



Viral Hepatitis Biopsy Assessment in the Treatment Era:
The Beijing Classification

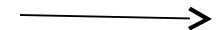
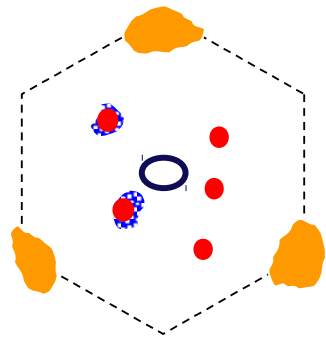
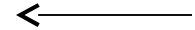
Neil Theise, MD
Department of Pathology
New York University School of Medicine
New York City

Clinical problems, 1968:

- Hepatitis B
- Autoimmune hepatitis

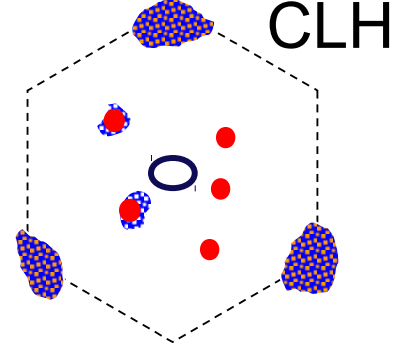
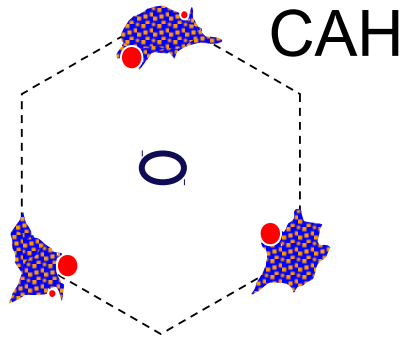
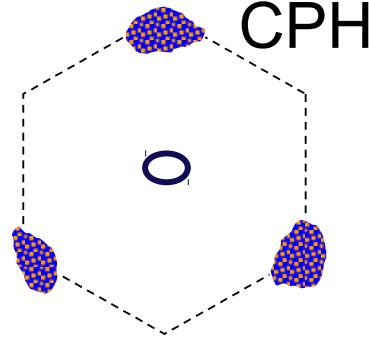
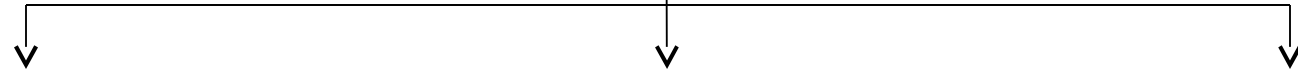
=> Biopsy for assessment of prognosis: CAH

Death/Transplant



Recovery

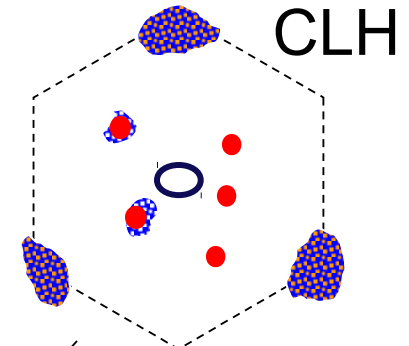
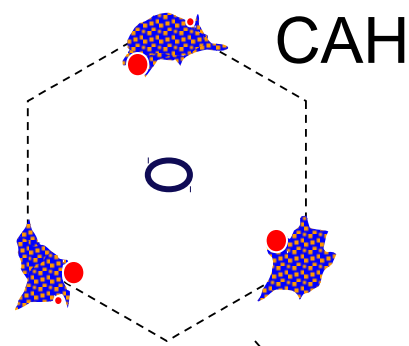
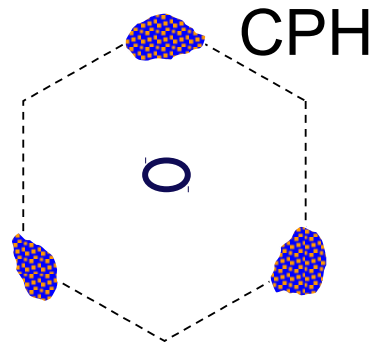
Chronic Hepatitis



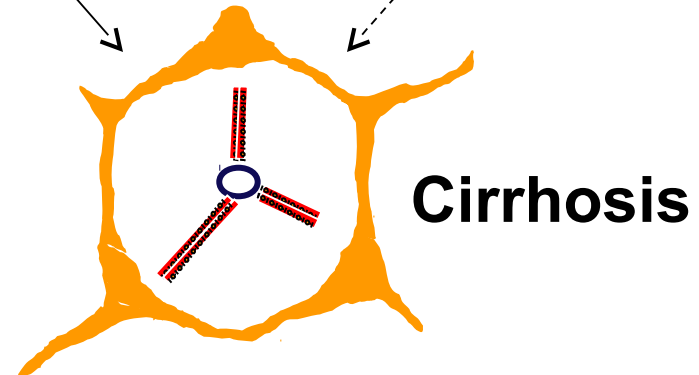
Death/Transplant

Recovery

Chronic Hepatitis

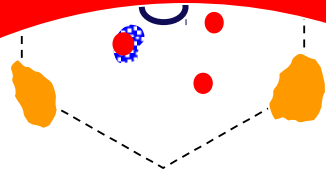


Progression
Unlikely

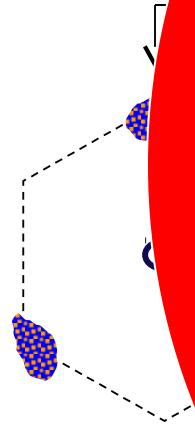


Death/Transplant

Recovery



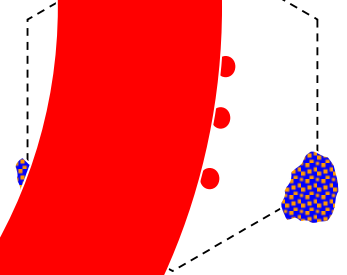
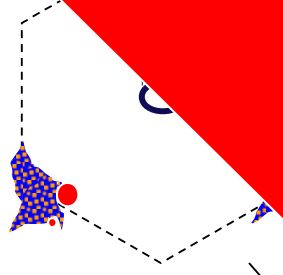
Acute Hepatitis



PH

CAH

CLH



Progression Unlikely



Cirrhosis



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- Hepatitis B
- Autoimmune hepatitis

=> Biopsy for assessment of prognosis: CAH, CPH

Clinical problems, 1990's:

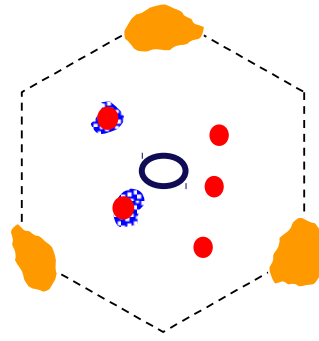
- Hepatitis C
- Mixed viral infections

=> Biopsy for assessment of Tx needs:

Ishak, modified Ishak, Batts-Ludwig, Metavir

Death/Transplant

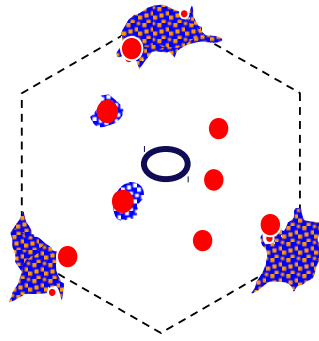
Recovery



Chronic Hepatitis



**GRADING
Of
Activity**

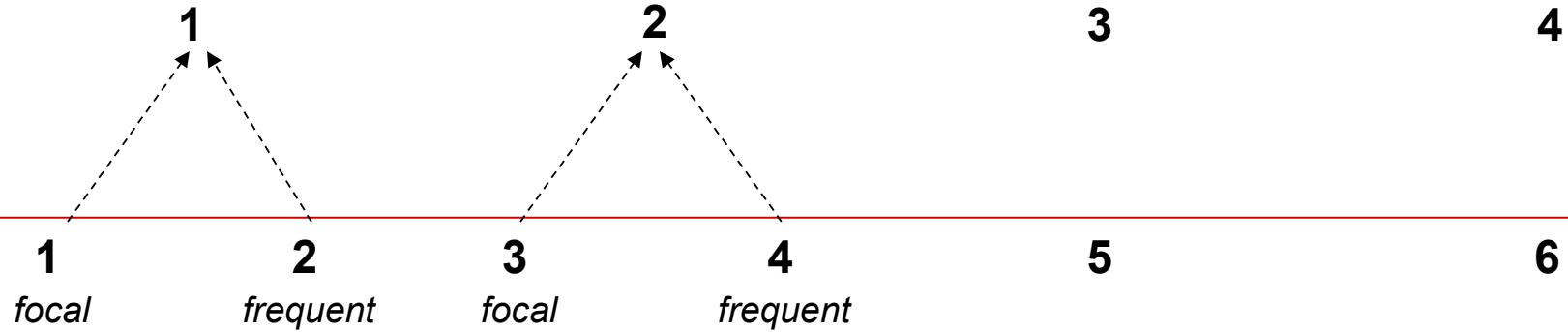


**STAGING
Of
Progression**

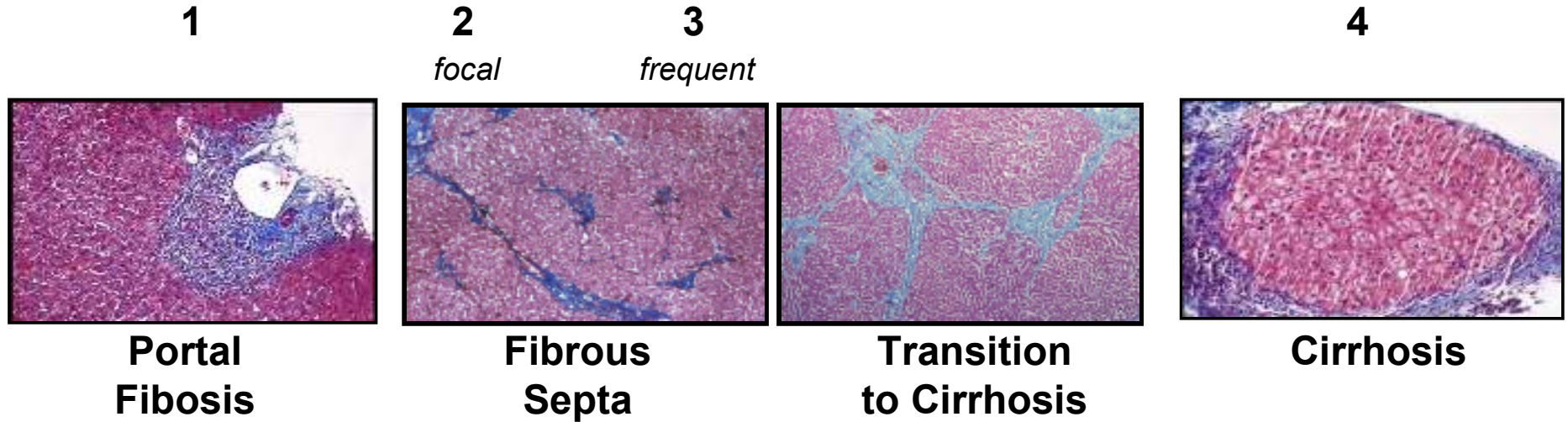
Stages of Fibrosis

Modified Ishak ⇔ Batts-Ludwig

Ishak



Metavir

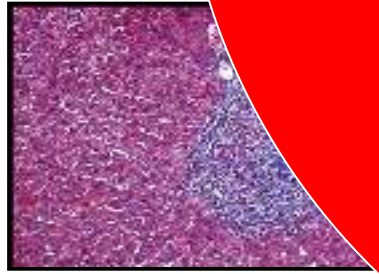
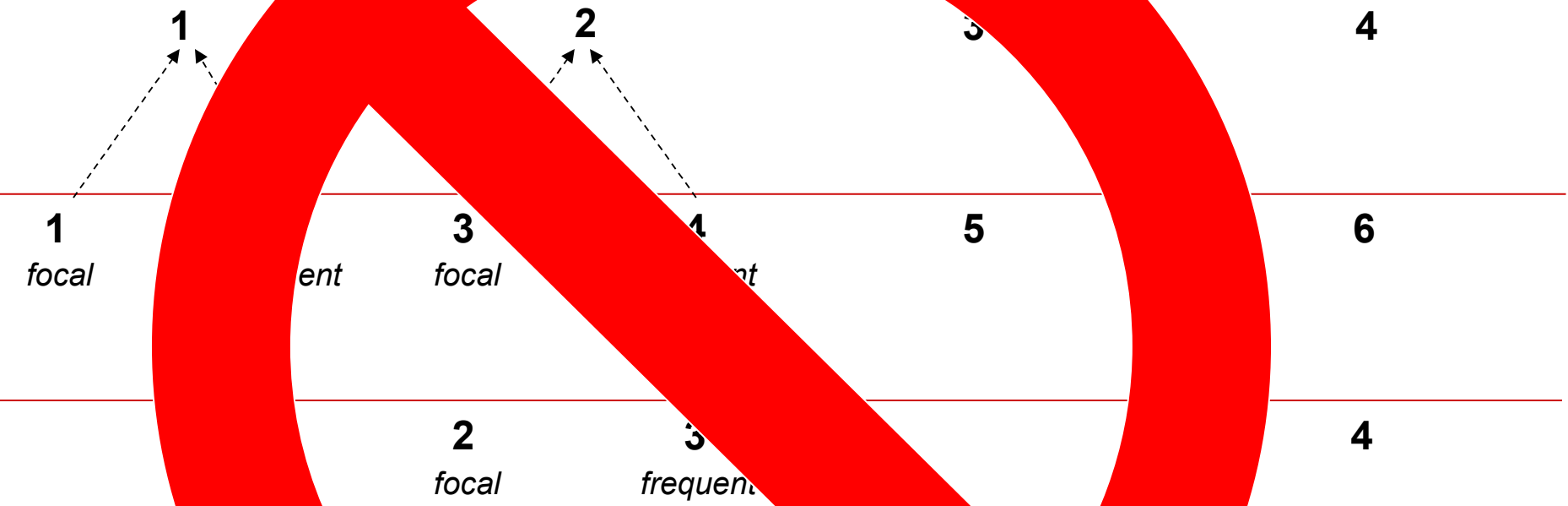


Stages of liver fibrosis

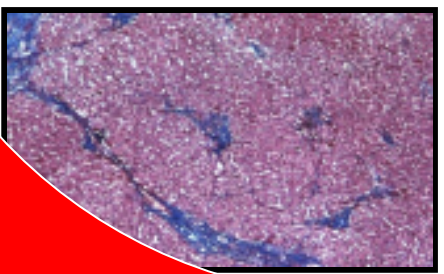
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Portal Fibrosis



Cirrhosis



Cirrhosis

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Ishak, modified Ishak, Batts-Ludwig, Metavir

Clinical problems, 2016:

- Successful antiviral therapies

=> ?

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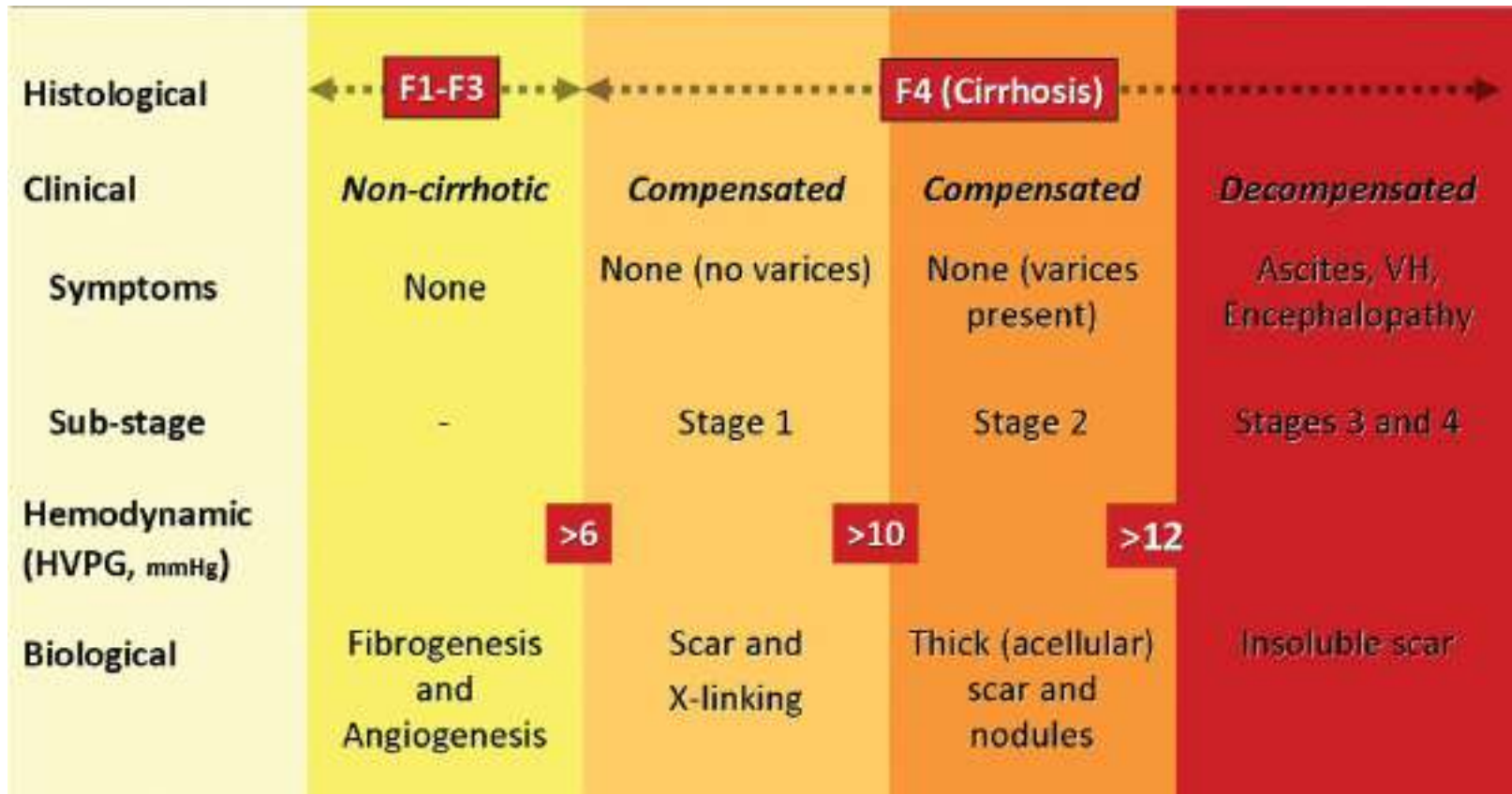
Ishak, modified Ishak, Batts-Ludwig, Metavir

Clinical problems, 2016:

- **Successful antiviral therapies**

**=> Biopsy of advanced (cirrhotic) stage liver
for assessment of prognosis**

...but not all cirrhosis is the same...



Garcia-Tsao, Friedman, Iredale and Pinzani.

Now there are many (stages) where before there was one: in search of a pathophysiological classification of cirrhosis.

Hepatology 2010; 51(4):1445-49

Ishak 1-4

Ishak 5-6

Histological	← F1-F3 →		← F4 (Cirrhosis) →	
Clinical	<i>Non-cirrhotic</i>	<i>Compensated</i>	<i>Compensated</i>	<i>Decompensated</i>
Symptoms	None	None (no varices)	None (varices present)	Ascites, VH, Encephalopathy
Sub-stage	-	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stages 3 and 4
Hemodynamic (HVPG, mmHg)		>6	>10	>12
Biological	Fibrogenesis and Angiogenesis	Scar and X-linking	Thick (acellular) scar and nodules	Insoluble scar

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The Laennec Staging System

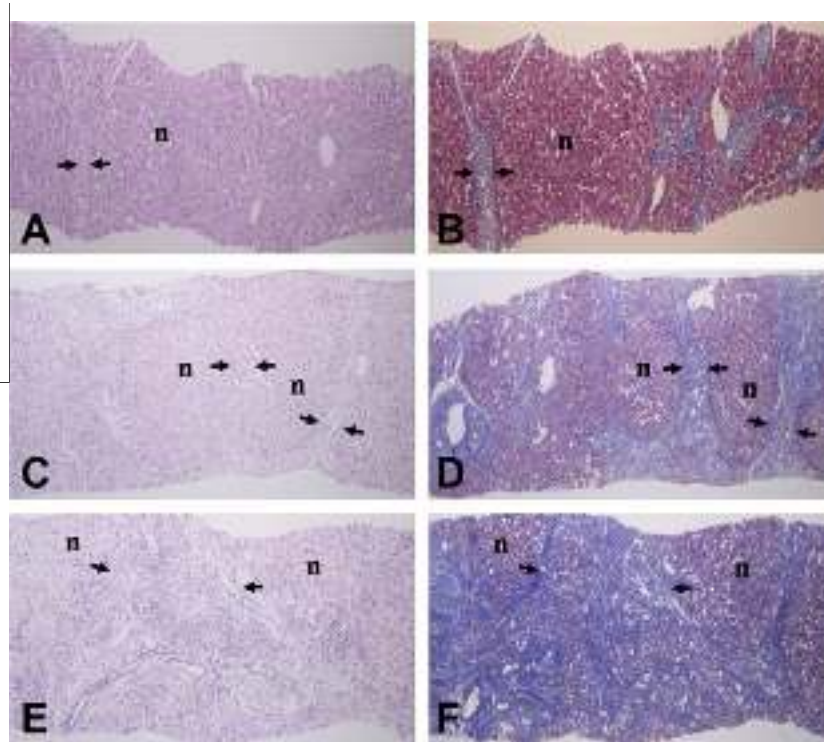
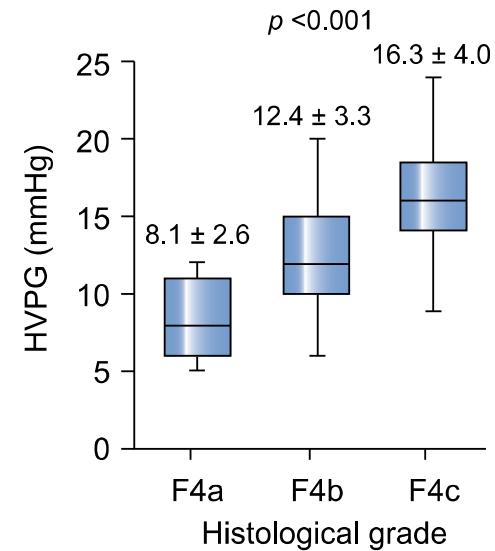
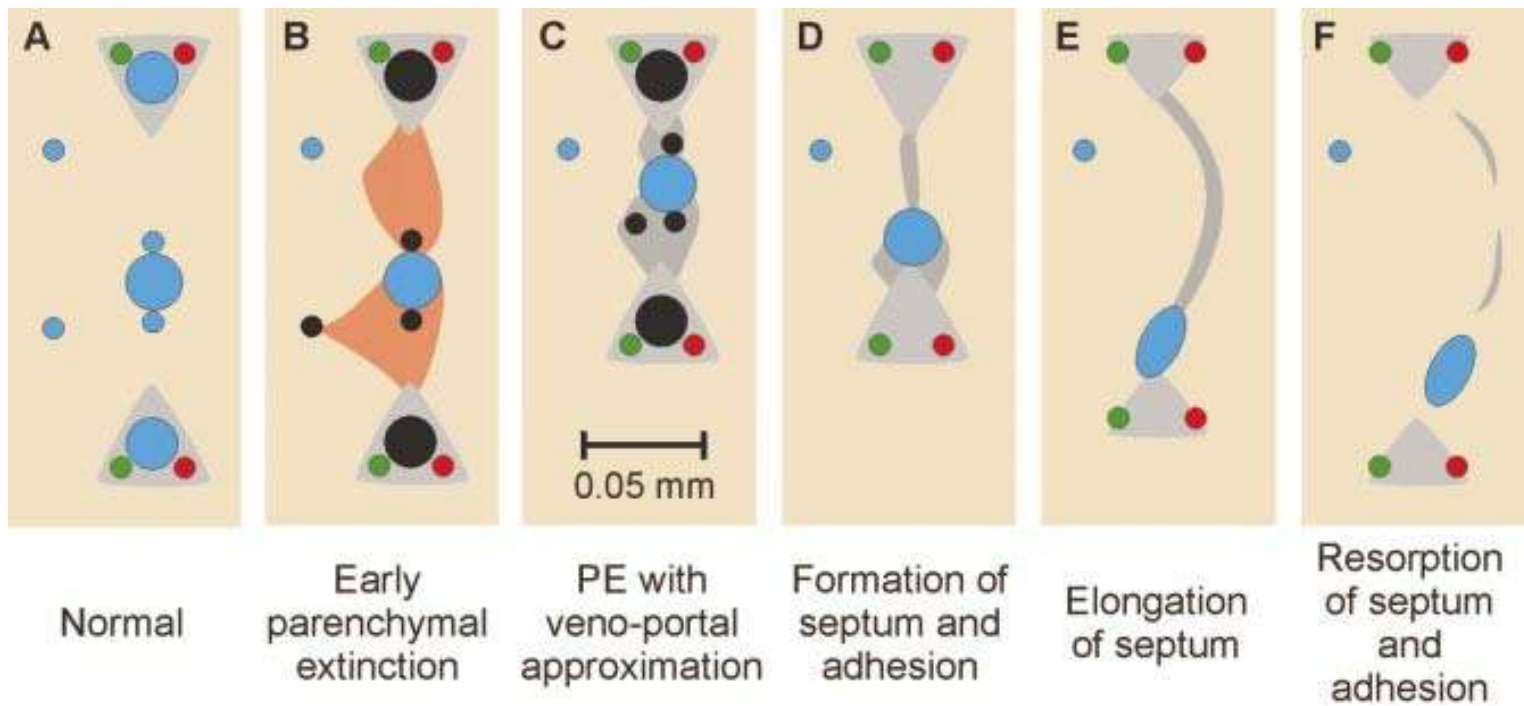


Fig. 1. The histological subclassification of cirrhosis according to the Laennec system. (A) and (B) show mild cirrhosis with thin septa (H&E and MTC stain, respectively, 200 \times), (C) and (D) show moderate cirrhosis with at least two broad septa (4B) (H&E and MTC stain, respectively, 200 \times), (E) and (F) show severe cirrhosis with at least one very broad septa (4C) (H&E and MTC stain, respectively, 200 \times). The widths between two arrows show the significant difference among subclass of cirrhosis. n, regenerating nodule; MTC, Masson trichrome stain.



Kim et al. Histological sub-classification of cirrhosis using the Laennec fibrosis scoring system correlates with clinical stage and grade of portal hypertension. *Journal of Hepatology* 2011;55:1004-09.

What about *regression* of cirrhosis?



Wanless, Nakashima and Sherman.
 Regression of human cirrhosis. Morphologic features and the genesis of incomplete septal cirrhosis.
 Arch Pathol Lab Med 2000;124:1599

Hepatic Repair Complex

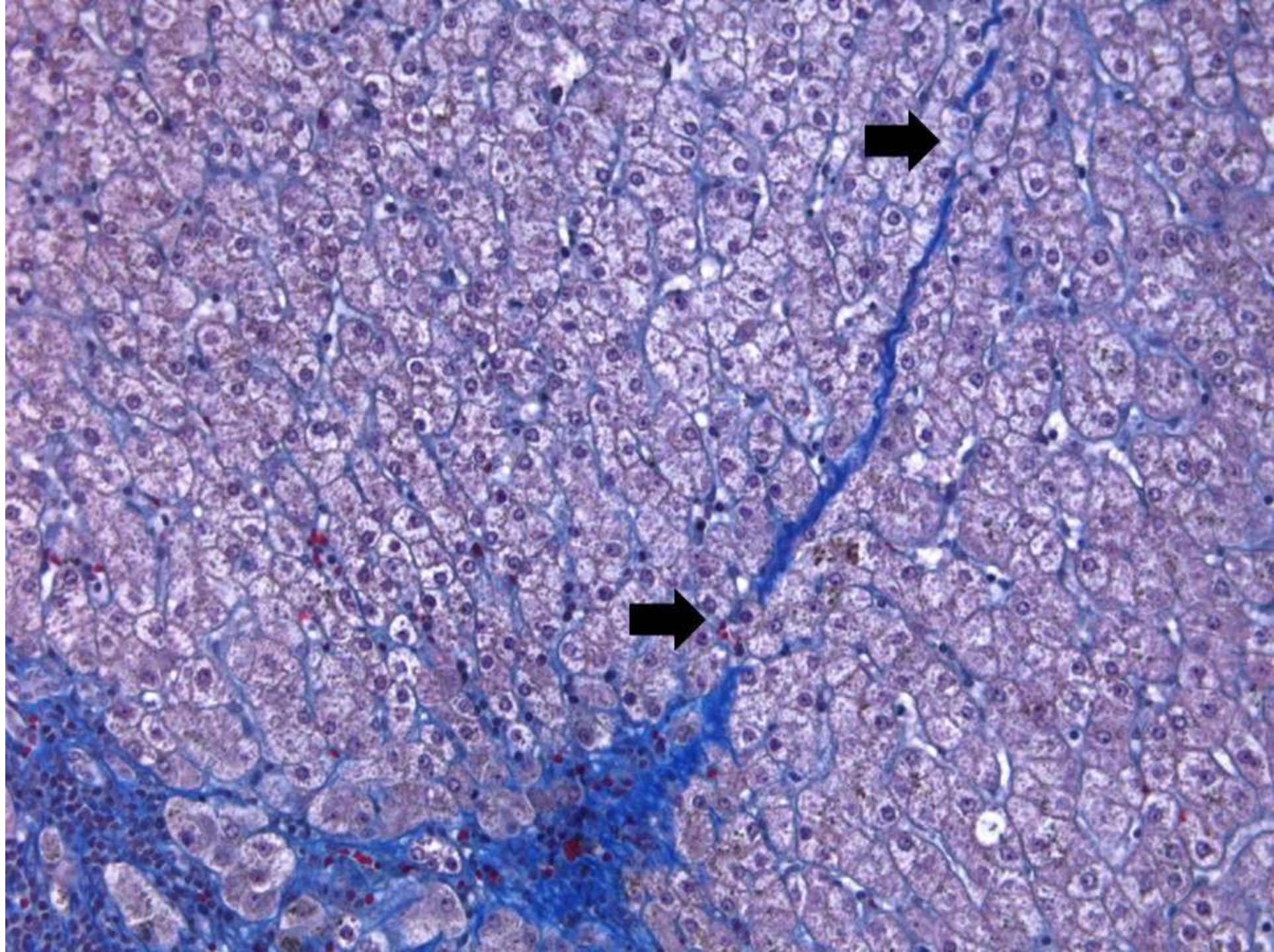
1. Fragmentation and regression of scar

- A. delicate, perforated septa
- B. isolated thick collagen fibers
- C. delicate, periportal fibrous spikes
- D. hepatocytes within or splitting septa

Hepatic Repair Complex

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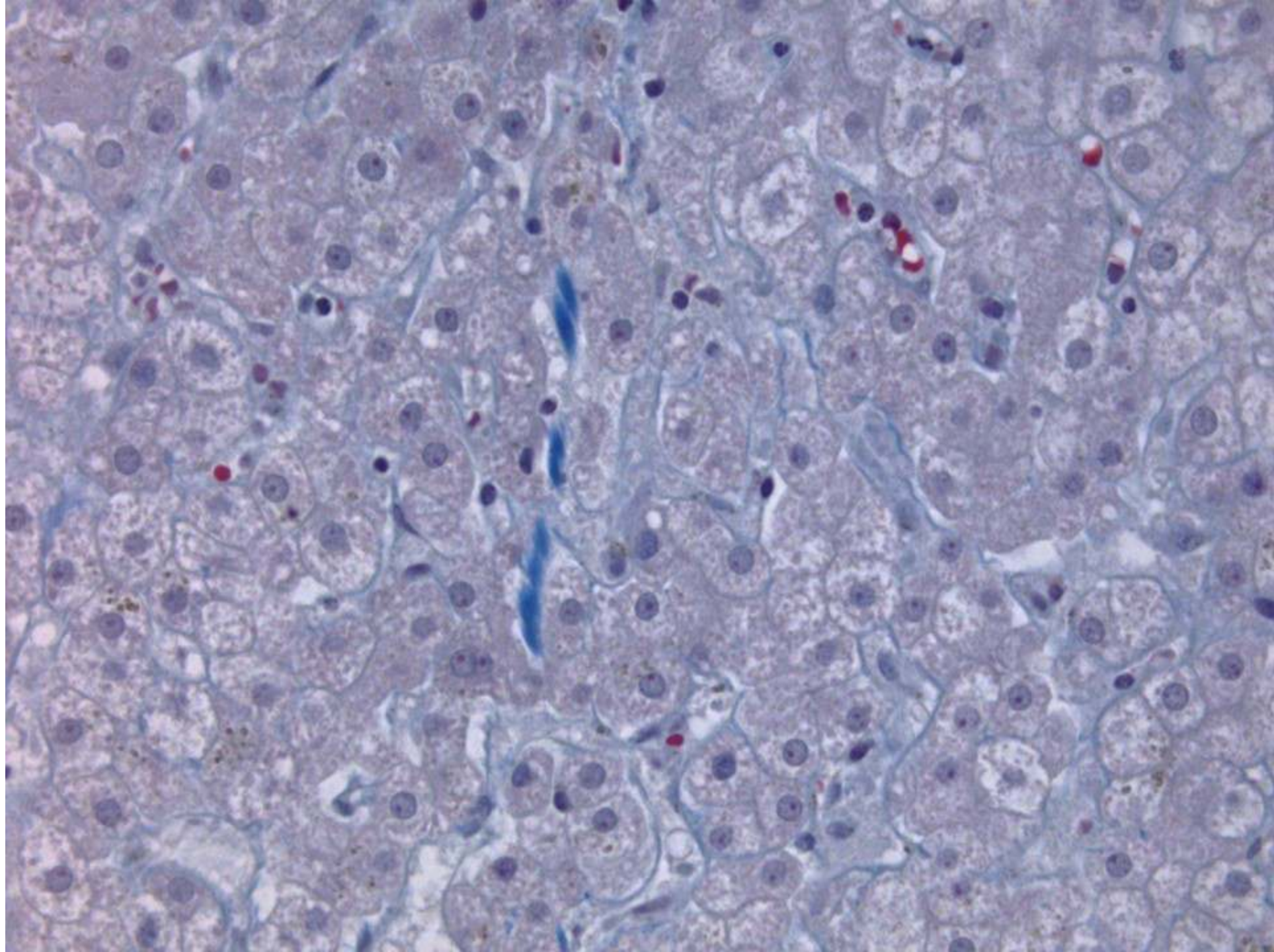
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2. Evidence of prior, now resolving, vascular derangements

- A. portal tract remnants
- B. hepatic vein remnants with prolapsed hepatocytes
- C. aberrant parenchymal veins

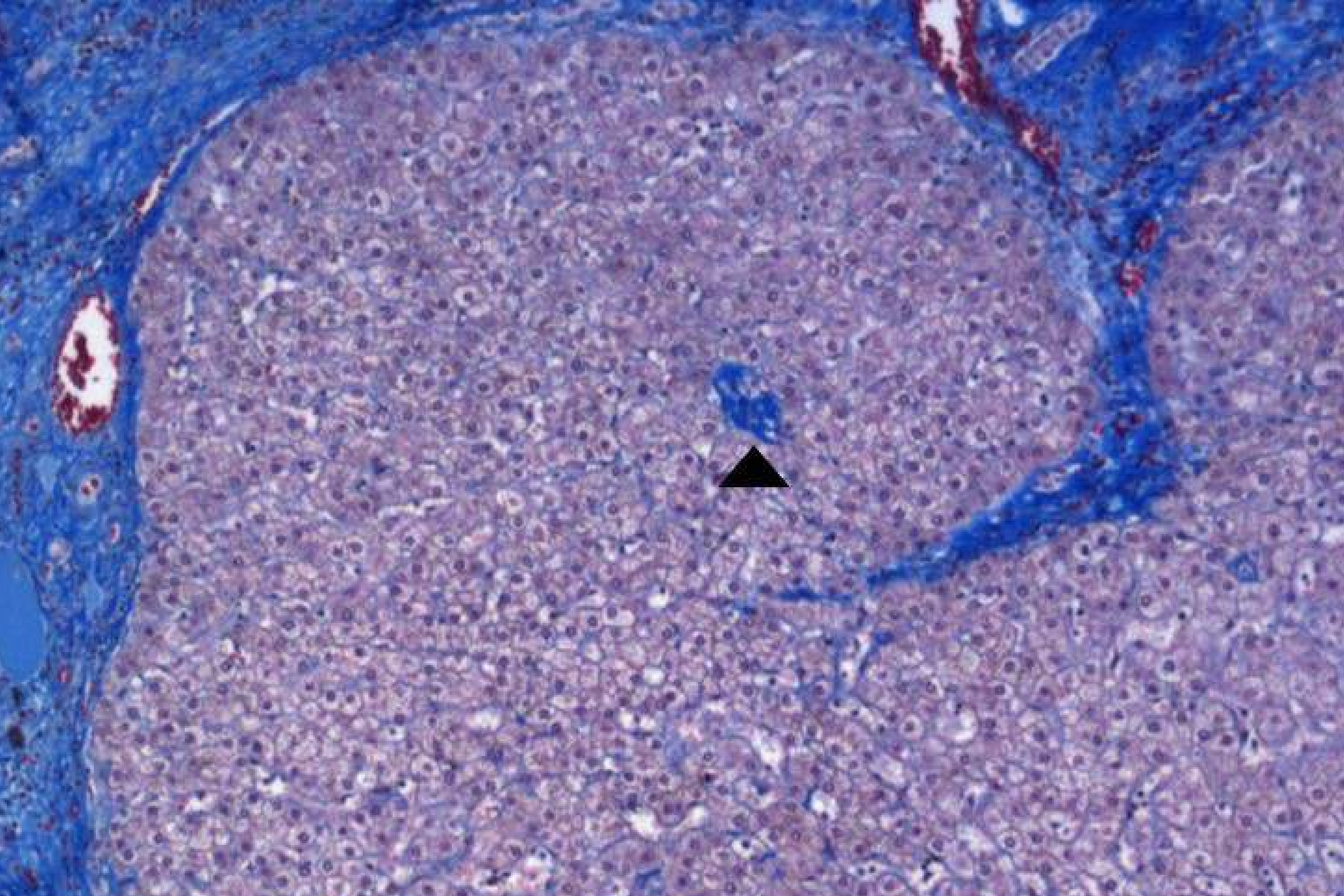
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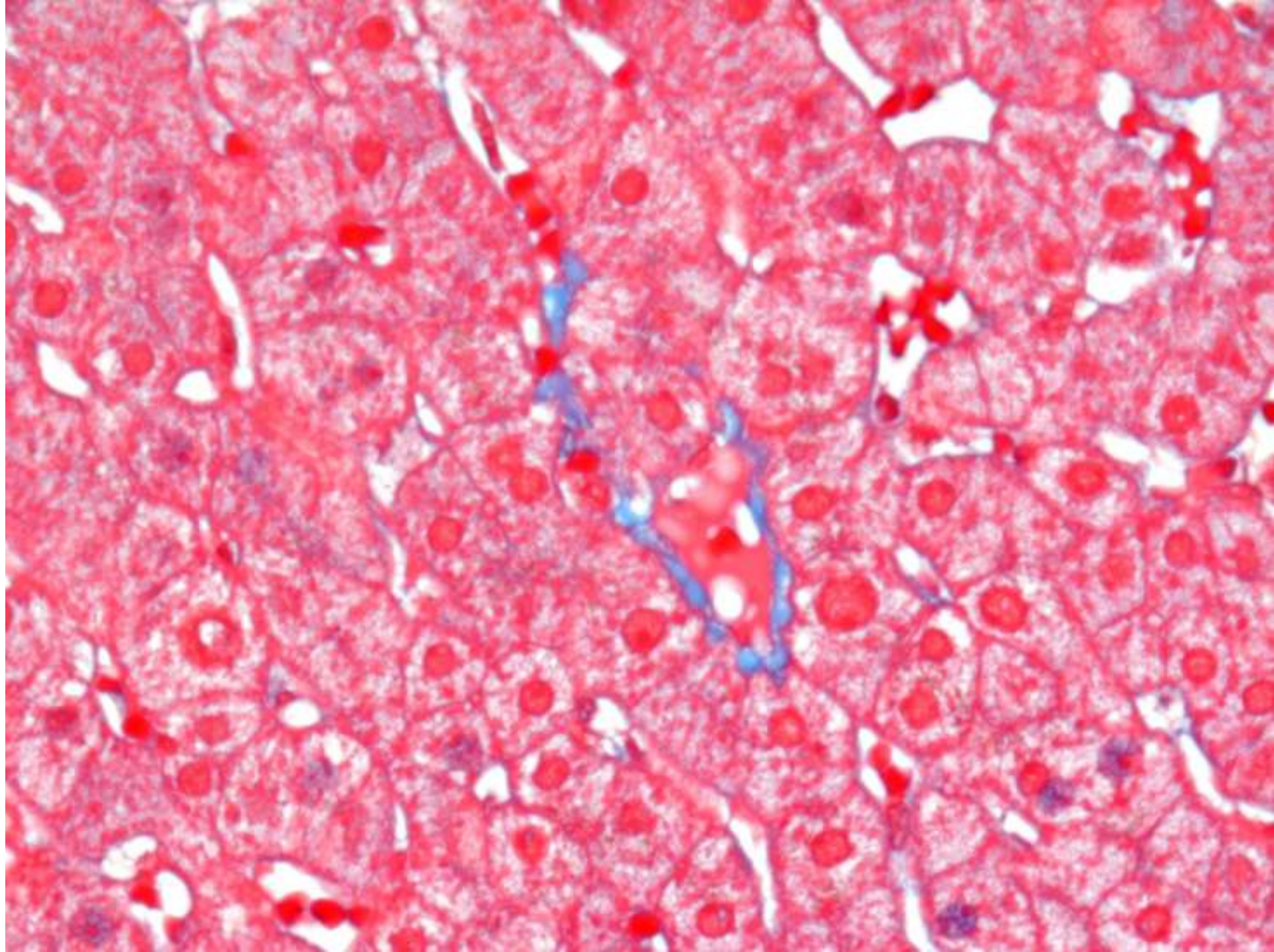
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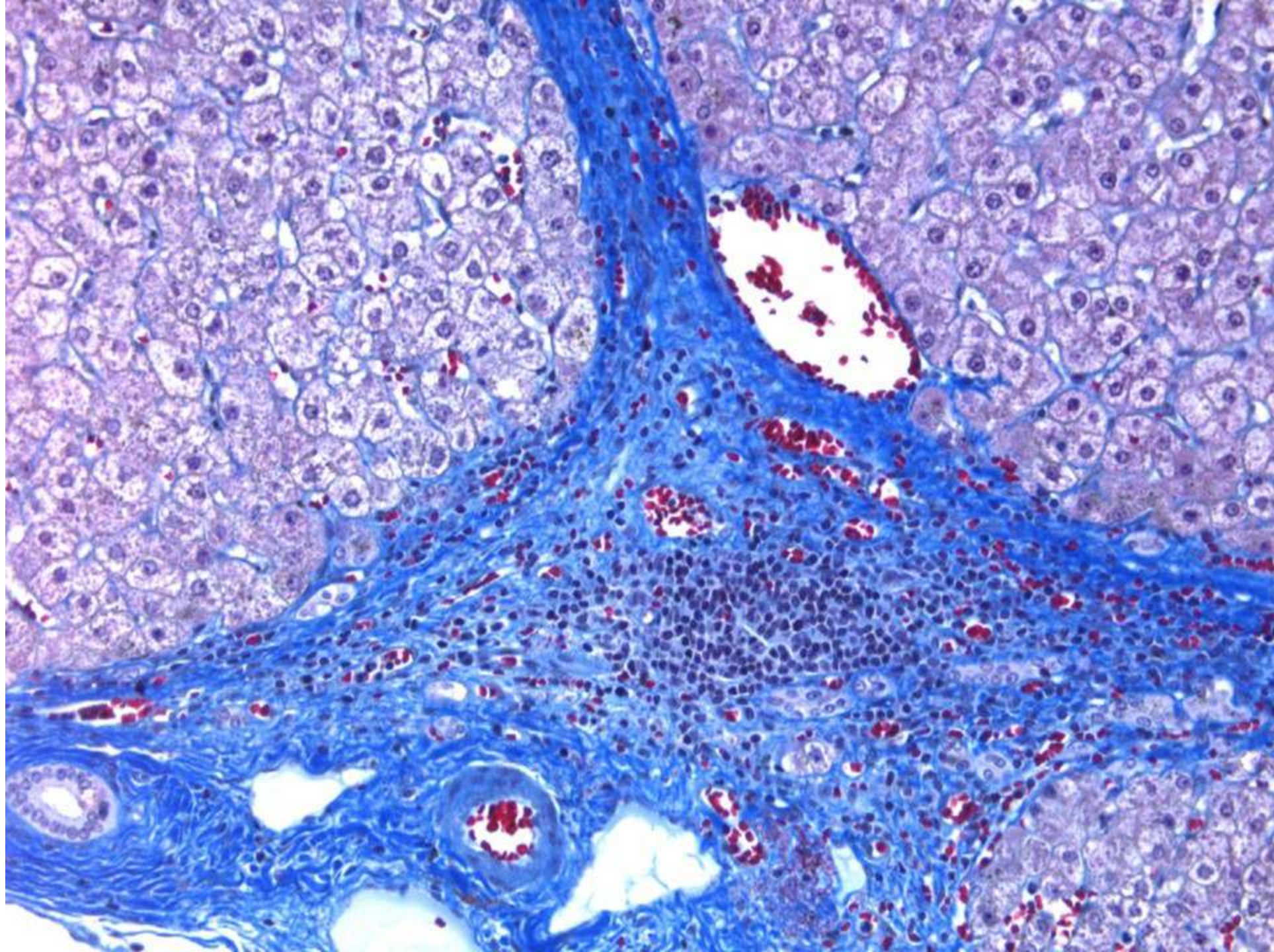
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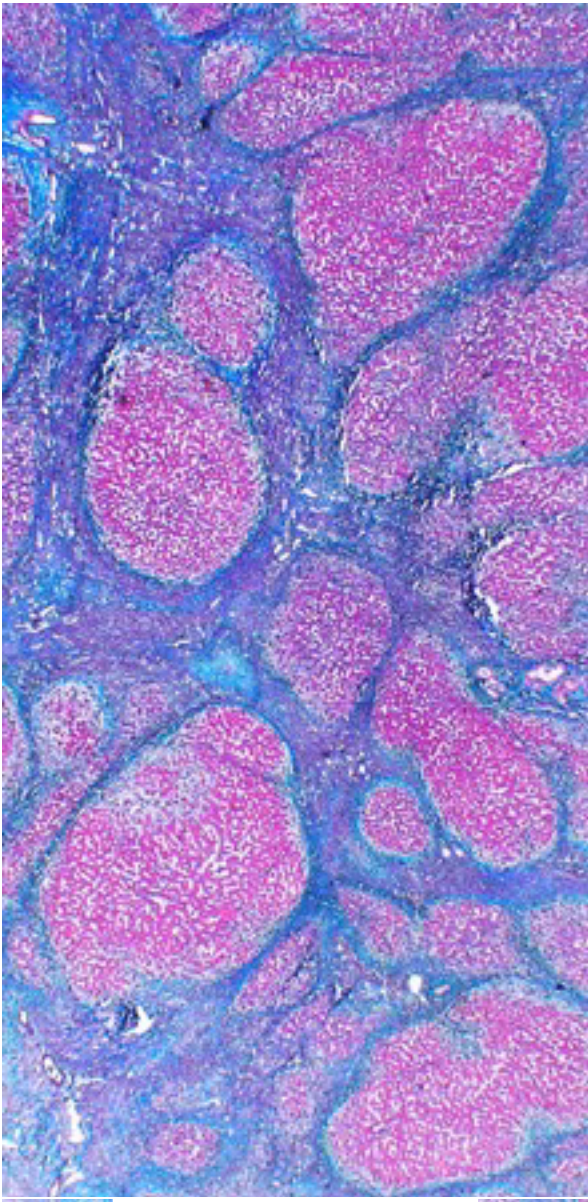


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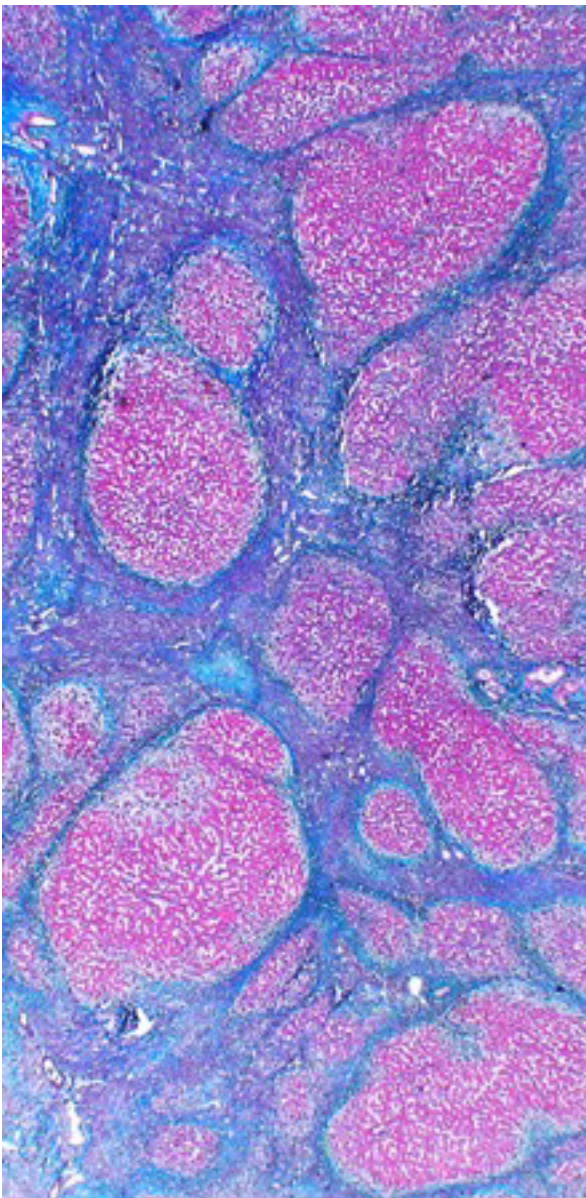
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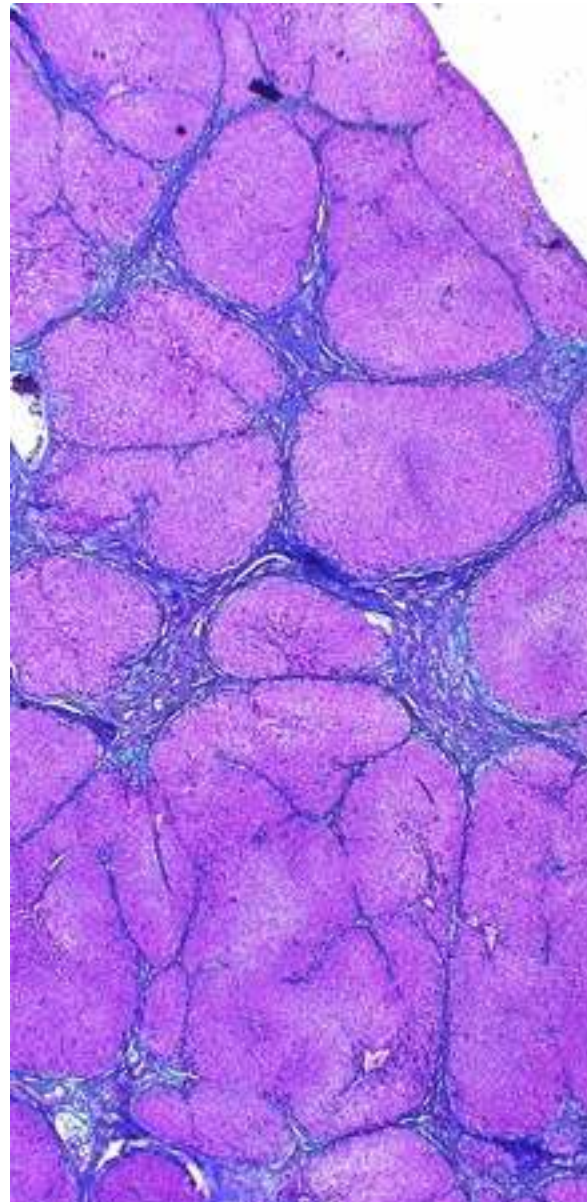
3. Parenchymal regeneration, i.e. “hepatocyte buds”



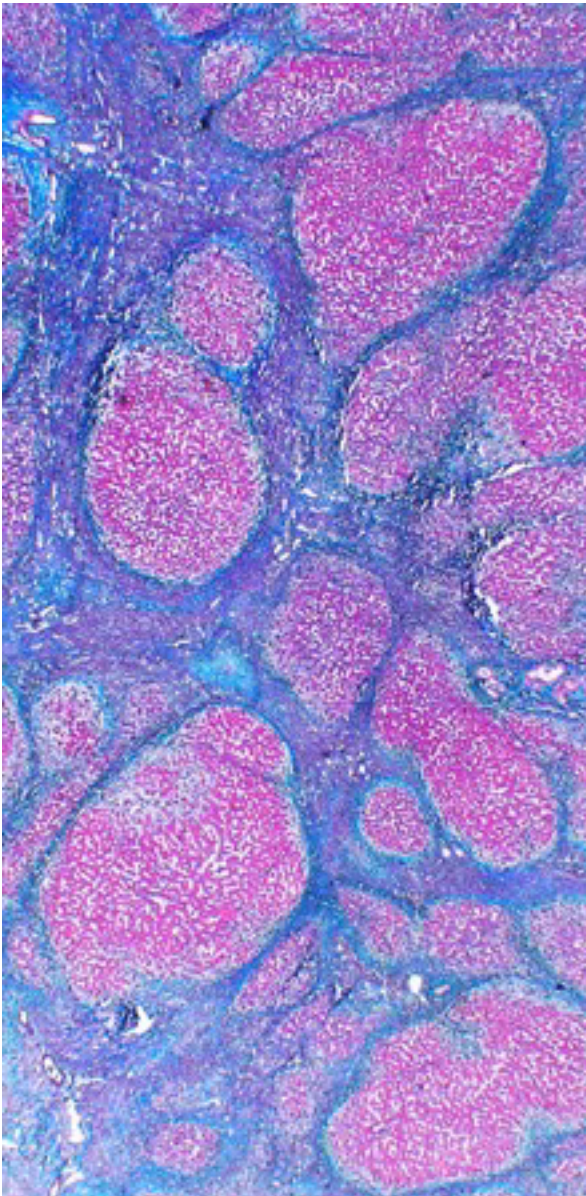
**Active
Alcohol Use**



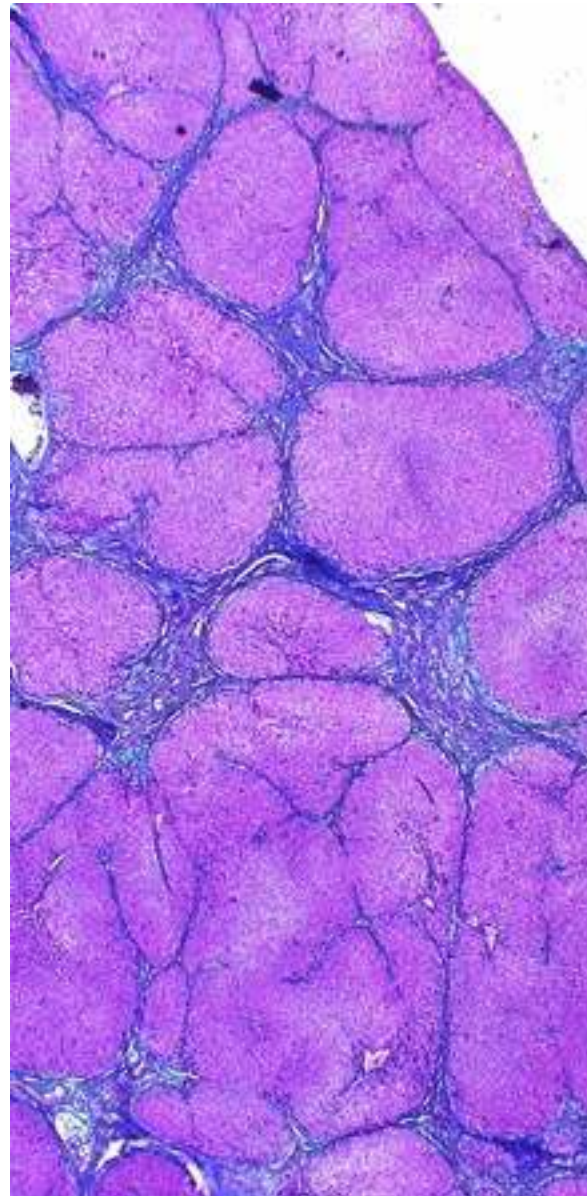
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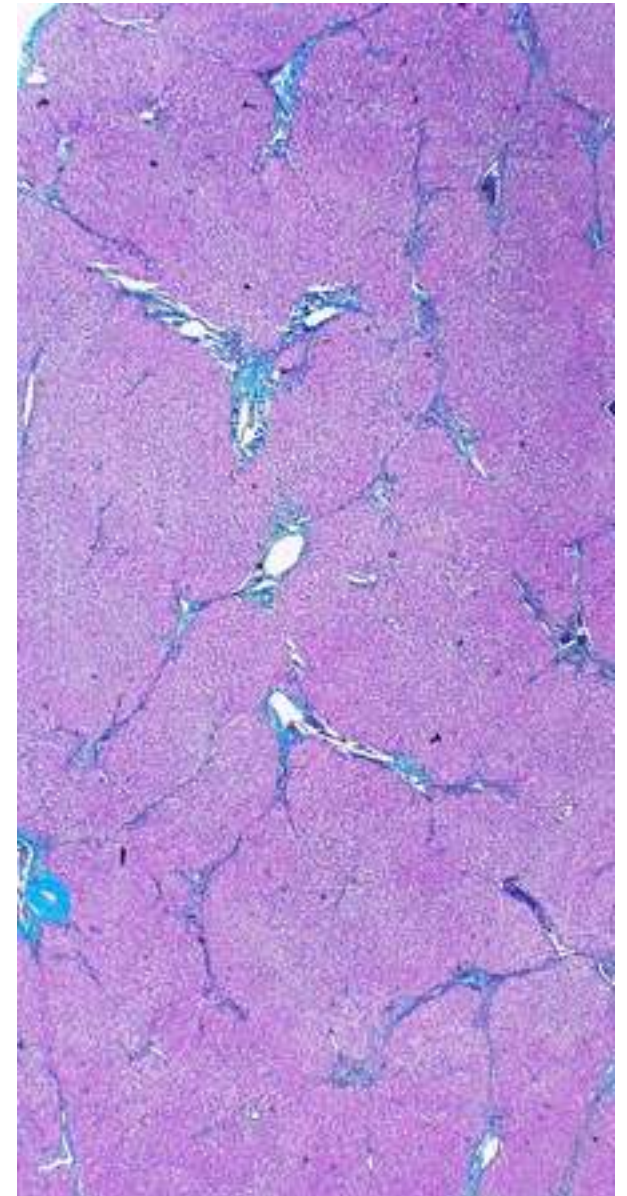
**> 6 months
abstinence**



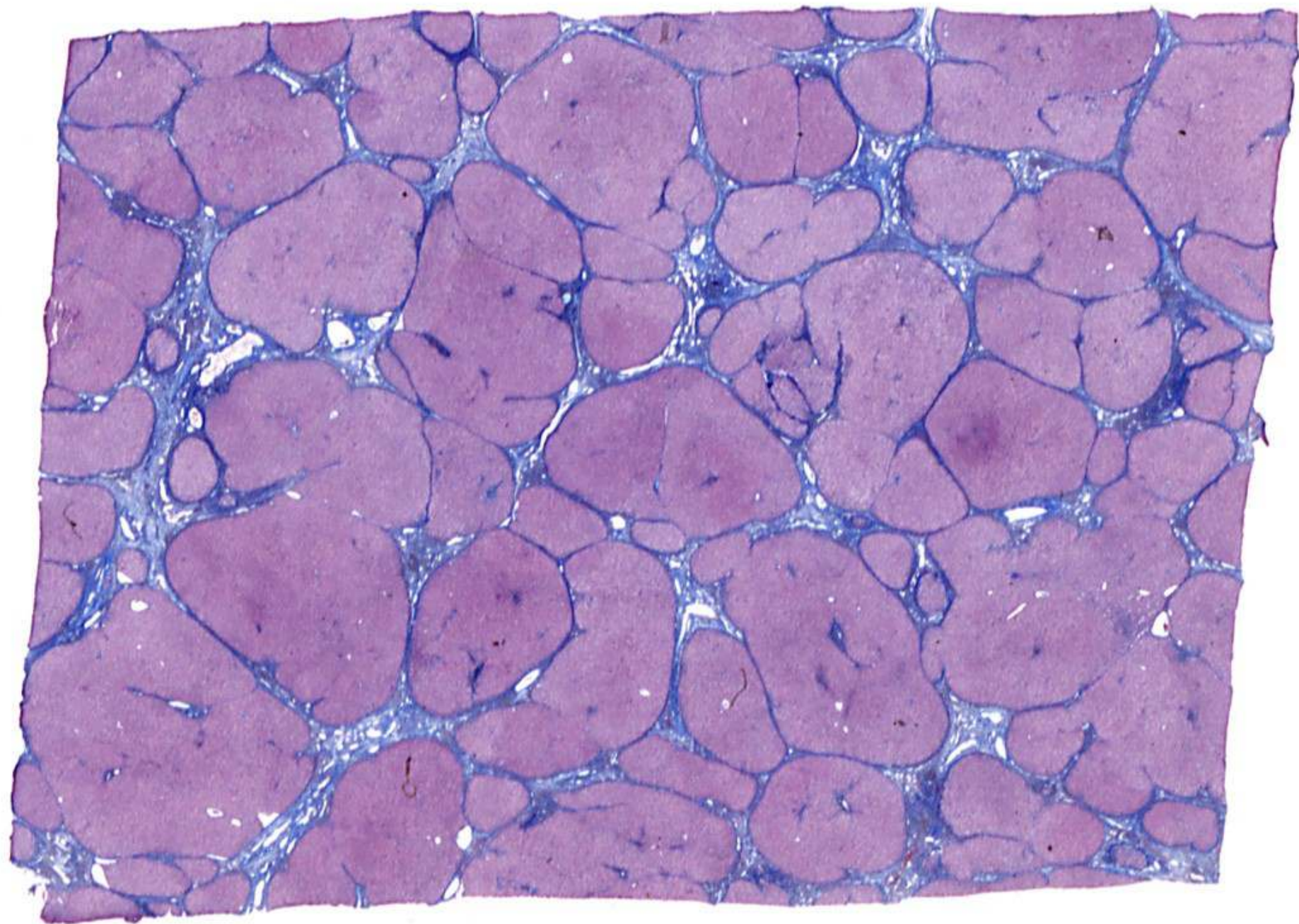
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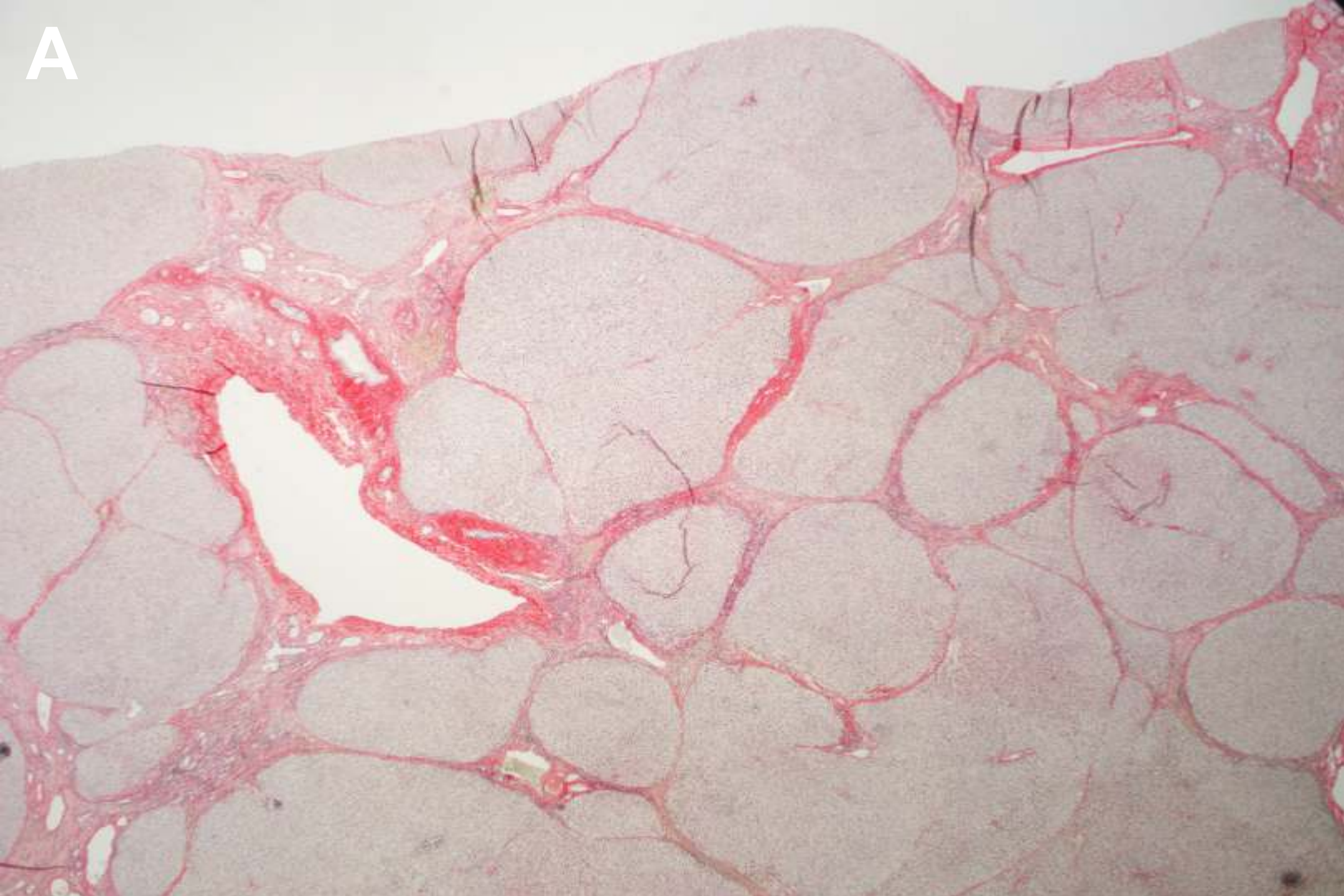
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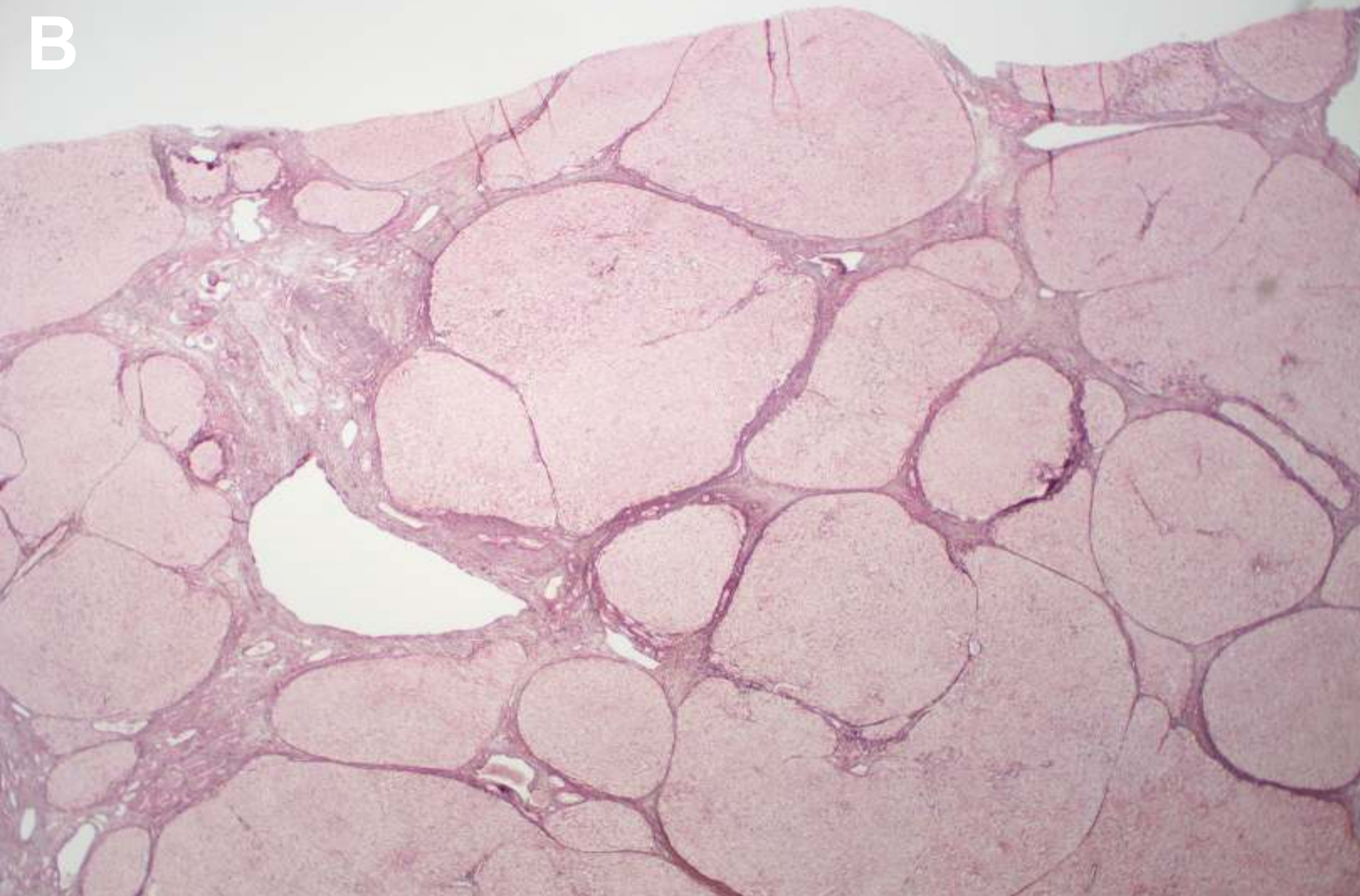
**4 years
abstinence**



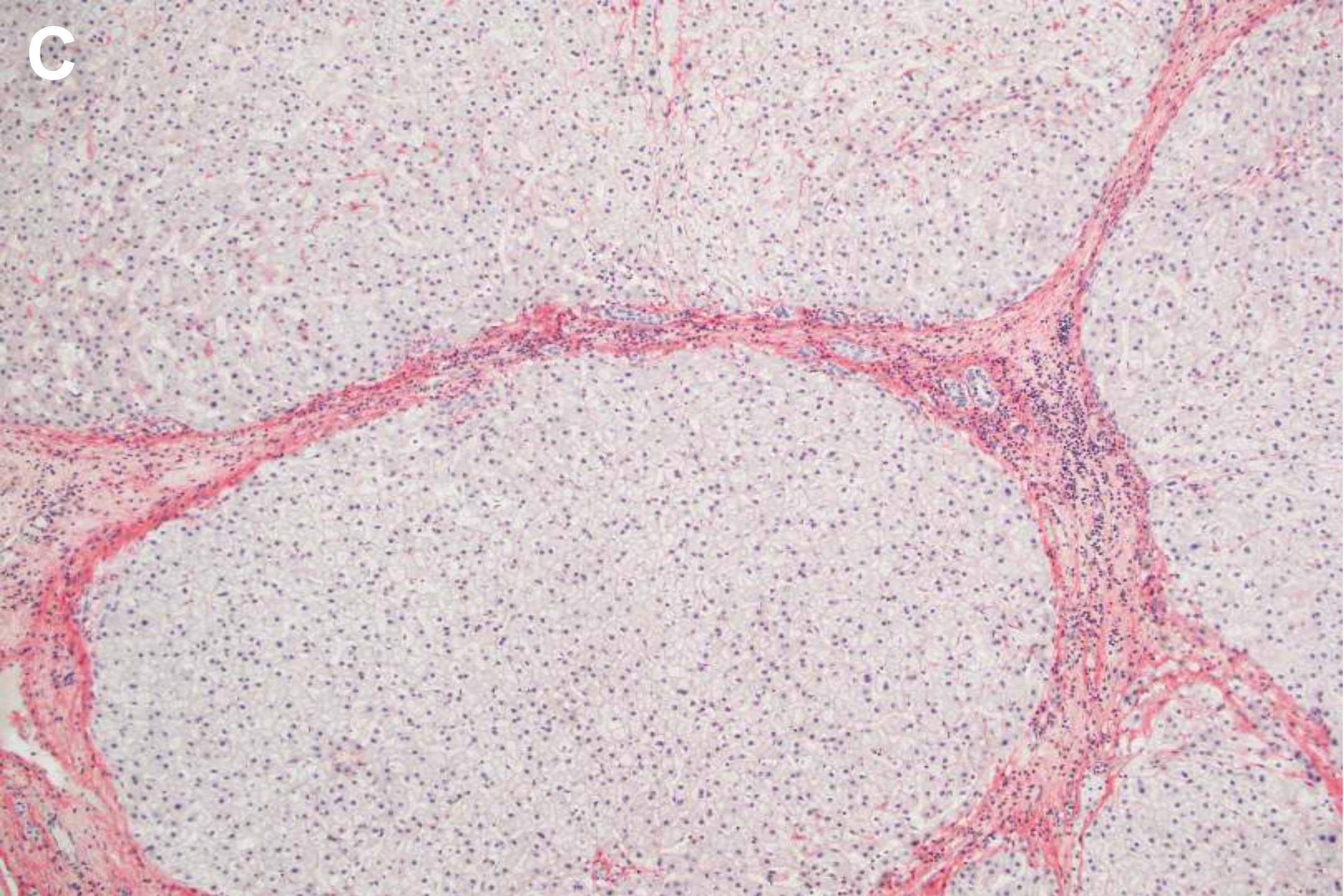
A



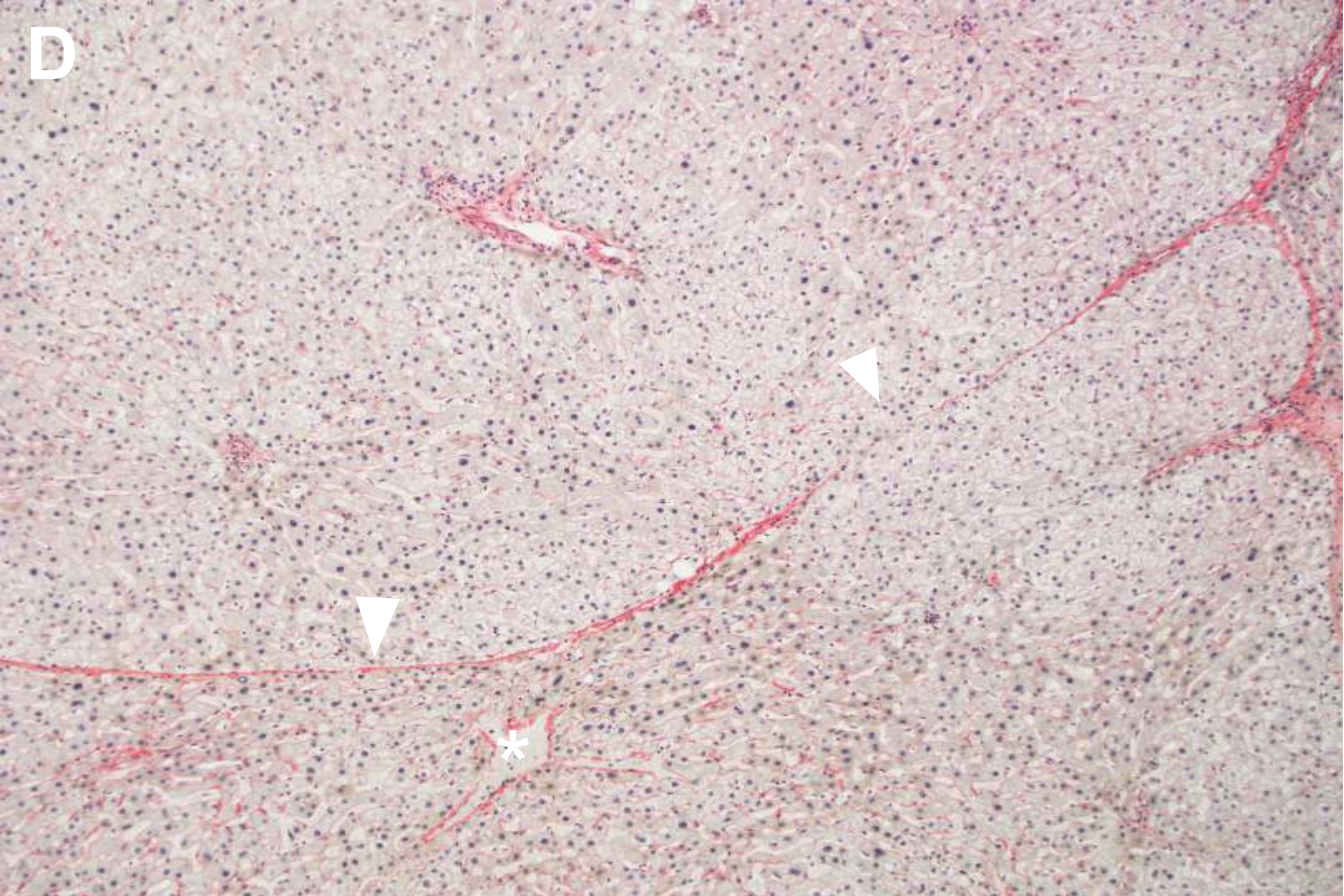
B



C



D



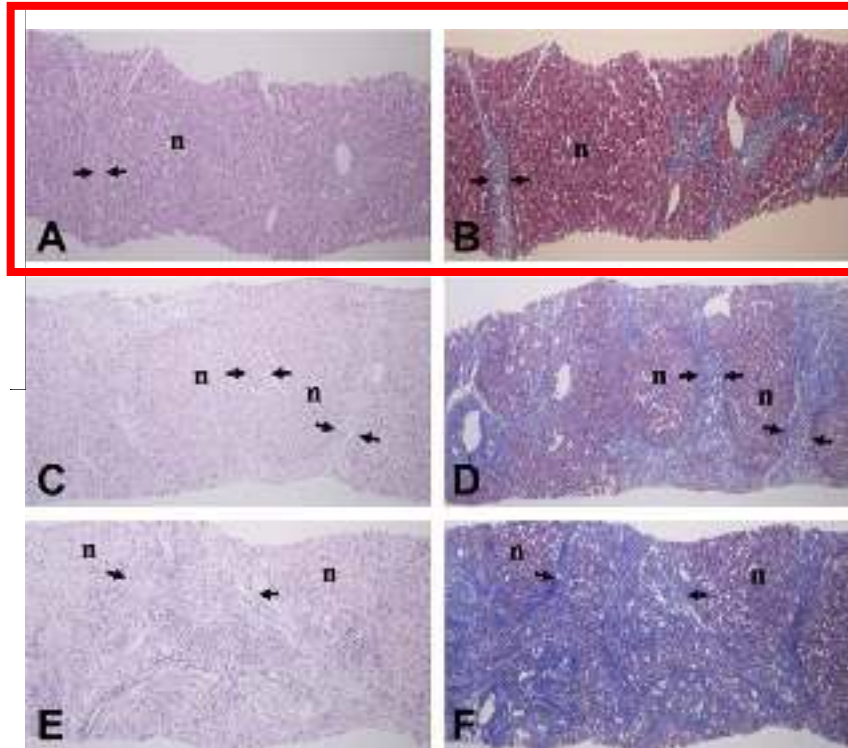
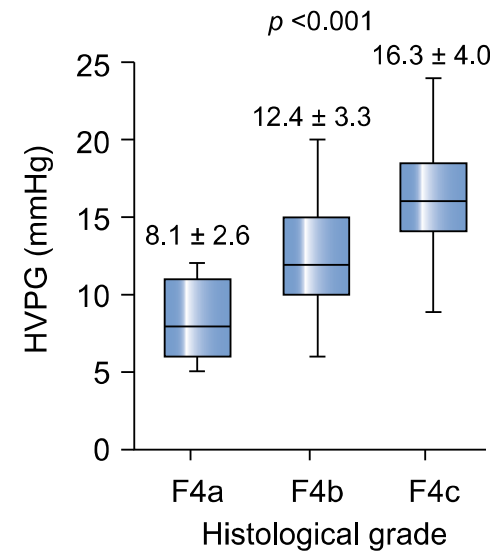


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Interim Conclusions

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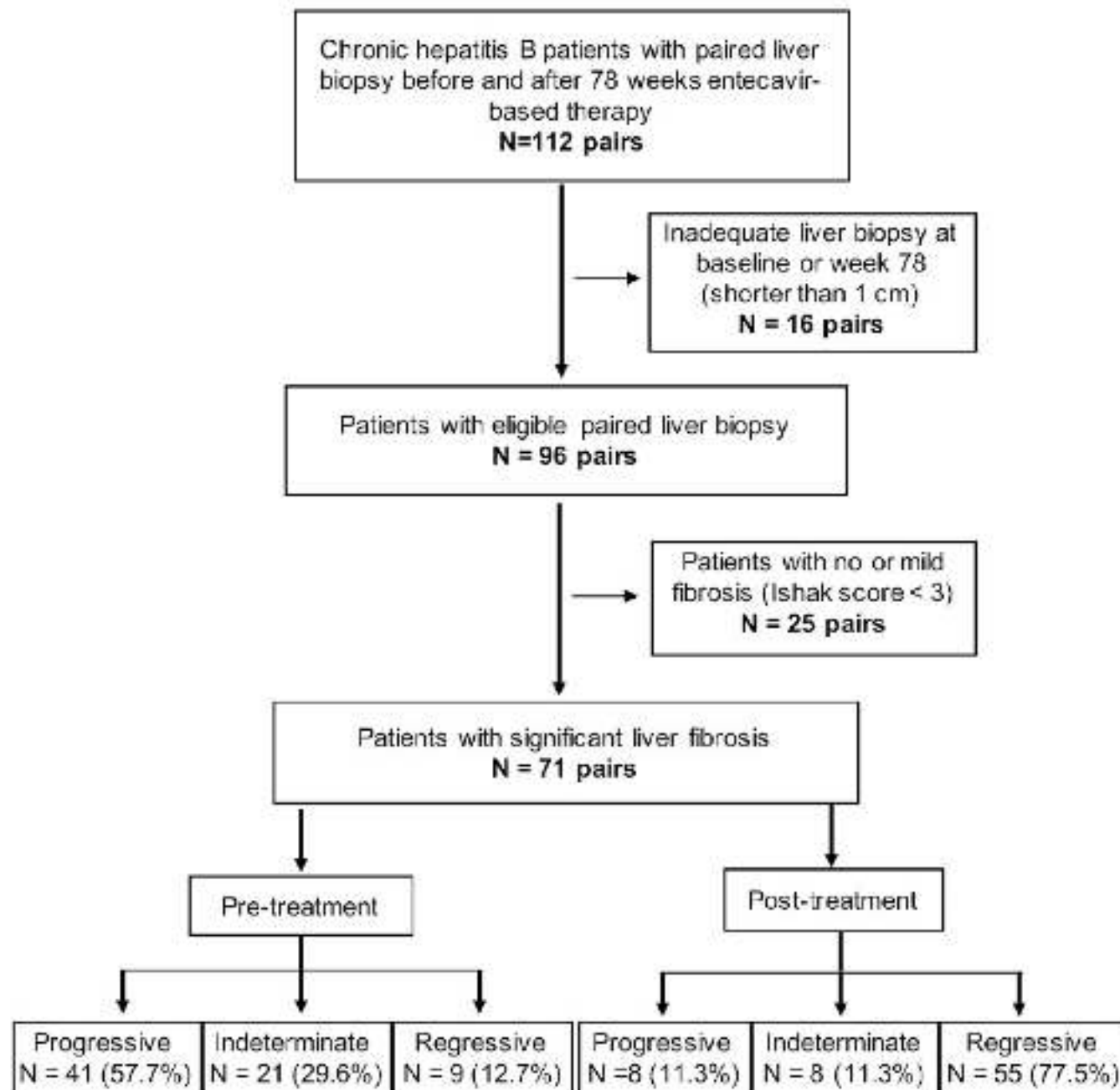
Interim Conclusions

- We need a new staging system for assessment of advanced stage (cirrhotic) liver diseases
- The system must be able to distinguish and quantify features of *regression vs. progression*.
- The new system must be *prognostic*, predicting who will resolve back to a normal liver after successful curative treatment or long term disease suppression.



New Classification of Liver Biopsy Assessment for Fibrosis in Chronic Hepatitis B Patients Before and After Treatment

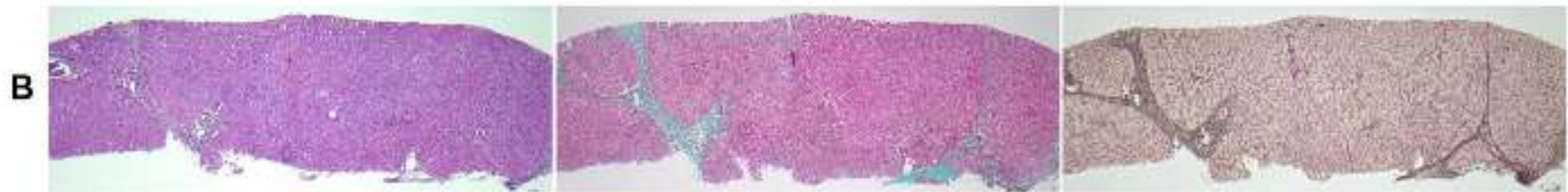
Yameng Sun,¹ Jialing Zhou,¹ Lin Wang,¹ Xiaoning Wu,¹ Yongpeng Chen,² Hongxin Piao,³ Lungen Lu,⁴ Wei Jiang,⁵
Youqing Xu,⁶ Bo Feng,⁷ Yuemin Nan,⁸ Wen Xie,⁹ Guofeng Chen,¹⁰ Huanwei Zheng,¹¹ Hai Li,¹² Huiguo Ding,¹³ Hui Lin,¹⁴
Fudong Lv,¹⁴ Chen Shao,¹⁵ Tailong Wang,¹⁵ Xiaojuan Ou,¹ Bingqiong Wang,¹ Shuyan Chen,¹ Aileen Wee,¹⁶
Neil D. Theise,¹⁷ Hong You,¹⁷ and Jialong Jia¹⁷



Predominantly progressive



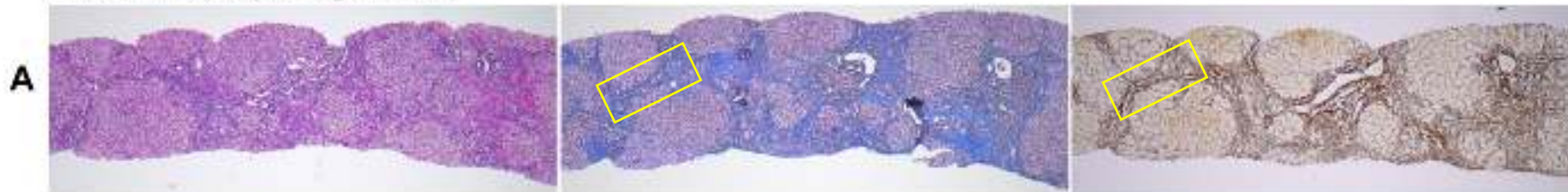
Indeterminate



Predominantly regressive



Predominantly progressive



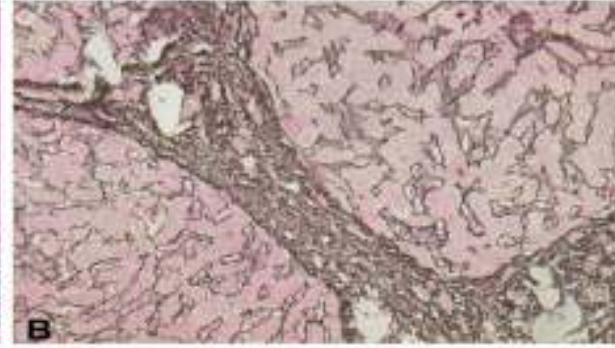
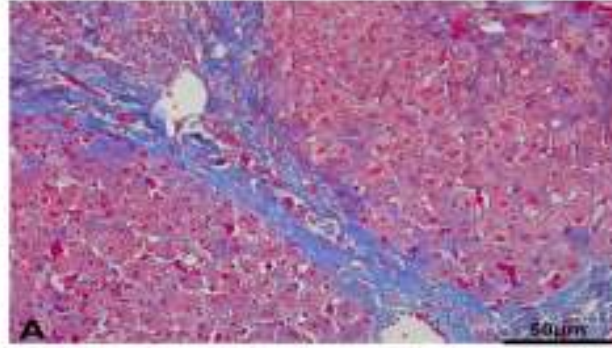
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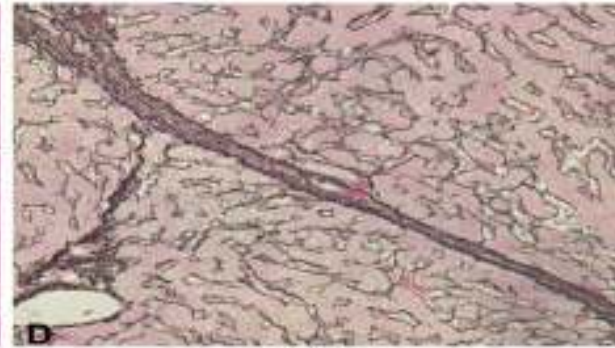
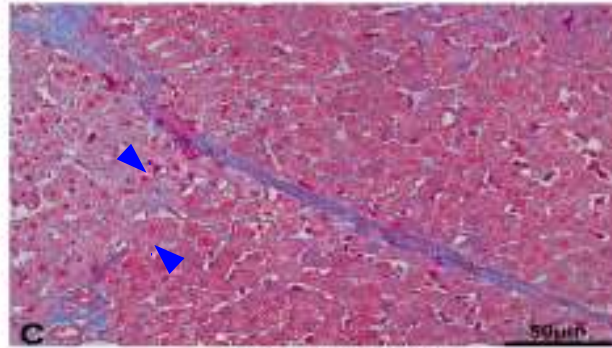
Predominantly regressive



Progressive septa



Regressive septa



Masson's Trichrome

Reticulin

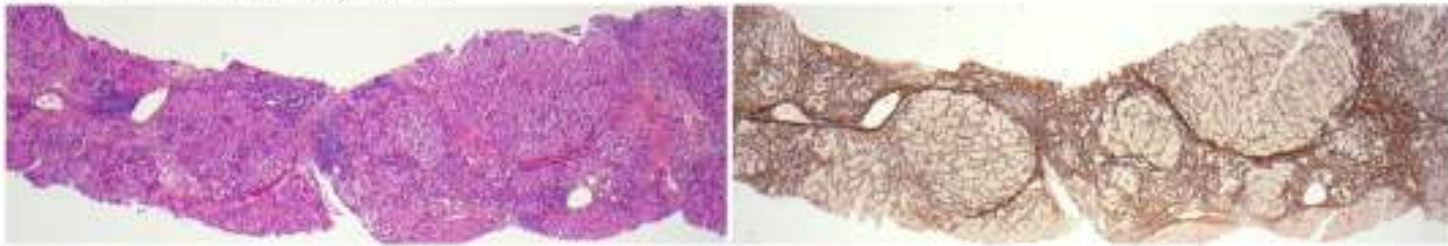
Table 4. Beijing classification for histologic assessment of chronic viral hepatitis.

Hepatitis Assessment:	Description	Prior classifications
Inactive	Portal inflammation only or rare foci of interface or lobular hepatitis; no confluent necrosis	Chronic persistent hepatitis Ishak HAI 1-5 Metavir A1
Active, non-severe	Varying degrees of interface and lobular hepatitis easily identified at low power; no confluent necrosis	Chronic active (aggressive) hepatitis Ishak HAI 5-12 Metavir A1-A2
Active, severe*	Confluent necrosis (perivenular drop out or bridging necrosis or parenchymal collapse) NOTE: This definition of severe activity raises the question of possible concomitant diseases (e.g. AIH, DILI) or immunosuppression (e.g. untreated HIV).	Chronic active (aggressive) hepatitis Ishak HAI 13-18 Metavir A3
Fibrosis Stage:		
Early	No fibrosis or portal fibrosis	Ishak 1-2 Metavir F1
Intermediate	Fibrous septa, focal or frequent	Ishak 3-4 Metavir F2-F3
Advanced	Fibrous septa with focal or diffuse nodularity (developing or established "cirrhosis")	Ishak 5-6 Metavir F3-F4
P-I-R Score:		
Predominantly P rogressive features	Most of specimen shows progressive forms of stroma	Laennec 4A** or 4B or 4C
I ndeterminate	Uncertain mix/balance between progressive and regressive stroma	Laennec 4B
Predominantly R egressive features	Most of specimens regressive forms of stroma	Laennec 4A
Not applicable	Not used in biopsies with "early stage" fibrosis, i.e. without fibrous septa	

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A Predominantly Progressive



B Indeterminant



C Predominantly Regressive



H&E

Reticulin

Table 1. Patient characteristics according to P-I-R classification pre- and post-treatment.

	Progressive	Indeterminate	Regressive	P value
Pre-treatment				
N (%)	41 (57.7)	21 (29.6)	9 (12.7)	-
Age, year	40 ± 10	39 ± 9	38 ± 9	0.739
Gender (male), n (%)	34 (82.9)	15 (71.4)	8 (88.9)	0.523
PLT, ×10 ⁹ /L	160.0 ± 55.9	168.5 ± 68.7	160.6 ± 45.8	0.859
ALT, U/L	94.7 (54.8, 167.5)	75.0 (40.2, 116.5)	35.0 (31.6, 45.1)	0.001
AST, U/L	66.0 (44.3, 140.5)	46.0 (34.5, 72.1)	33.6 (27.5, 37.6)	<0.001
ALB, g/L	41.6 (38.8, 44.1)	44.0 (41.9, 46.3)	47.2 (44.9, 50.9)	0.004
HBcAg (+), n (%)	37 (90.2)	14 (66.7)	5 (55.6)	0.013
HBV DNA, Log IU/mL	7.1 ± 1.3	6.9 ± 1.2	5.4 ± 1.6	0.003
LSM, Kpa	14.1 (11.5, 18.0)	8.9 (6.4, 11.8)	7.3 (6.8, 11.6)	<0.001
CPA	5.3 (3.3, 8.8)	3.3 (2.4, 4.5)	2.6 (1.9, 4.5)	0.001
Necroinflammation score, n (%)				<0.001
0-3, n=2	0	1 (4.8)	1 (11.1)	
4-6, n=29	9 (22.0)	13 (61.9)	7 (77.8)	
7-9, n=23	17 (41.5)	5 (23.8)	1 (11.1)	
≥10, n=17	15 (36.6)	2 (9.5)	0	
Ishak score, n (%)				0.134
3, n=11	4 (9.8)	5 (23.8)	2 (22.2)	
4, n=9	3 (7.3)	3 (14.3)	3 (33.3)	
5, n=23	14 (34.1)	6 (28.6)	3 (33.3)	
6, n=28	20 (48.8)	7 (33.3)	1 (11.1)	

Table 1. Patient characteristics according to P-I-R classification pre- and post-treatment.

	Progressive	Indeterminate	Regressive	P value
Pre-treatment				
N (%)	41 (57.7)	21 (29.6)	9 (12.7)	-
Age, year	40 ± 10	39 ± 9	38 ± 9	0.739
Gender (male), n (%)	34 (82.9)	15 (71.4)	8 (88.9)	0.523
PLT, ×10 ⁹ /L	160.0 ± 55.9	168.5 ± 68.7	160.6 ± 45.8	0.859
ALT, U/L	94.7 (54.8, 167.5)	75.0 (40.2, 116.5)	35.0 (31.6, 45.1)	0.001
AST, U/L	66.0 (44.3, 140.5)	46.0 (34.5, 72.1)	33.6 (27.5, 37.6)	<0.001
ALB, g/L	41.6 (38.8, 44.1)	44.0 (41.9, 46.3)	47.2 (44.9, 50.9)	0.004
HBcAg (+), n (%)	37 (90.2)	14 (66.7)	5 (55.6)	0.013
HBV DNA, Log IU/mL	7.1 ± 1.3	6.9 ± 1.2	5.4 ± 1.6	0.003
LSM, Kpa	14.1 (11.5, 18.0)	8.9 (6.4, 11.8)	7.3 (6.8, 11.6)	<0.001
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Necroinflammation score, n (%)				<0.001
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4-6, n=29	9 (22.0)	13 (61.9)	7 (77.8)	
7-9, n=23	17 (41.5)	5 (23.8)	1 (11.1)	
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6, n=28	20 (48.8)	7 (33.3)	1 (11.1)	

Progressive
Ishak 6, Laennec 4C
Fibroscan, 17.2Kpa



Regressive
Ishak 6, Laennec 4A
Fibroscan, 8.2Kpa



Progressive
Ishak 6, Laennec 4C
Fibroscan, 35.3Kpa



Regressive
Ishak 6, Laennec 4A
Fibroscan, 10.0Kpa



Table 2. Post-treatment P-I-R score versus changes of Ishak stage to evaluate disease progress or reverse.

Ishak (pre-post)	Post-treatment P-I-R score		
	n=71		
	Progressive n=8	Indeterminate n=8	Regressive n=55
Increase, n=3	Absolutely advancing 67% (2/3)	0	33% (1/3)
Stable, n=35	Probably advancing 17% (6/35)	11% (4/35)	Probably reversing 72% (25/35)
Decrease, n=33	0	12% (4/33)	Absolutely reversing 88% (29/33)

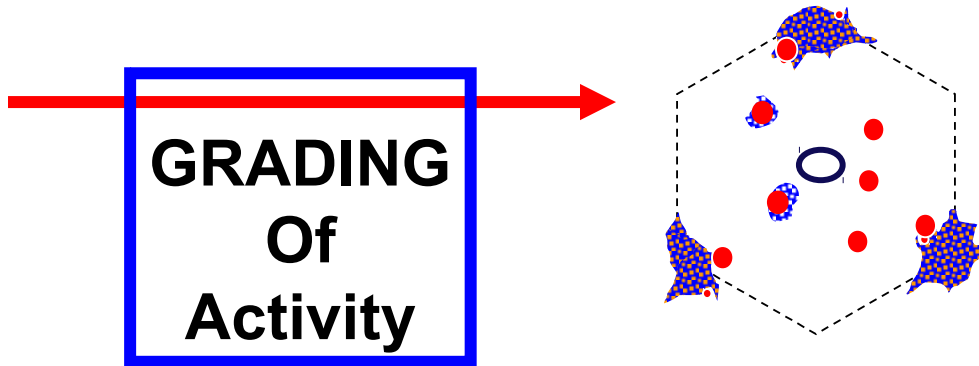
Supplementary Table 4. Inter-observer variation of P-I-R score.

	Kappa value	Strength of agreement*
P-I-R score	<u>0.71</u>	Substantial
Interpretation of Kappa value*	<0	Poor
	0.01-0.20	Slight
	0.21-0.40	Fair
	0.41-0.60	Moderate
	0.61-0.80	Substantial
	0.81-1.00	Almost perfect

*Landis JR, et al. The measurement of observer agreement for categorical data. *Biometrics* 1977;33:159-174.

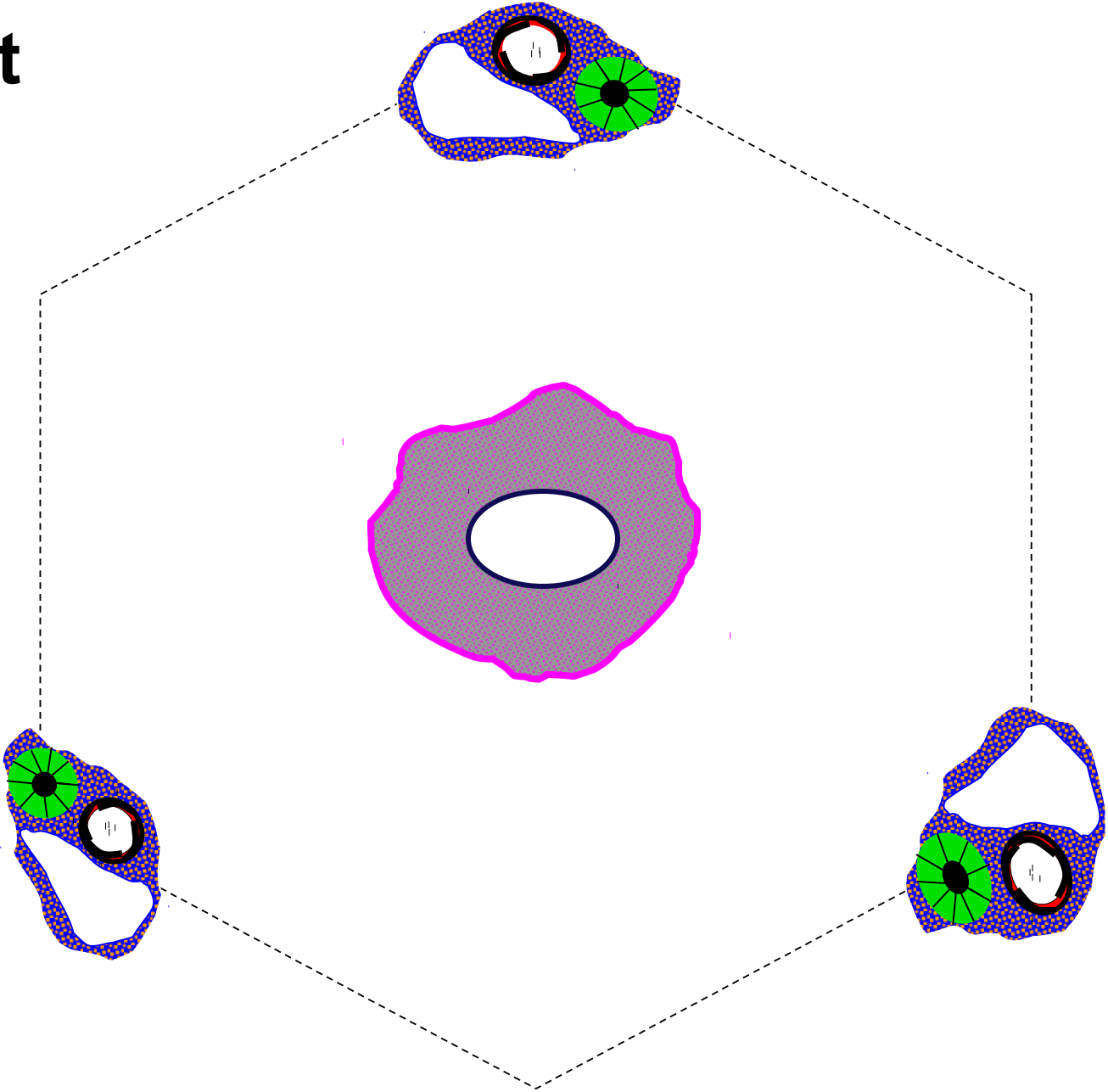
Table 4. Beijing classification for histologic assessment of chronic viral hepatitis.

<u>Hepatitis Assessment:</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Prior classifications</u>
Inactive	Portal inflammation only or rare foci of interface or lobular hepatitis; no confluent necrosis	Chronic persistent hepatitis Ishak HAI 1-5 Metavir A1
Active, non-severe	Varying degrees of interface and lobular hepatitis easily identified at low power; no confluent necrosis	Chronic active (aggressive) hepatitis Ishak HAI 5-12 Metavir A1-A2
Active, severe*	Confluent necrosis (perivenular drop out or bridging necrosis or parenchymal collapse) NOTE: This definition of severe activity raises the question of possible concomitant diseases (e.g. AIH, DILI) or immunosuppression (e.g. untreated HIV).	Chronic active (aggressive) hepatitis Ishak HAI 13-18 Metavir A3
<u>Fibrosis Stage:</u>		
Early	No fibrosis or portal fibrosis	Ishak 1-2 Metavir F1
Intermediate	Fibrous septa, focal or frequent	Ishak 3-4 Metavir F2-F3
Advanced	Fibrous septa with focal or diffuse nodularity (developing or established "cirrhosis")	Ishak 5-6 Metavir F3-F4
<u>P-I-R Score:</u>		
Predominantly P rogressive features	Most of specimen shows progressive forms of stroma	Laennec 4A** or 4B or 4C
I ndeterminate	Uncertain mix/balance between progressive and regressive stroma	Laennec 4B
Predominantly R egressive features	Most of specimens regressive forms of stroma	Laennec 4A
Not applicable	Not used in biopsies with "early stage" fibrosis, i.e. without fibrous septa	

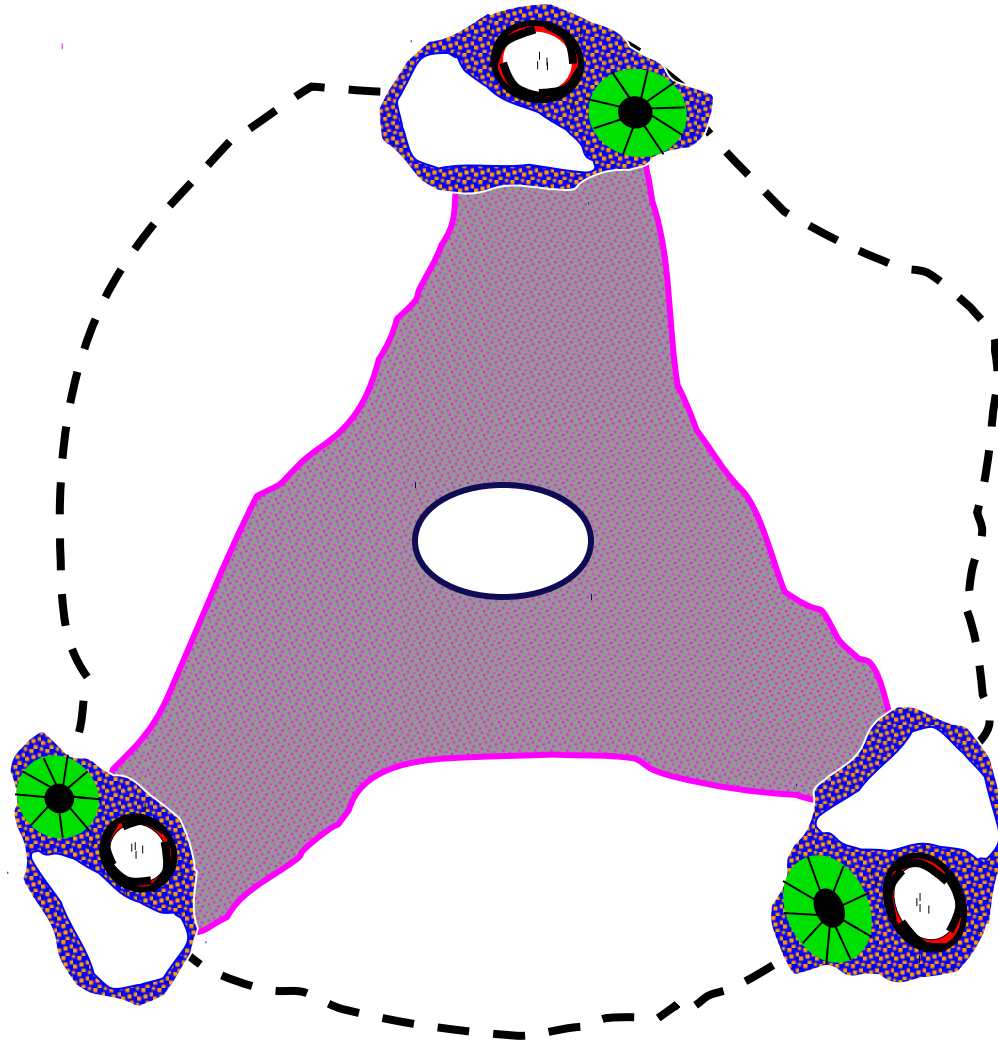


- Portal inflammation
- Interface hepatitis
- Lobular hepatitis
- Confluent necrosis

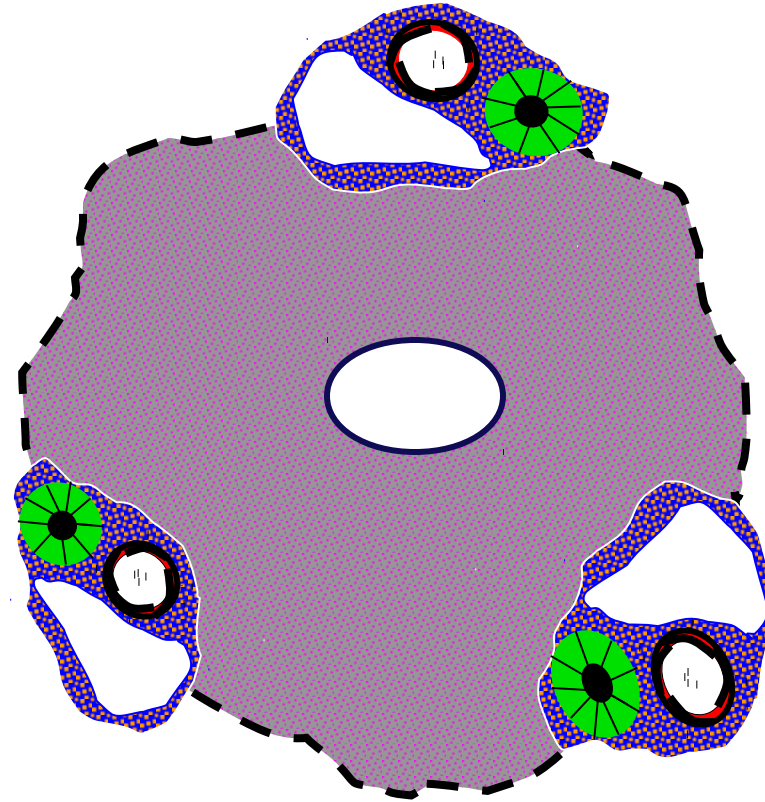
Confluent Necrosis

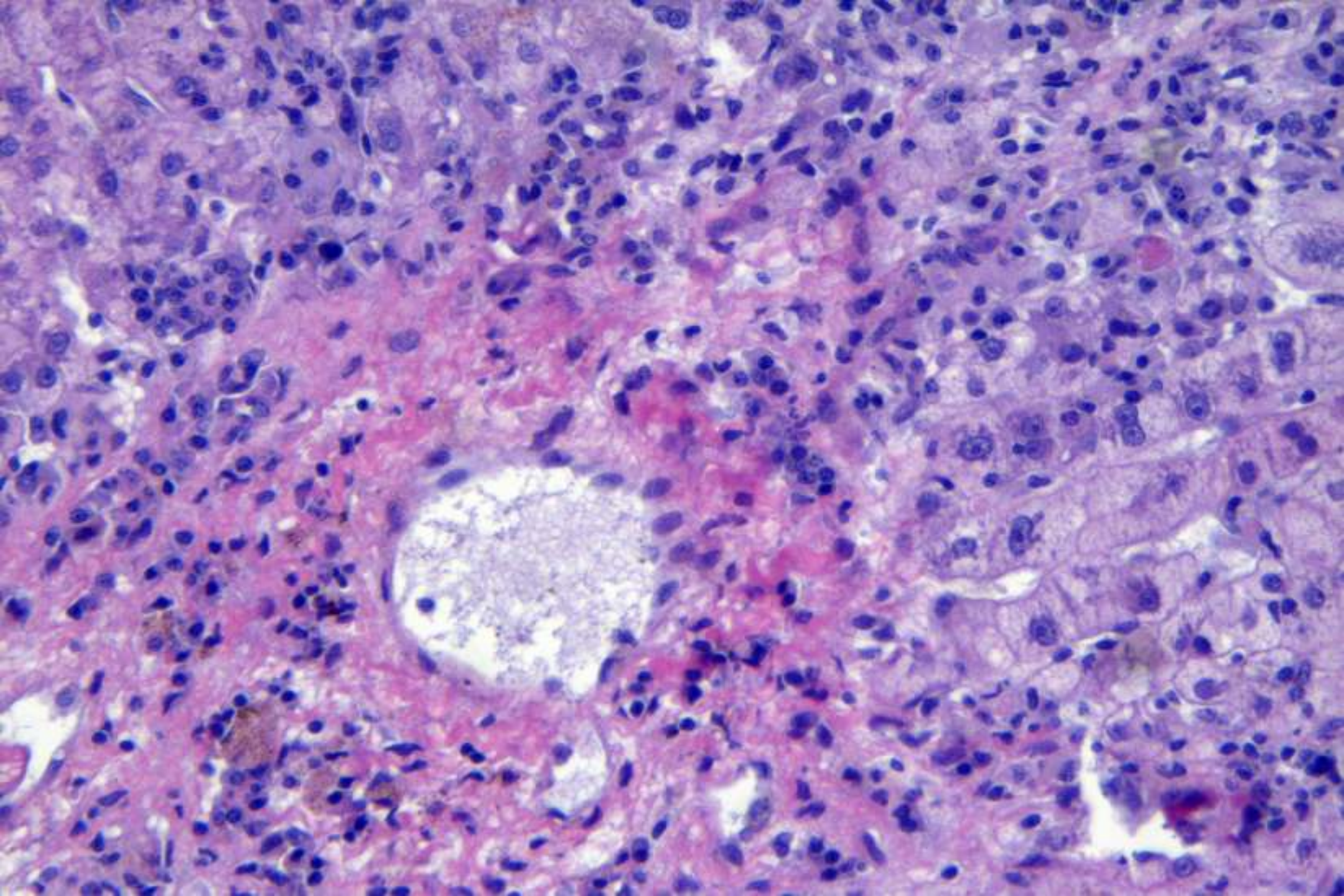


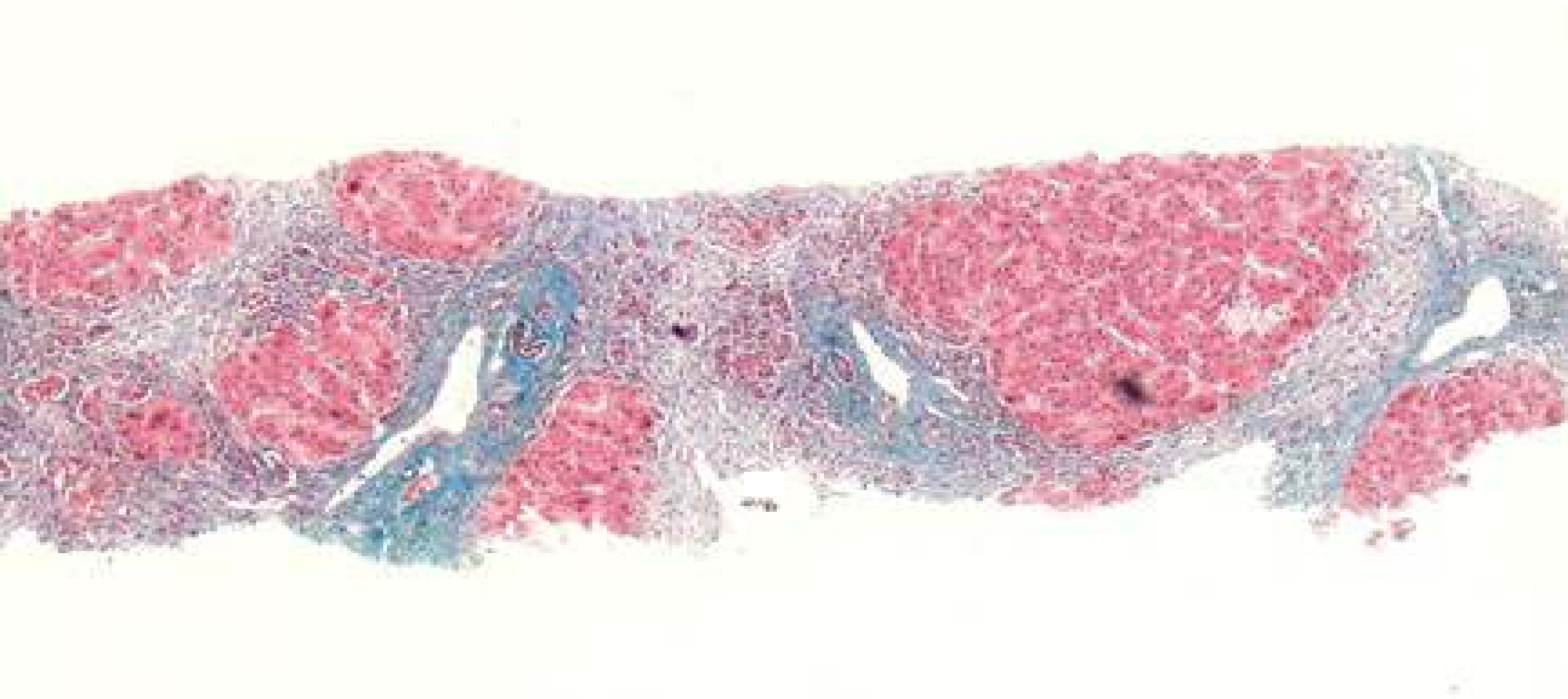
Confluent Necrosis



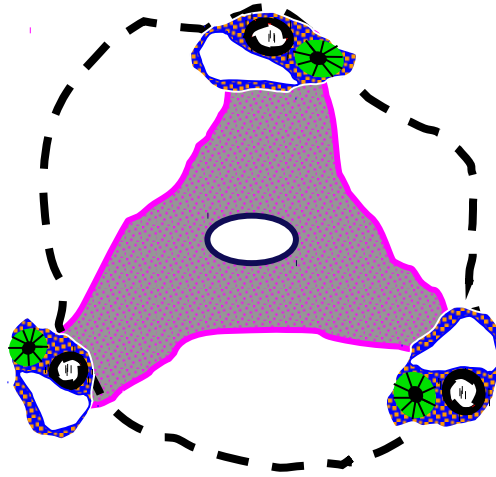
Confluent Necrosis





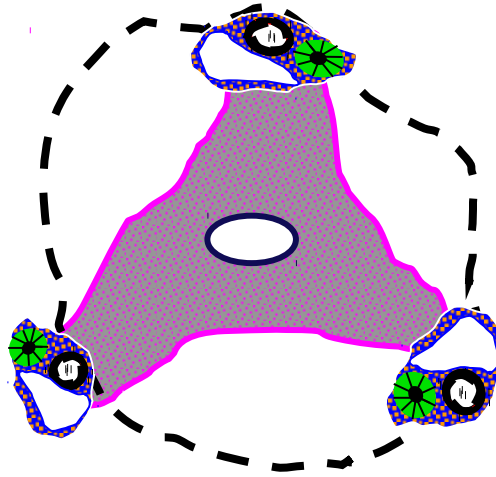


Bridging confluent necrosis



Confluent necrosis in HBV, think about:

- HBeAg to Ab conversion
- **HDV super-infection on HBV**
- **HIV co-infection**
- **Autoimmune hepatitis**
- **Drug/toxin induced injury, as always**



Confluent necrosis in HCV, think about:

- HCV acute exacerbation
- **HIV co-infection**
- **Autoimmune hepatitis**
- **Drug/toxin induced injury, as always**

Table 4. Beijing classification for histologic assessment of chronic viral hepatitis.

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<u>P-I-R Score:</u>		
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I ndeterminate	Uncertain mix/balance between progressive and regressive stroma	Laennec 4B
Predominantly R egressive features	Most of specimens regressive forms of stroma	Laennec 4A
Not applicable	Not used in biopsies with "early stage" fibrosis, i.e. without fibrous septa	

Beyond "Cirrhosis"

A Proposal From the International Liver Pathology Study Group

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REVIEW

Role of aetiology in the progression, regression, and parenchymal remodelling of liver disease: implications for liver biopsy interpretation

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