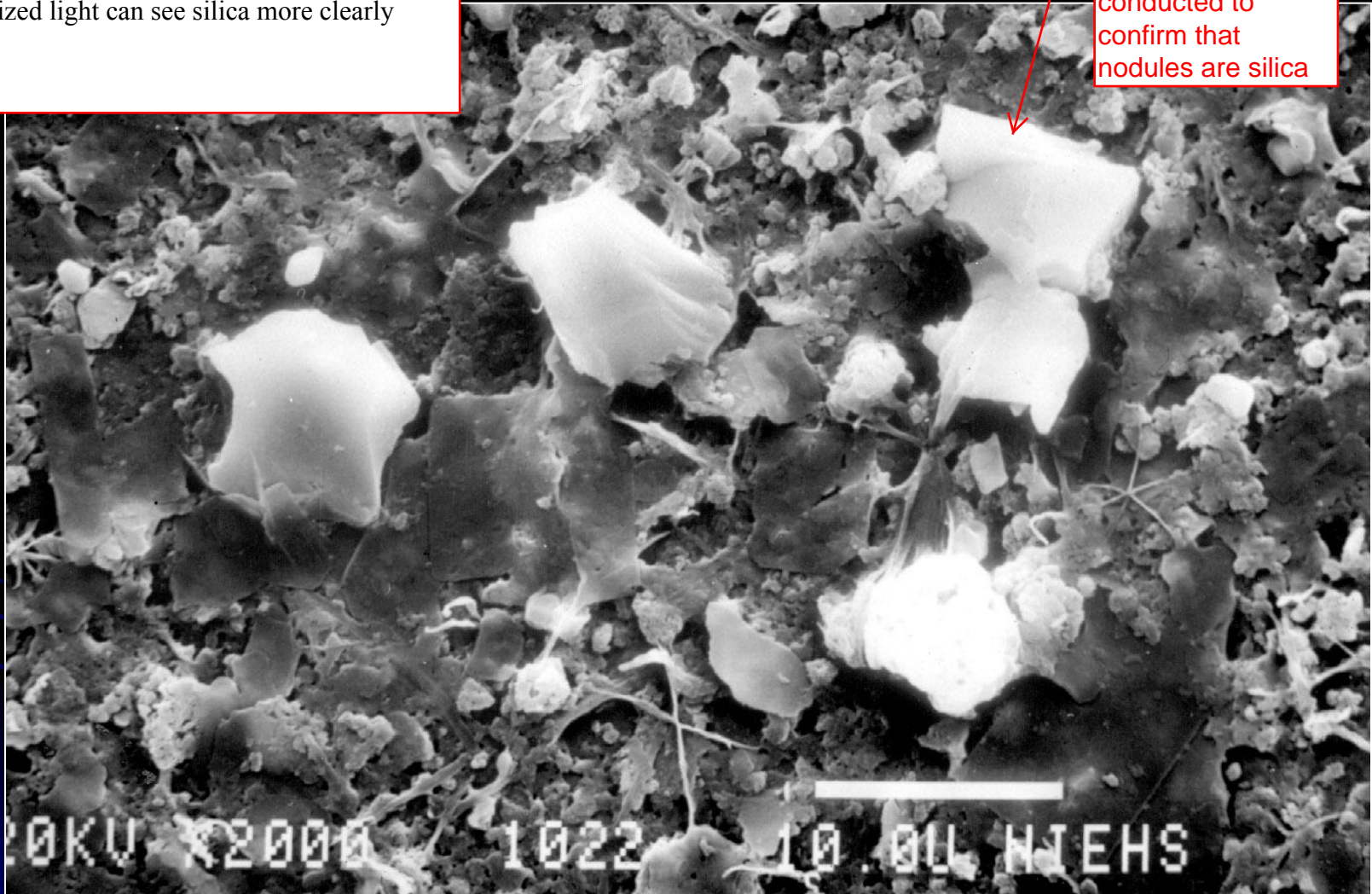
free silica hard to
refract but it travels
with silicase which
makes these nodules

Carolina Coastal plain has a
great deal of silica in the soil
so common in the farmers.
Usually these nodules do not
cause problems

Silicosis:

1. See “eggshell” calcification of hilar nodes:
2. Defining characteristic is the **silica** nodule
3. Polarized light can see silica more clearly

microprobe analysis can be conducted to confirm that nodules are silica



Coal Worker's Pneumoconiosis

Not a true medical term

- “**Black lung disease**” entire spectrum of disease and complaints associated with occupational exposure to coal dust-
- **black pigmentation** of lung may be associated with silicotic nodules, or progressive massive fibrosis- may result in cor pulmonale
- Sine qua non of CWP is the **coal dust macule**: Simple and complicated **forms**

Cor Pulmonale: right sided heart side due to lung failure. No forward flow from heart to lungs due to parenchymal lung disease

Cor pulmonale: pulmonary heart disease is enlargement of the right ventricle of the heart as a response to increased resistance or high blood pressure in the lungs.

Chronic cor pulmonale usually results in right ventricular hypertrophy (RVH), whereas acute cor pulmonale usually results in dilation.

Hypertrophy is an adaptive response to a long-term increase in pressure. Individual muscle cells grow larger (hypertrophy) in order to generate the increased contractile force required to move the blood against greater resistance.

Coal is a fossil fuel that is combustible, however the silica in the coal is what drives the fibrosis

This is normal lung tissue; normal amount of pigment---slight black tint



Simple CWP: characterized by coal macules (1 to 2mm in diameter) and the somewhat larger coal nodules. The coal macules consists of carbon-laden macrophages.

Coal Worker's Pneumoconiosis:

1. In mines the mineral dust causes fibrosis (not the organic coal)
2. This can fall under the category “**black lung**”



usually the upper lobes and the upper zones of the lower lobes are more heavily involved. Usually lesions start adjacent to respiratory bronchioles, the site of initial dust accumulation.

PMF--will cause respiratory problems. Will cause black India ink like secretions

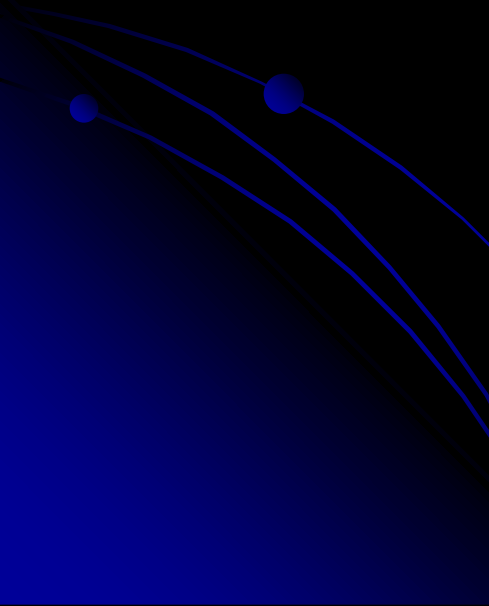


Complicated CWP: progressive massive fibrosis (PMF)

Intense black scarring usually larger than 2cm, sometimes 10cm in diameter. The center of the lesion is often necrotic, most likely due to local ischemia

Entire upper lobe replaced by PMF lesion

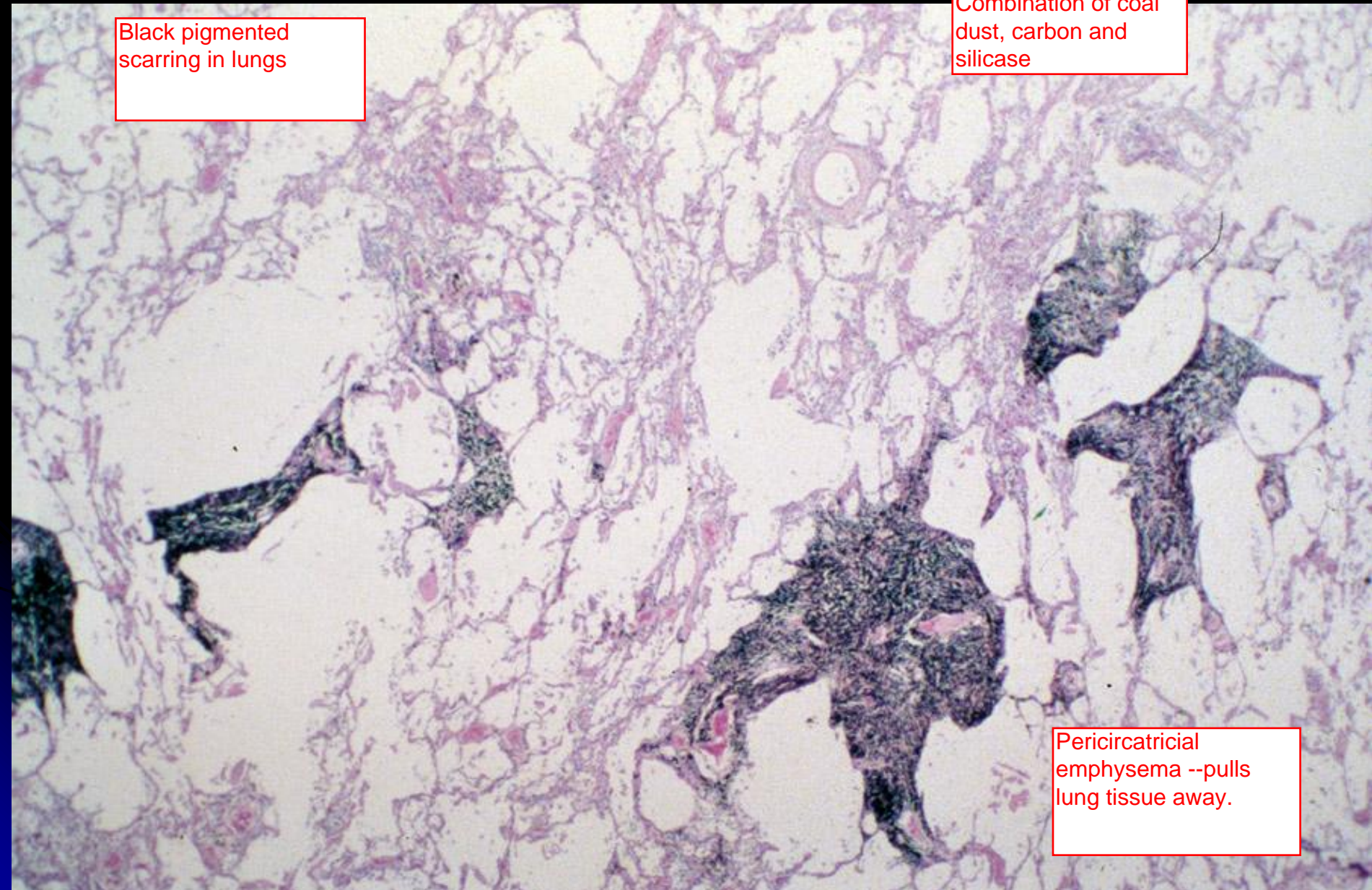
apex of lung destroyed due to coal intake



Black pigmented
scarring in lungs

Simple lesions
Combination of coal
dust, carbon and
silicase

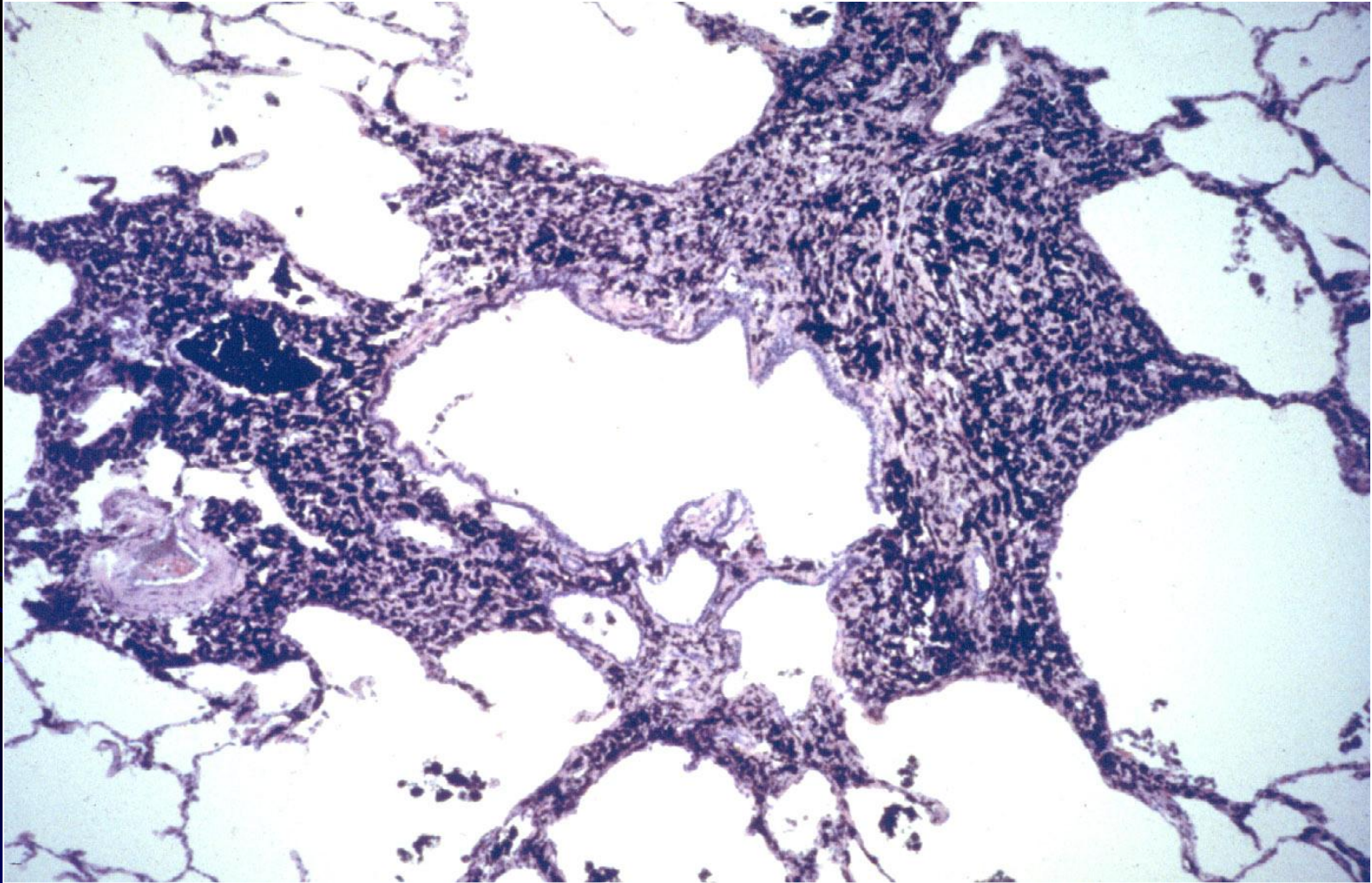
Pericircatrical
emphysema --pulls
lung tissue away.





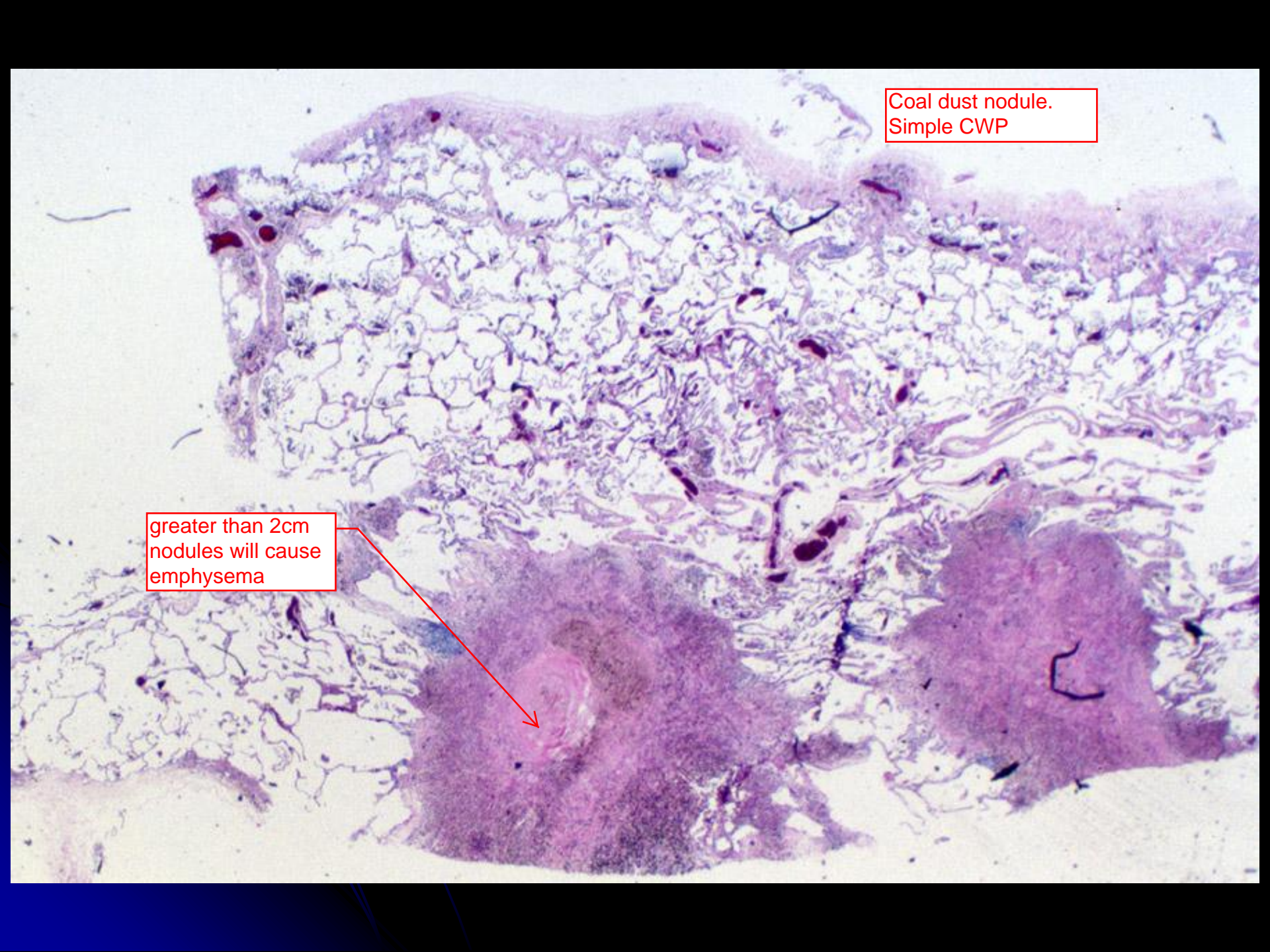
CWP

Peribronchovascular
emphysema

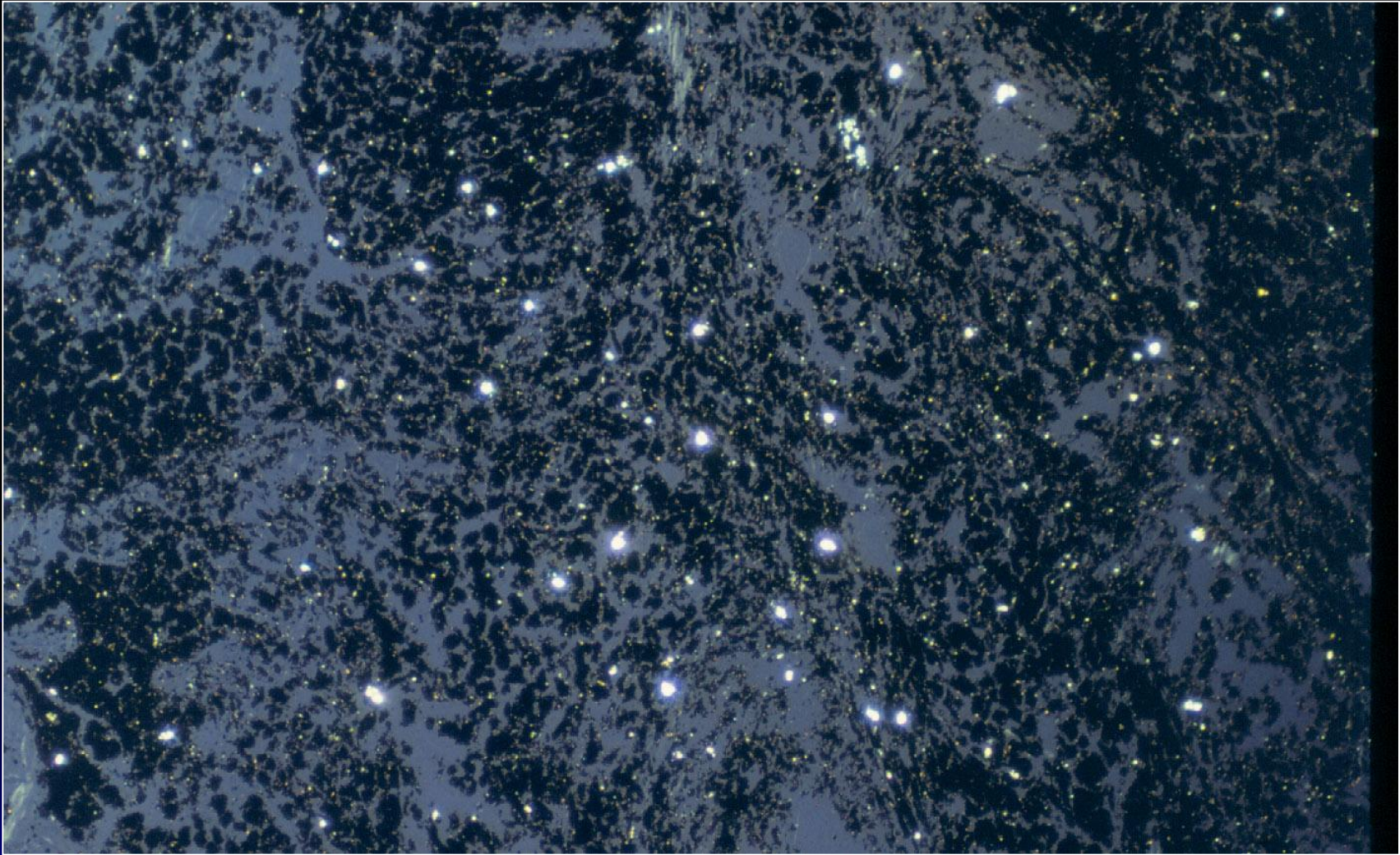


Coal dust nodule.
Simple CWP

greater than 2cm
nodules will cause
emphysema



silicase and silica
crystals



Berylliosis

Beryllium- useful but toxic substance

- **Hypersensitivity/immune-mediated** response occurring in small proportion of individuals exposed to Be ← many commercial applications
- At risk population: workers in aerospace, computer and electronic industries
- **Clinical and histologic mimic of sarcoidosis**

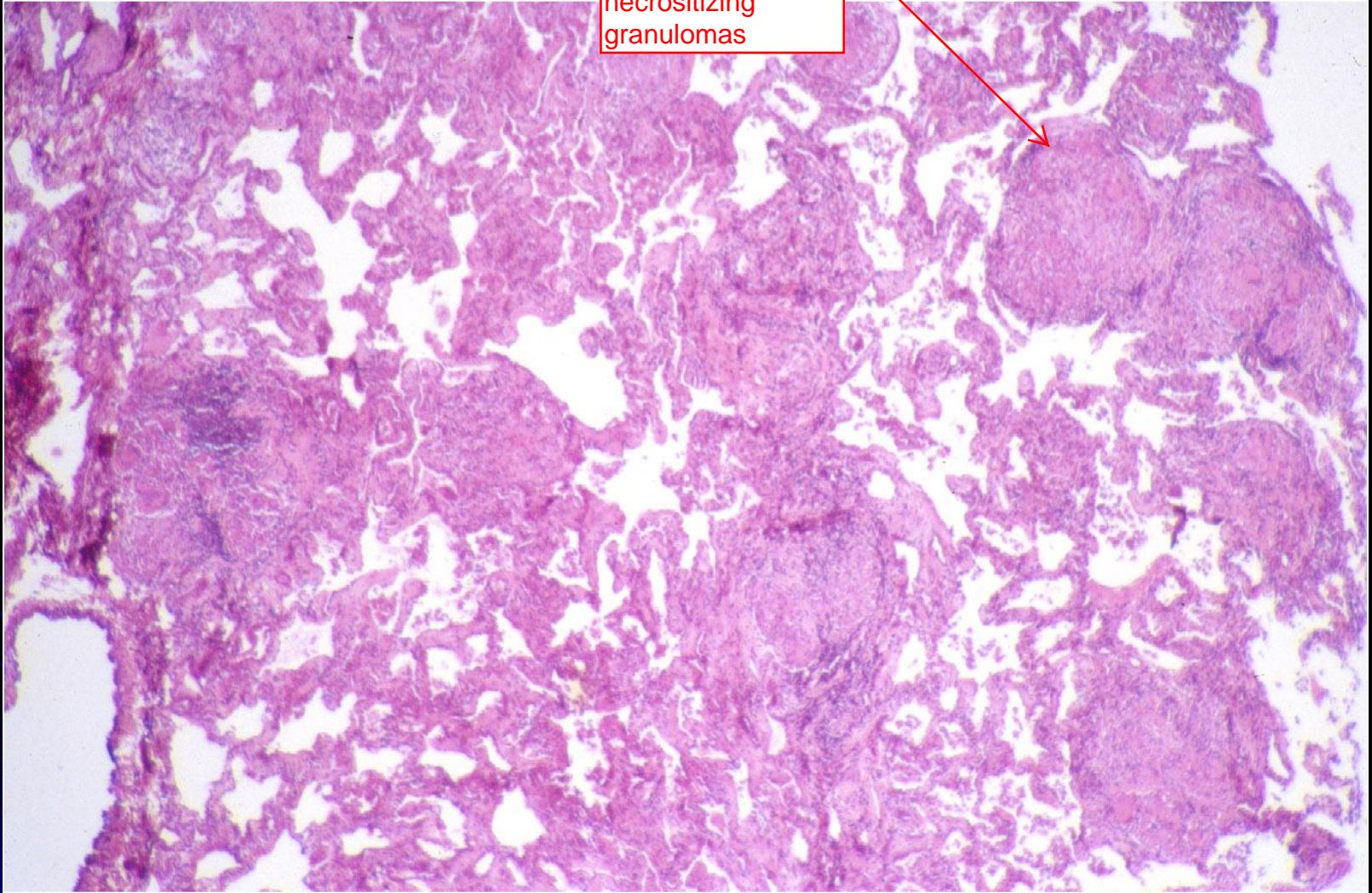
Berylliosis:

1. Hypersensitivity reaction for only some people exposed to beryllium
2. Risk group is aerospace, computer, and electrical tech people
3. **Can't tell this apart from sarcoidosis**
4. See multi-nucleated giant cells with Schaman body inclusions just like sarcoid
5. Diagnosis requires lab studies for berylliosis

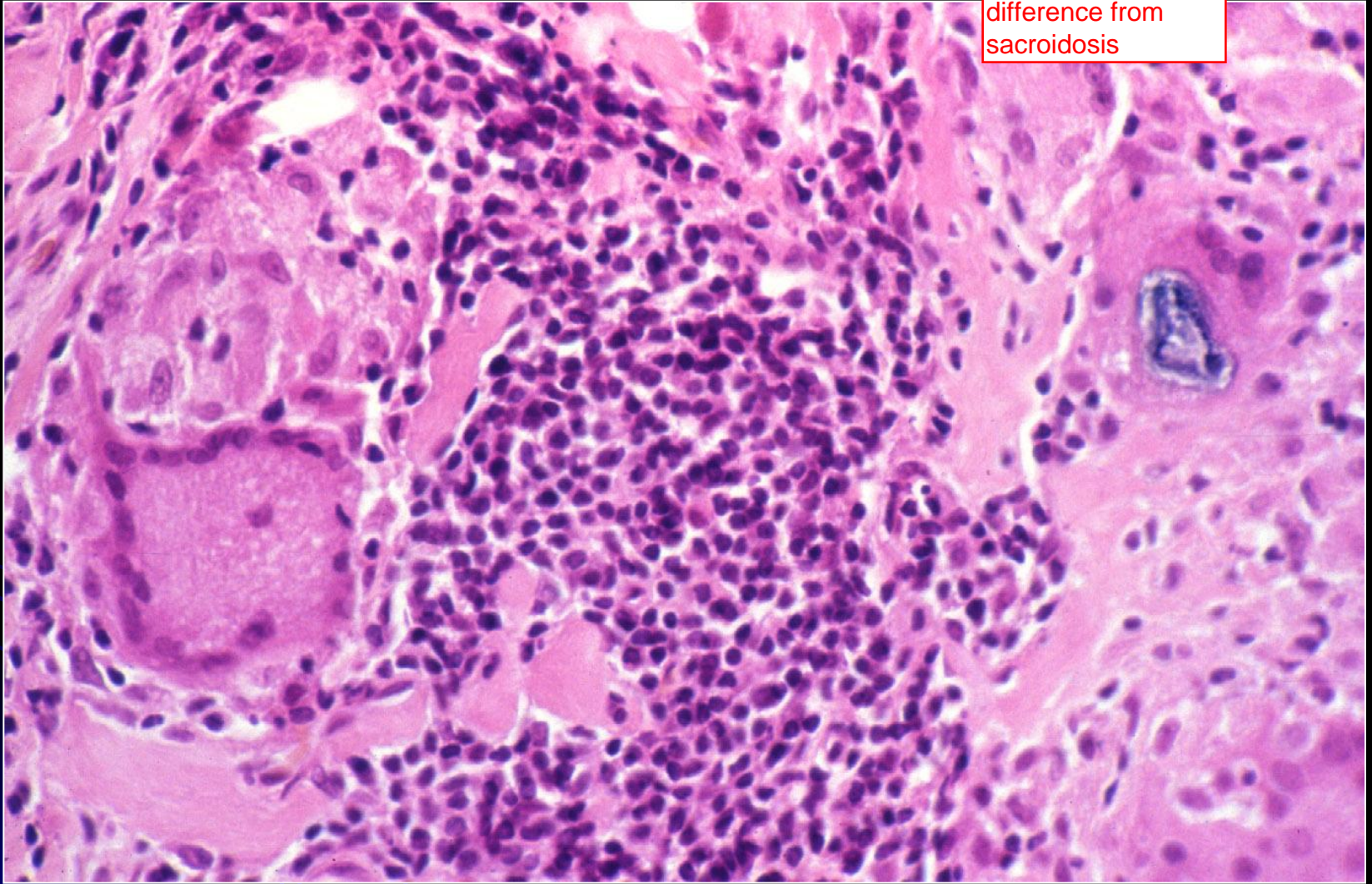
Tends to be a genetic predisposition to berylliosis

Berylliosis looks like
sarcoidosis

compact non-
necrotizing
granulomas



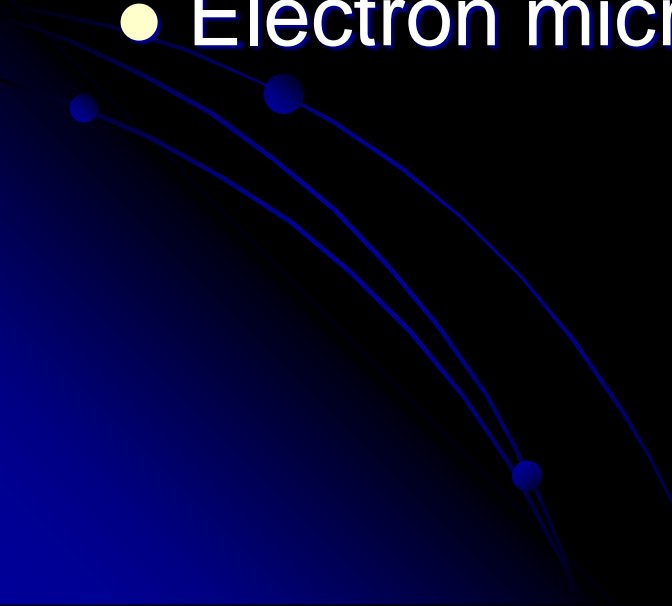
Beryllium
Need history of
patient to try to tell
difference from
sarcoidosis



If you find out a person has berylliosis they should change their job which is different from if they have silicosis

Berylliosis

Hypersensitivity reaction;
not caused simply by dust

- Diagnosis studies include peripheral and bronchoalveolar **lymphocyte proliferation** studies following in vitro exposure to Be
 - Electron microscopy/EDXA
- 

HYPERSENSITIVITY PNEUMONITIS

Other reactions we have talked about were related to INorganic compounds, but this is caused by ORANGIC compounds

inflammation due to inhaled organic antigens

- Occupational
- Pets/hobbies
- Environmental

- Farmer's lung-thermophilic actinomycetes in moldy hay

- Maple bark strippers disease

- Bird fancier's lung

Black mold in NC is a huge problem that can cause hypersensitivity pneumonitis

Fairly common in people who keep birds especially parrots, cockatiels

antigen in birds skin and can cause hypersensitivity pneumonitis in the owner

Hypersensitivity pneumonia

- Temporally uniform pattern of airway centered chronic interstitial pneumonia
- Loose granulomata, occasional giant cells
- May progress to diffuse interstitial fibrosis, usually responds to removal of antigen, steroids

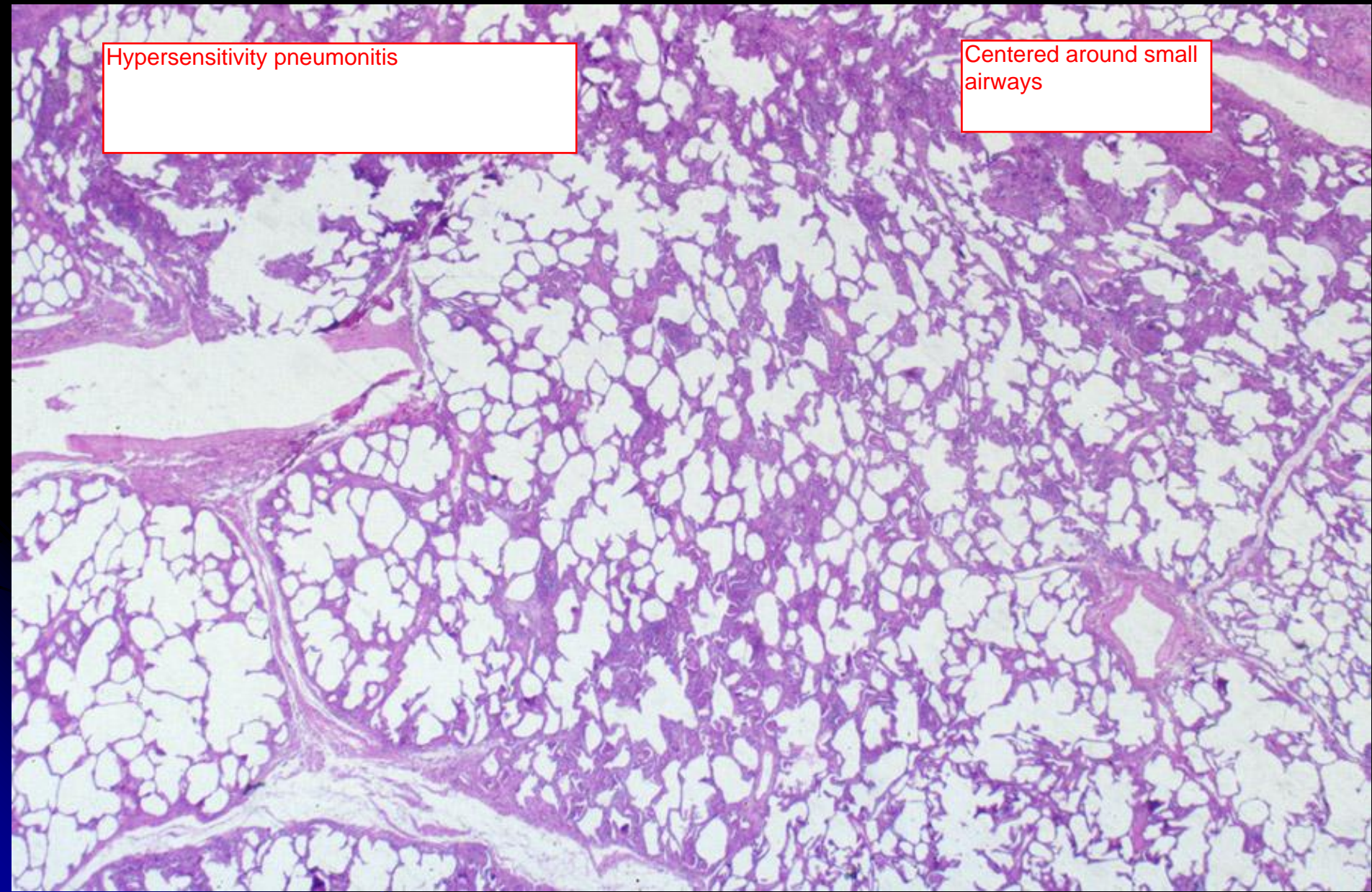
Hypersensitivity Pneumonitis:

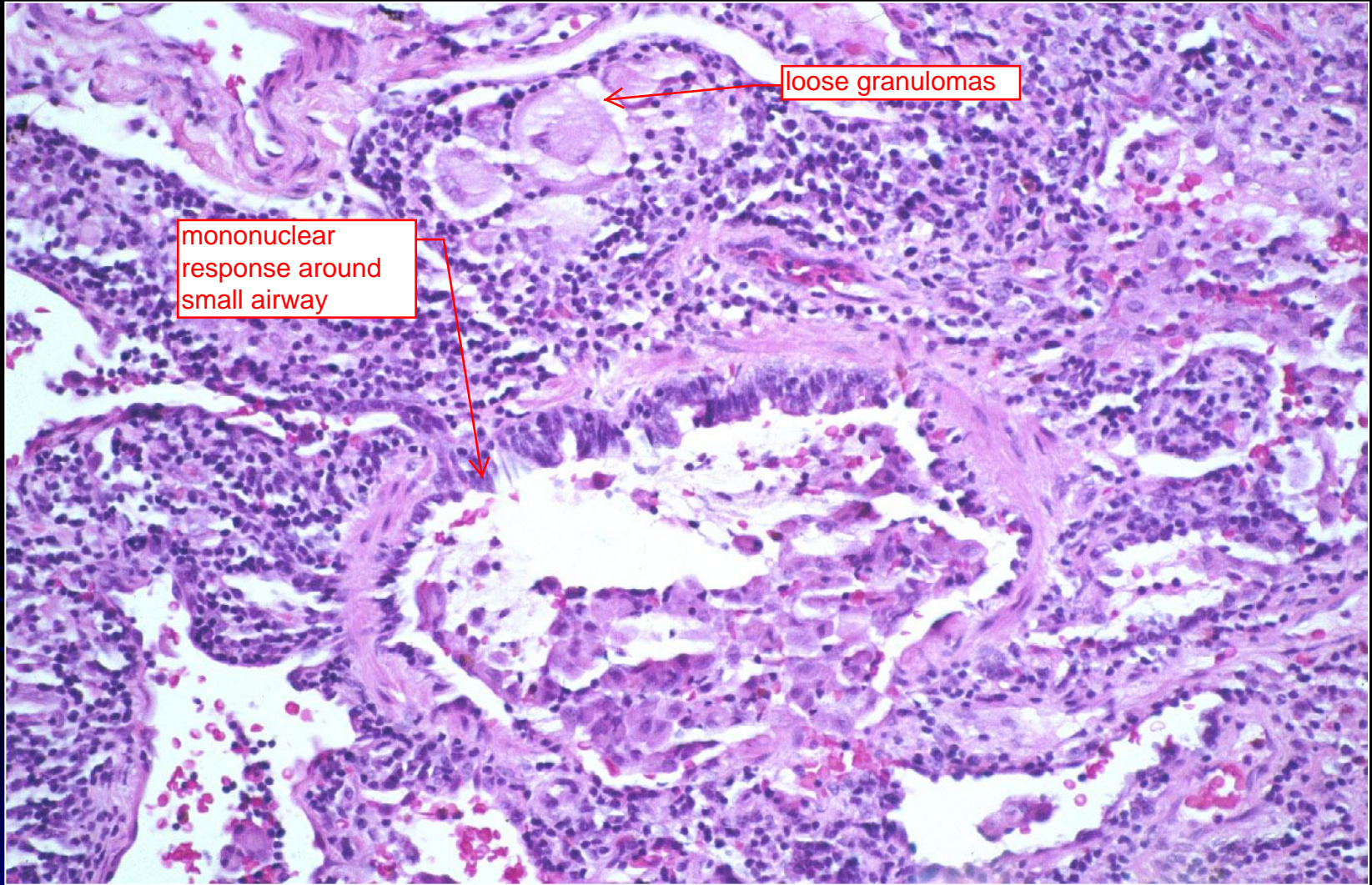
1. These are allergic responses to many things (birds, farmer's lung)
2. Have temporally uniform pattern of interstitial pneumonia, centered on airways and chronic
3. Might contain loose granulomata or giant cells, but not compact

usually can make this diagnosis clinically from a patients history

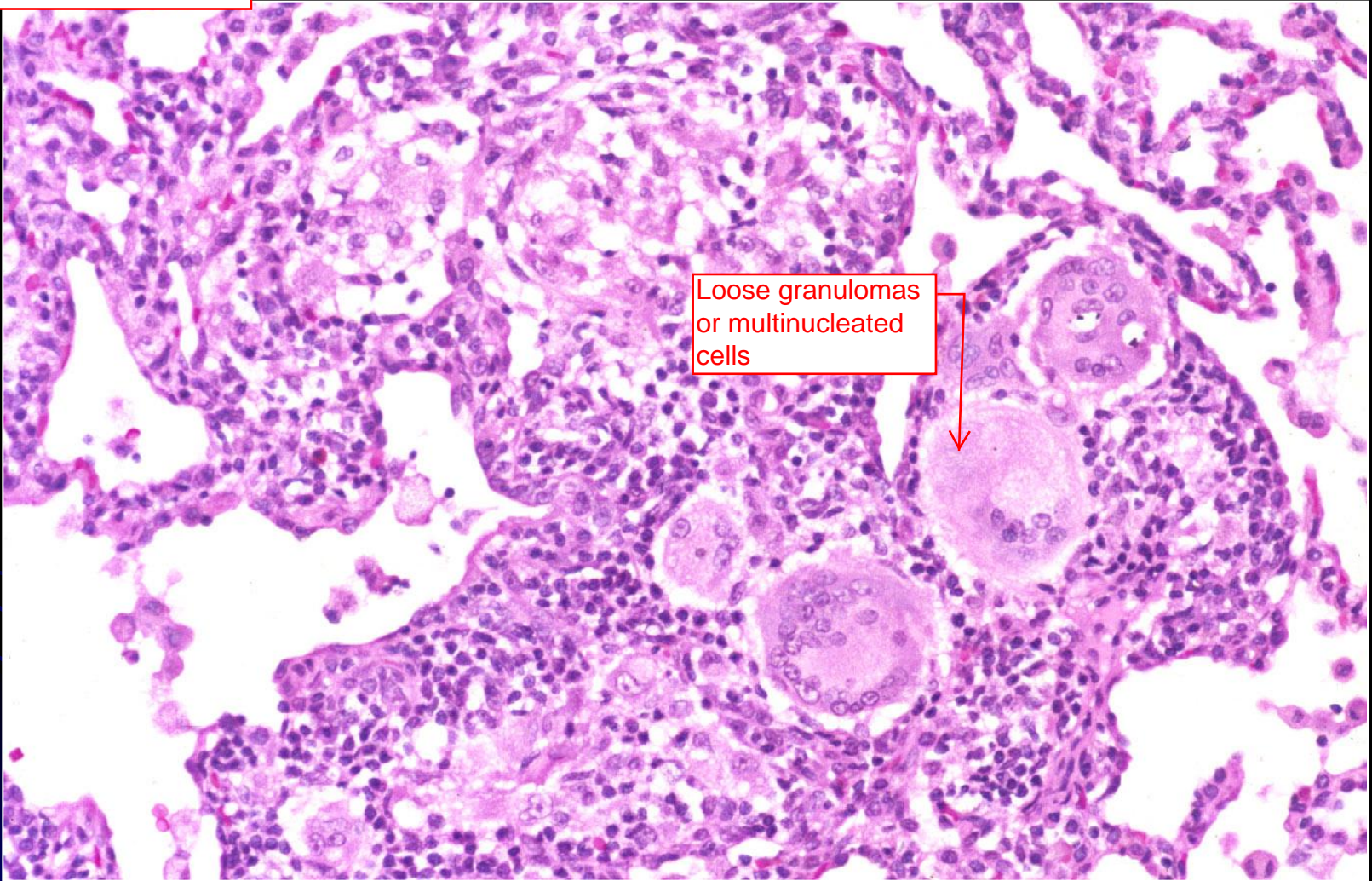
Hypersensitivity pneumonitis

Centered around small airways





Granulomas not as robust or well formed as sarcoidosis



Loose granulomas
or multinucleated
cells

physicians cause many lung disorders

IATROGENIC LUNG DISORDERS

Lance Armstrong was not given bleomycin because they didnt want to ruin the athletes lungs

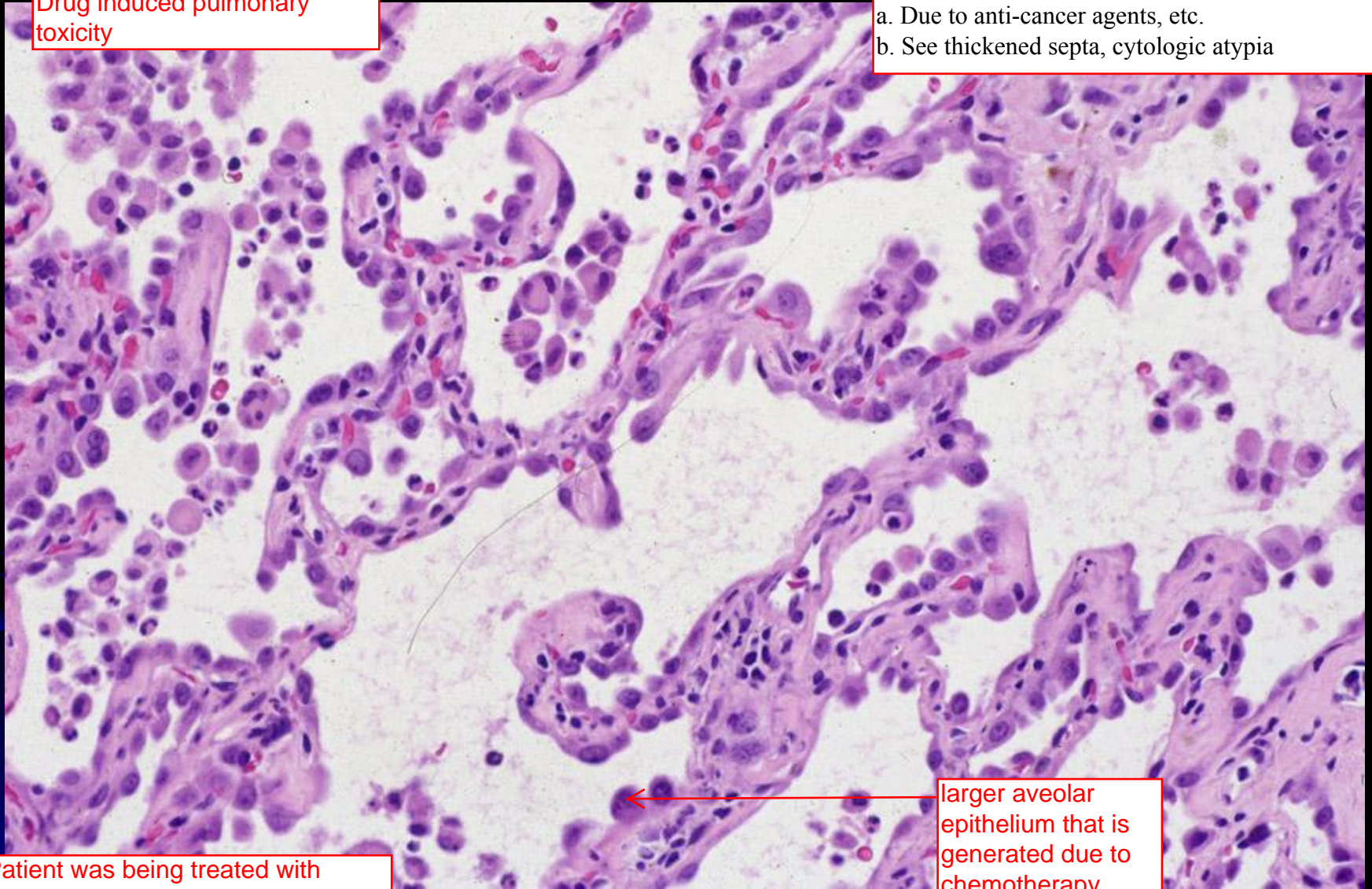
Bleomycin linked to pneumonitis and fibrosis. Causes damage by direct toxicity of the drug and by stimulating the influx of inflammatory cells into the alveoli

- Cytotoxic drug injury-esp. antineoplastics, e.g. **bleomycin**
- Radiation pneumonitis-**acute** and **chronic**
most often involves the lung within the radiation port but occasionally may extend to other areas of the same lung or even contralateral lung.
- **Oxygen toxicity**-may be additive to underlying insult
oxygen can cause scar tissue in the lung

Not normal lung disease
Drug induced pulmonary
toxicity

1. Cytotoxic drug injury:

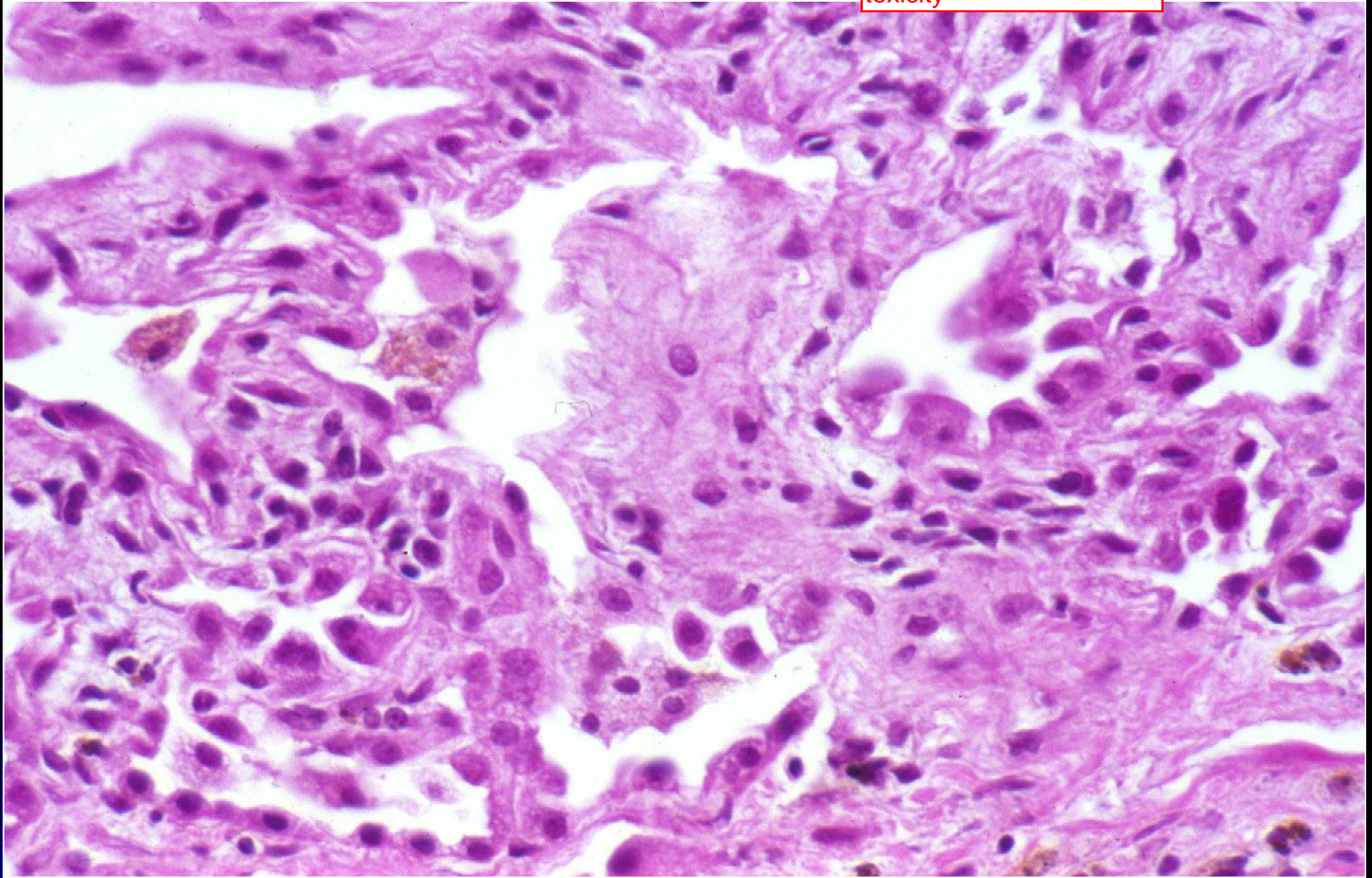
- a. Due to anti-cancer agents, etc.
- b. See thickened septa, cytologic atypia



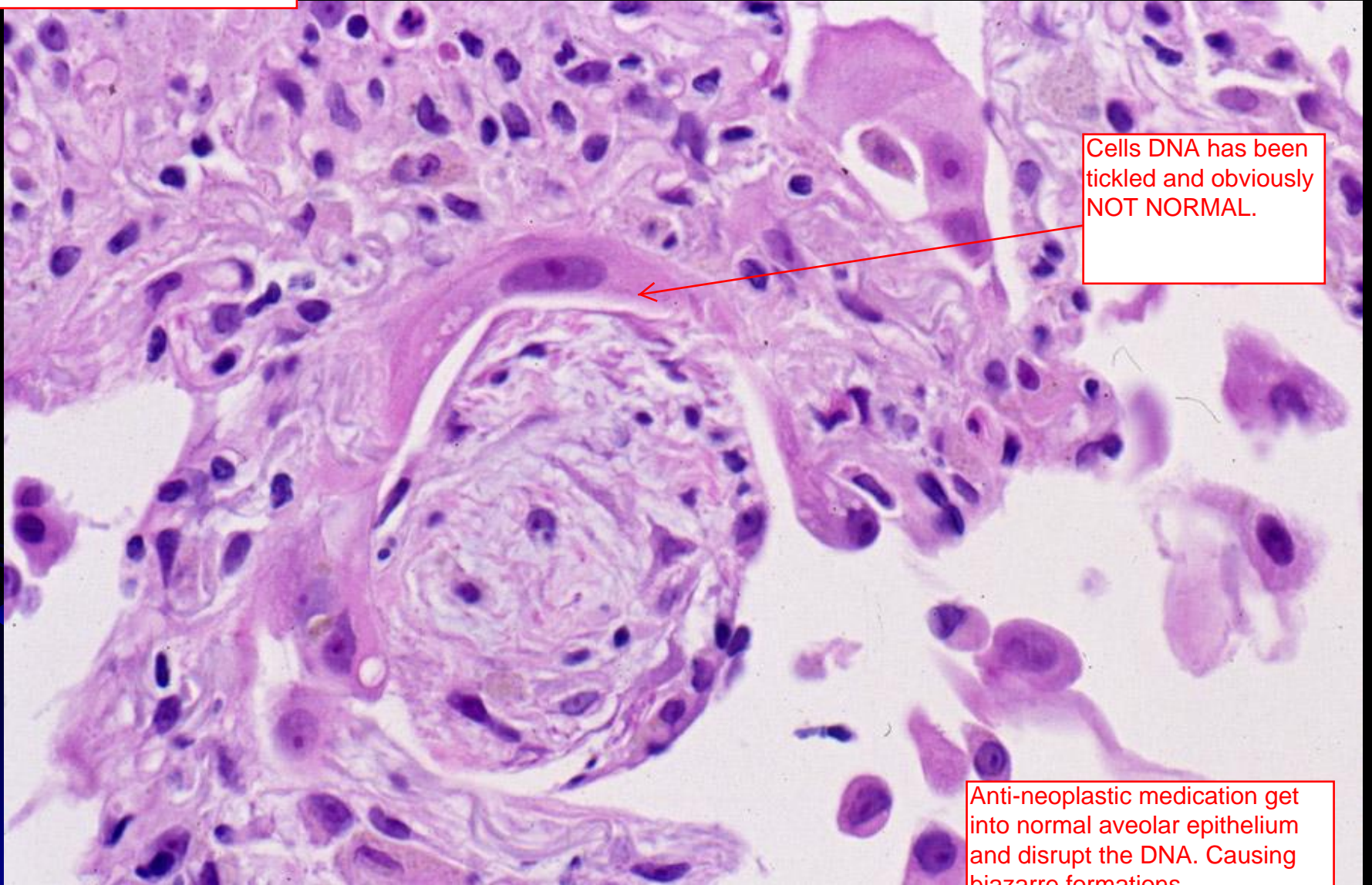
larger aveolar
epithelium that is
generated due to
chemotherapy

Patient was being treated with
BCNU for a brain tumor and has
drug toxicity

Too many aveolar epithelium and they are very large. Think drug toxicity



Bizarre formations



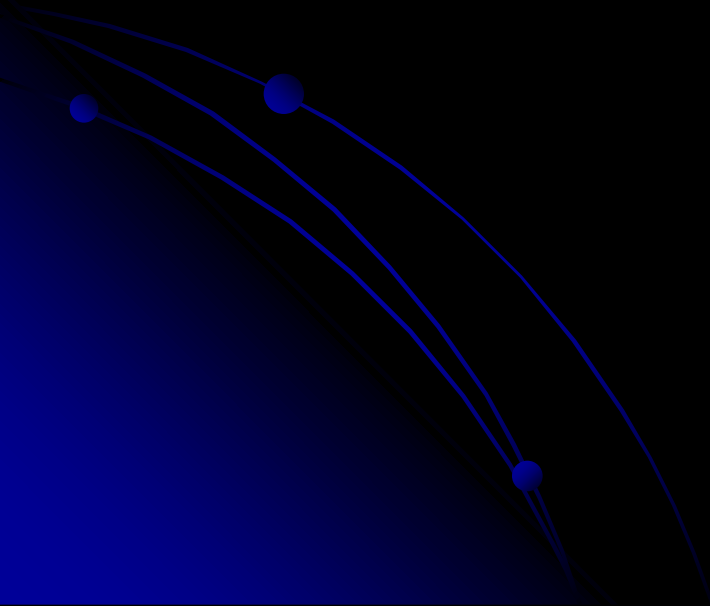
Cells DNA has been tickled and obviously NOT NORMAL.

Anti-neoplastic medication get into normal aveolar epithelium and disrupt the DNA. Causing bizarre formations

Radiation pneumonitis/fibrosis

1. Radiation pneumonitis/fibrosis:

a. Chronic and acute, see fibrosis (chronic)
and inflammatory cells (acute)



radiation fibrosis is usually most severe at apex of lung



Lung has multiple small cysts
Honeycomb formation
Mediastinal radiation for Hodgkin's disease

Huge strides have been made to reduce the amount of radiation needed to treat the cancer to reduce toxicity.

Chronic radiation

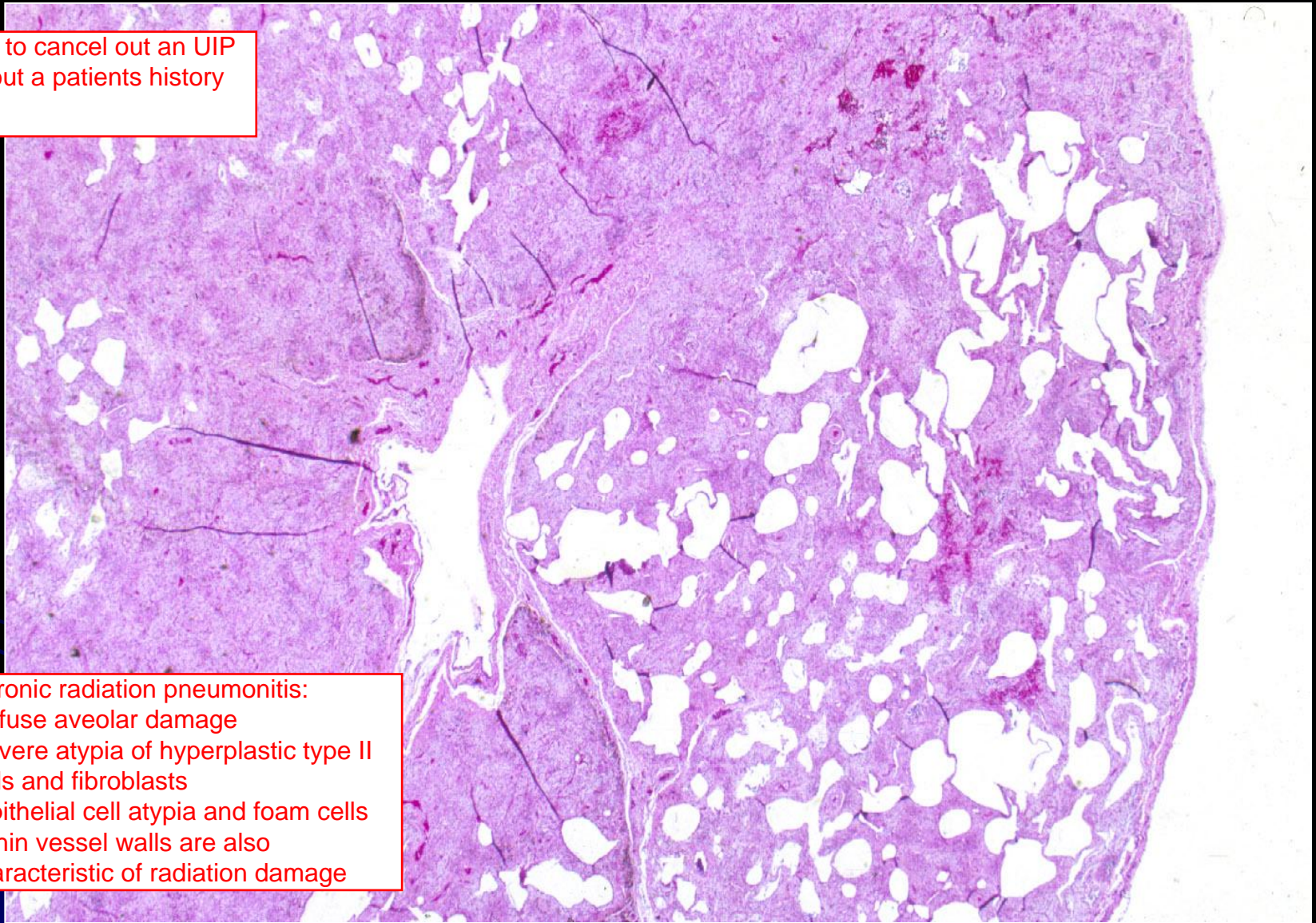
dense fibrous due
to radiation for lung
cancer



Hard to cancel out an UIP
without a patients history

Chronic radiation pneumonitis:
-diffuse aveolar damage
-severe atypia of hyperplastic type II
cells and fibroblasts
-Epithelial cell atypia and foam cells
within vessel walls are also
characteristic of radiation damage

A lot of elastin



This is more typical of acute radiation reaction and this could progression to chronic overtime. Lungs can only tolerate a maximum level of radiation before permanent damage is caused

