

# Corneal Dystrophies and Simulating Lesions

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**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
OF NEUROPATHOLOGISTS**

# Disclosures

- I have no relevant financial relationships to disclose



# Learning Objectives

- Learning Objective #1
  - Classify key corneal dystrophies
- Learning Objective #2
  - Identify pertinent clinical and pathologic features of key corneal dystrophies
- Learning Objective #3
  - Distinguish key corneal dystrophies from simulating dystrophic, degenerative, and neoplastic disease processes



# Corneal dystrophies and simulating lesions

## I. Normal histology

## II. Dystrophies

- Epithelial and subepithelial dystrophies
- Epithelial-stromal TGFBI dystrophies
- Stromal dystrophies
- Endothelial dystrophies

## III. Virtual slides

**Epithelium (~50  $\mu\text{m}$ )**



**Bowman Membrane (Layer)  
(~10-15  $\mu\text{m}$ )**

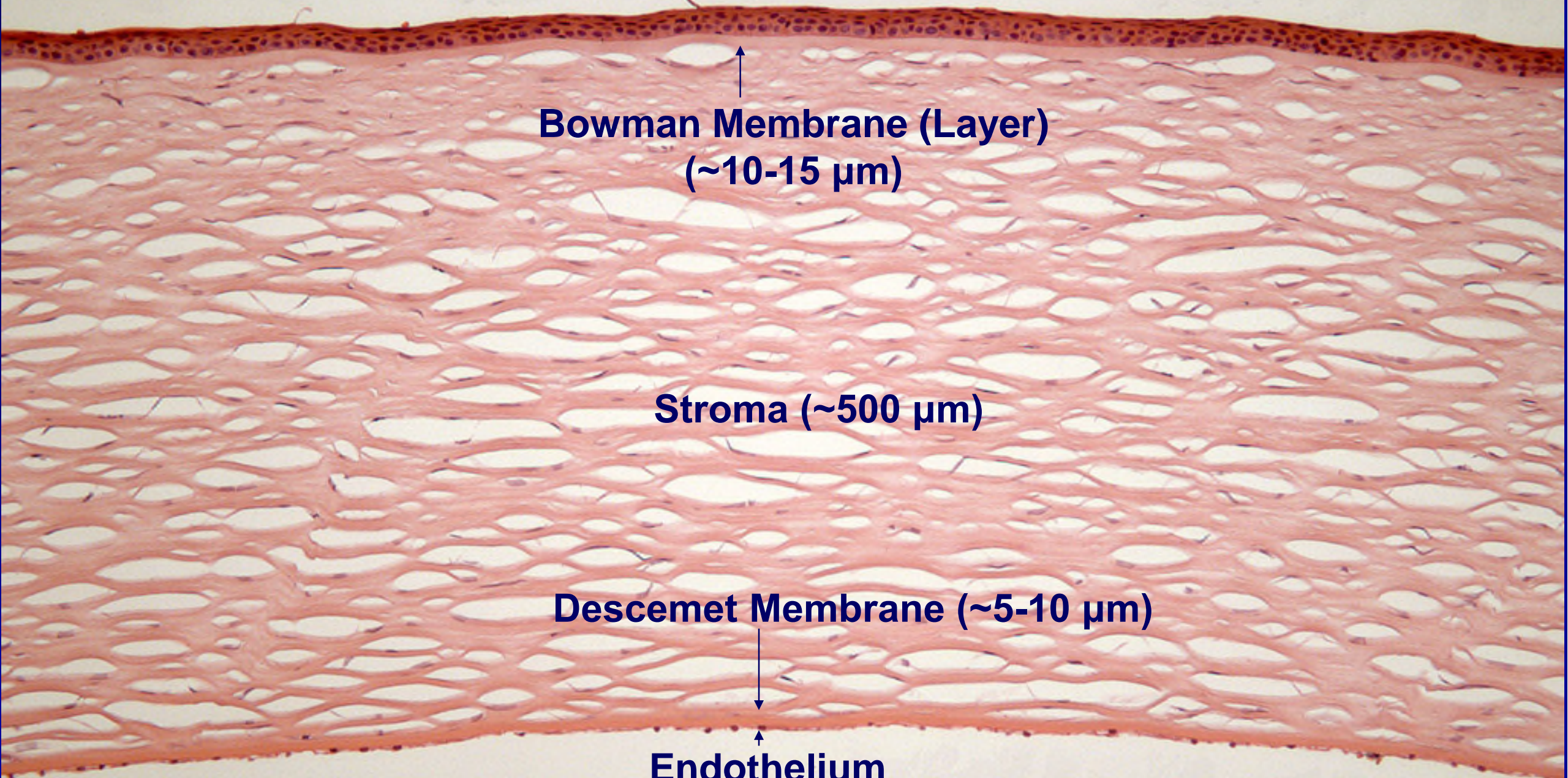


**Stroma (~500  $\mu\text{m}$ )**

**Descemet Membrane (~5-10  $\mu\text{m}$ )**



**Endothelium**



**keratocyte**

**stromal lamellae**

endothelial membrane stroma – Dua's layer

**Descemet membrane**

endothelium

**endothelium**

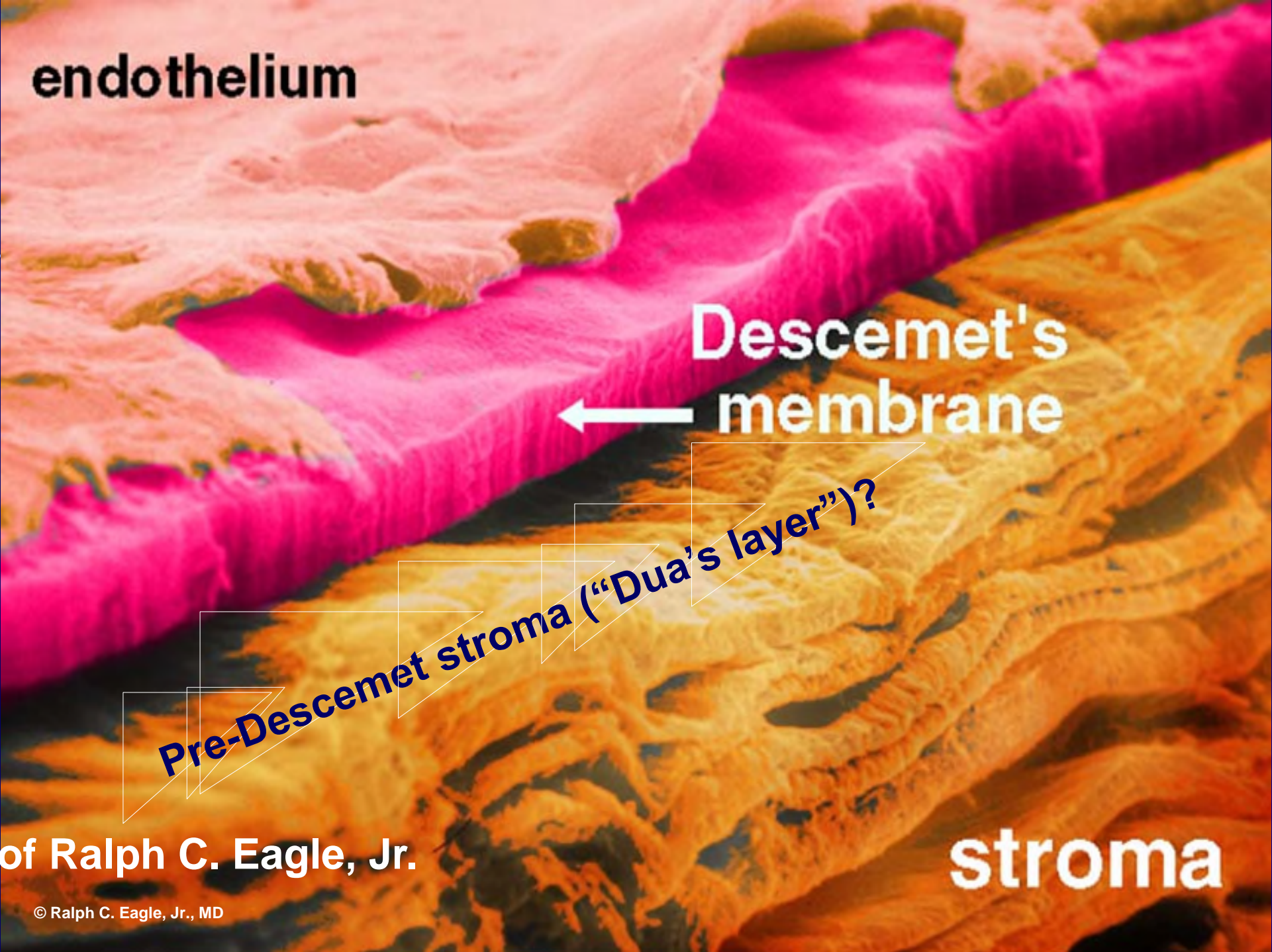
**Descemet's  
membrane**

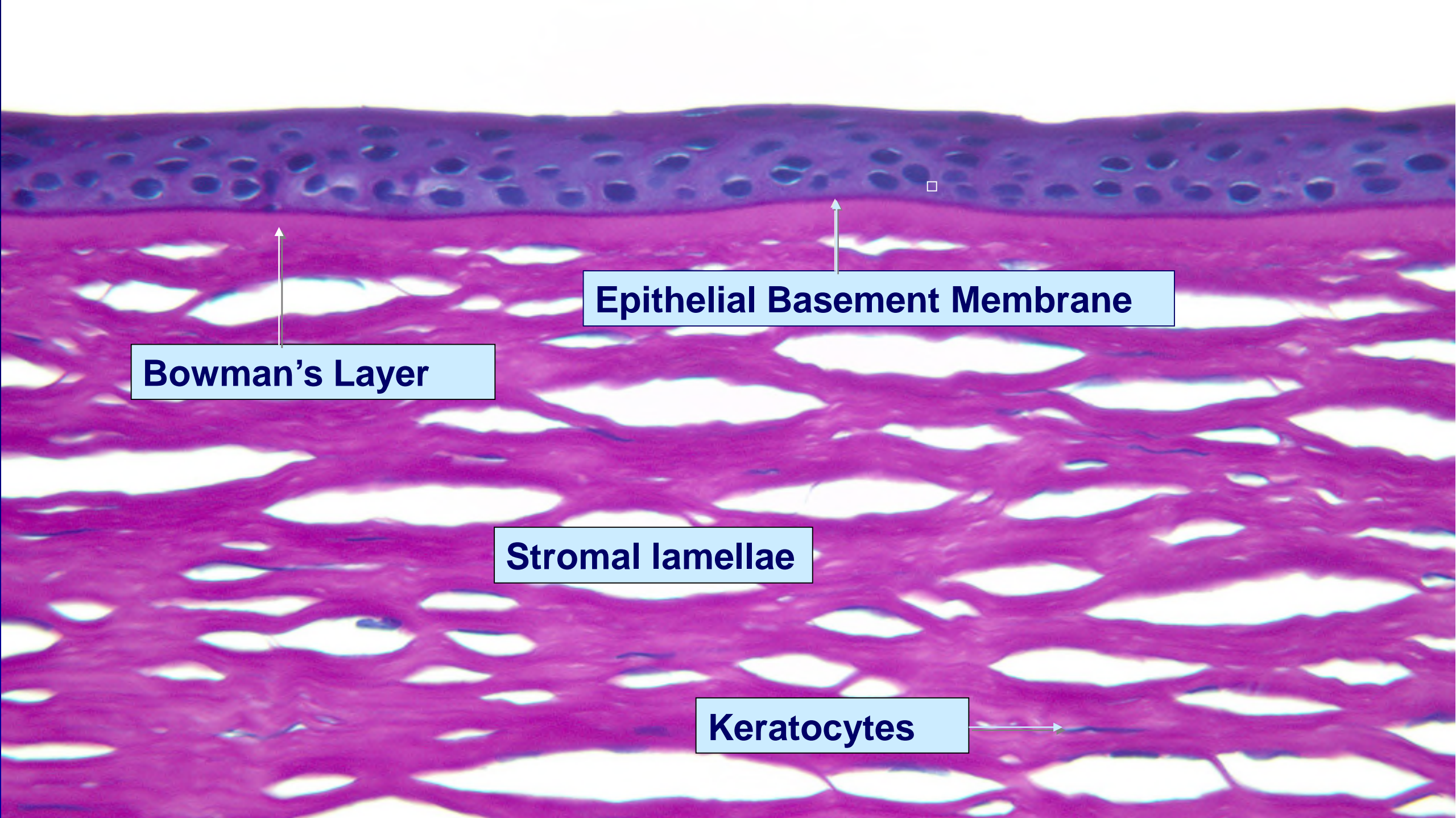
**Pre-Descemet stroma ("Dua's layer")?**

**stroma**

**Courtesy of Ralph C. Eagle, Jr.**

© Ralph C. Eagle, Jr., MD





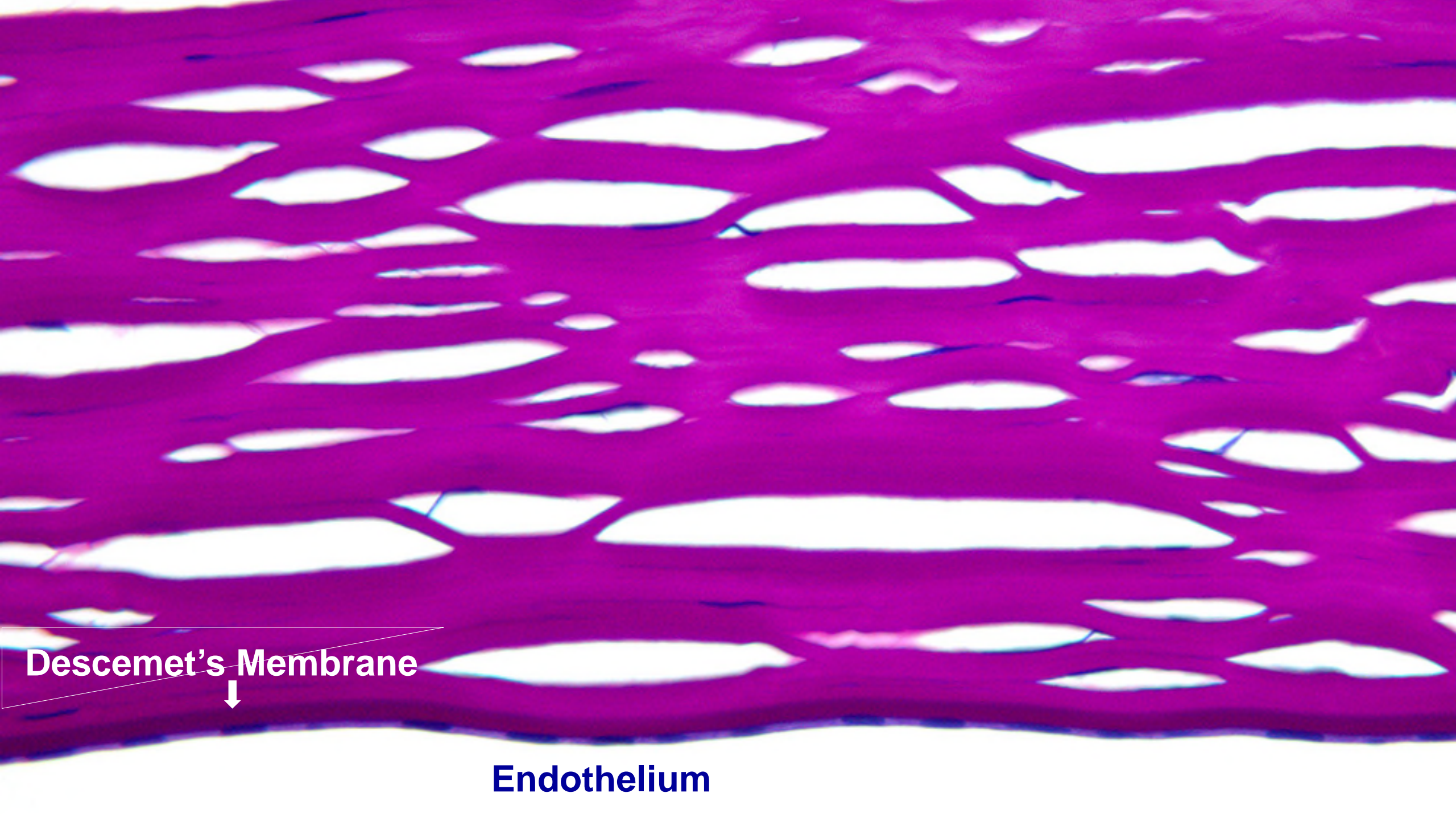
**Bowman's Layer**

**Epithelial Basement Membrane**

**Stromal lamellae**

**Keratocytes**



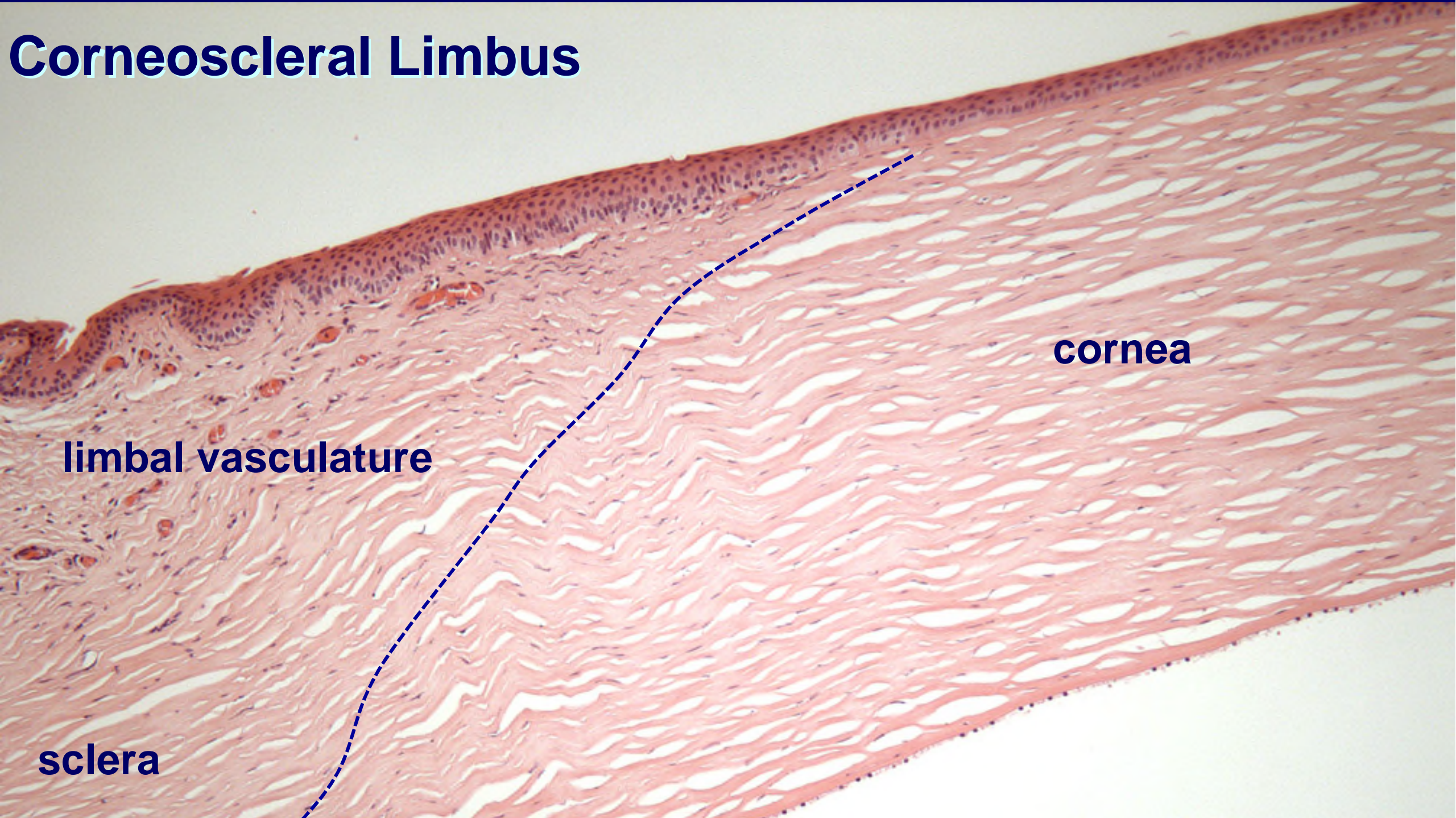


**Descemet's Membrane**



**Endothelium**

# Corneoscleral Limbus



limbal vasculature

cornea

sclera

# Corneal dystrophies and simulating lesions

## I. Normal histology

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- Epithelial-stromal TGFBI dystrophies
- Stromal dystrophies
- Endothelial dystrophies

## III. Virtual slides

## IC3D Classification of Corneal Dystrophies—Edition 2

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John Sutphin, MD,¶¶ Massimo Busin, MD,||| Antoine Labbé, MD,\*\*\* Kenneth R. Kenyon, MD,†††  
Shigeru Kinoshita, MD, PhD,‡‡‡ and Walter Lisch, MD§§§*

**Cornea 2015 Feb;34(2):117-59. doi: 10.1097/ICO.0000000000000307.**

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**Purpose:** To update the 2008 International Classification of Corneal Dystrophies (IC3D) incorporating new clinical, histopathologic, and genetic information.

**Methods:** The IC3D reviewed worldwide peer-reviewed articles for new information on corneal dystrophies published between 2008 and 2014. Using this information, corneal dystrophy templates and anatomic classification were updated. New clinical, histopathologic, and confocal photographs were added.

actually includes a number of potentially distinct epithelial dystrophies (Franceschetti corneal dystrophy, Dystrophia Smolandensis, and Dystrophia Helsinglandica) but must be differentiated from dystrophies such as *TGFBI*-induced dystrophies, which are also often associated with recurrent epithelial erosions. The chromosome locus of Thiel-Behnke corneal dystrophy is only located on 5q31. The entity previously designated as a variant of Thiel-Behnke corneal dystrophy on chromosome 10q24 may represent a novel corneal dystrophy. Congenital hereditary endothelial dystrophy (CHED, formerly CHED2) is most likely only on

# The Cornea

## I. Normal histology

## II. Dystrophies

- Epithelial and subepithelial dystrophies
- Epithelial-stromal TGFBI dystrophies
- Stromal dystrophies
- Endothelial dystrophies

## III. Keratoectasia

# Epithelial and subepithelial dystrophies

1. Epithelial basement membrane dystrophy (EBMD)
2. Lisch epithelial corneal dystrophy (LECD)
3. Meesmann corneal dystrophy (MECD)
4. Gelatinous drop-like corneal dystrophy (GDLD)
5. Epithelial recurrent erosion dystrophies (EREDs)
6. Subepithelial mucinous corneal dystrophy

# Meesmann Dystrophy

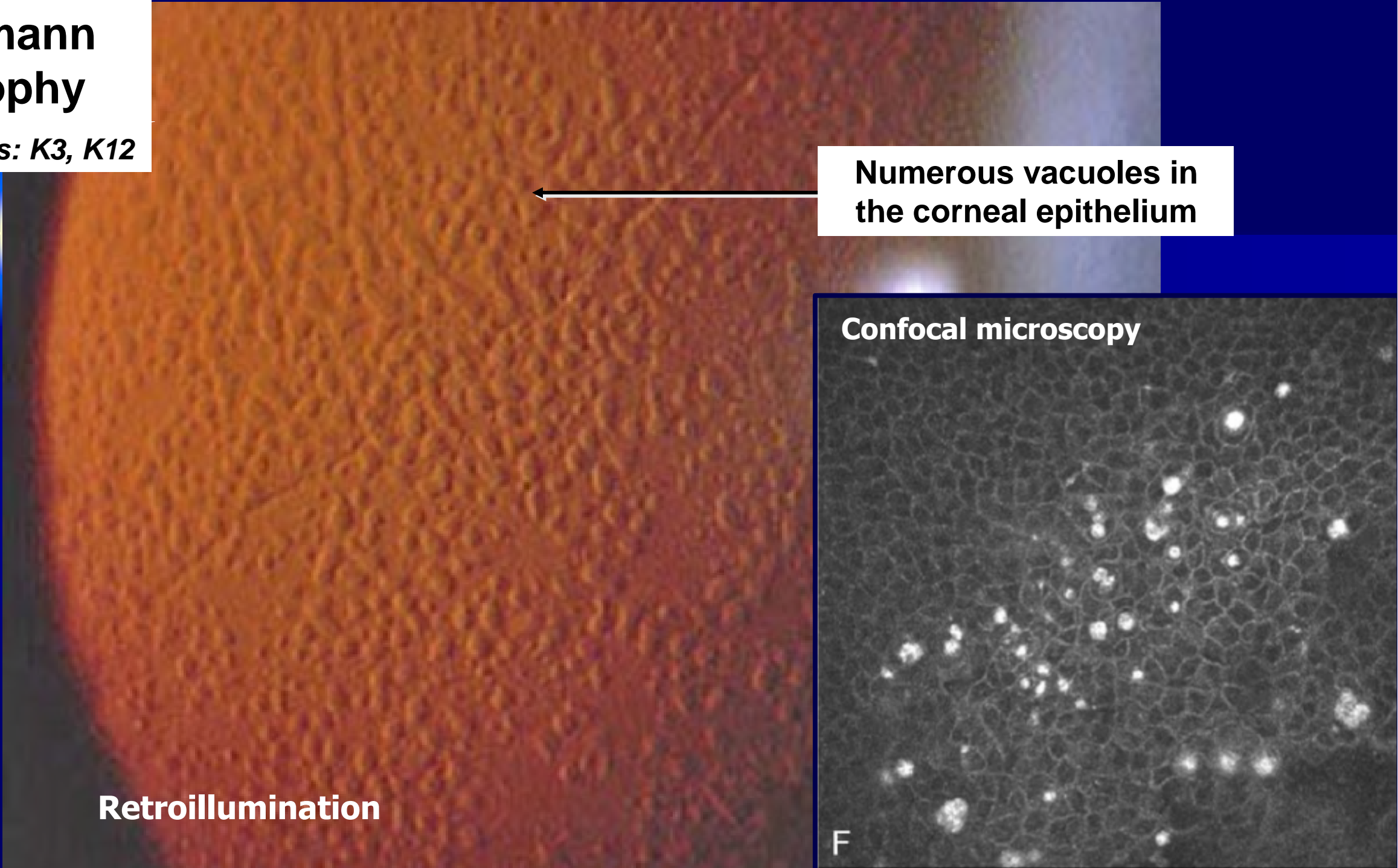
*AD, Genes: K3, K12*

Numerous vacuoles in  
the corneal epithelium

Confocal microscopy

Retroillumination

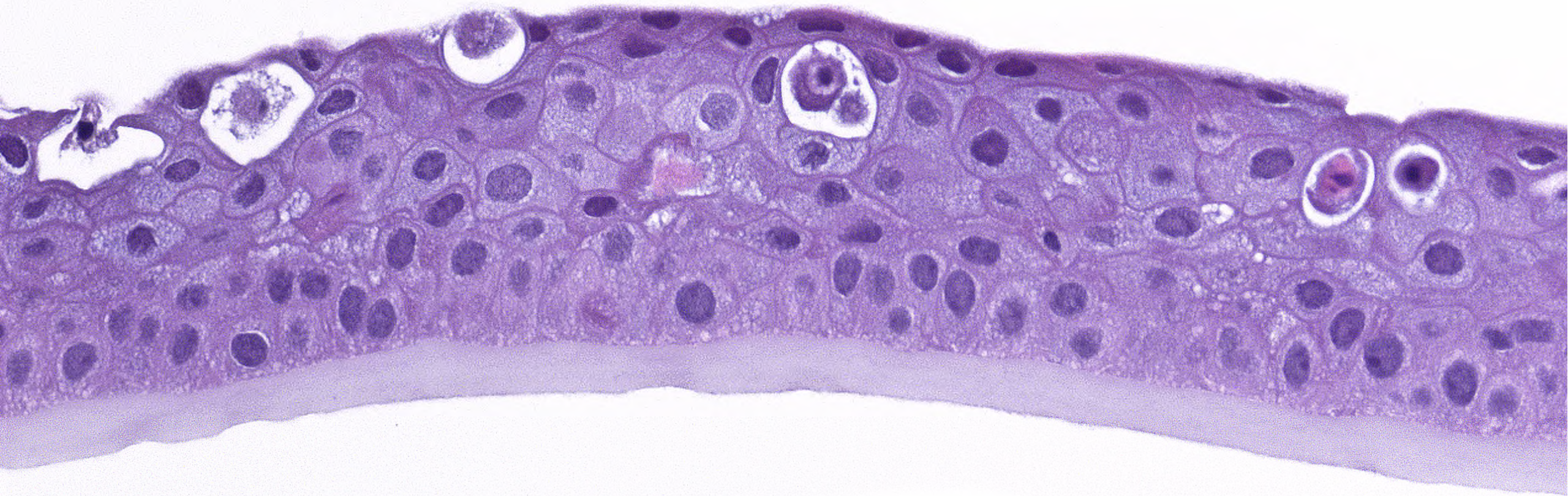
F



# Meesmann Dystrophy

Morphologically abnormal, vacuolated epithelial cells  
and intraepithelial cysts (degenerated epithelial cells)

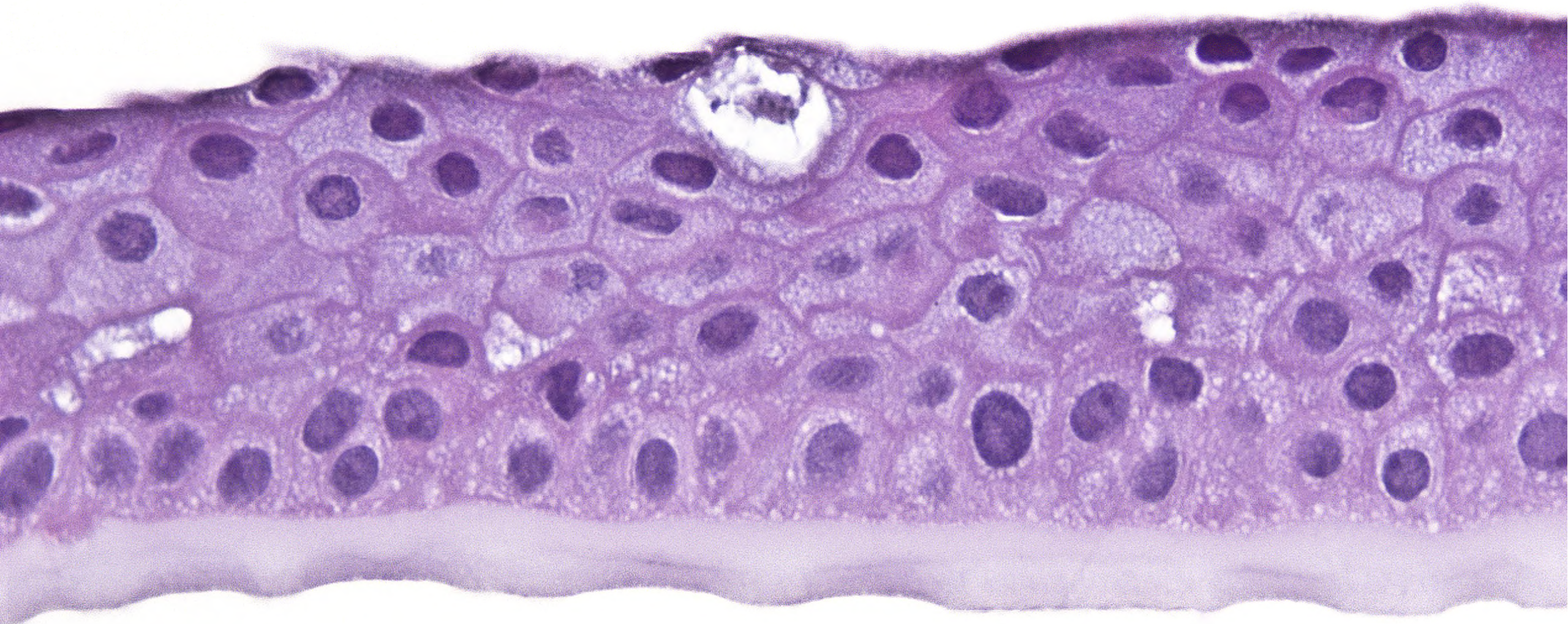
*AD, Genes: K3, K12*



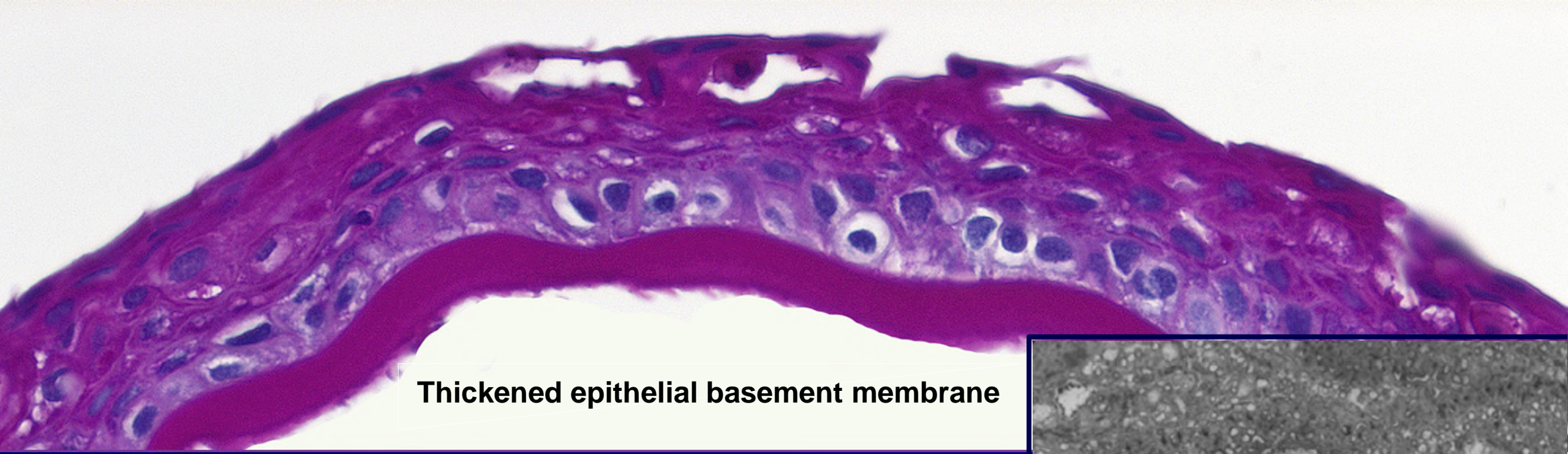
**Thickened epithelial basement membrane**



**Morphologically abnormal, vacuolated epithelial cells  
and intraepithelial cysts (degenerated epithelial cells)**



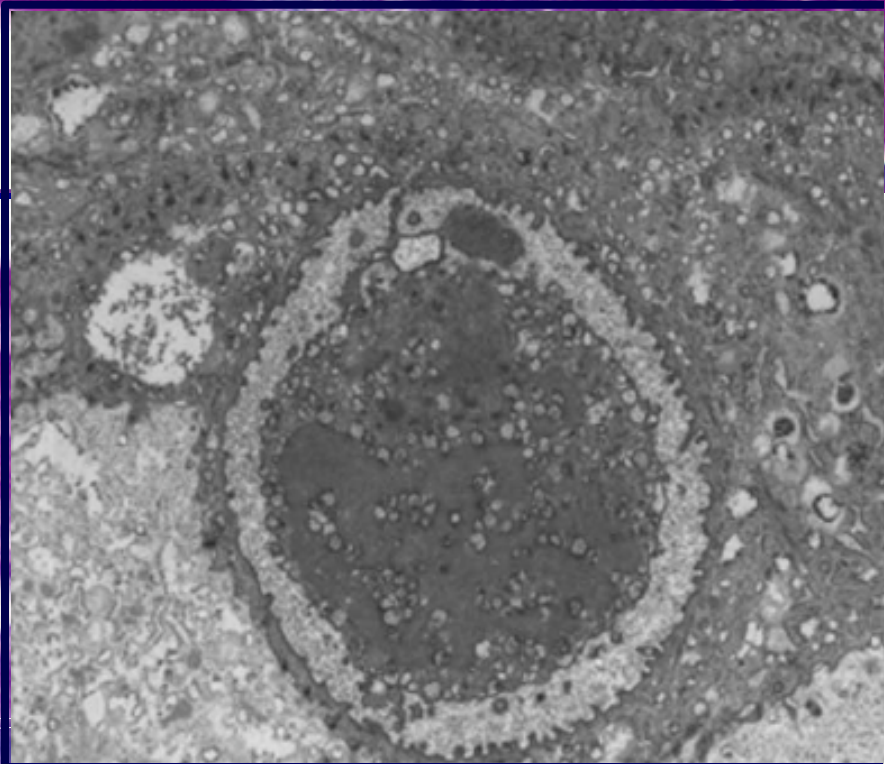
**Thickened epithelial basement membrane**



**Thickened epithelial basement membrane**

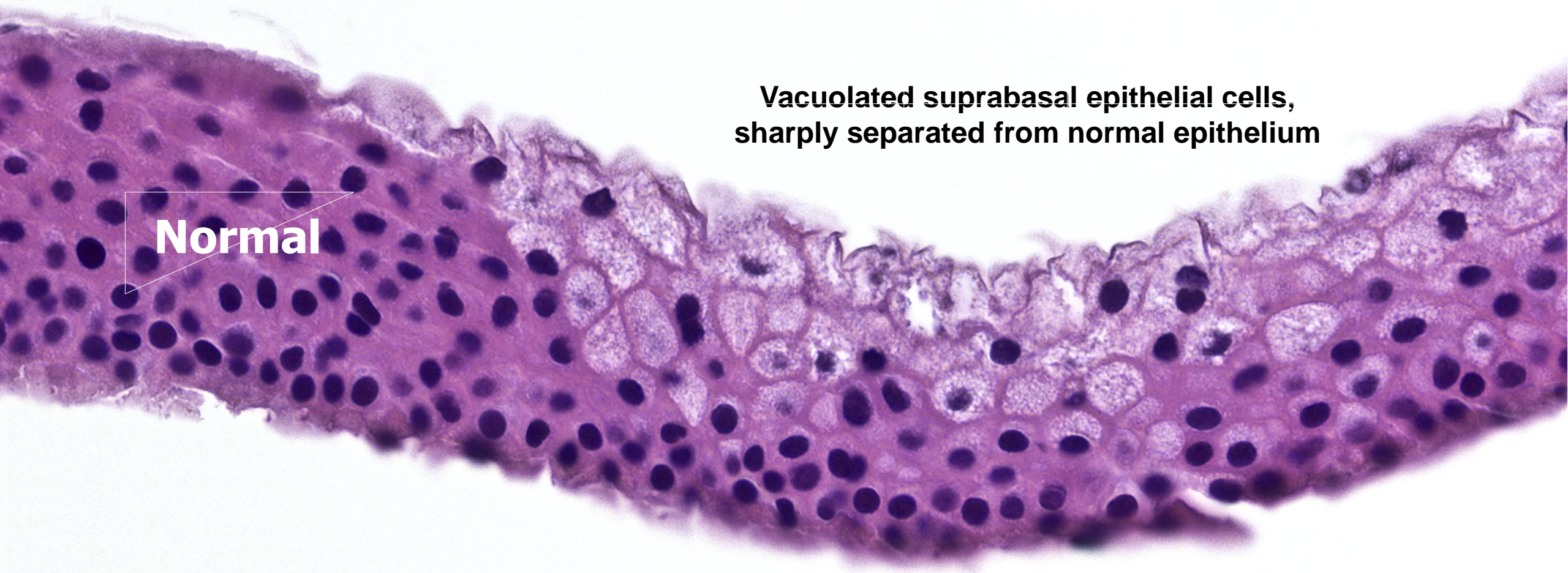


**Morphologically abnormal, vacuolated epithelial cells and intraepithelial cysts with PAS-positive, partially diastase-sensitive debris**



**"Peculiar substance" – tangle of cytokeratins surrounded by fibrogranular material**

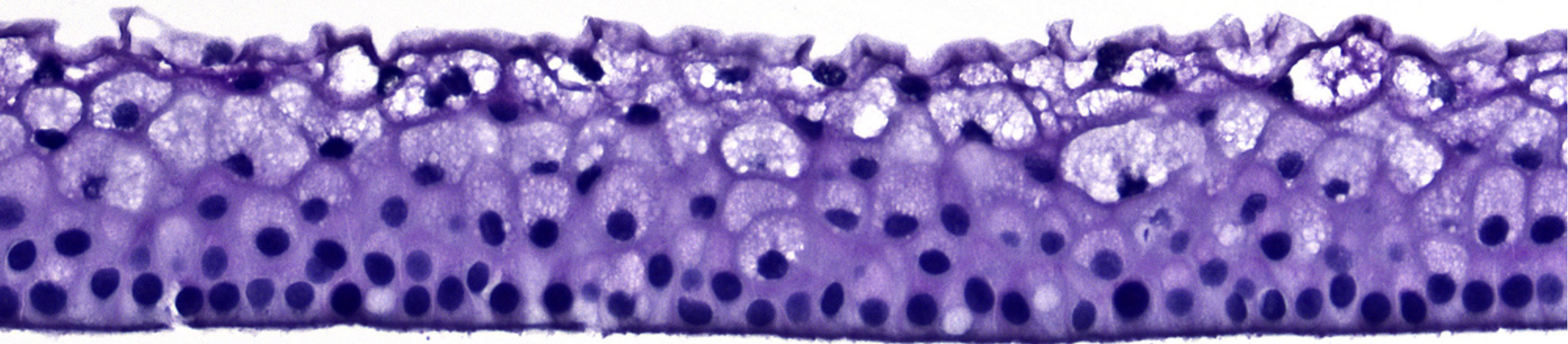




**Vacuolated suprabasal epithelial cells,  
sharply separated from normal epithelium**

**Normal**

**No appreciable thickening of epithelial basement membrane**



**Suprabasal vacuolated epithelial cells, mostly PAS-negative**

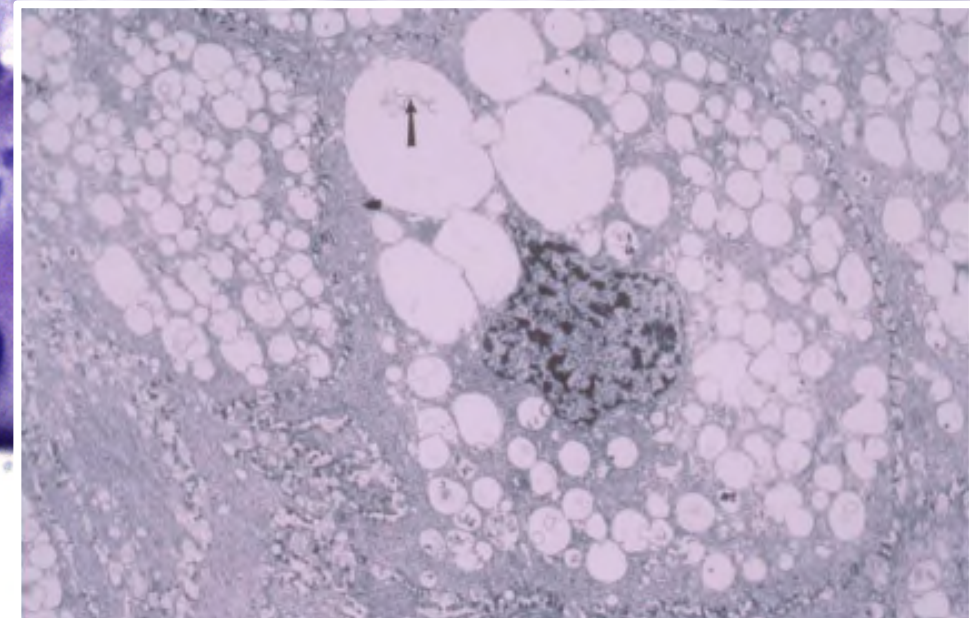
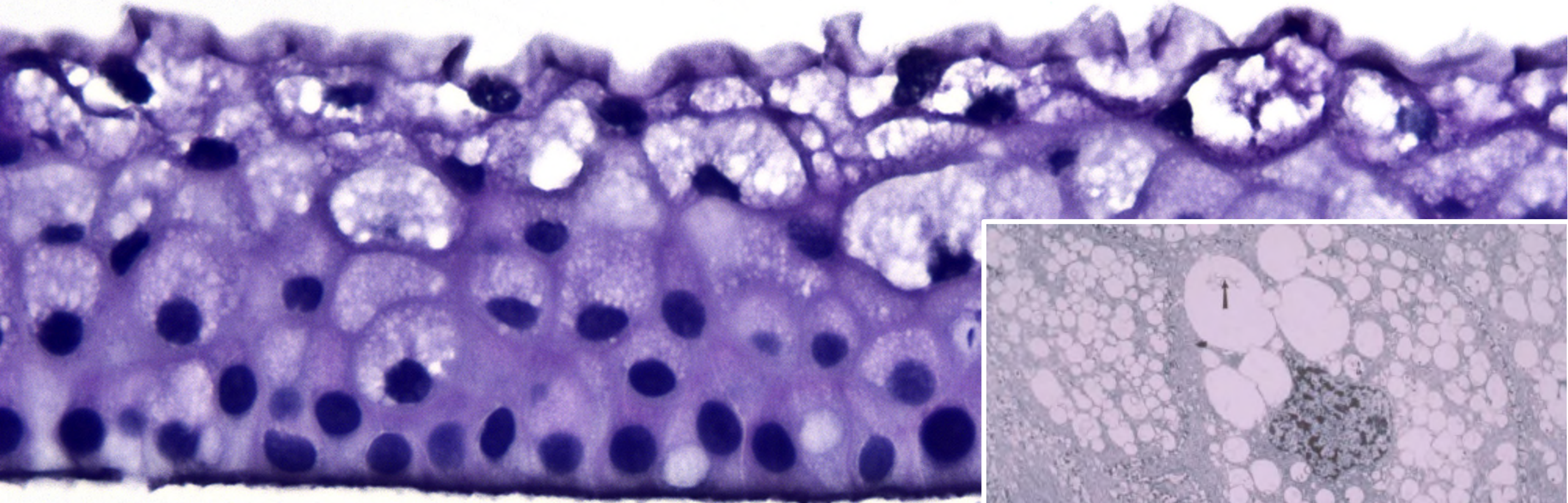
**Rare foci of PAS-positive, diastase-sensitive debris (glycogen)**

**No appreciable epithelial basement membrane thickening**

Suprabasal vacuolated epithelial cells, mostly PAS-negative

Rare foci of PAS-positive, diastase-sensitive debris (glycogen)

No appreciable epithelial basement membrane thickening



Intracytoplasmic empty vacuoles

# Epithelial Basement Membrane Dystrophy

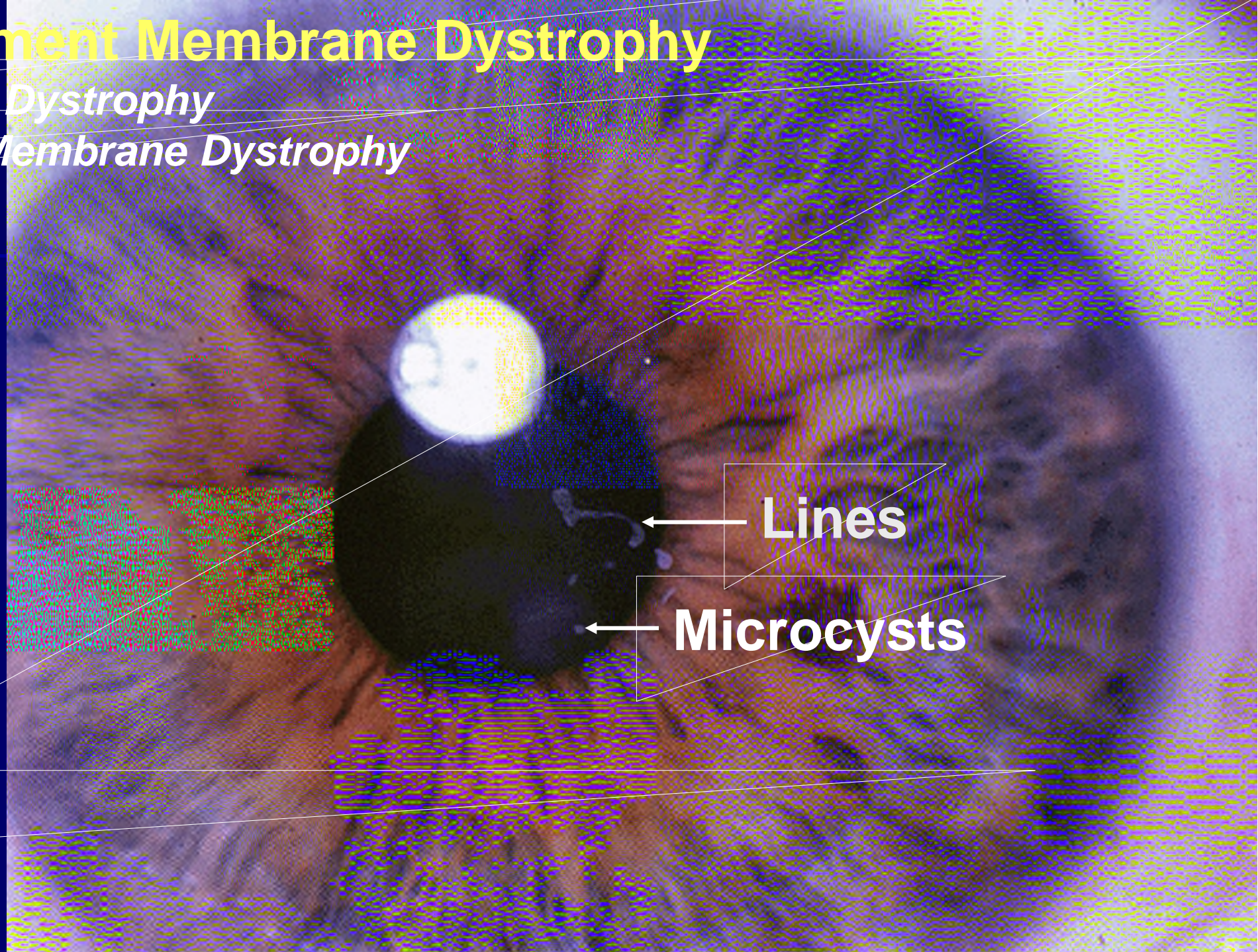
*Map-Dot-Fingerprint Dystrophy*

*Anterior Basement Membrane Dystrophy*

AD, 5q31,

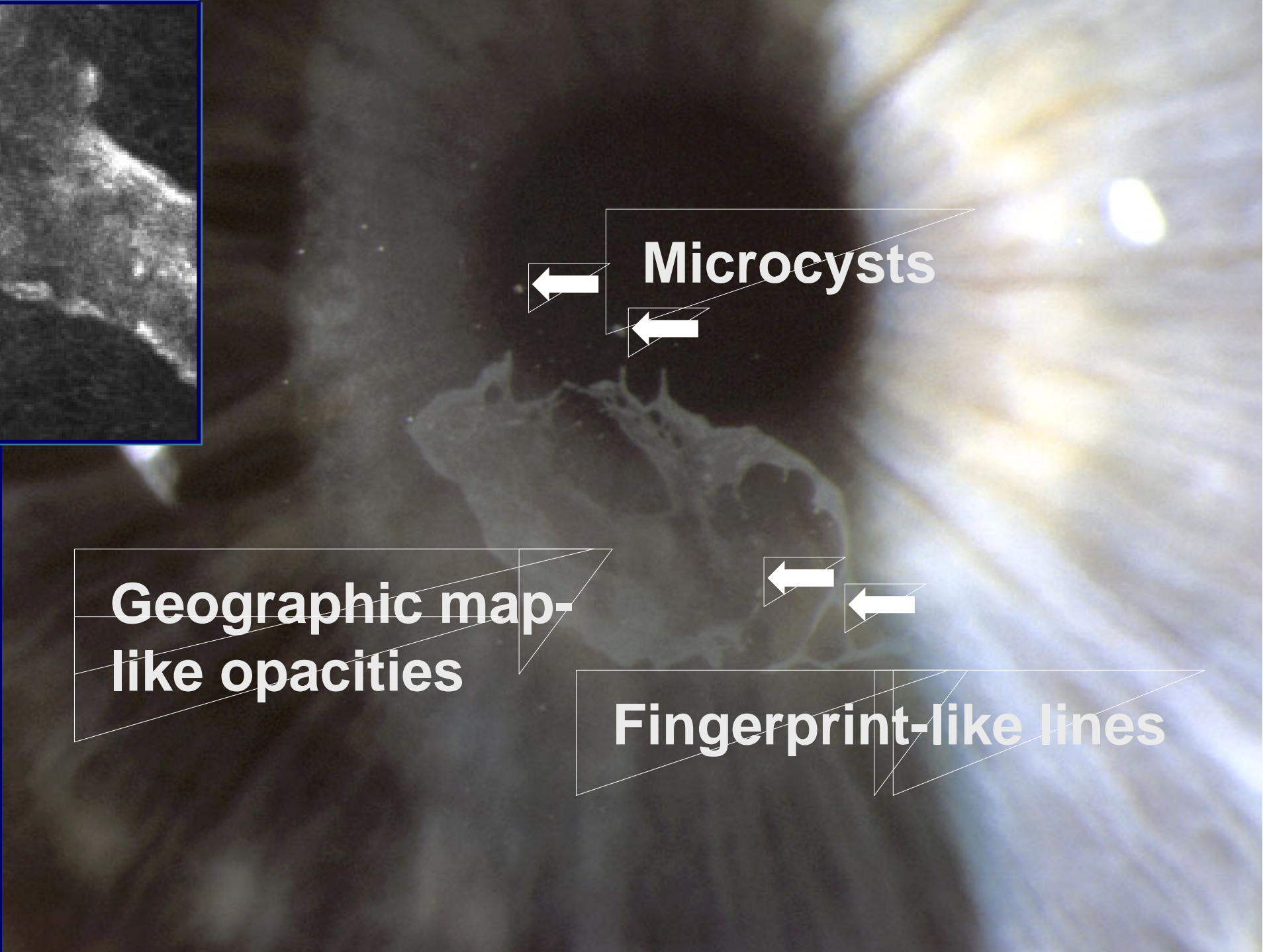
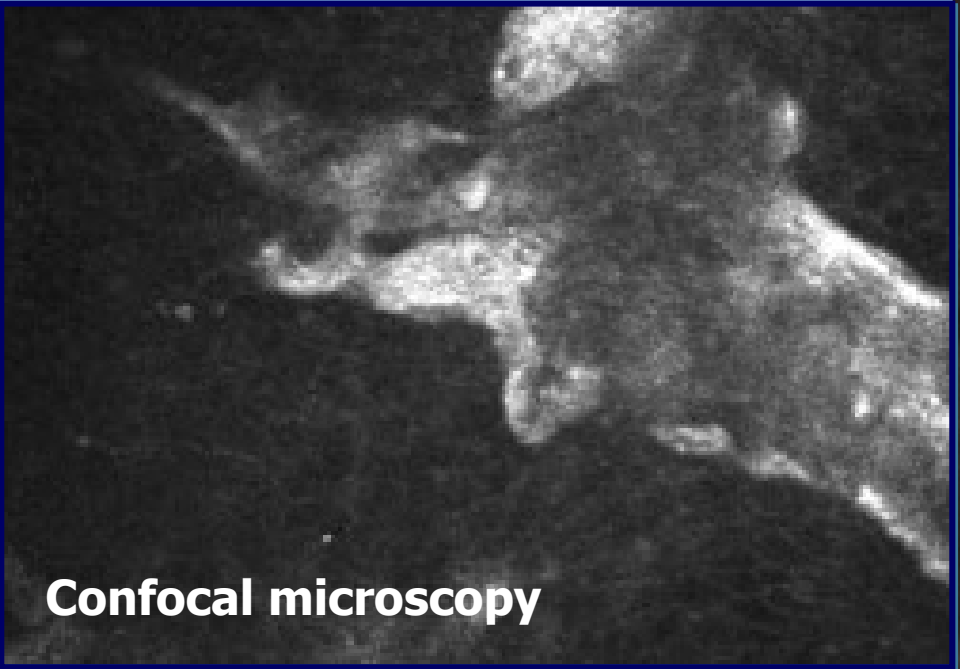
*TGFβ1* gene

Most cases sporadic  
or degenerative



Lines

Microcysts



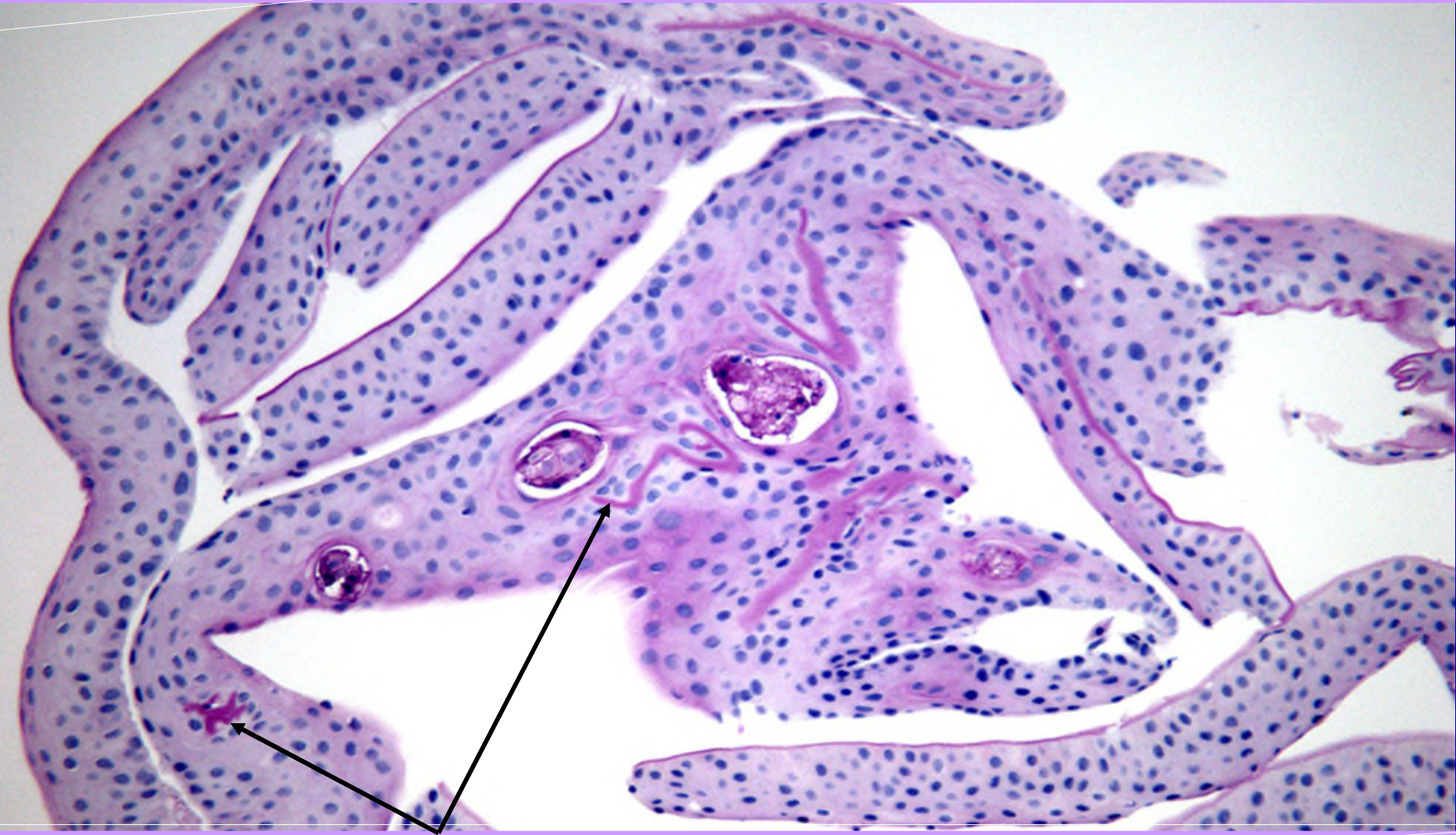


# Epithelial Basement Membrane Dystrophy



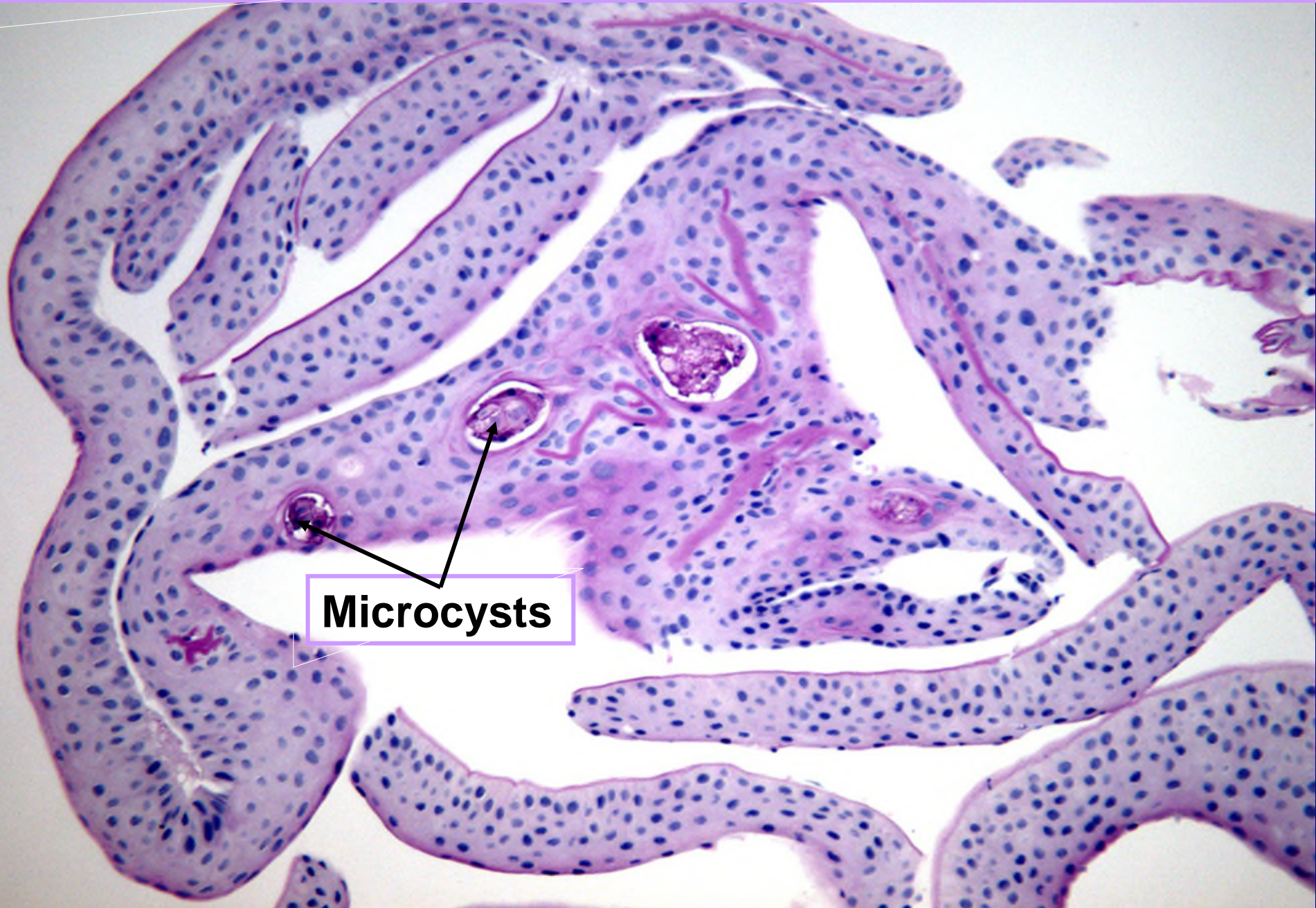
**Basement Membrane  
Thickening**

# Epithelial Basement Membrane Dystrophy

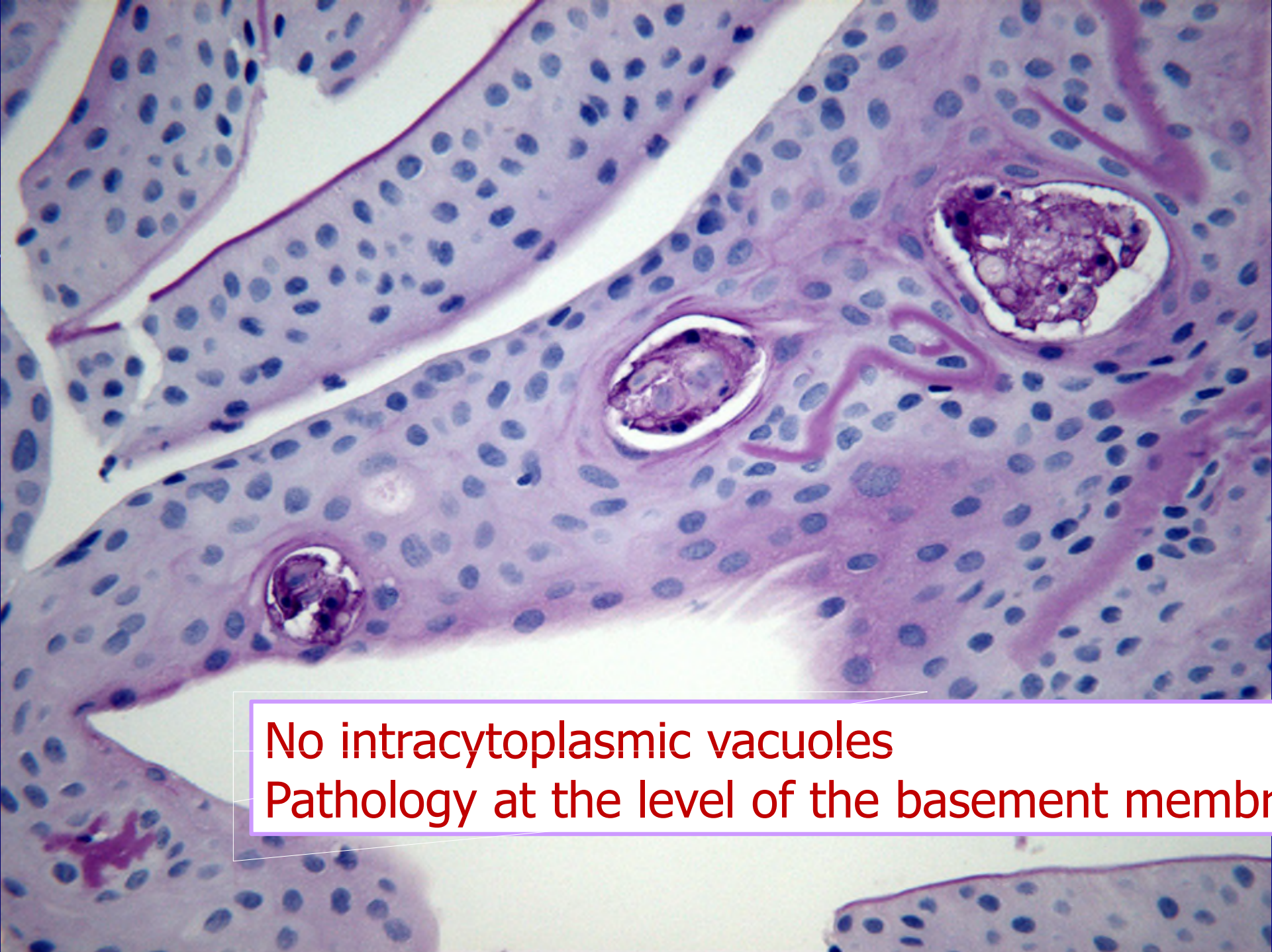


**Intraepithelial basement membrane formation with epithelial reduplication**

# Epithelial Basement Membrane Dystrophy



**Microcysts**



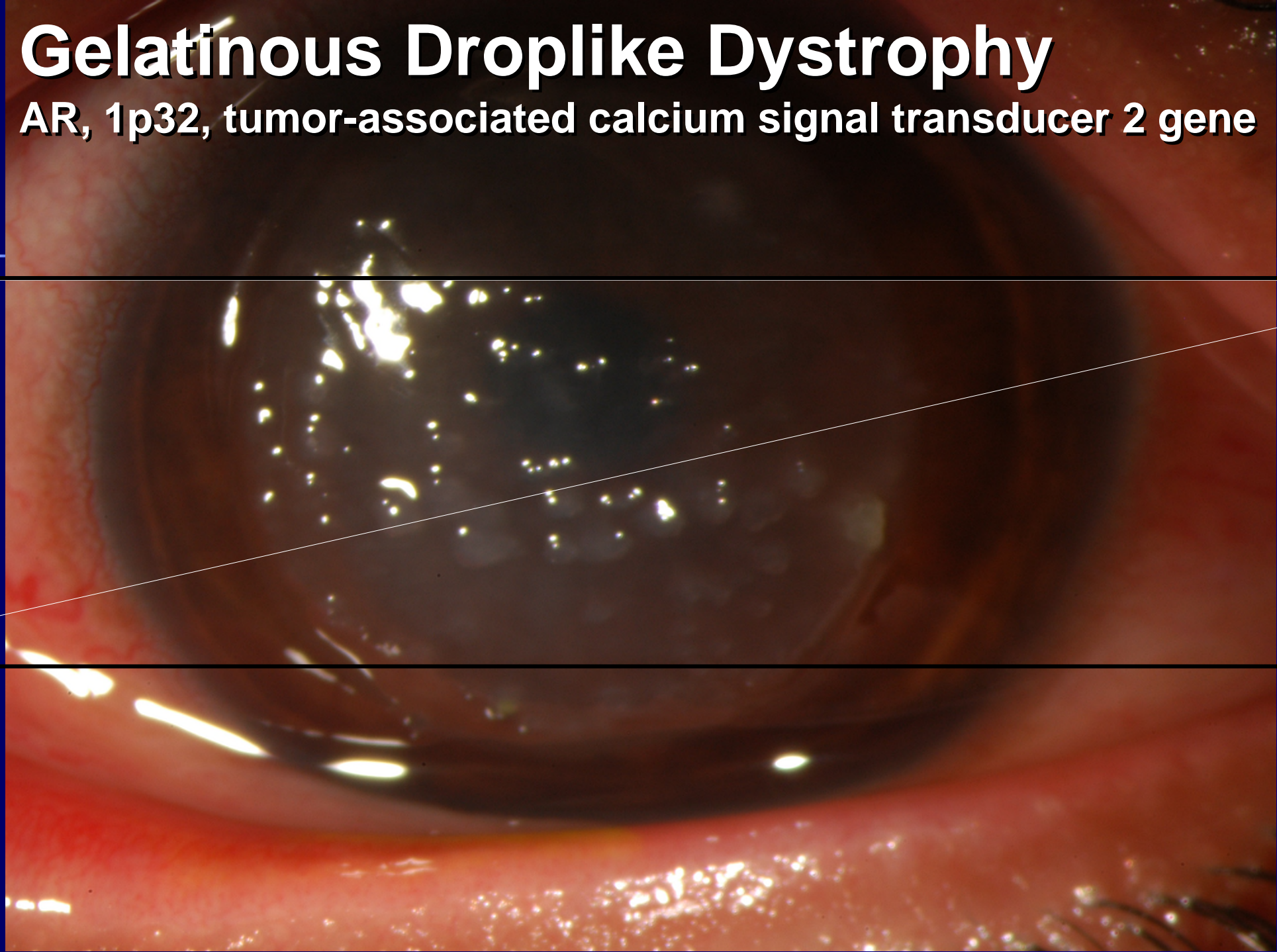
No intracytoplasmic vacuoles  
Pathology at the level of the basement membrane

# Epithelial and subepithelial dystrophies

1. Epithelial basement membrane dystrophy (EBMD)
2. Lisch epithelial corneal dystrophy (LECD)
3. Meesmann corneal dystrophy (MECD)
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6. Subepithelial mucinous corneal dystrophy

# Gelatinous Droplike Dystrophy

AR, 1p32, tumor-associated calcium signal transducer 2 gene

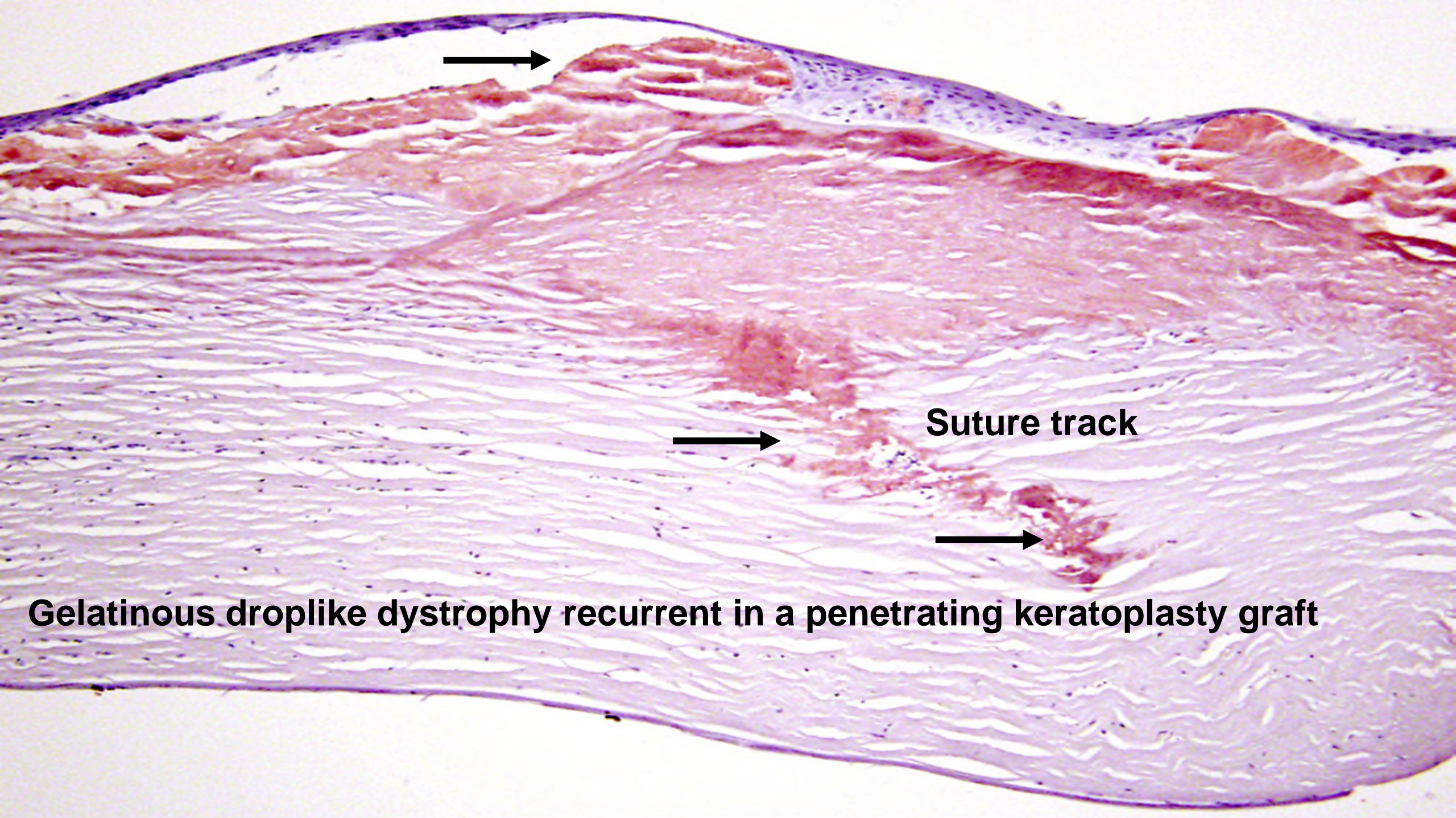




**apple green  
birefringence**

**Amyloid deposits stain with antibodies to lactoferrin**

**Congo red with polarization**



**Suture track**

**Gelatinous droplike dystrophy recurrent in a penetrating keratoplasty graft**



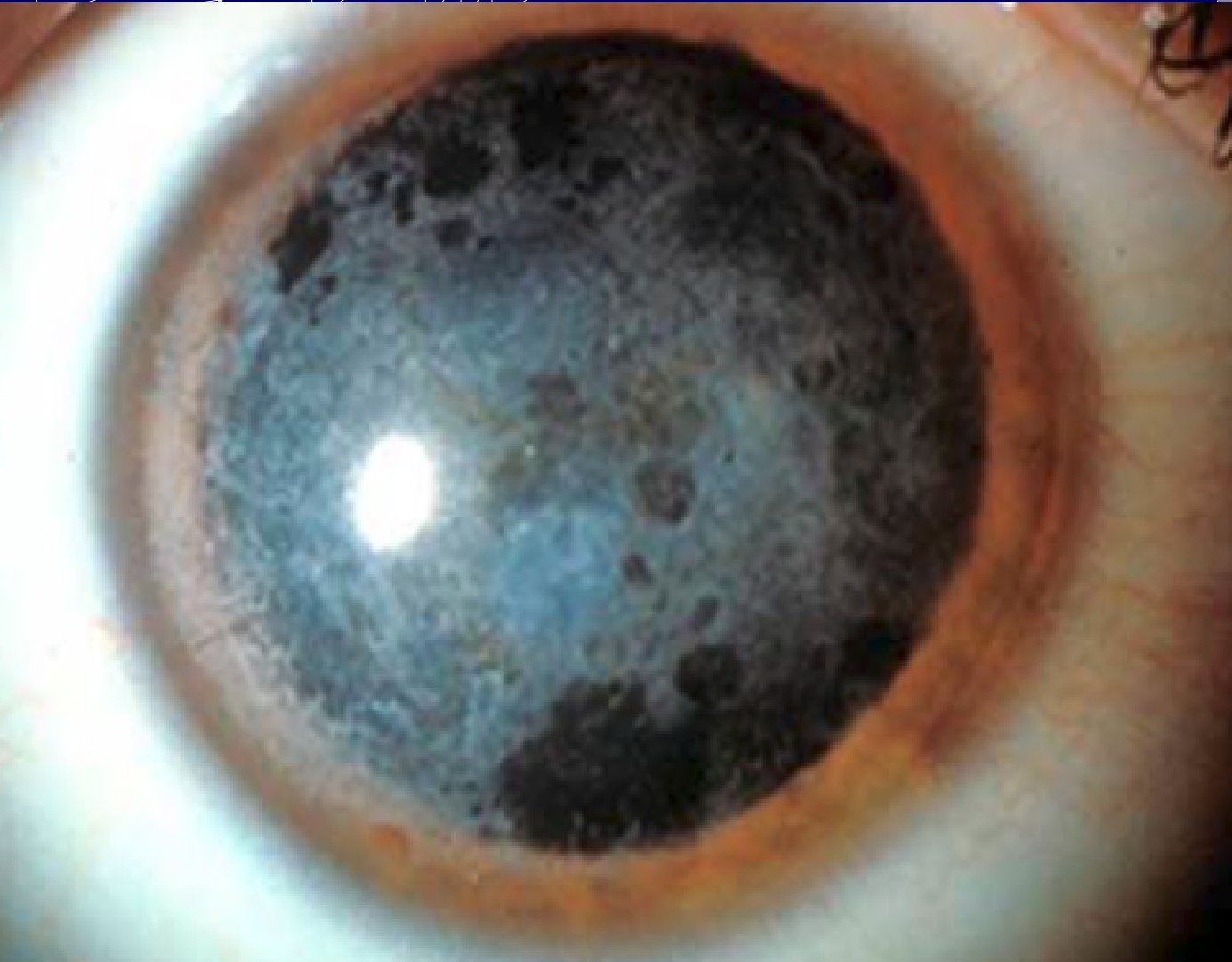
# Epithelial-stromal TGFBI dystrophies

1. Reis-Bücklers corneal dystrophy (RBCD)
2. Thiel-Behnke corneal dystrophy (TBCD)
3. Lattice corneal dystrophy, type 1 (LCD1) and variants (III, IIIA, I/IIIA, IV) of LCD
4. Granular corneal dystrophy, type 1 (GCD1)
5. Granular corneal dystrophy, type 2 (GCD2)

# Reis-Bücklers Dystrophy

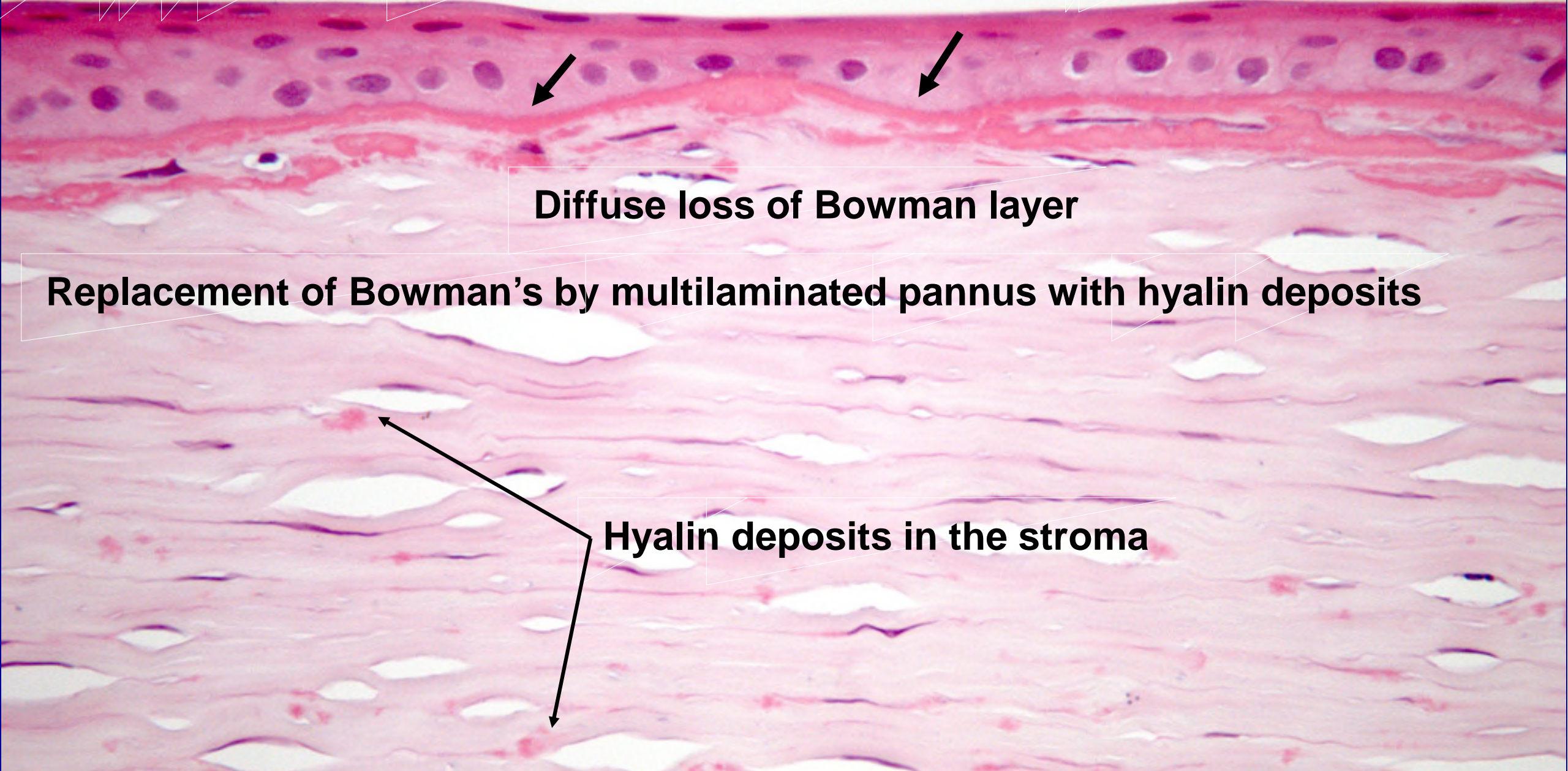
Corneal Dystrophy of Bowman Layer Type I

AD, 5q31, *TGF $\beta$ 1* gene



# Reis-Bücklers Dystrophy

Epithelial Saw-toothing

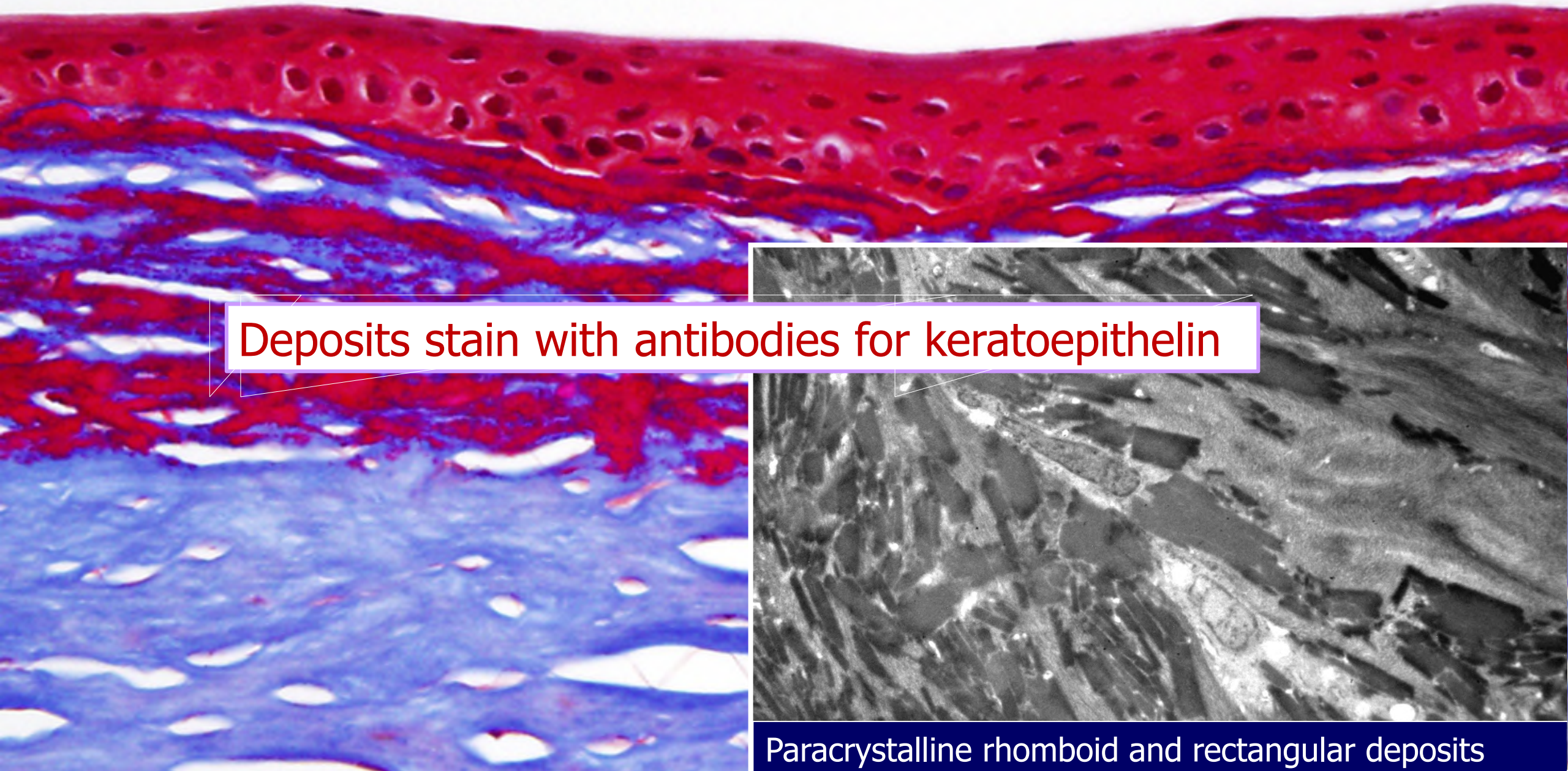


Diffuse loss of Bowman layer

Replacement of Bowman's by multilaminated pannus with hyalin deposits

Hyalin deposits in the stroma

# Reis-Bücklers Dystrophy (Masson-Trichrome)



Deposits stain with antibodies for keratoepithelin

Paracrystalline rhomboid and rectangular deposits

# Thiel-Behnke Corneal Dystrophy

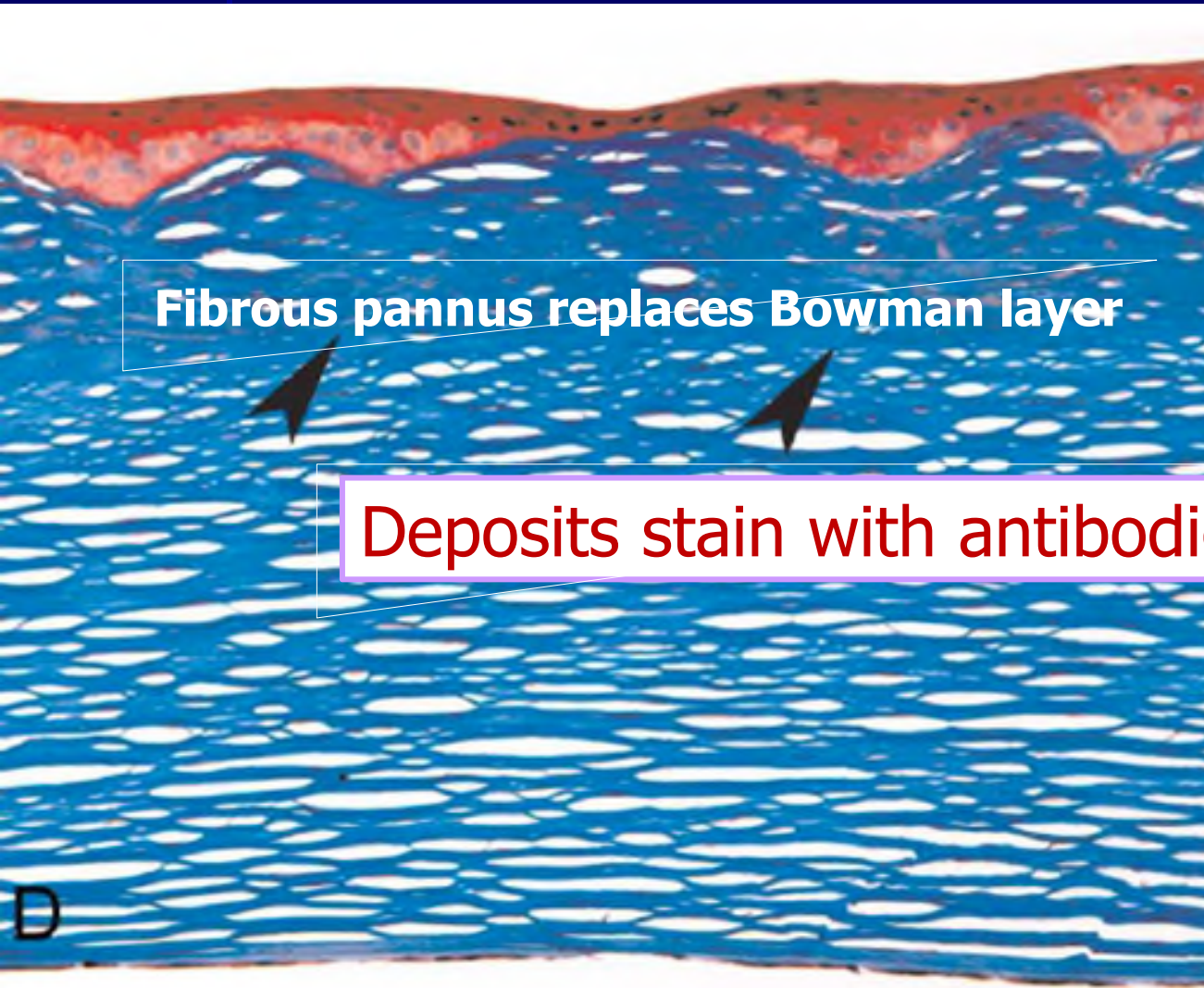
*Corneal Dystrophy of Bowman Layer Type II*

AD

5q31, *TGFβ1* gene

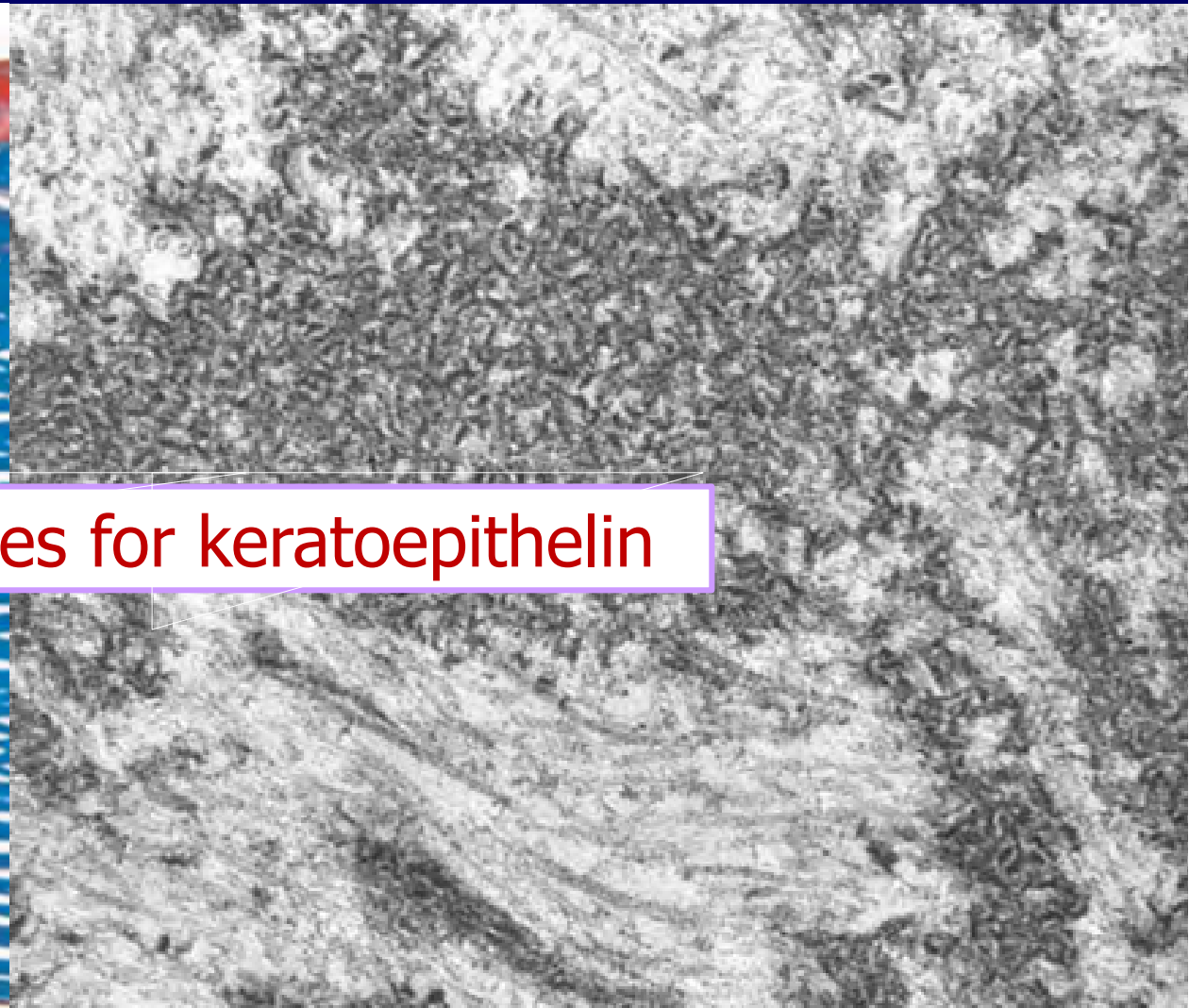
Honeycomb pattern  
of corneal opacities

# Thiel-Behnke Dystrophy



Fibrous pannus replaces Bowman layer

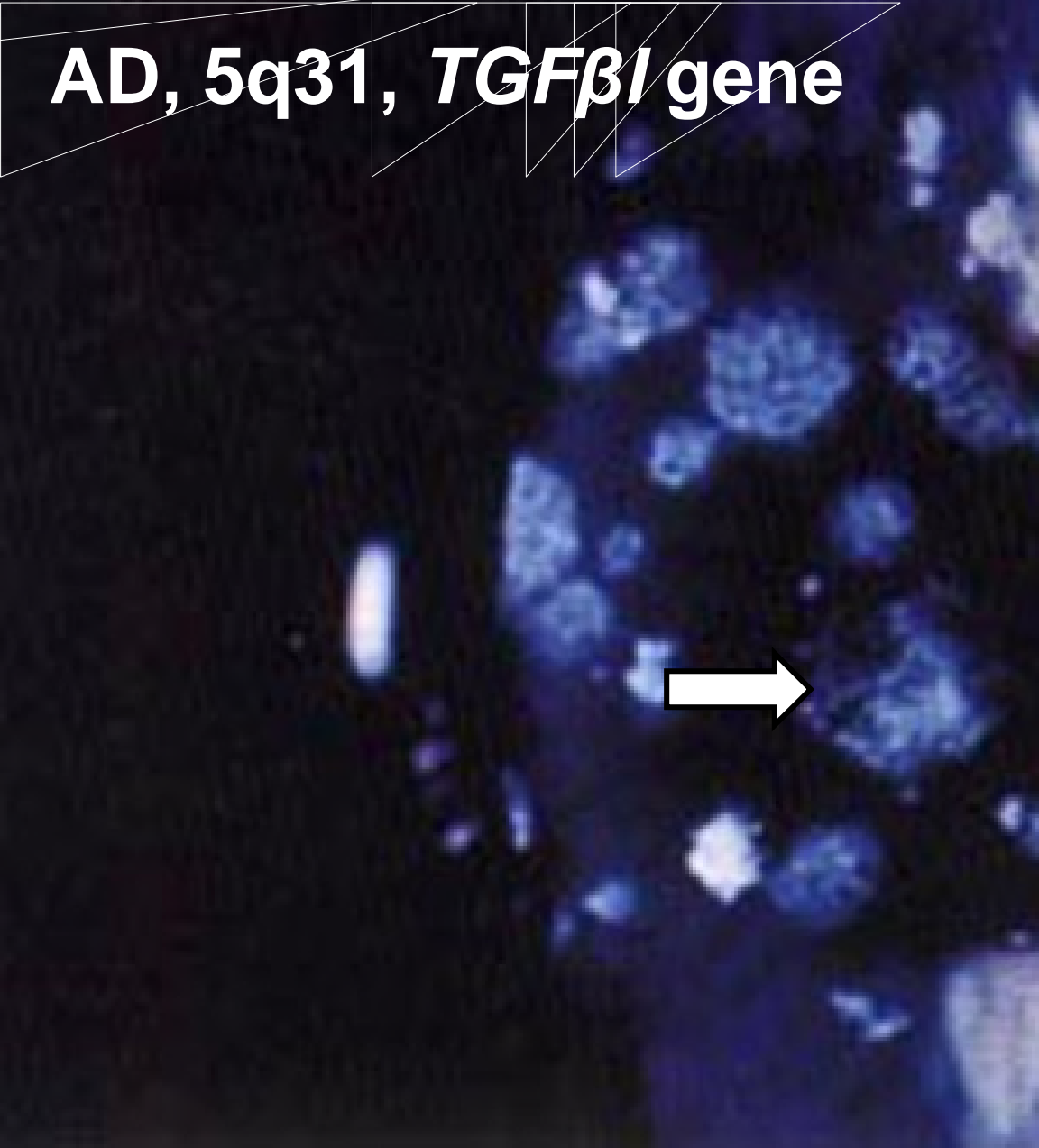
Deposits stain with antibodies for keratoepithelin



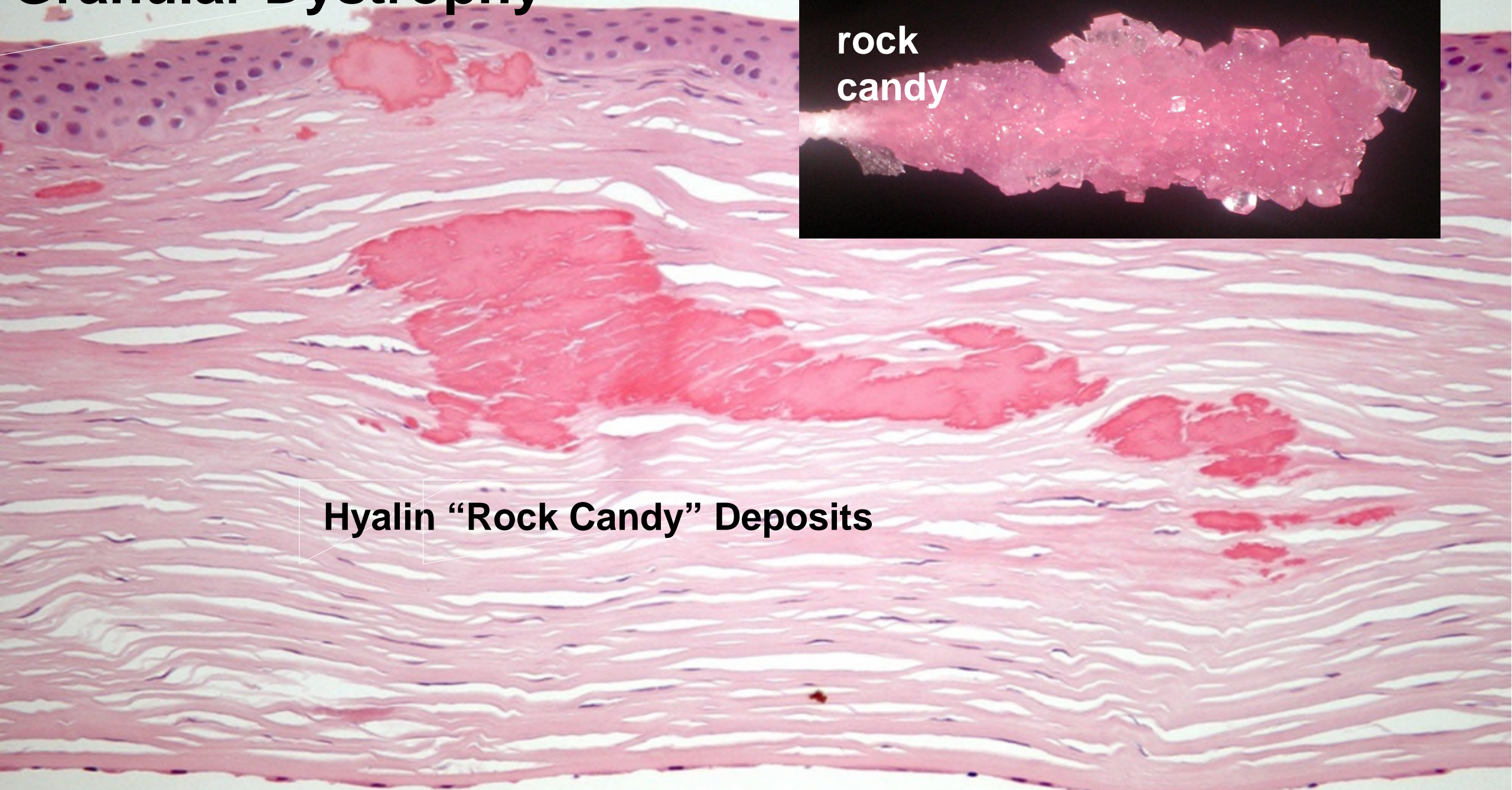
Curly filaments at the level of Bowman layer  
(keratoepithelin)

# Granular Corneal Dystrophy, Type I

AD, 5q31, *TGF $\beta$ 1* gene



# Granular Dystrophy



Hyalin "Rock Candy" Deposits



## Granular Corneal Dystrophy

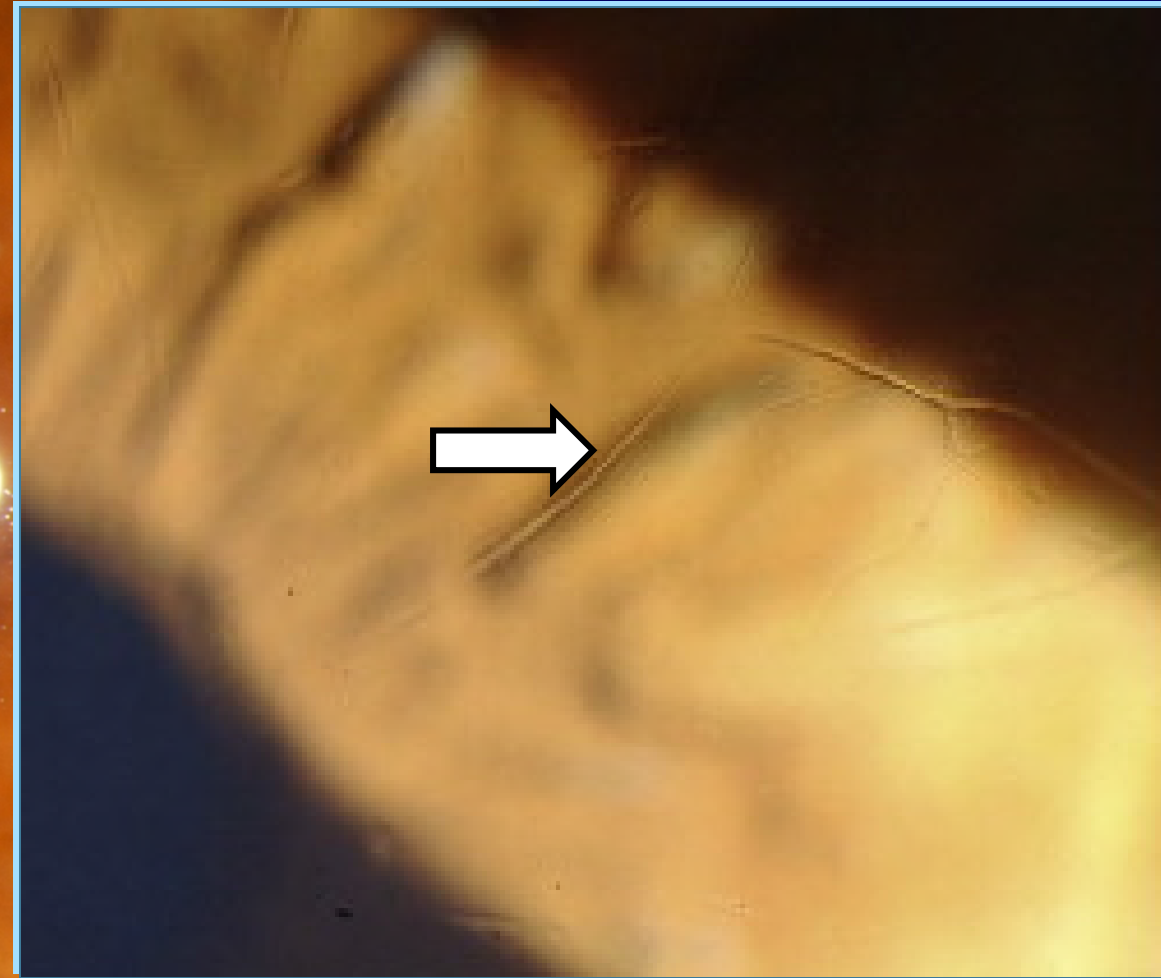
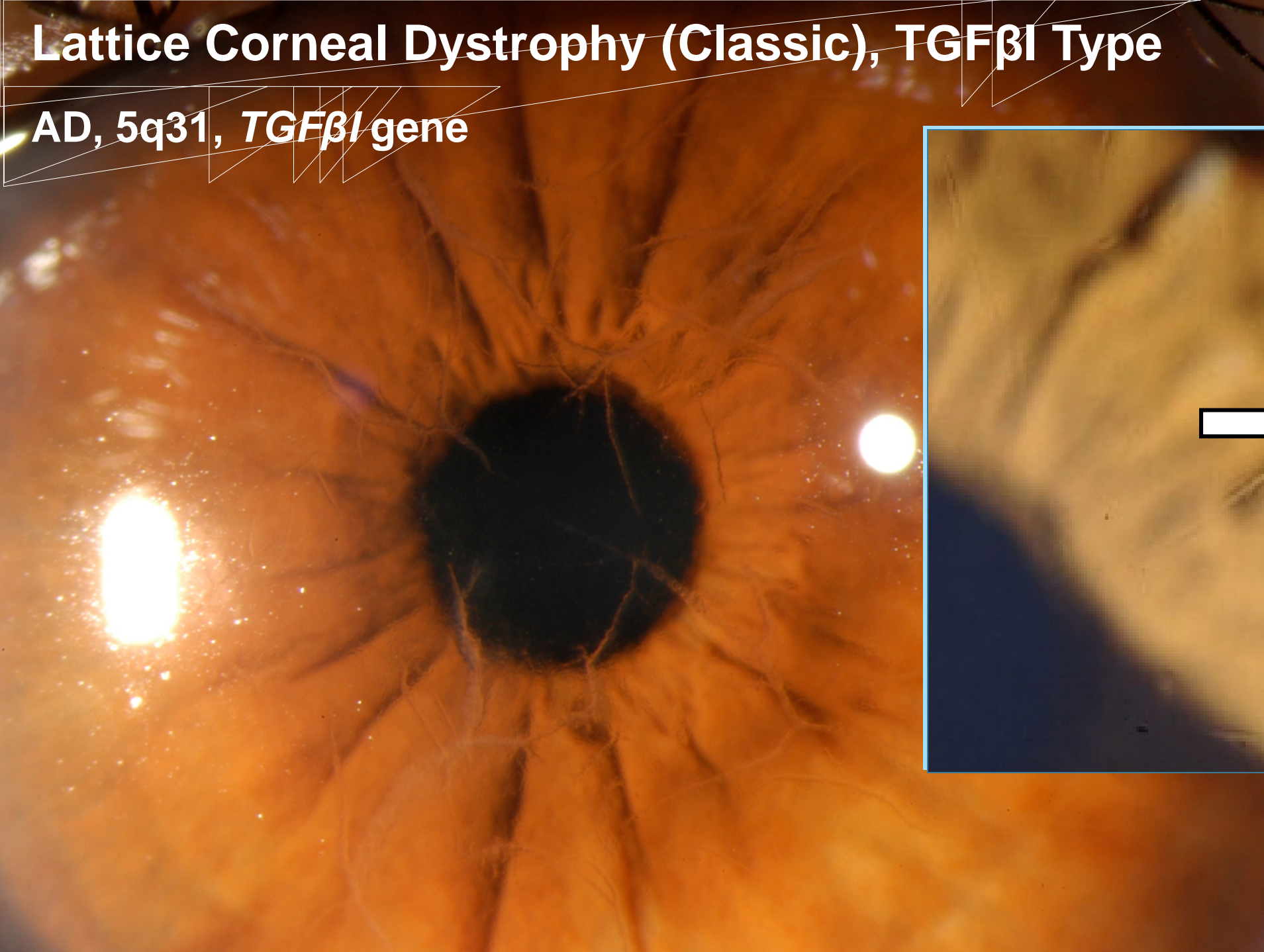
Deposits stain with antibodies for keratoepithelin

**Masson Trichrome**

Positive acid fuchsinophilia

# Lattice Corneal Dystrophy (Classic), TGF $\beta$ 1 Type

AD, 5q31, *TGF $\beta$ 1* gene



# Lattice Dystrophy

Deposits stain with antibodies for keratoepithelin

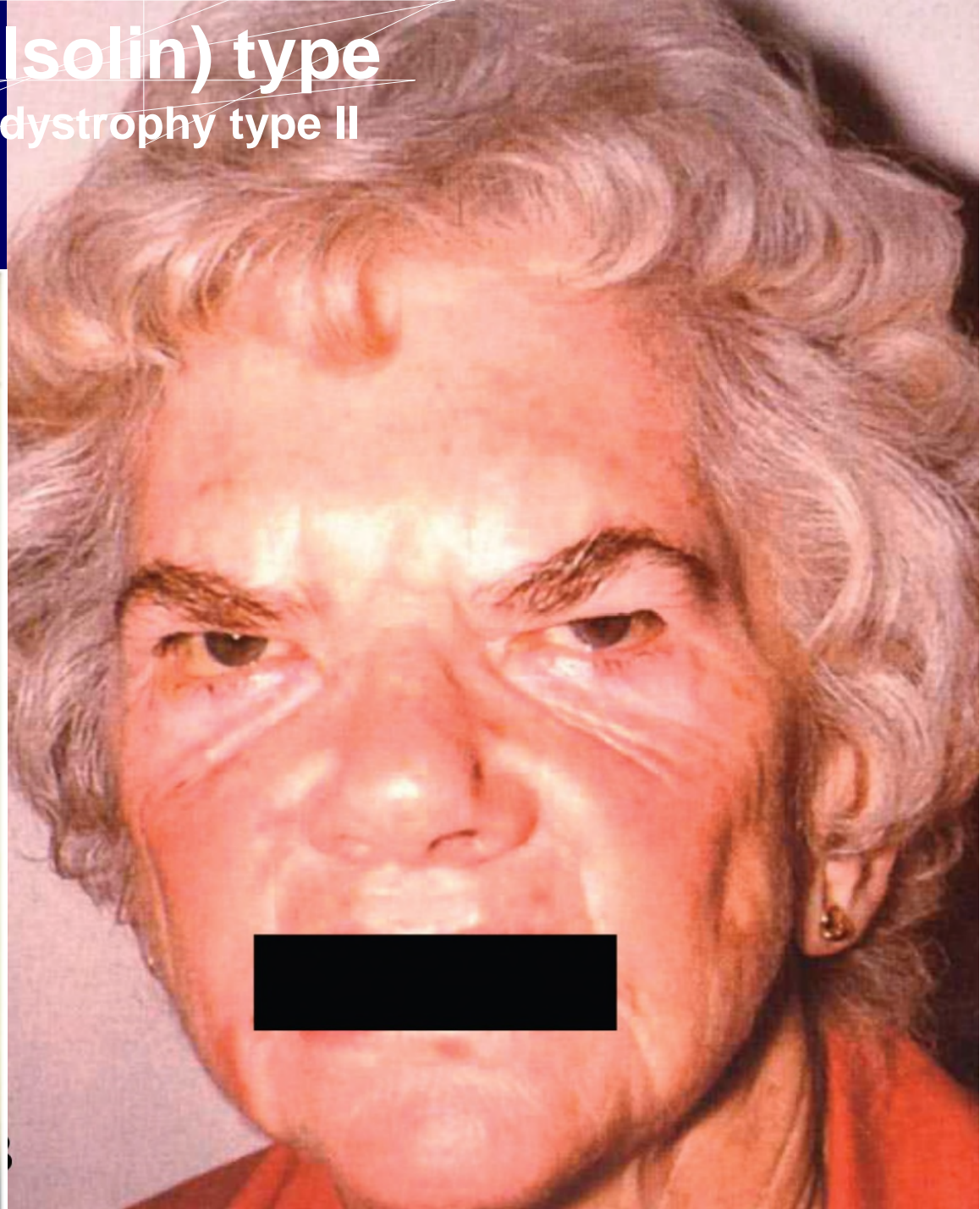
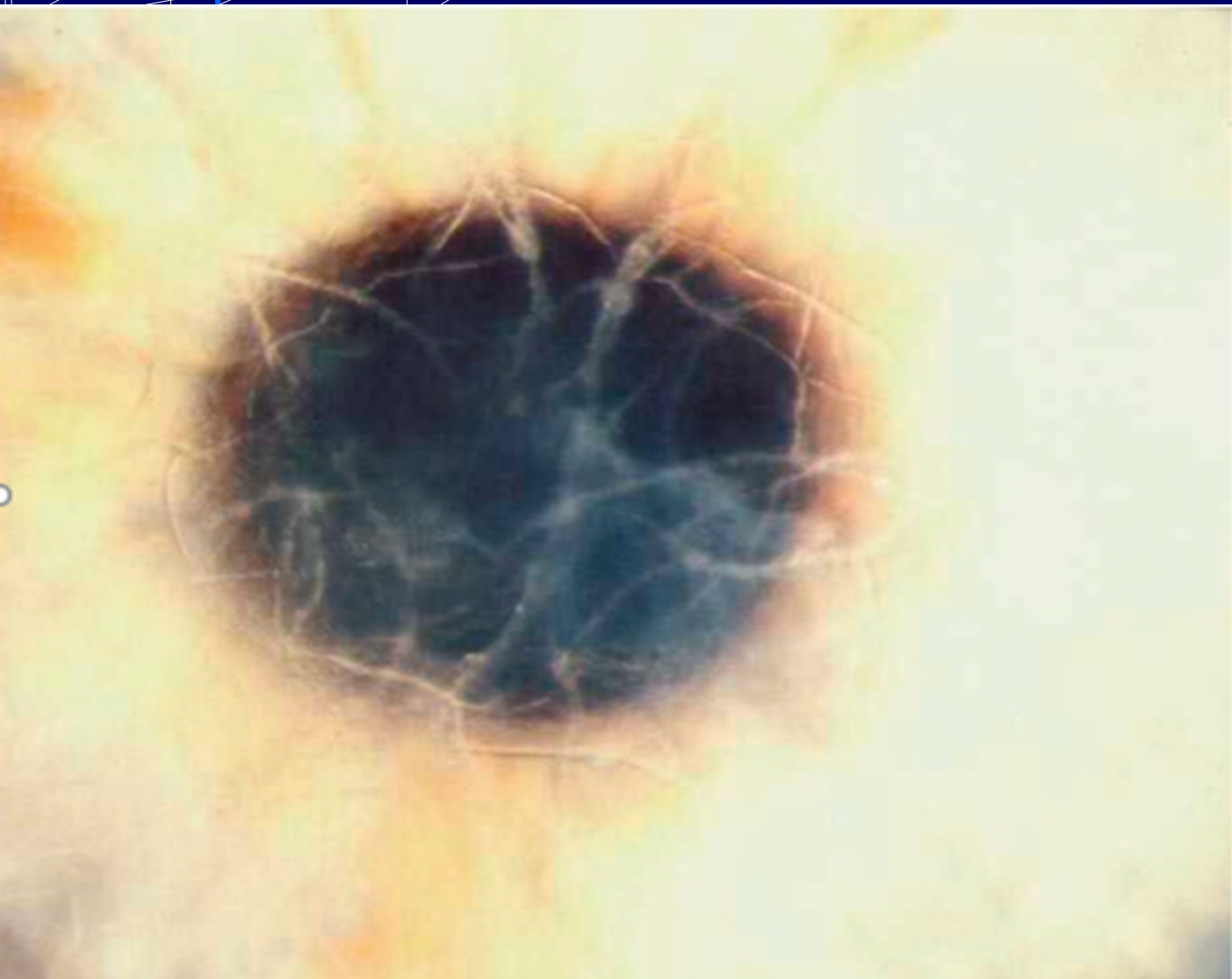
Congo red stain



# Familial amyloidosis, Finnish (Gelsolin) type

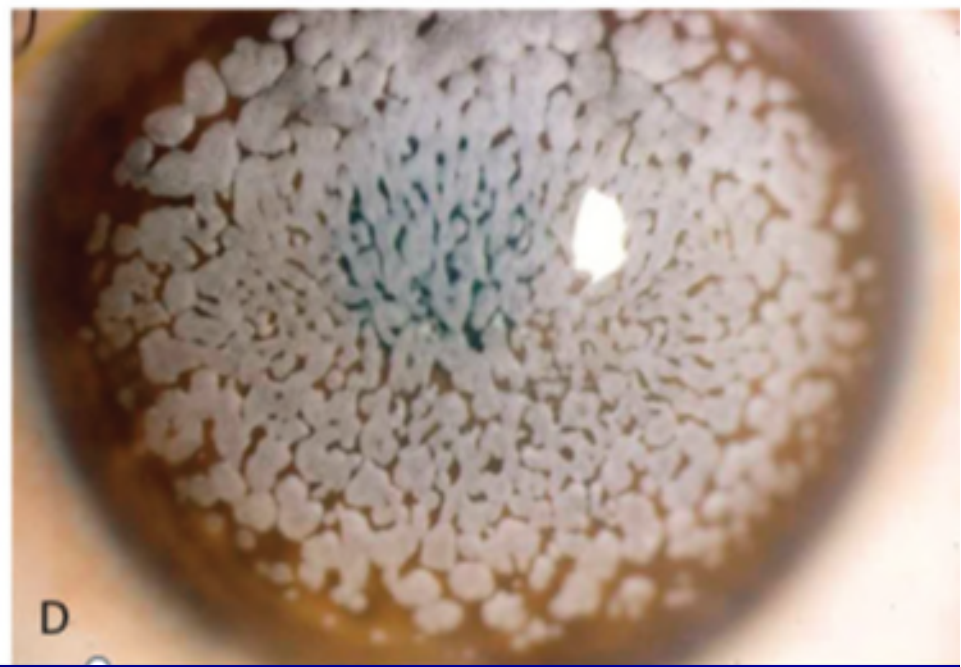
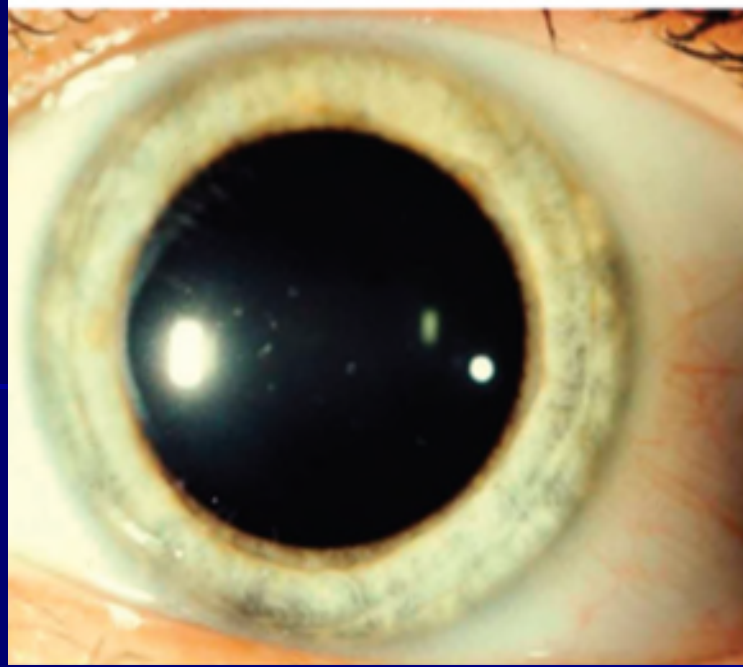
Meretoja syndrome; FAF; FAP-IV; Formerly Lattice dystrophy type II

9q34, *Gelsolin* gene



**Granular Corneal  
Dystrophy, Type II**  
*Avellino Dystrophy*

**AD,  $TGF\beta 1$  gene**



# Stromal TGFB1 dystrophies

1. Macular corneal dystrophy
2. Schnyder corneal dystrophy
3. Congenital hereditary stromal dystrophy
4. Fleck corneal dystrophy
5. Posterior amorphous corneal dystrophy

# Macular Corneal Dystrophy

AR, 16q22, Carbohydrate sulfotransferase 6 gene

## ***Macular corneal dystrophy type I:***

No AgKS reactivity in the cornea or in the serum

## ***Macular corneal dystrophy type IA:***

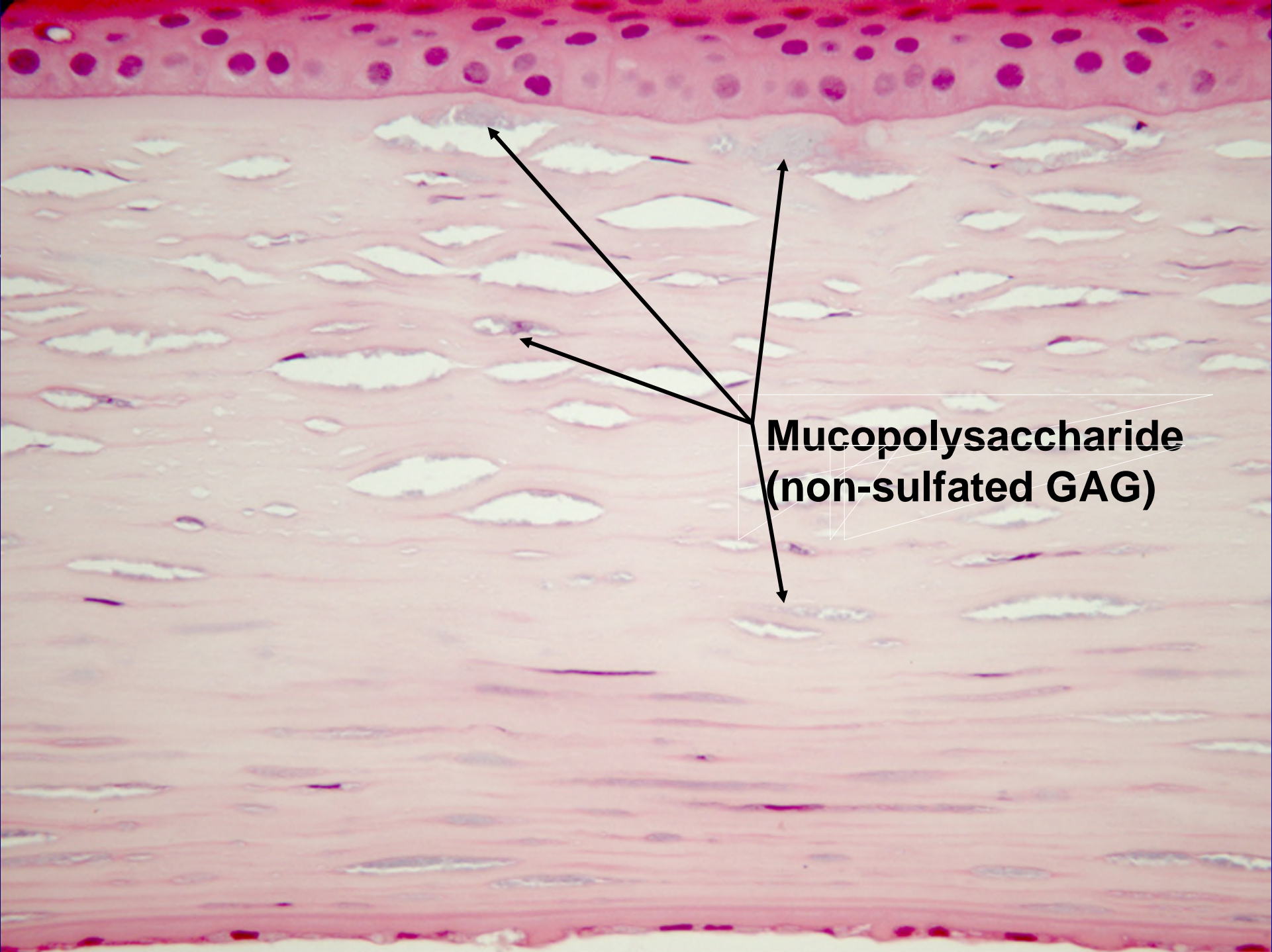
Keratocytes manifest AgKS immunoreactivity

No AgKS in extracellular material or serum

## ***Macular corneal dystrophy type II:***

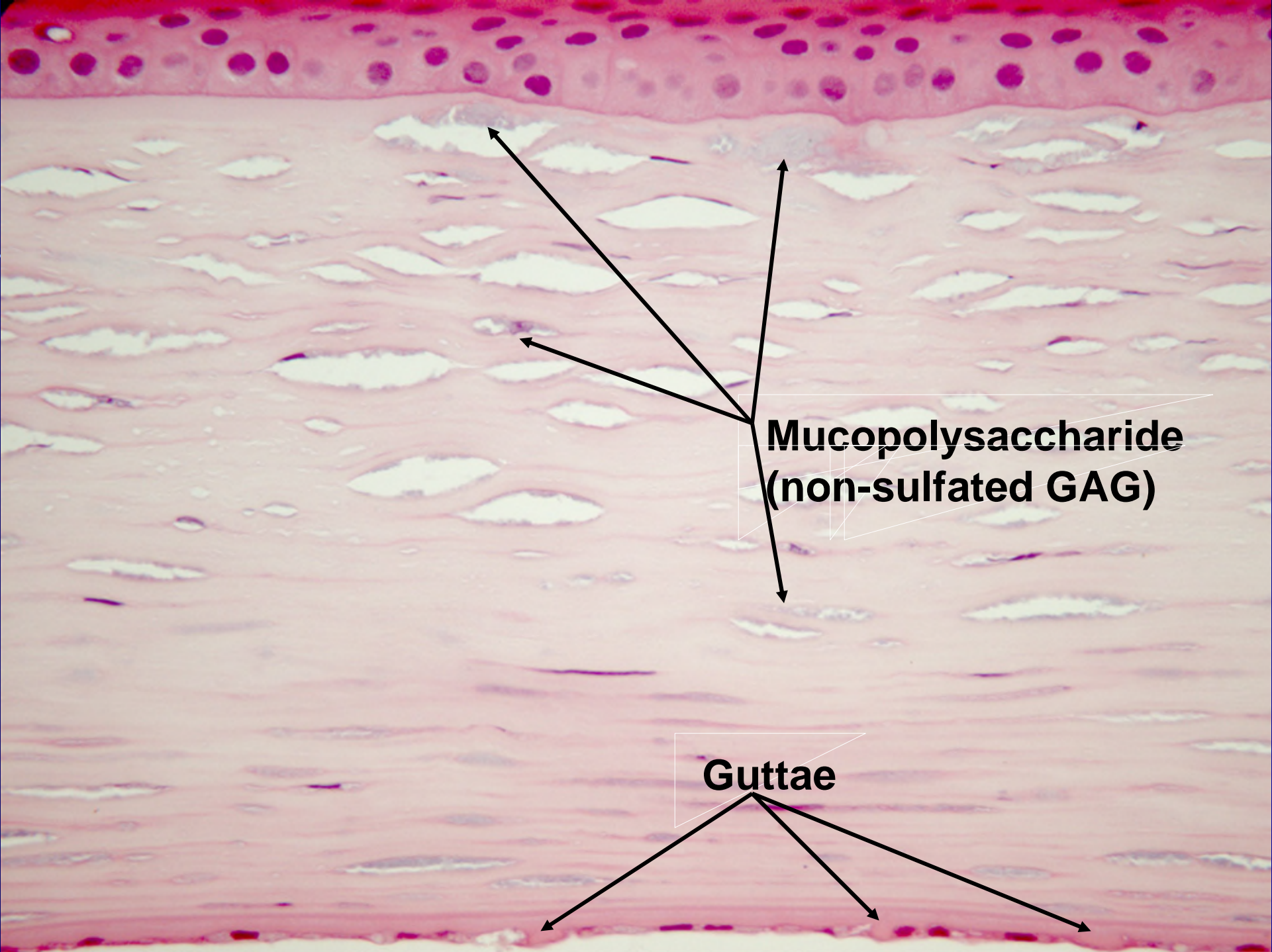
All corneal abnormal accumulations manifest AgKS immunoreactivity

Serum has normal or lower levels of AgKS



**Mucopolysaccharide  
(non-sulfated GAG)**





**Mucopolysaccharide  
(non-sulfated GAG)**

**Guttae**

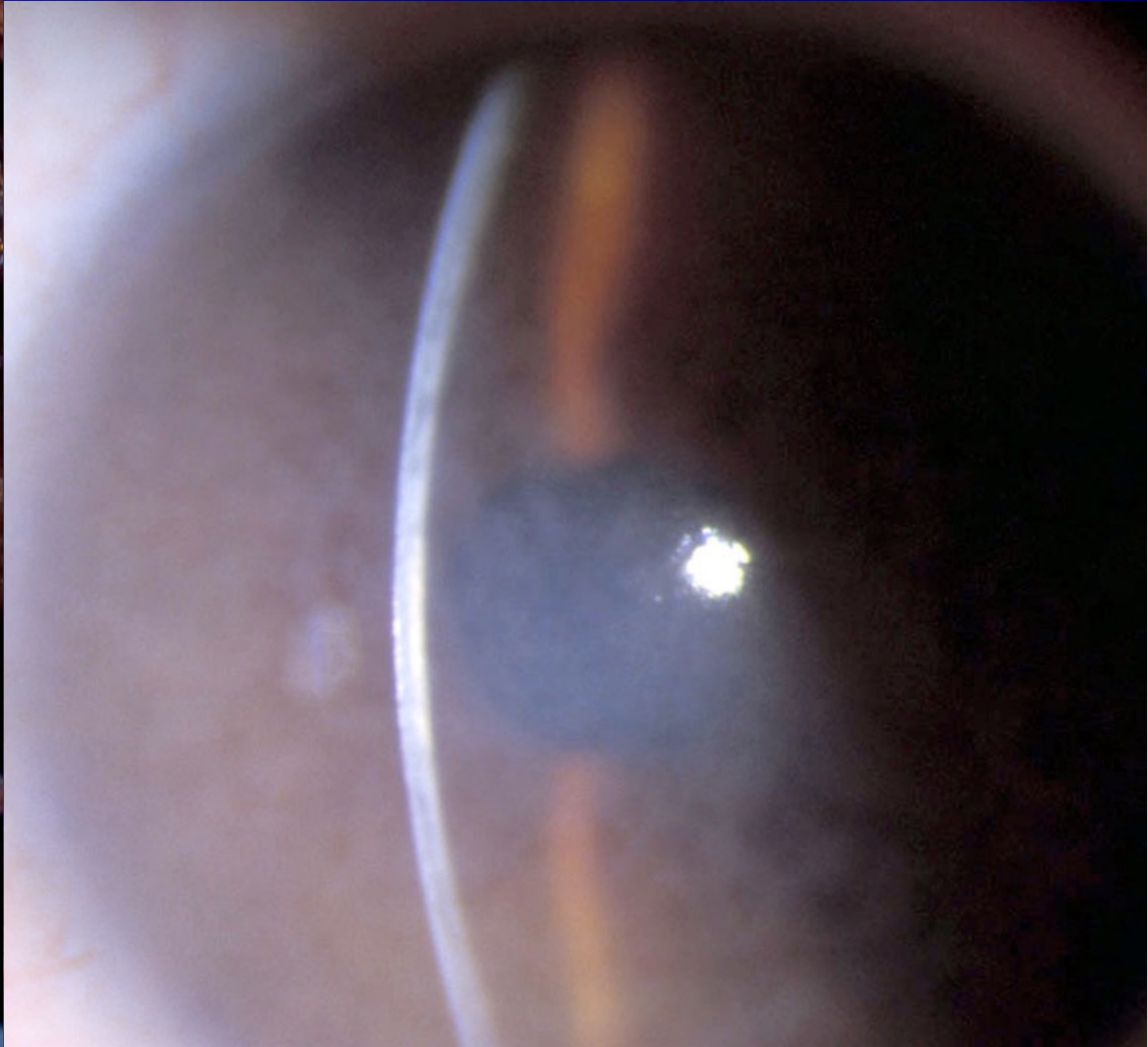
# Macular Dystrophy

Epithelium not involved

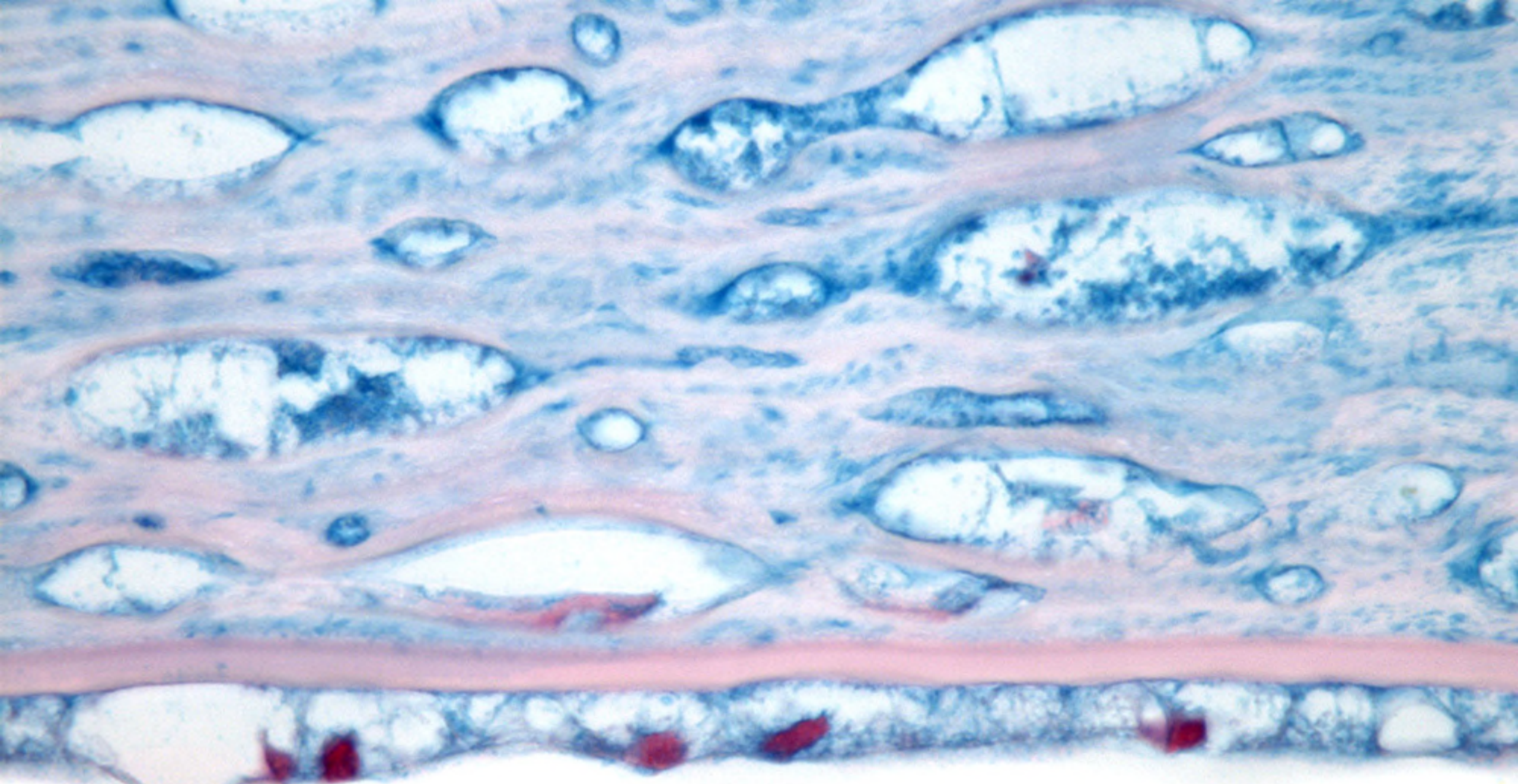


gutta

Hurler's Syndrome







**Hurler Syndrome – no Descemet membrane guttae**

# Corneal Stromal Dystrophies

Marilyn Monroe Always Gets Her Men in LA, CA

Marilyn – Macular

Monroe – Mucopolysaccharide

Always – Alcian Blue (acid mucopolysaccharide)

Gets – Granular

Her – Hyalin

Men – Masson trichrome  
in

L – Lattice

A – Amyloid

C – Congo Red

A – Avellino (granular + lattice)

AD

5q

TGF-beta I

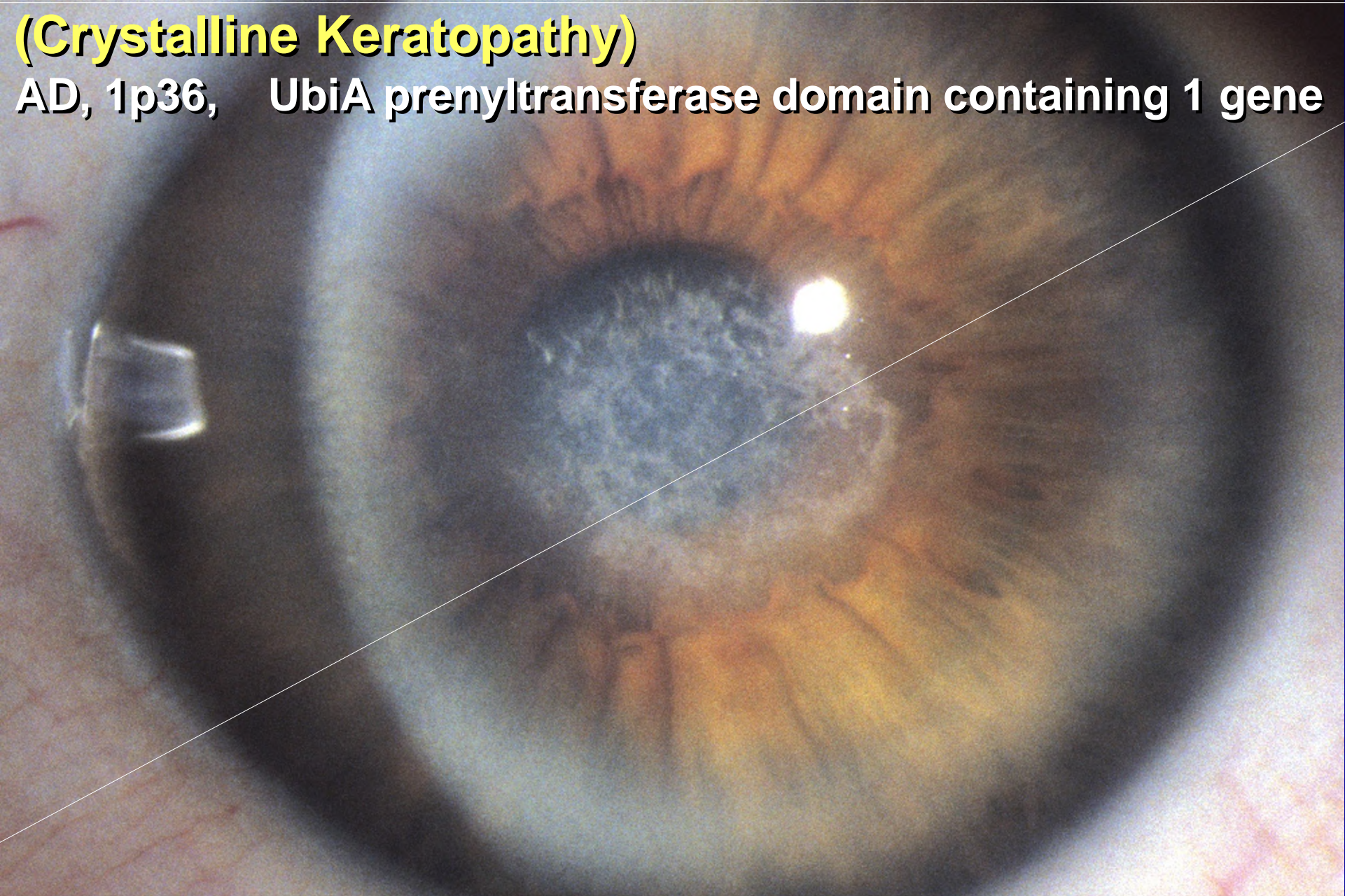
**Keratoepithelin**

(extracellular matrix  
protein; modulates  
cell adhesion)

# Schnyder's Corneal Dystrophy

(Crystalline Keratopathy)

AD, 1p36, UbiA prenyltransferase domain containing 1 gene



A histological section of the cornea stained with hematoxylin and eosin (H&E). The image shows the characteristic lamellated structure of the cornea, with multiple layers of collagen lamellae. The lamellae are separated by a network of keratocytes. In the center of the image, there is a prominent area of pathology characterized by a dense accumulation of cholesterol crystals and phospholipid deposits, which are typical of Schnyder dystrophy. The crystals appear as small, refractile, needle-shaped clefts, and the phospholipid deposits are seen as larger, more amorphous, eosinophilic areas. The overall appearance is that of a thickened cornea with significant structural changes in the lamellae.

Cholesterol and phospholipids

**Schnyder Dystrophy**



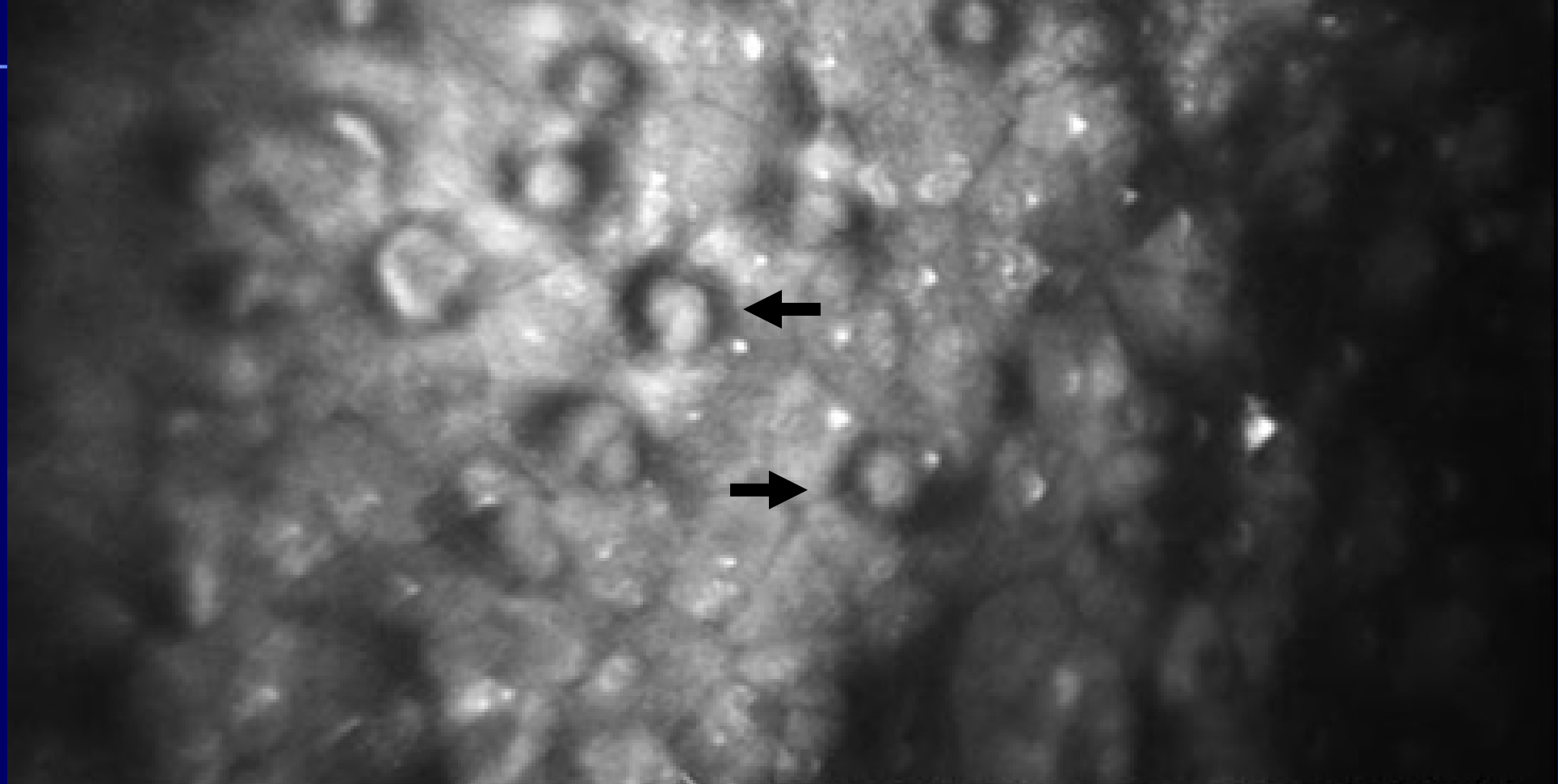
# Endothelial dystrophies

1. Fuchs endothelial corneal dystrophy (FECD)
2. Posterior polymorphous corneal dystrophy (PPCD)
3. Congenital hereditary endothelial dystrophy (CHED)
4. X-linked endothelial corneal dystrophy (XECD)

# Fuchs Endothelial Dystrophy

Some AD, Chr 18 (*TCG4* gene intronic CTG18.1 repeat expansion), Multiple other genes

Early onset: 1p34, Collagen VIII gene

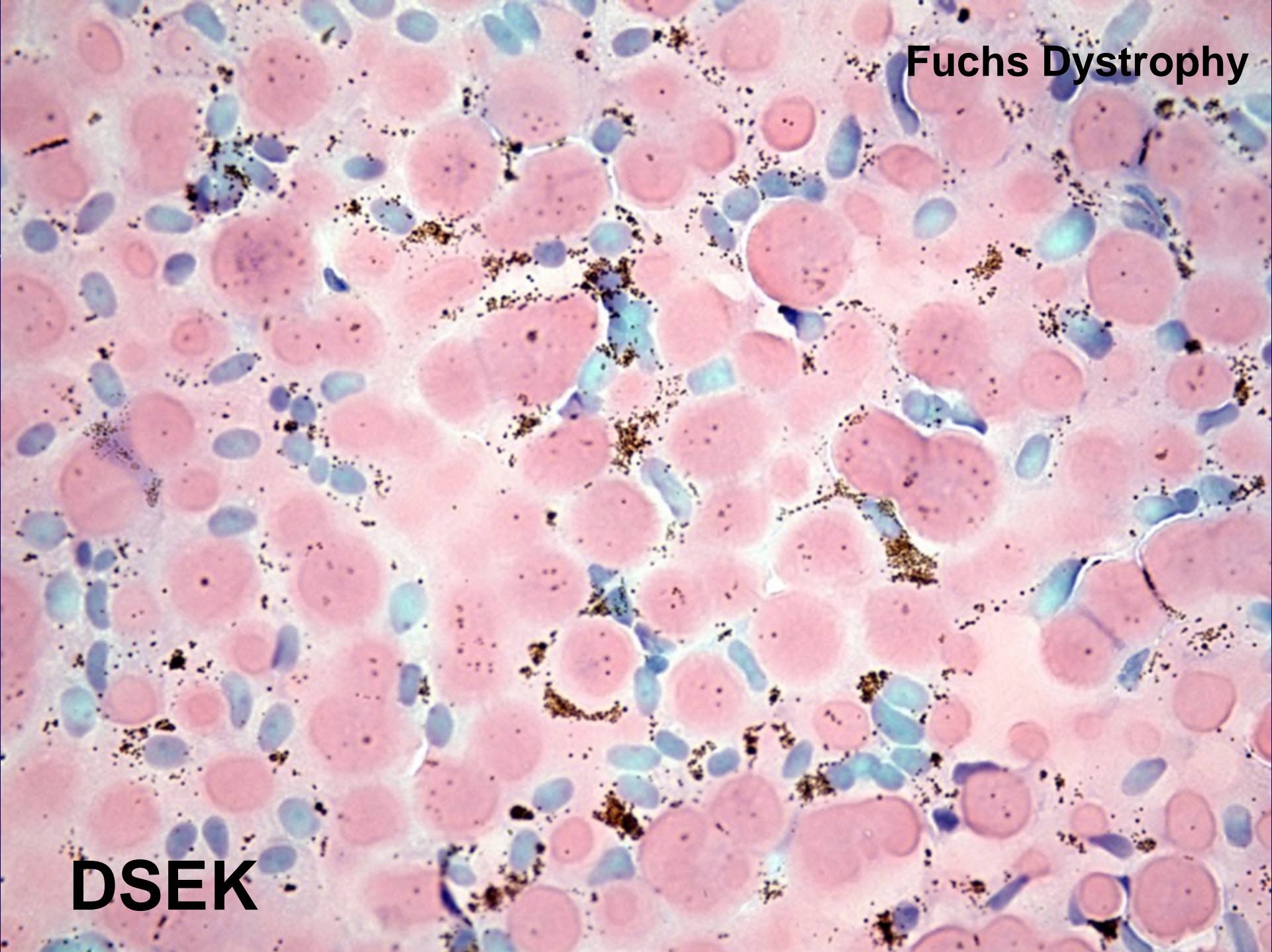


# Fuchs Dystrophy



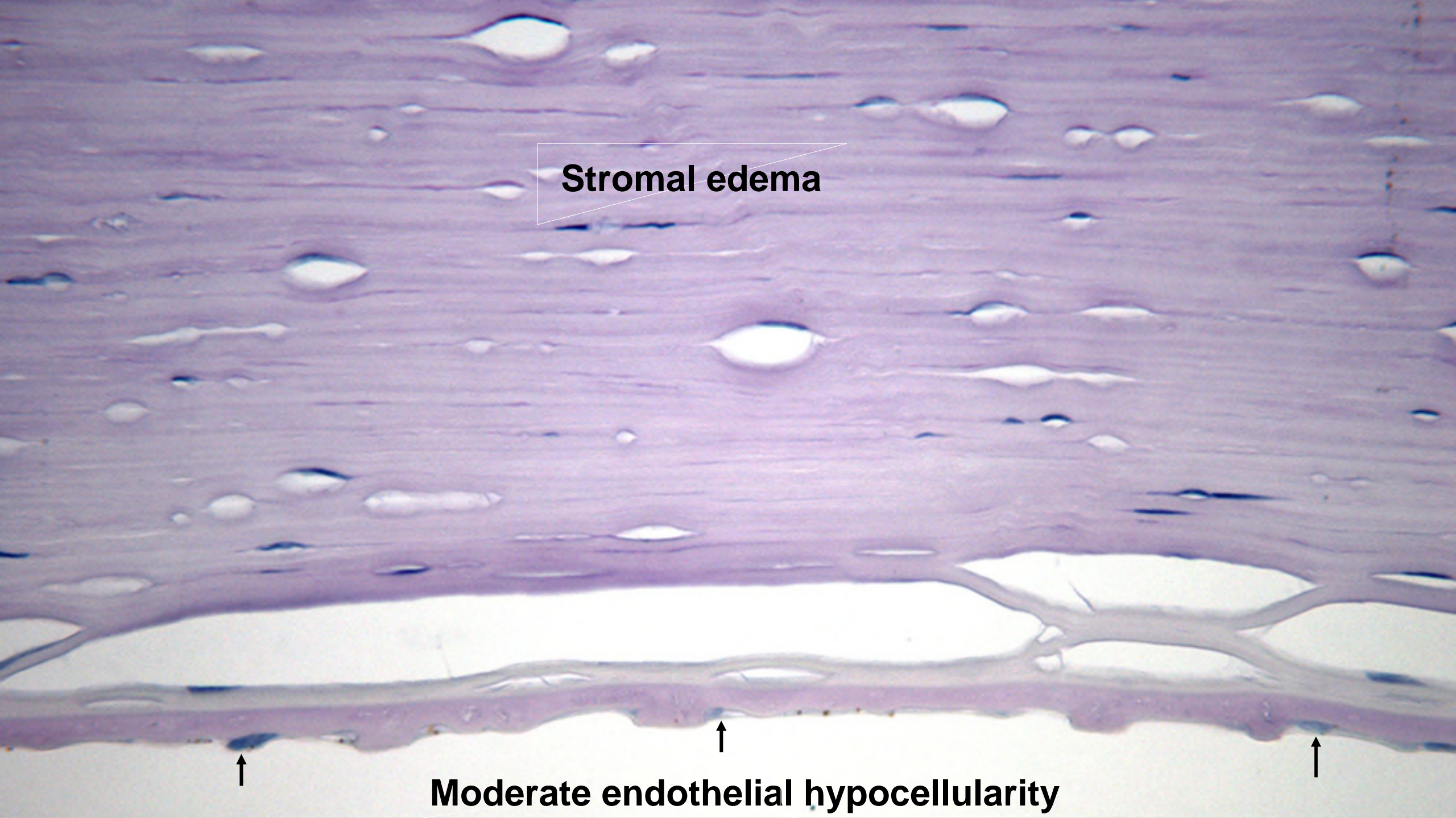
Courtesy of Ralph C. Eagle, Jr. MD

**Fuchs Dystrophy**



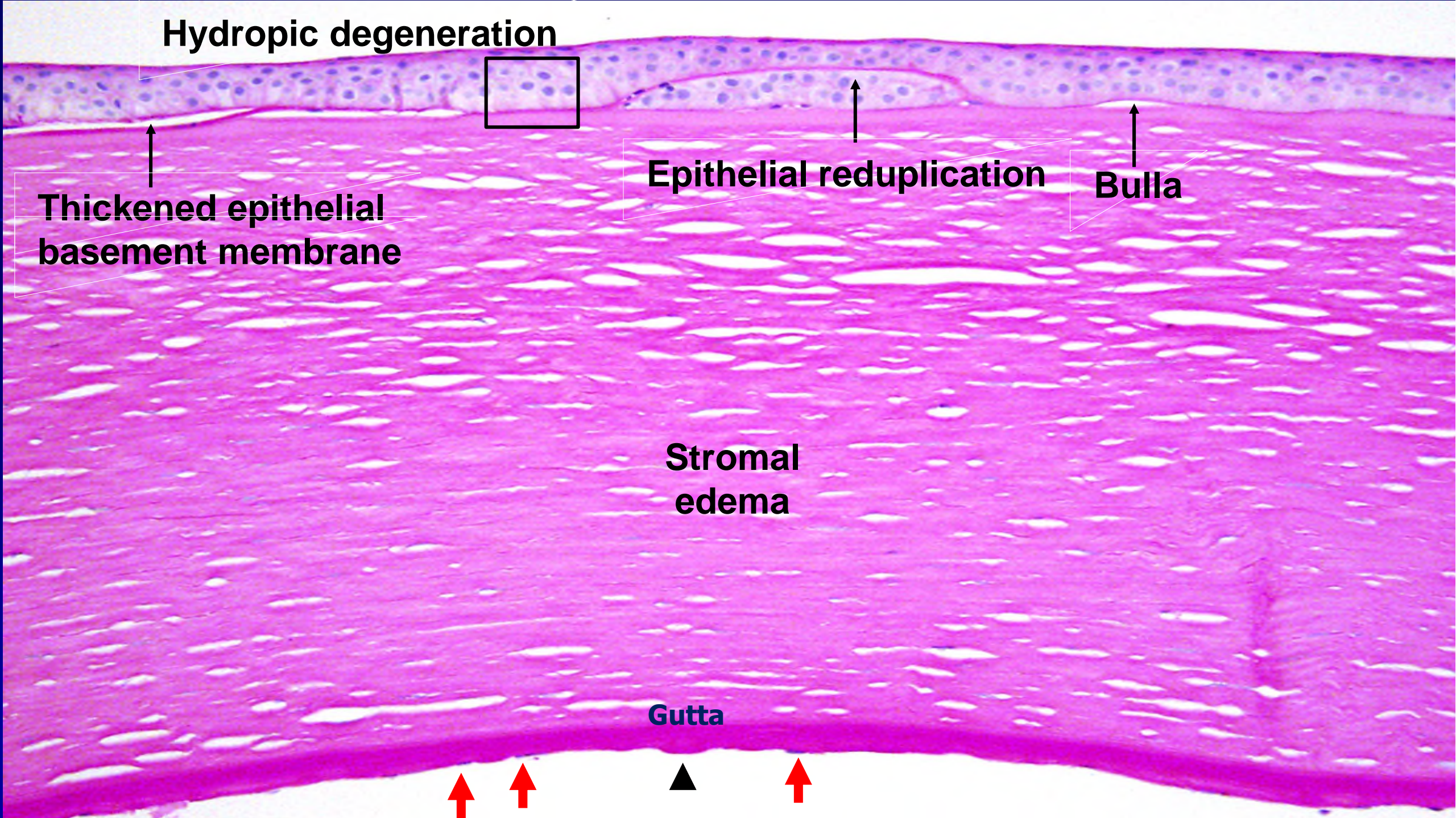
**DSEK**





**Stromal edema**

**Moderate endothelial hypocellularity**



**Hydropic degeneration**



**Thickened epithelial basement membrane**

**Epithelial reduplication**

**Bulla**

**Stromal edema**

**Gutta**



# Bullous Keratopathy

Intraepithelial  
basement  
membrane



Microcyst

Basement membrane thickening



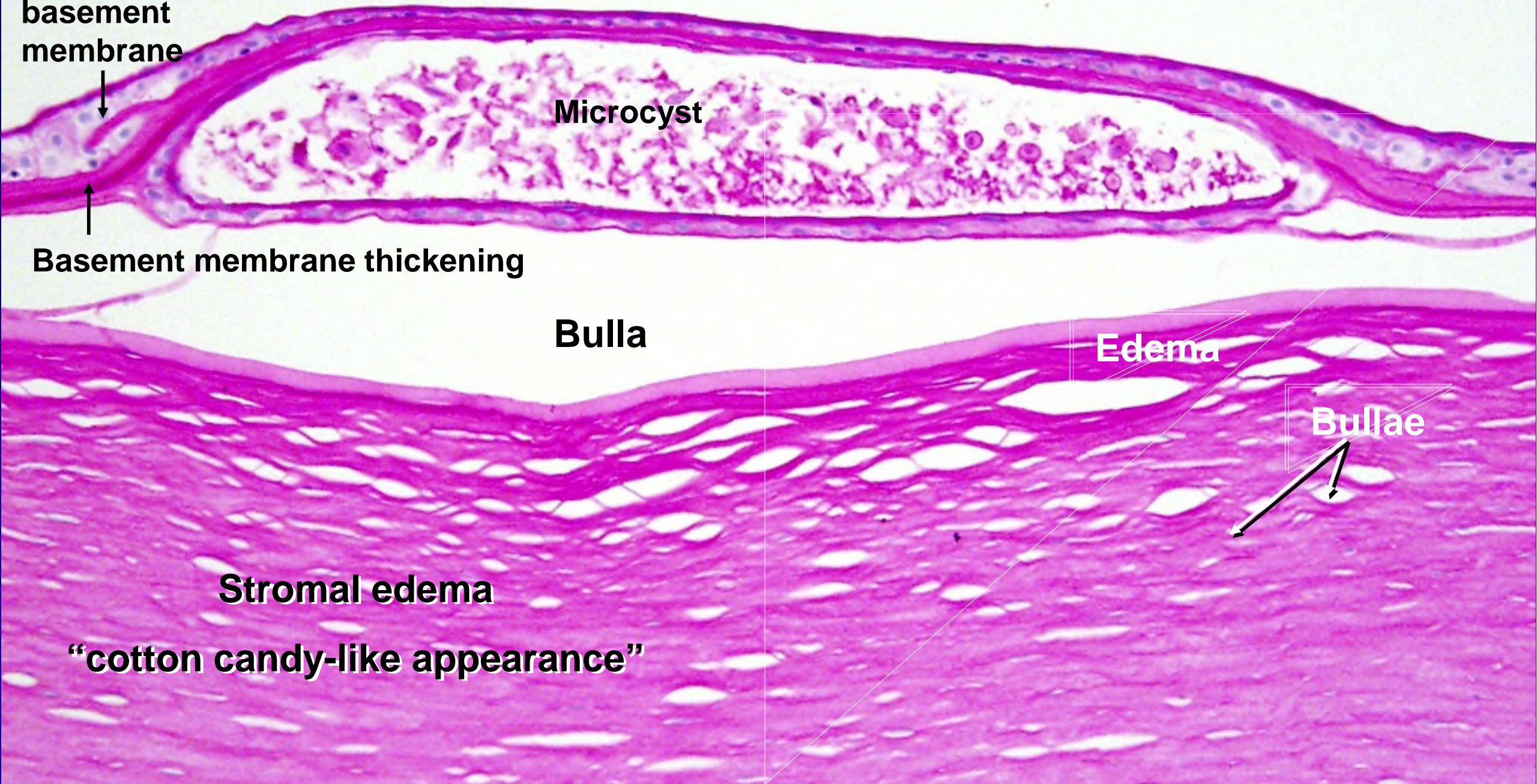
Bulla

Edema

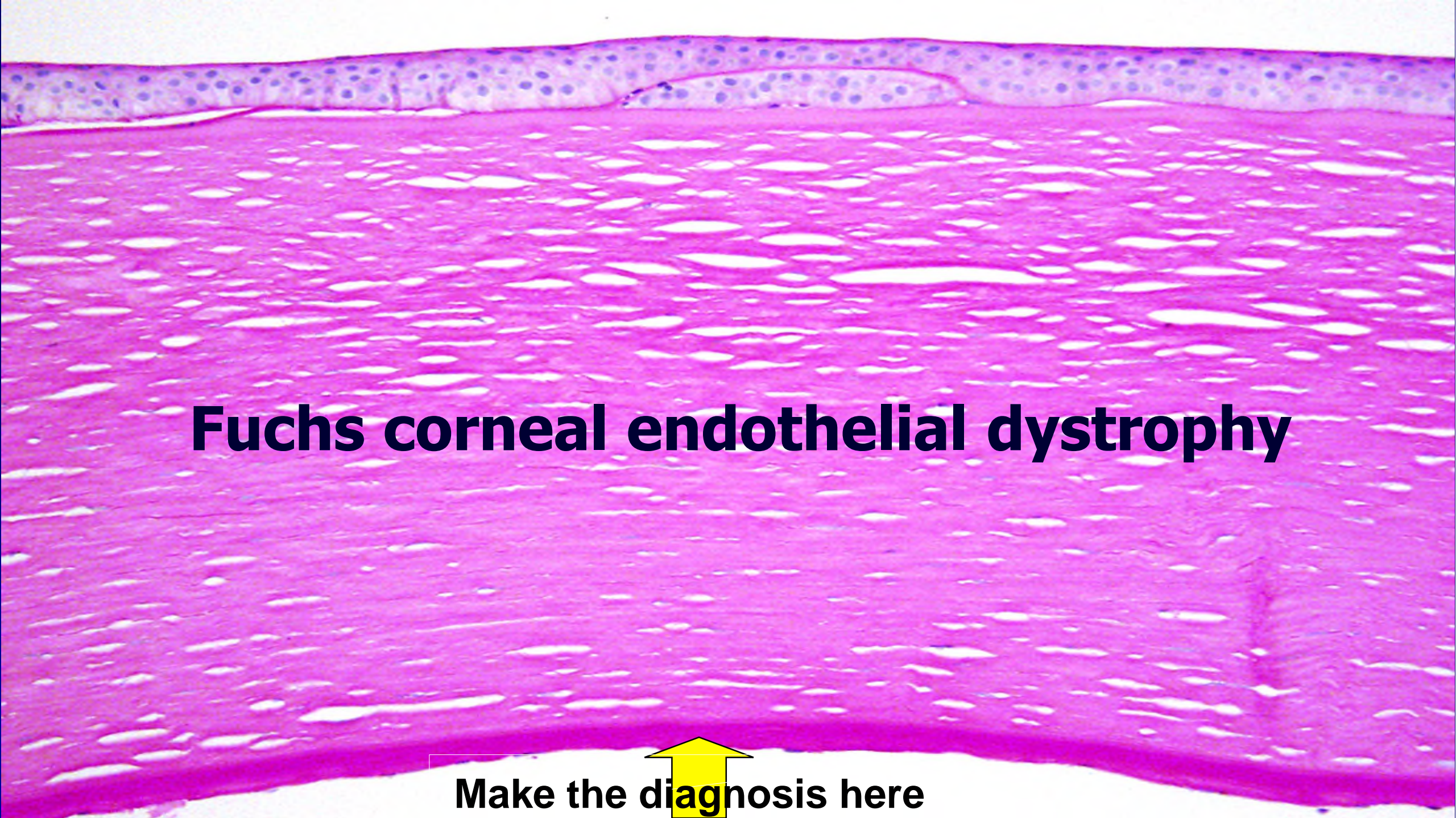
Bullae

Stromal edema

“cotton candy-like appearance”

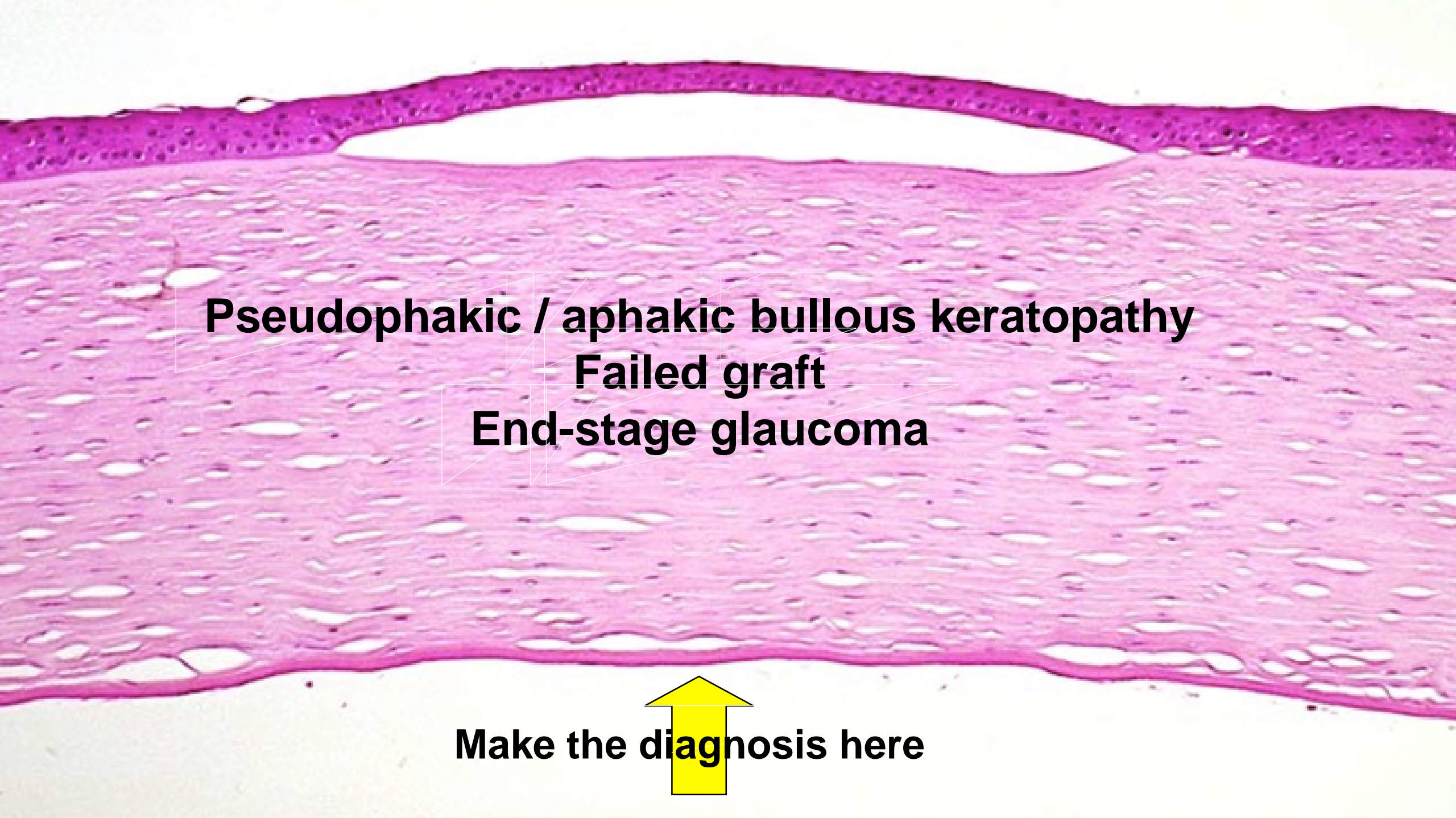






# **Fuchs corneal endothelial dystrophy**

**Make the diagnosis here**

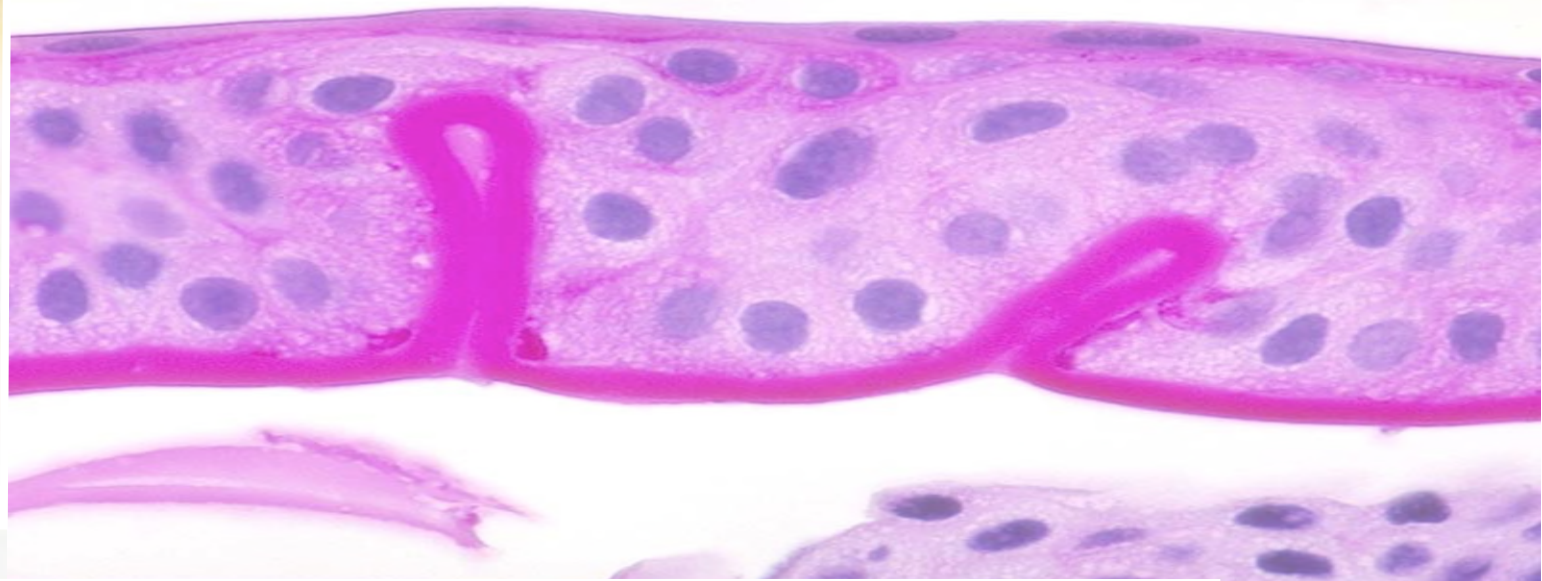


**Pseudophakic / aphakic bullous keratopathy**  
**Failed graft**  
**End-stage glaucoma**

**Make the diagnosis here**

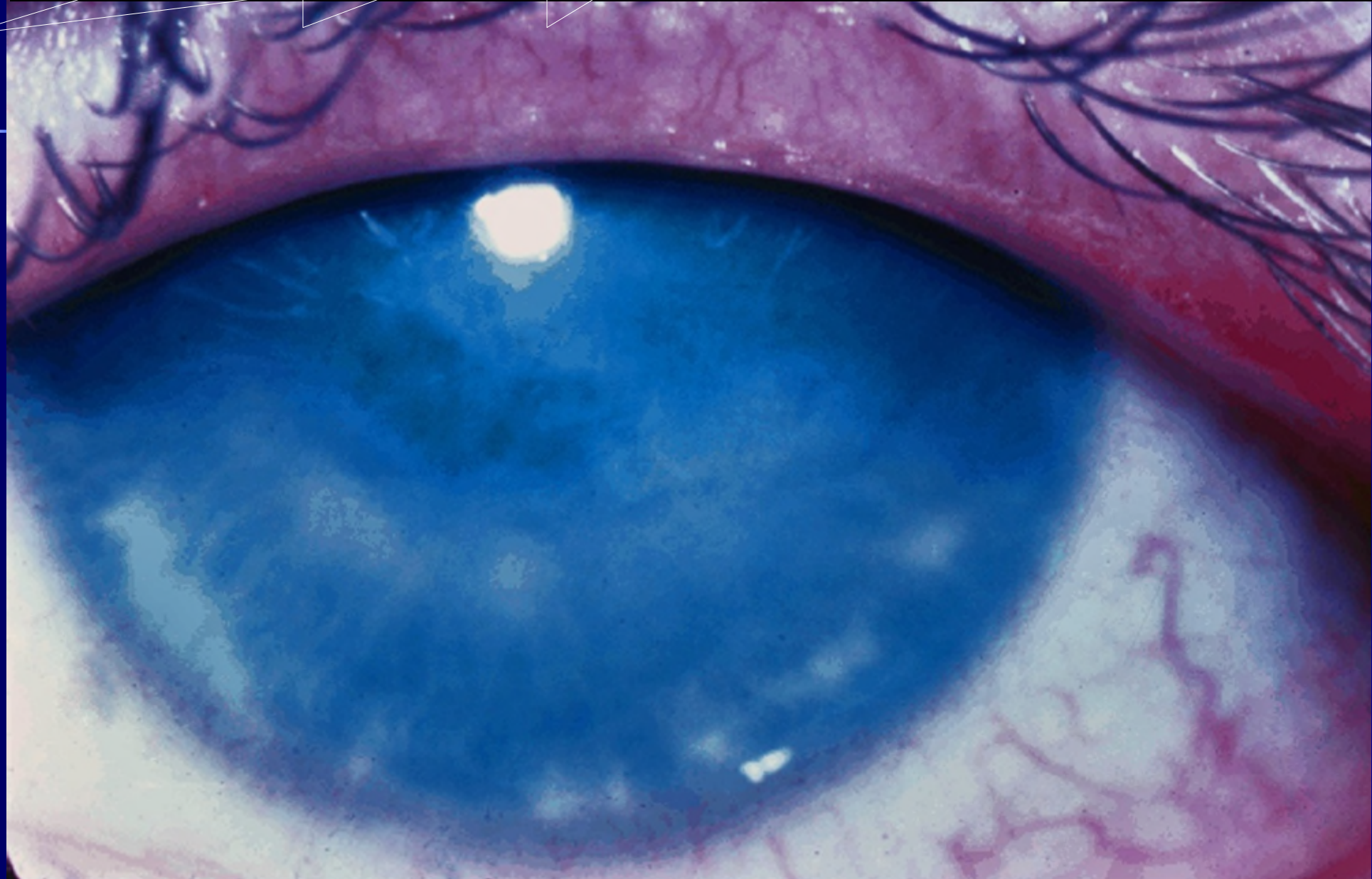


# Epithelial basement membrane dystrophy



Devitalized cells trapped beneath reduplicated epithelium

**Congenital Hereditary Endothelial Dystrophy (CHED)**  
**AR, 20p13 SLC4A11 gene**





# Posterior Polymorphous Dystrophy

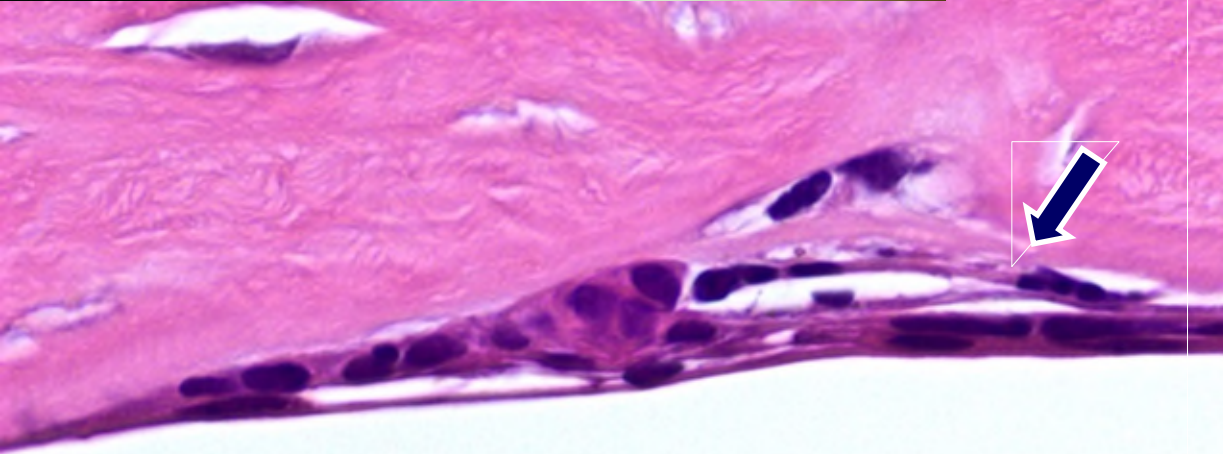
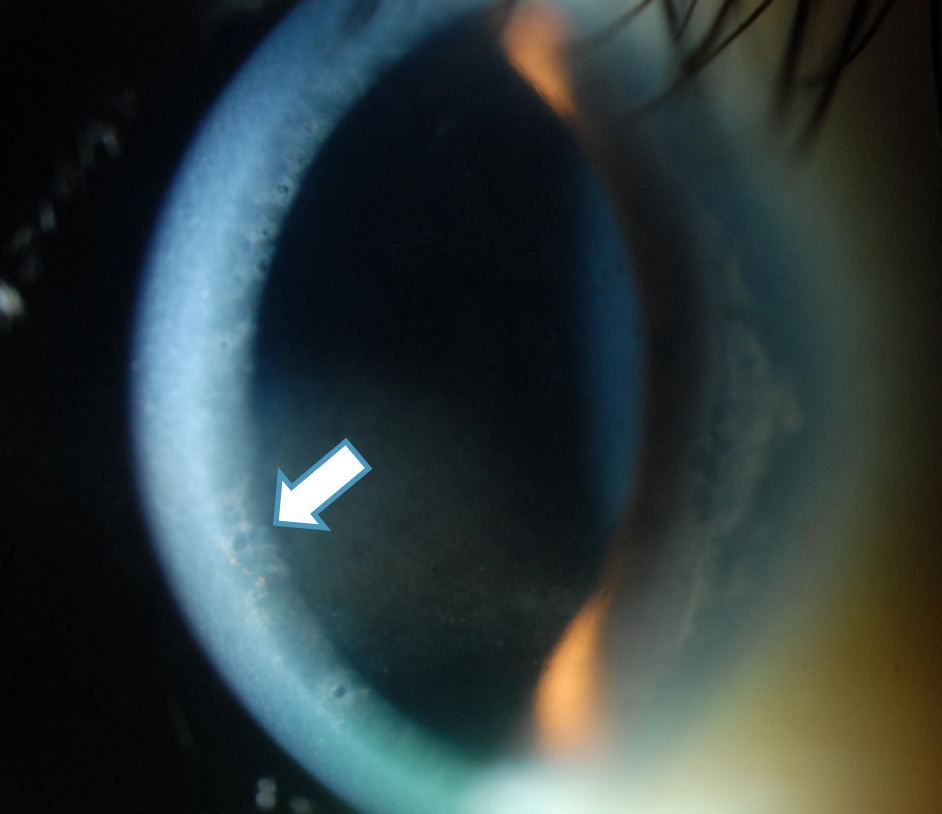
AD

PPCD 1: 20p11.2-q11.2, Gene unknown

PPCD 2: 1p34.3-p32.3  
collagen, type VIII, alpha-2 (*COL8A2*)

PPCD 3: 10p11.22  
zinc finger E box-binding homeobox 1 (*ZEB1*)





**CK5/6**

**Multilaminated Descemet membrane**





## IC3D Classification of Corneal Dystrophies—Edition 2

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**Purpose:** To update the 2008 International Classification of Corneal Dystrophies (IC3D) incorporating new clinical, histopathologic, and genetic information.

**Method:** The IC3D reviewed worldwide peer-reviewed articles for new information on corneal dystrophies published between 2008 and 2014. Using this information, corneal dystrophy templates and anatomic classification were updated. New clinical histopathologic, and confocal photographs were added.

**Results:** On the basis of revisiting the cellular origin of corneal dystrophy, a modified anatomic classification was proposed consisting of (1) epithelial and subepithelial dystrophies, (2) epithelial–stromal *TGFBI* dystrophies, (3) stromal dystrophies, and (4) endothelial dystrophies. Most of the dystrophy templates were updated. The entity “Epithelial recurrent erosion dystrophies”

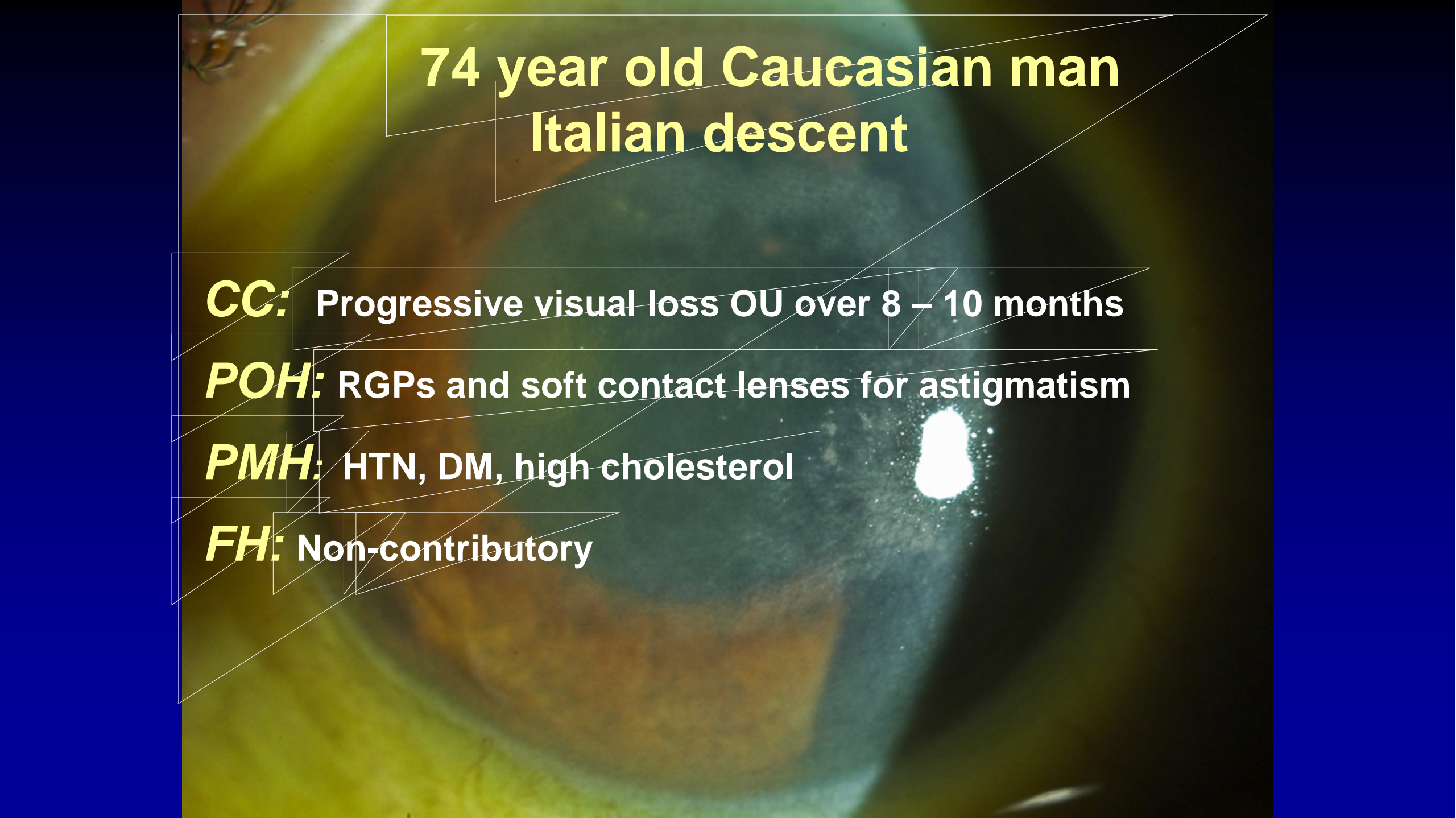
actually includes a number of potentially distinct epithelial dystrophies (Franceschetti corneal dystrophy, Dystrophia Smolanskyi, and Dystrophia reisingeriana) but must be differentiated from dystrophies such as *TGFBI*-induced dystrophies, which are so often associated with recurrent epithelial erosions. The chromosome locus of Thiel-Behnke corneal dystrophy is only located on 5q31. The entity previously designated as a variant of Thiel-Behnke corneal dystrophy on chromosome 10q24 may represent a novel corneal dystrophy. Congenital hereditary endothelial dystrophy (CHED, formerly CHED2) is most likely only an autosomal recessive disorder. The so-called autosomal dominant childhood-onset CHED (CHED1) is insufficiently distinct to continue to be considered a unique corneal dystrophy. On review of almost all of the published cases, the description appeared most similar to posterior polymorphous corneal dystrophy linked to the same chromosome 20 locus (PPCD1). Confocal microscopy also has emerged as a helpful tool to reveal *in vivo*

Genetic testing  
 Diagnosis  
 Genetic counseling  
 Prognostication

# Illustrative Case Examples

An endoscopic view of the colon. The mucosal surface is visible, showing a reddish-pink color. A prominent, white, polypoid lesion is located on the right side of the frame. The text "Patient 1" is overlaid in the center of the image.

**Patient 1**

A fundus photograph of a human eye, showing the retina and optic disc. The image is slightly blurred, and there is a bright white spot on the right side, likely the optic disc. The background is a dark blue gradient.

**74 year old Caucasian man  
Italian descent**

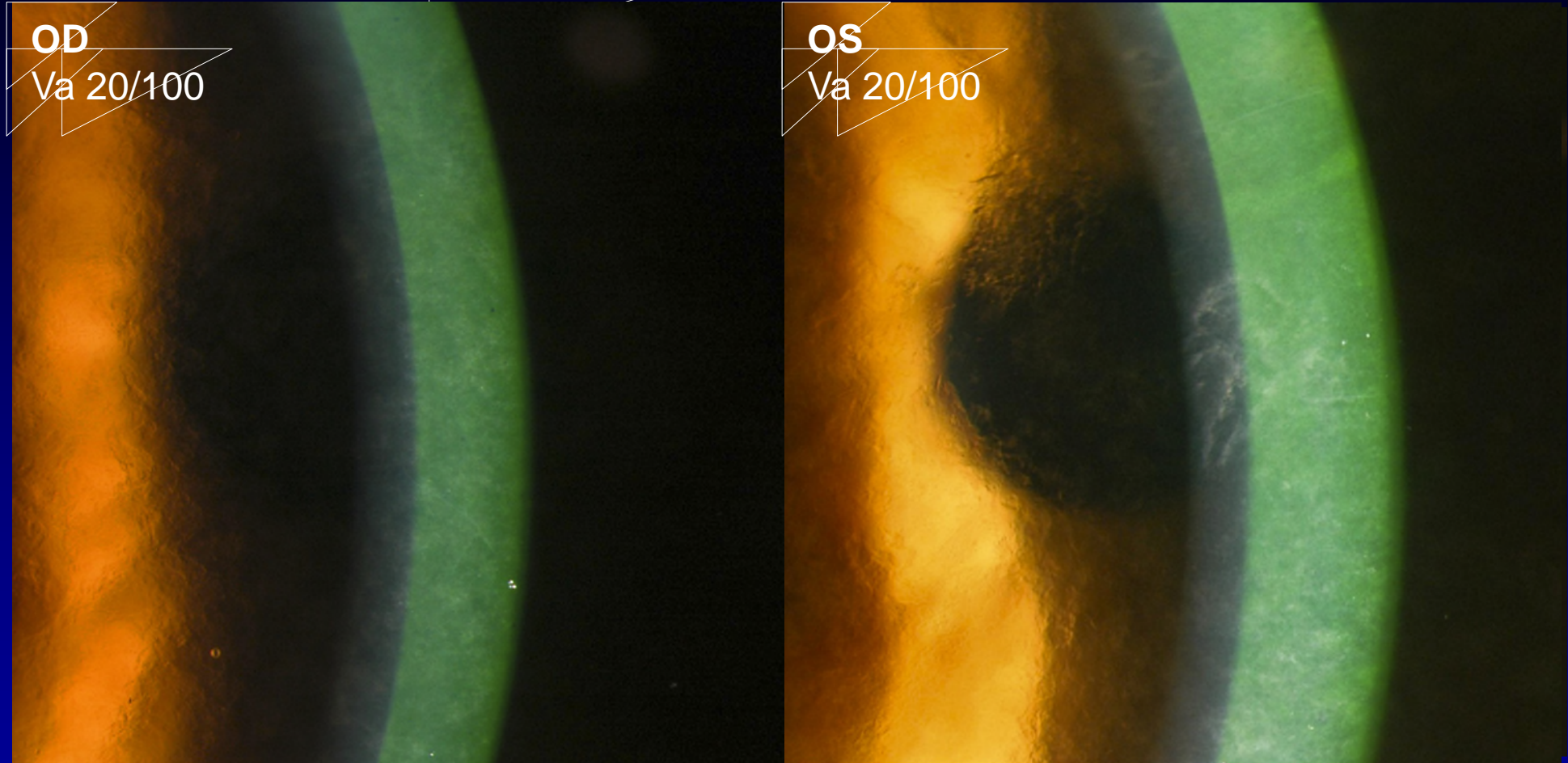
**CC:** Progressive visual loss OU over 8 – 10 months

**POH:** RGPs and soft contact lenses for astigmatism

**PMH:** HTN, DM, high cholesterol

**FH:** Non-contributory

# Clinical Exam



**Pt seen by 3 corneal specialists**

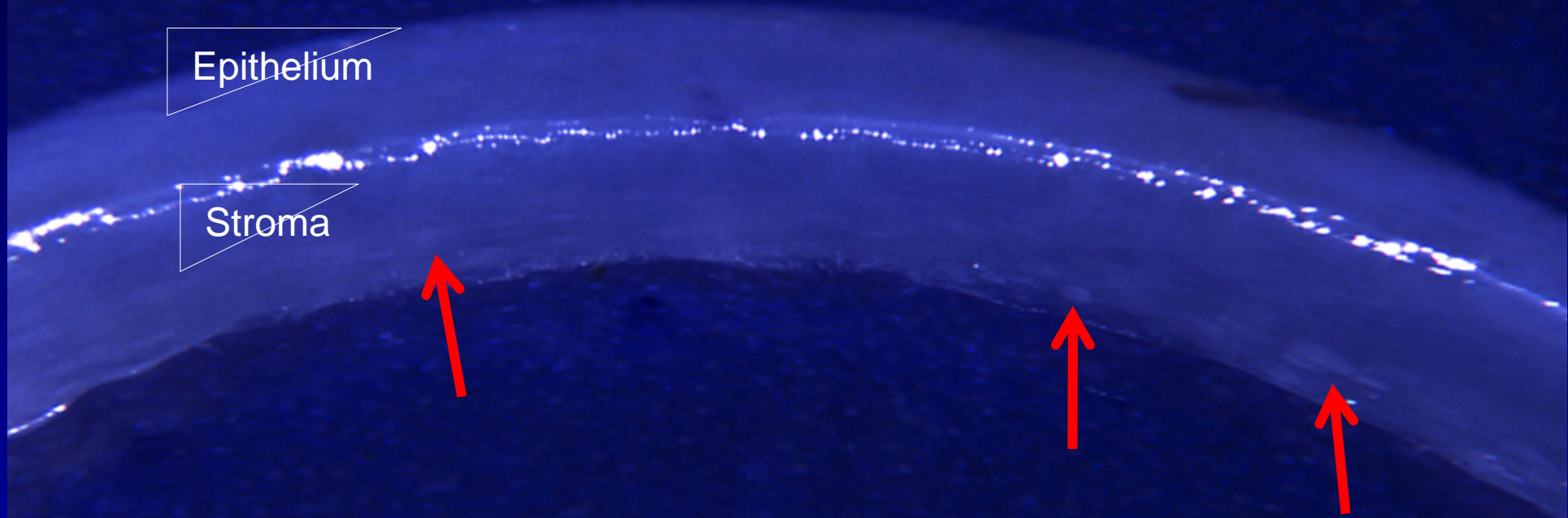
**DDx:** Dystrophy (Lattice, granular, Avelino, PPMD), IK (HSV, VZV, EBV), non-dystrophic amyloid deposition, Acanthamoeba, Staph hypersensitivity

# Gross Pathology of Corneal Button

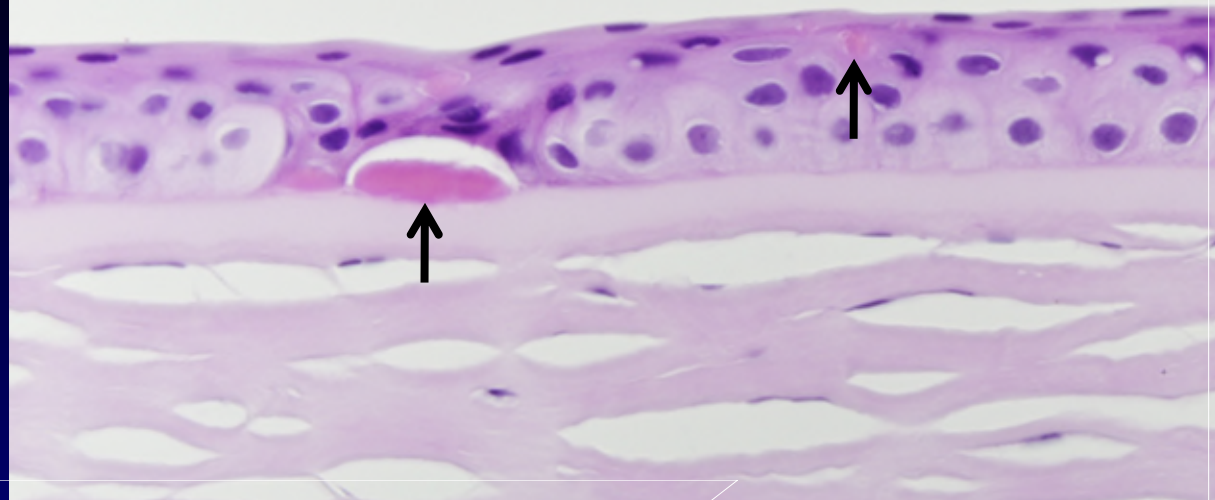
Cross-section

Epithelium

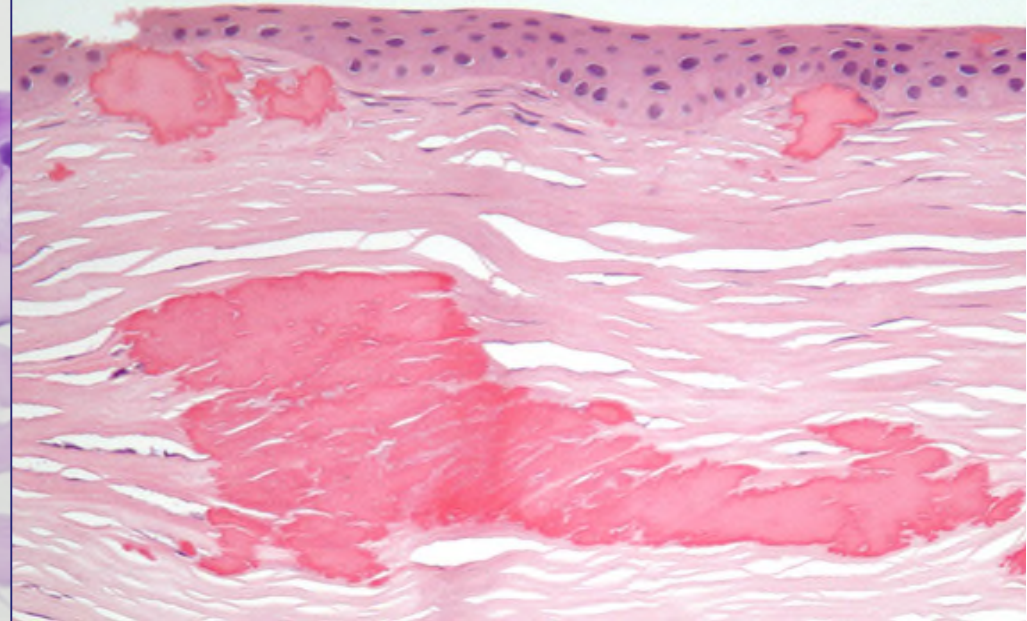
Stroma



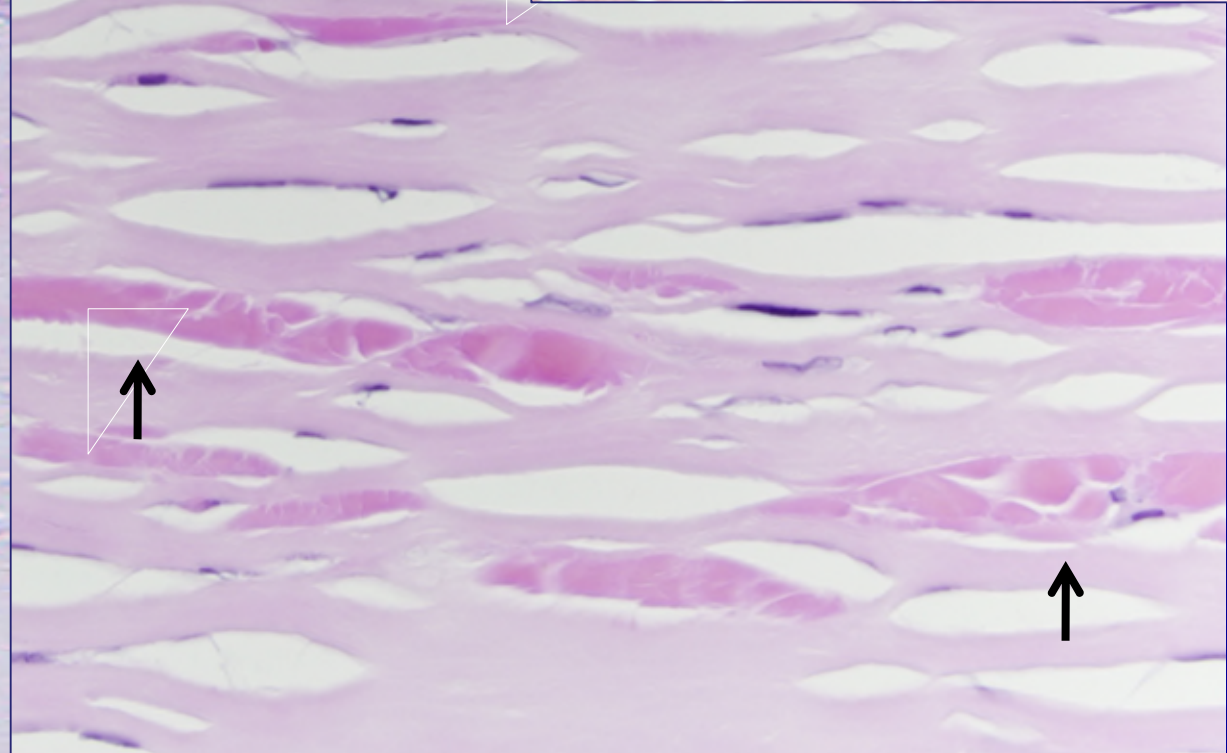
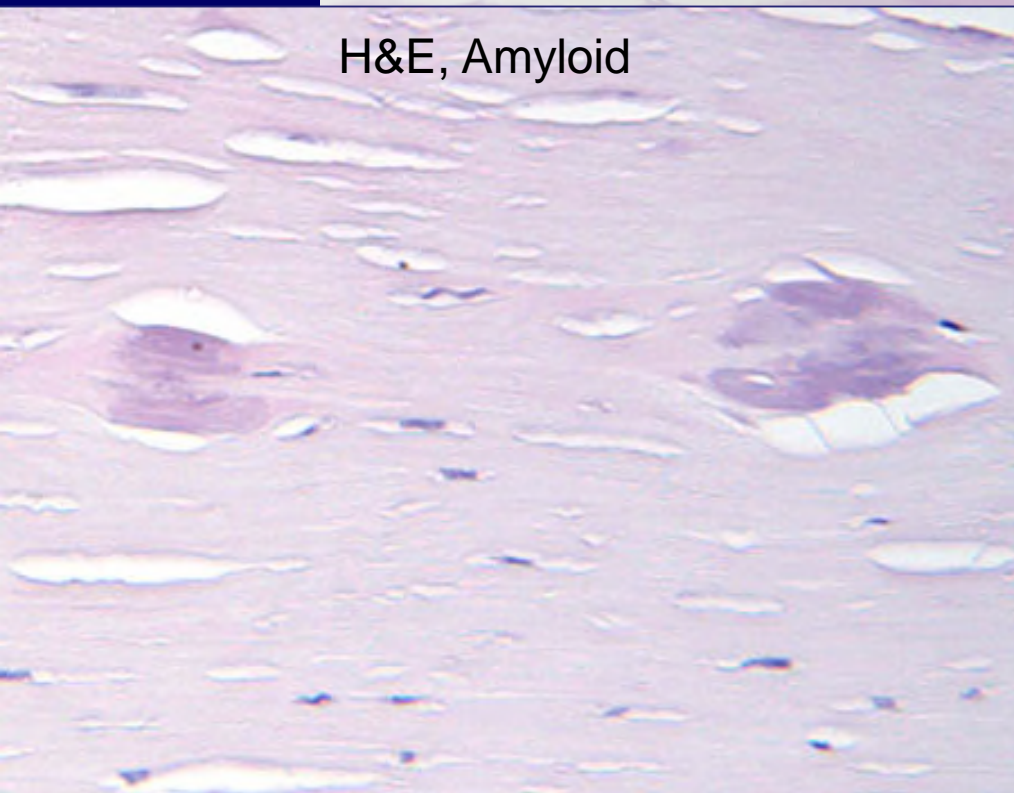
H&E, high-power



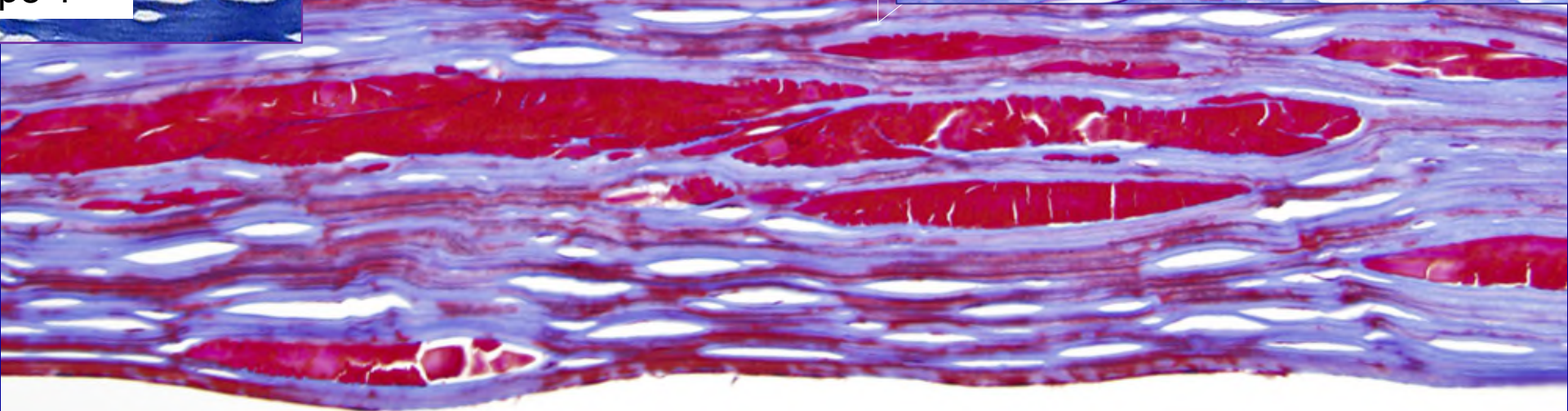
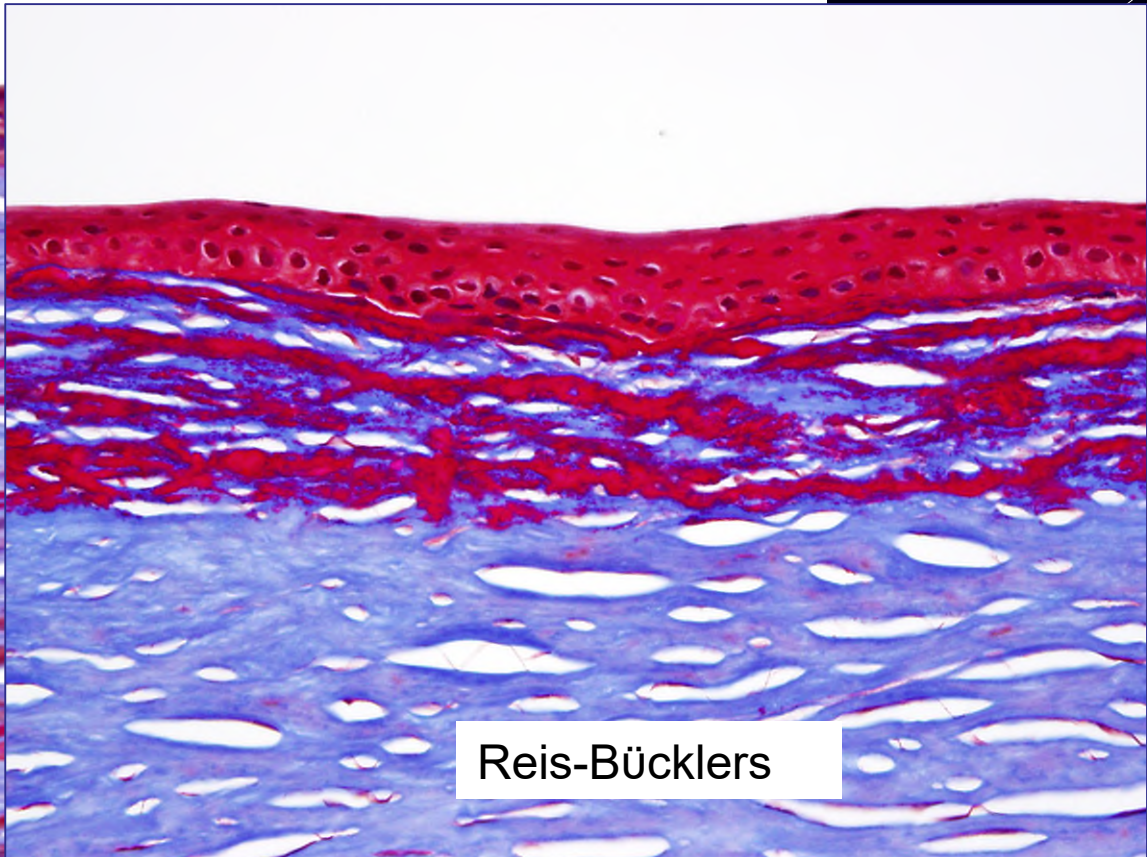
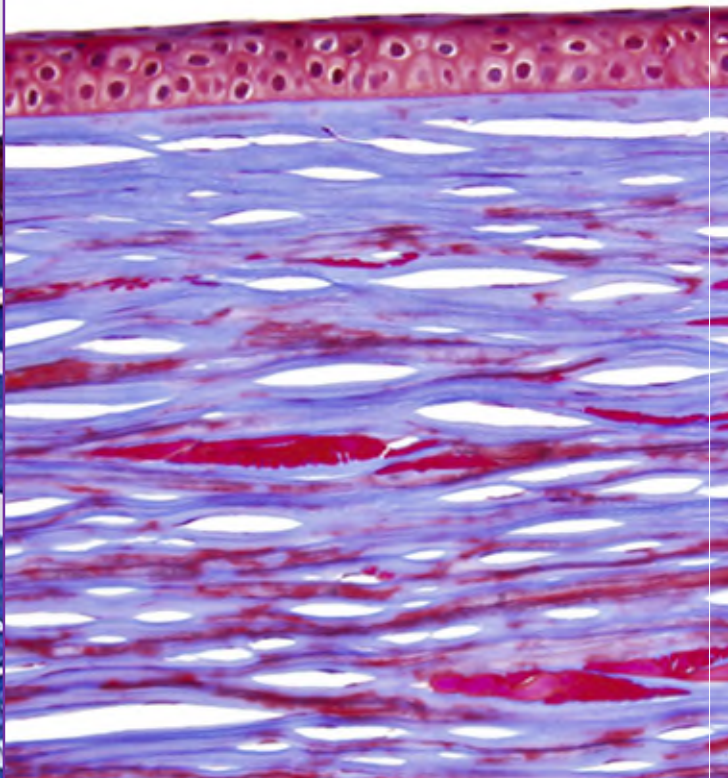
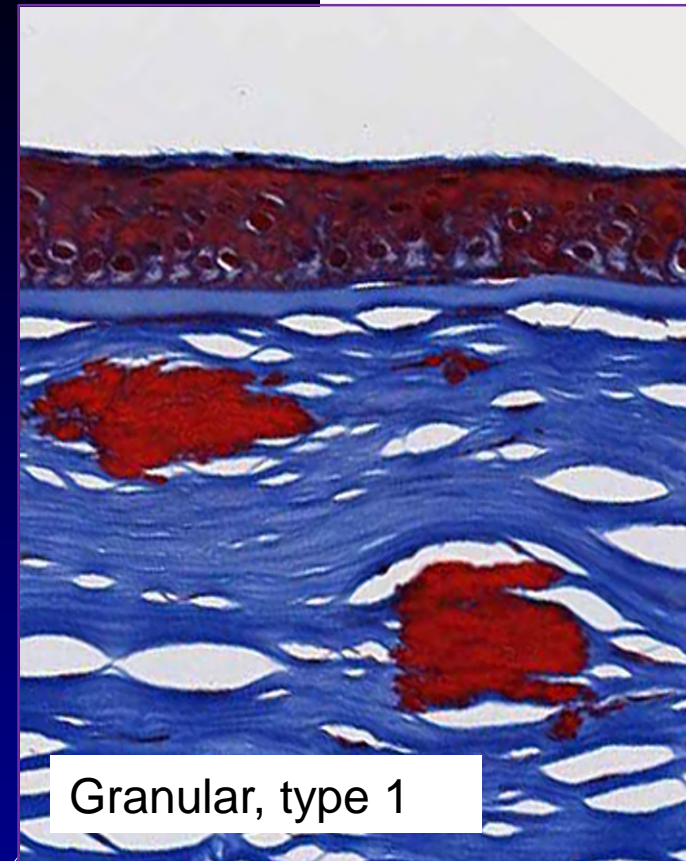
H&E, Hyalin (Granular)



H&E, Amyloid

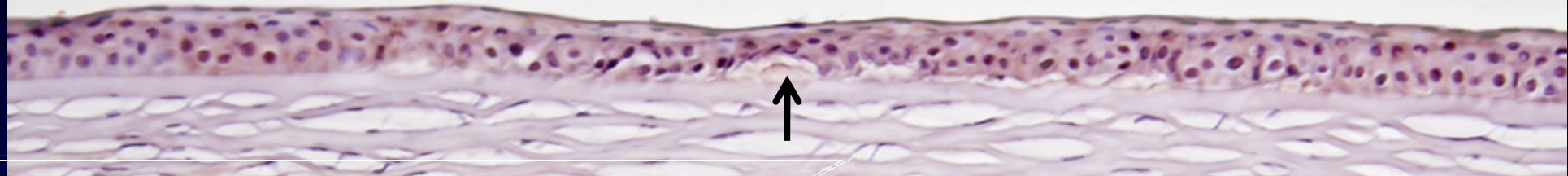


Masson-trichrome, intermediate-power

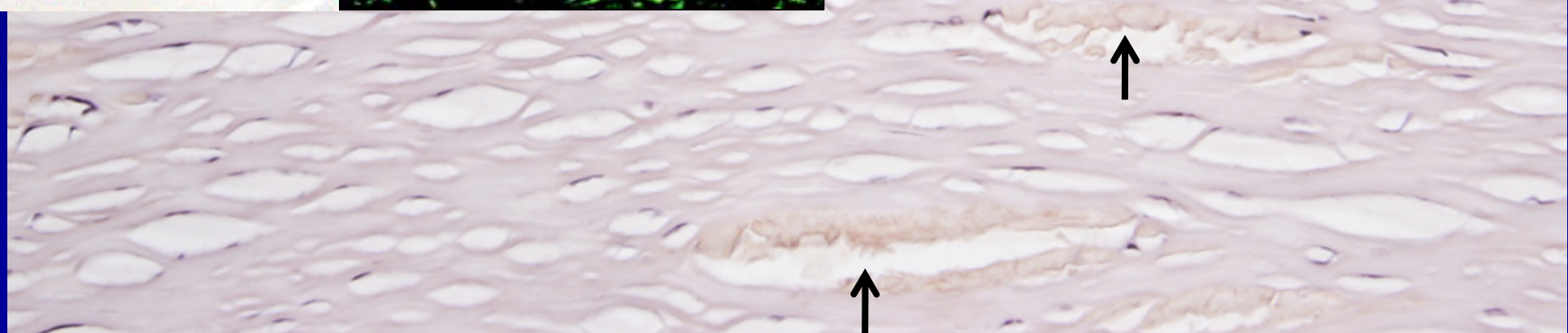
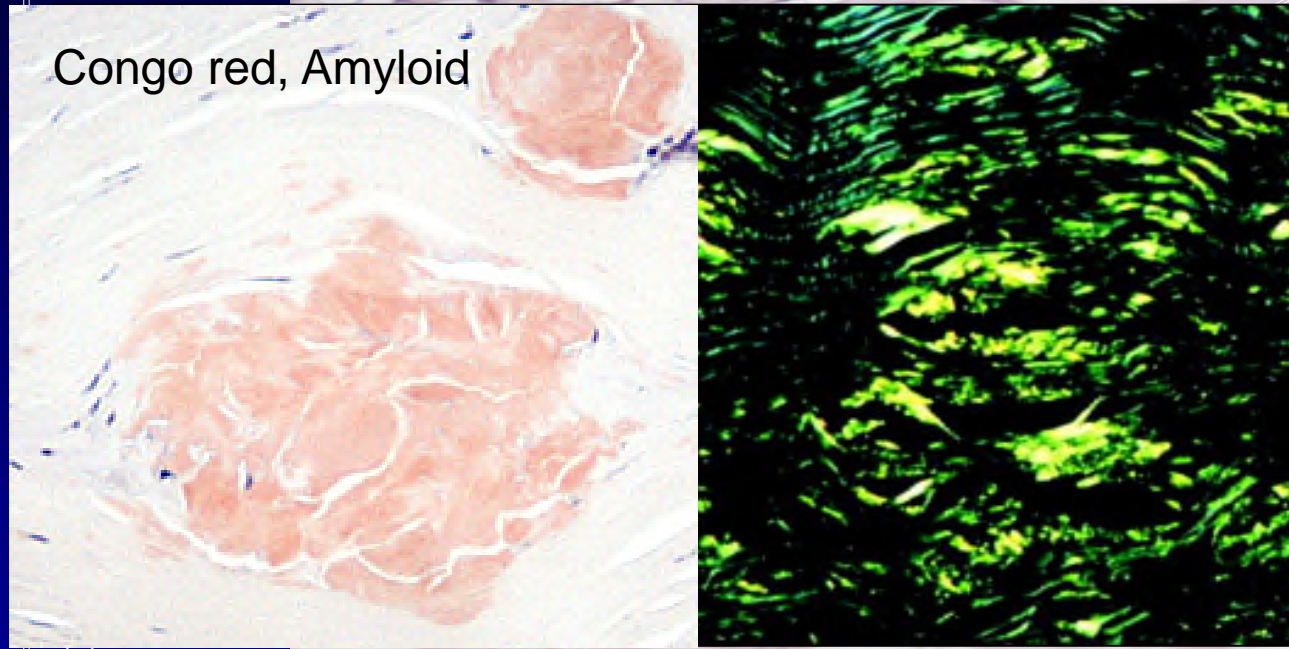




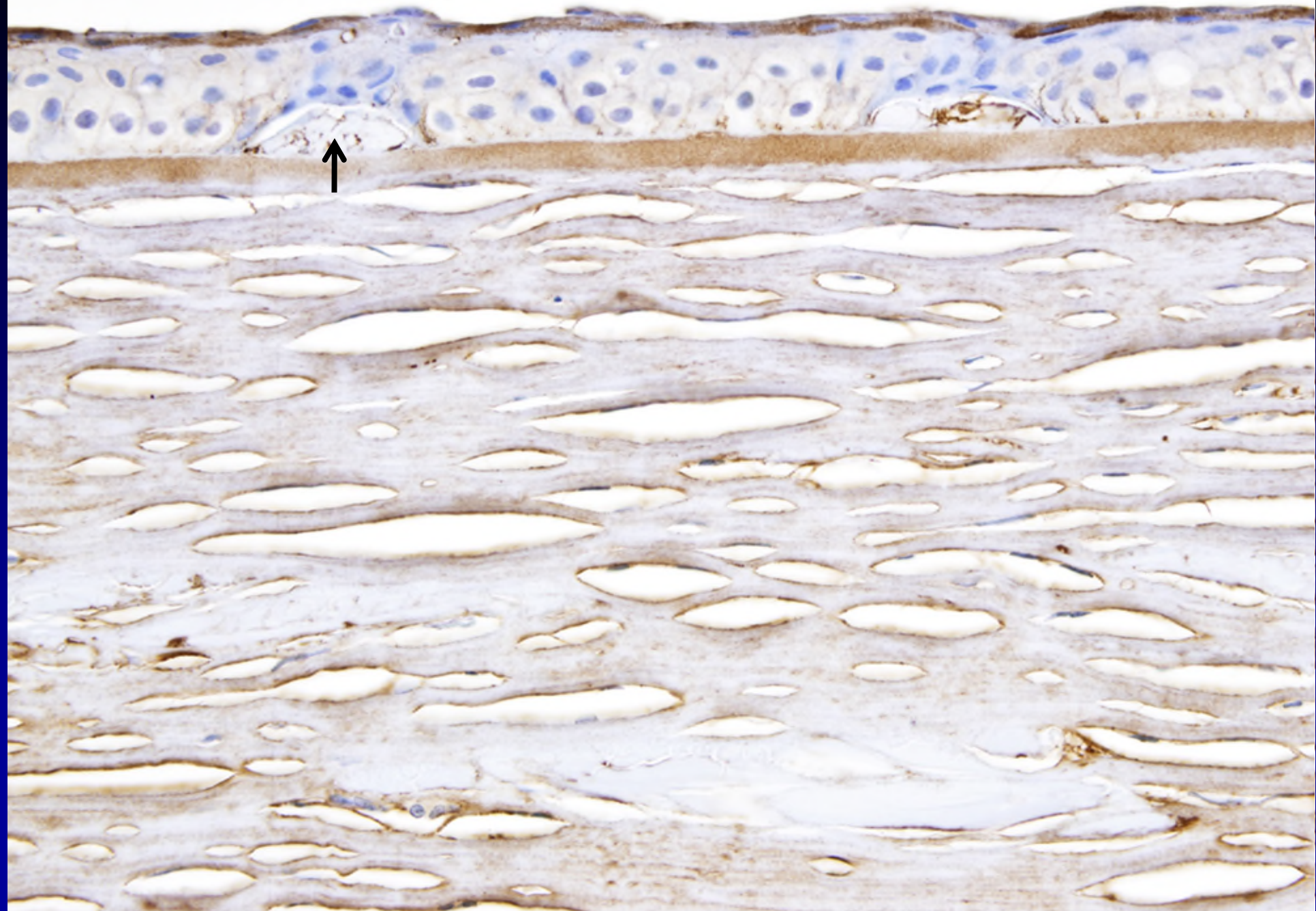
Congo red, intermediate-power



Congo red, Amyloid

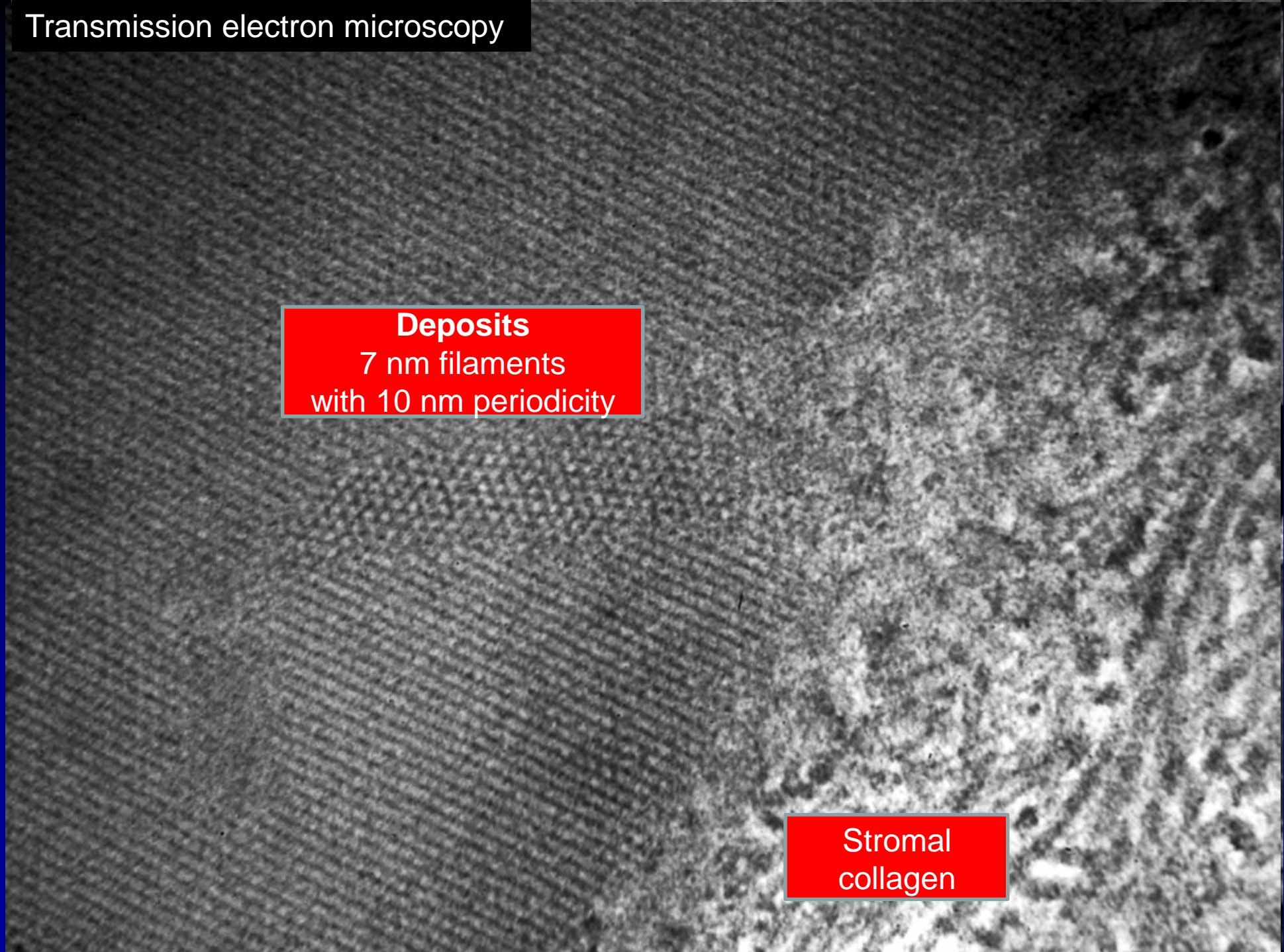


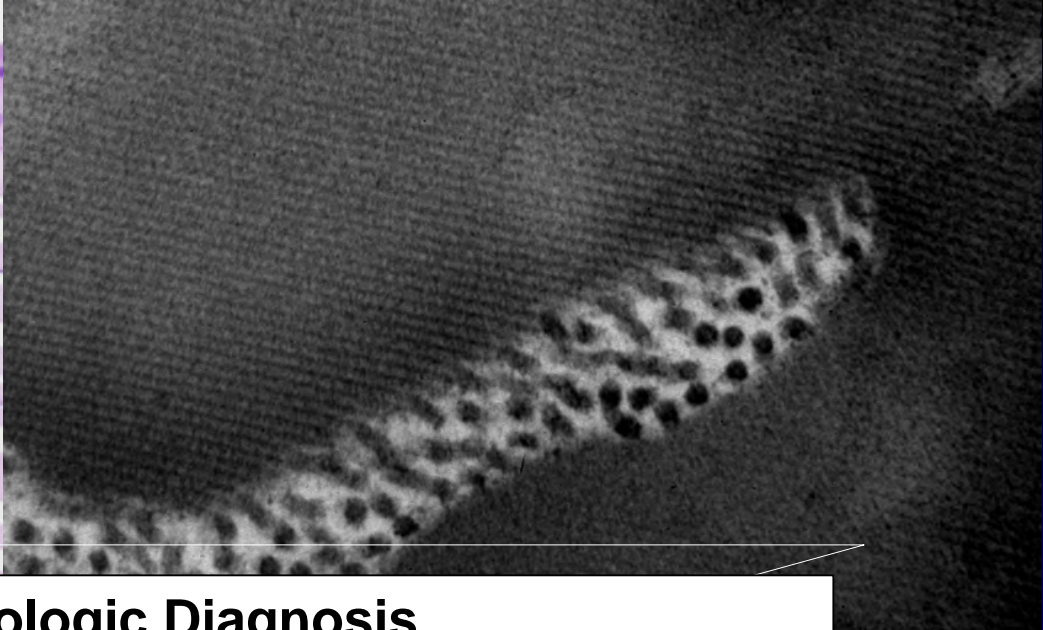
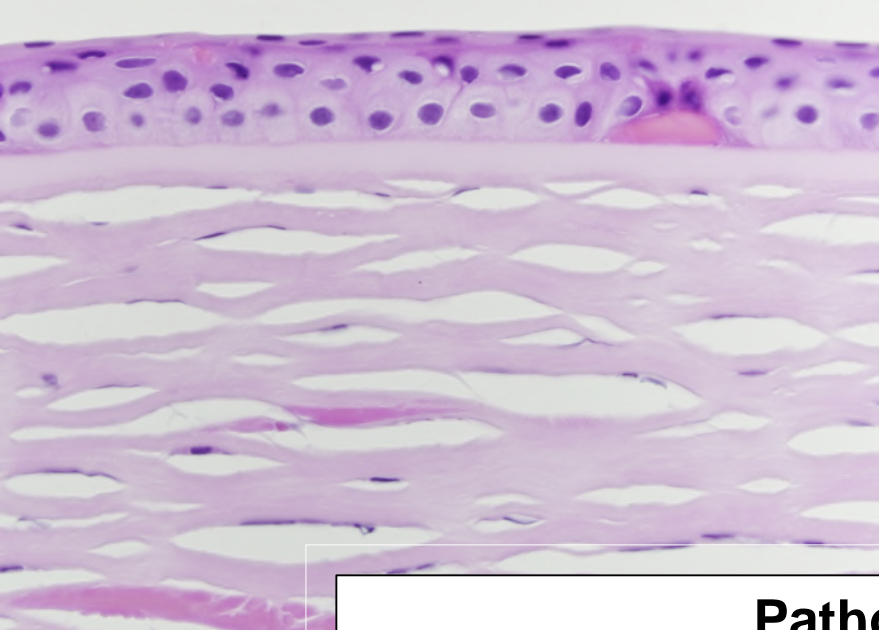
Kappa light chain antibody immunostain, high-power



**Deposits**  
7 nm filaments  
with 10 nm periodicity

Stromal  
collagen

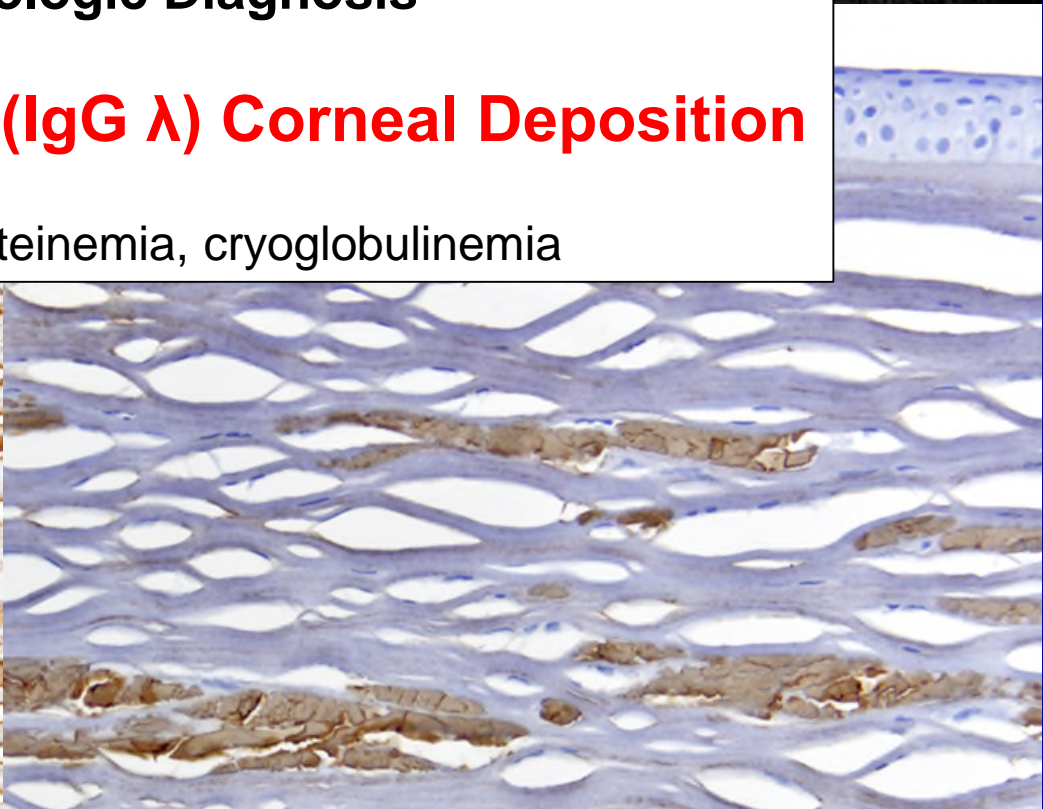
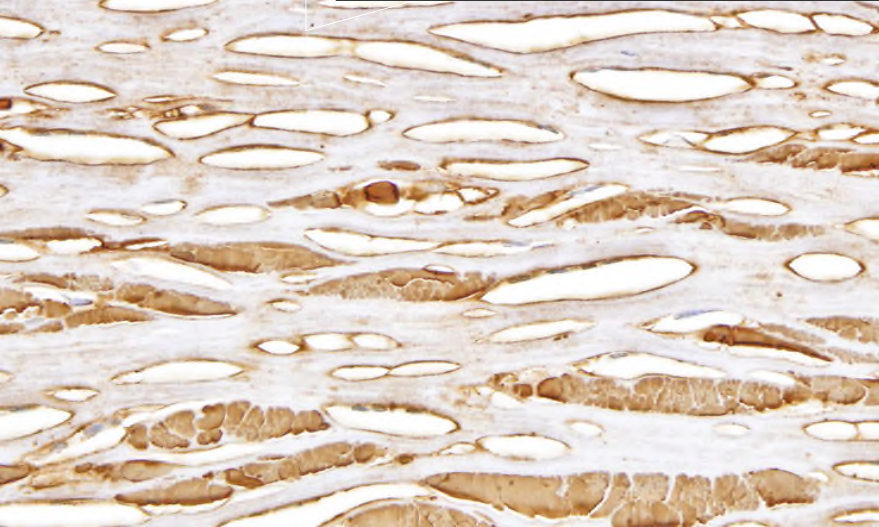
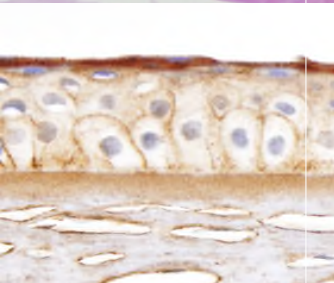




## Pathologic Diagnosis

# Immunoglobulin (IgG $\lambda$ ) Corneal Deposition

R/O paraproteinemia, cryoglobulinemia



## Follow-up Oncology

- **SPEP**

M-protein band (7 g/L)

IgG  $\lambda$  paraprotein by immunofixation

- **UPEP**

Trace immunoglobulin

No free light chains

Normal renal function tests

## Follow-up Oncology

- **Bone marrow biopsy:**

Mild plasmacytosis (8% plasma cells)

B cells represent <10% of marrow cellular elements

Amyloid stain (Congo red): negative

- **Bone Scan:** No disease

- No anemia or hypercalcemia

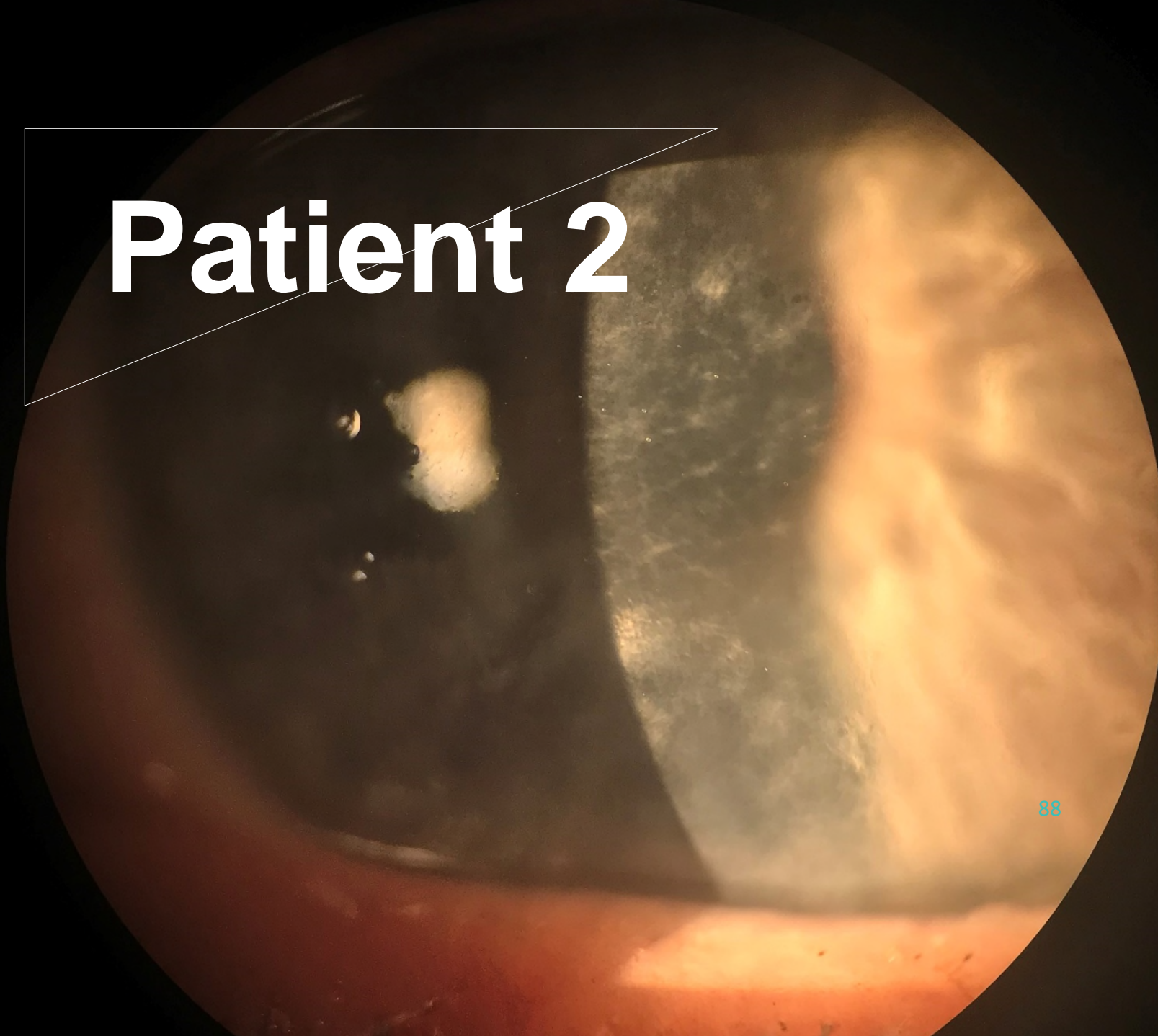
**Diagnosis: MGUS (now smoldering myeloma)**  
(Monoclonal Gammopathy of Undetermined Significance)

A composite image featuring a central green lens with a white reflection. Surrounding the lens are four panels of biological tissue: a purple-stained histological section at the top left, a black and white micrograph at the top right, a brown-stained histological section at the bottom left, and a blue-stained histological section at the bottom right. The lens is positioned in the center, overlapping the four panels.

***Teaching Points:***

**As classic  
as it gets!**

# Patient 2



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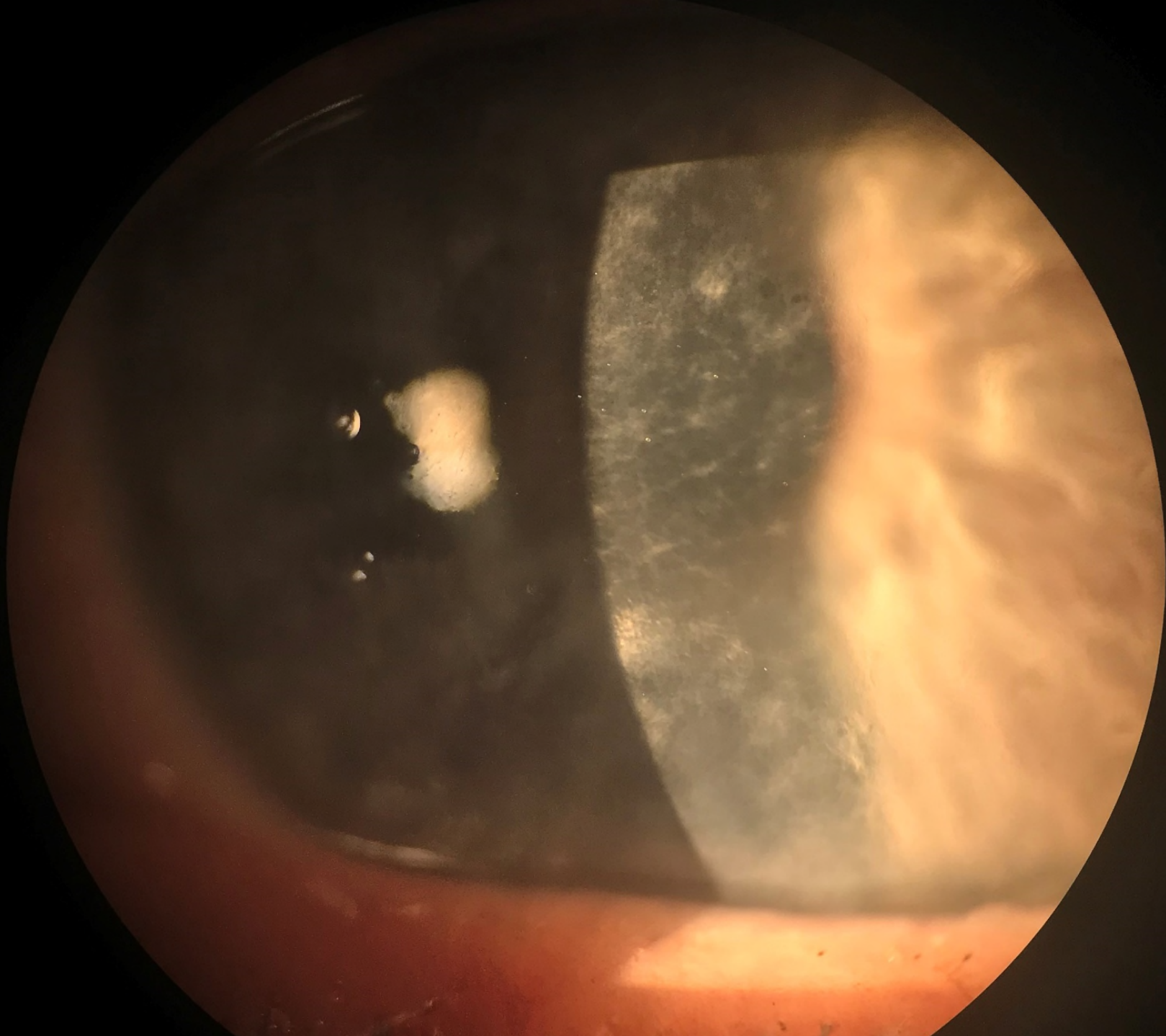


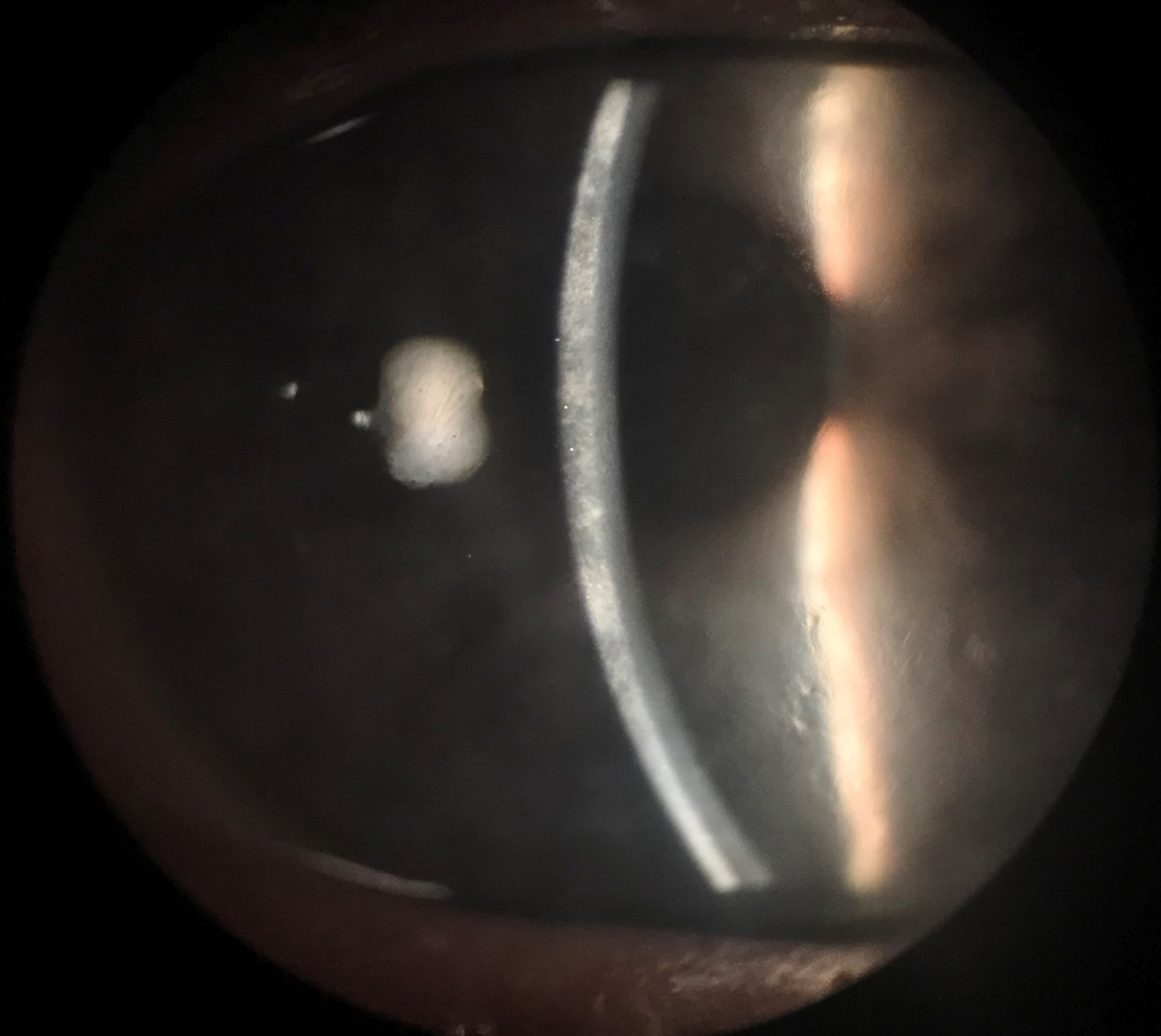
My vision is cloudy  
in both eyes...

**69 year-old woman**

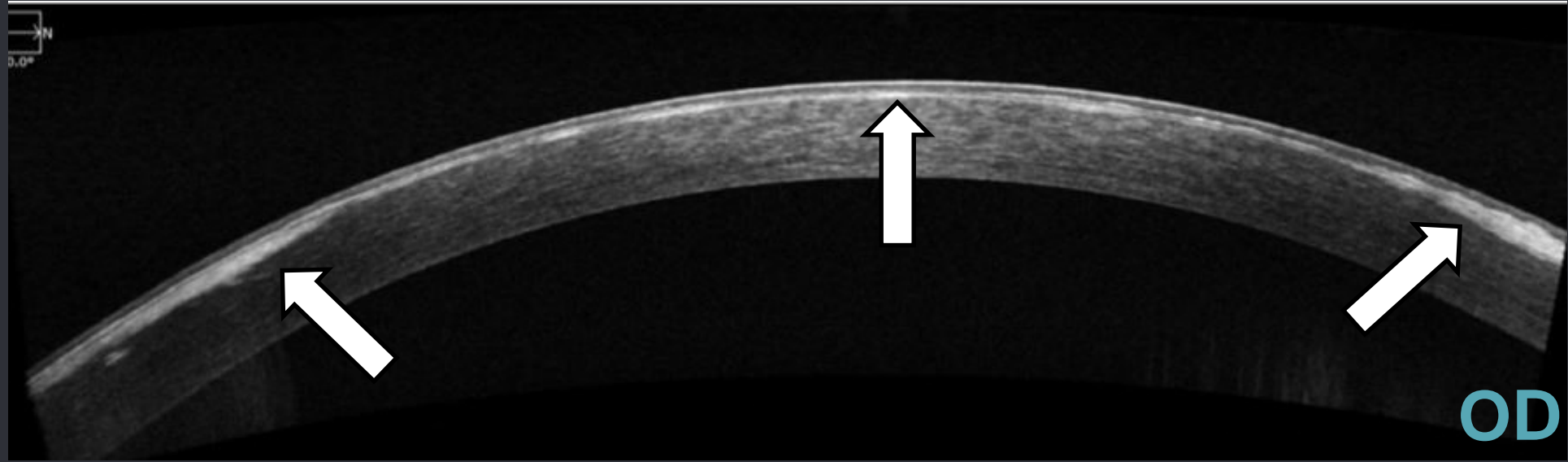
**Progressive, painless blurry vision OU x 6  
months**

89





# Anterior Segment OCT

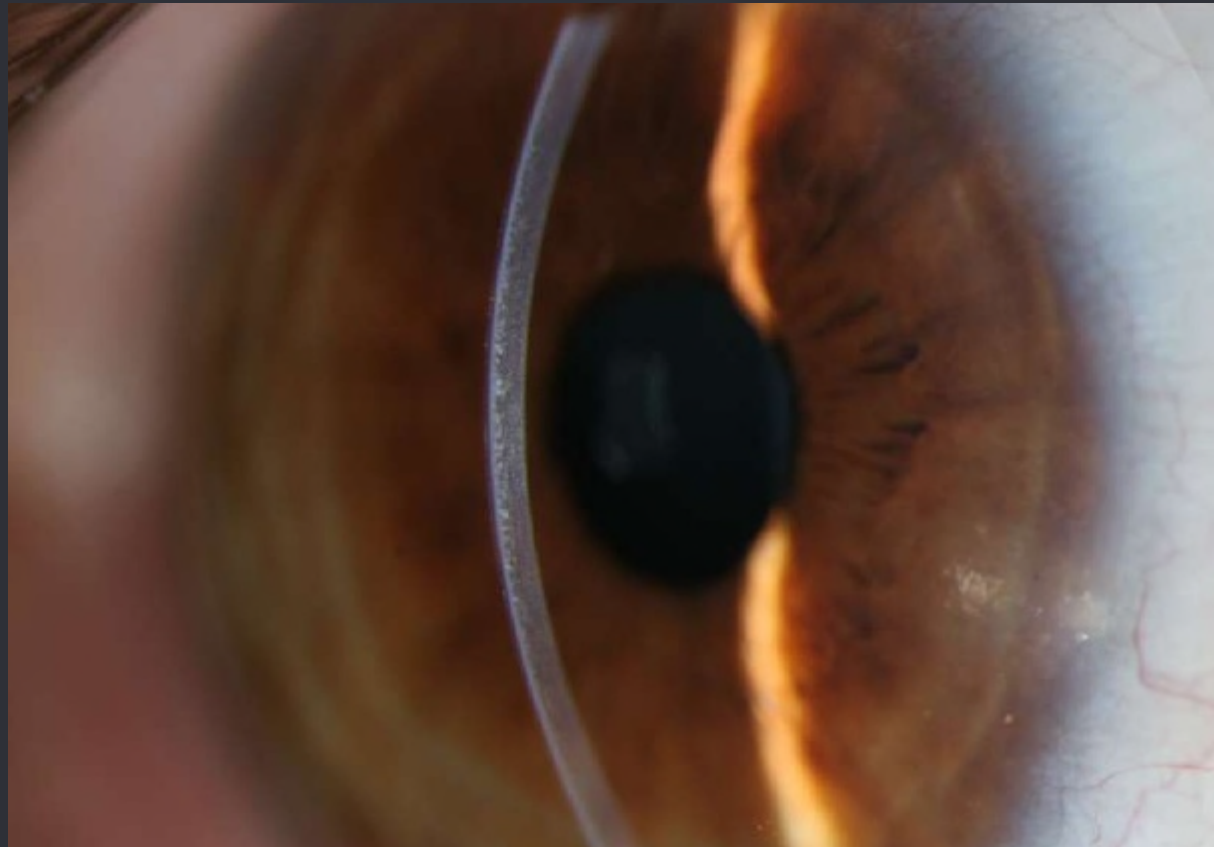


Late onset Reis-Bückler Dystrophy?

OS

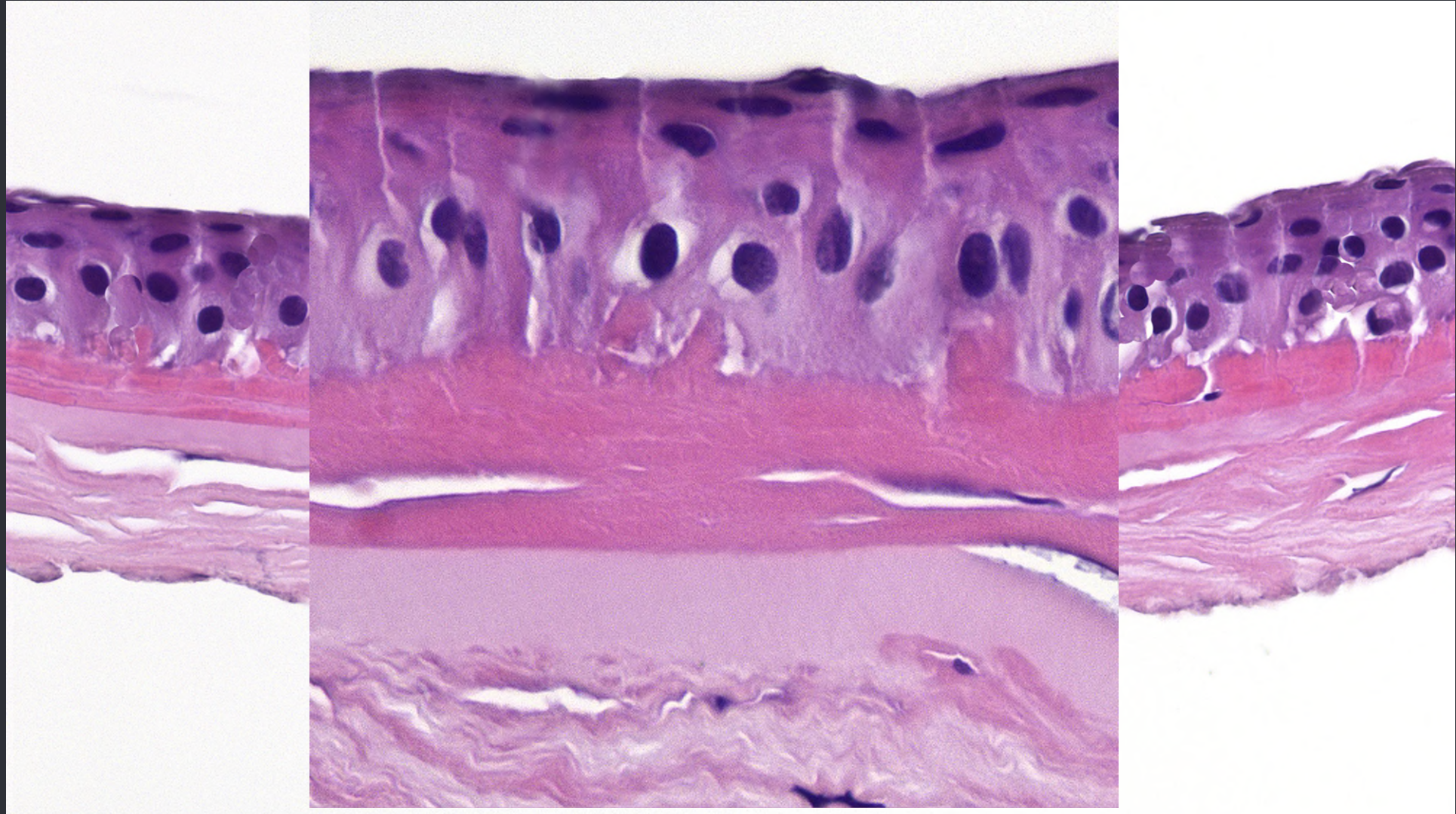
# Daughter and Son Exam

Normal anterior segment both eyes



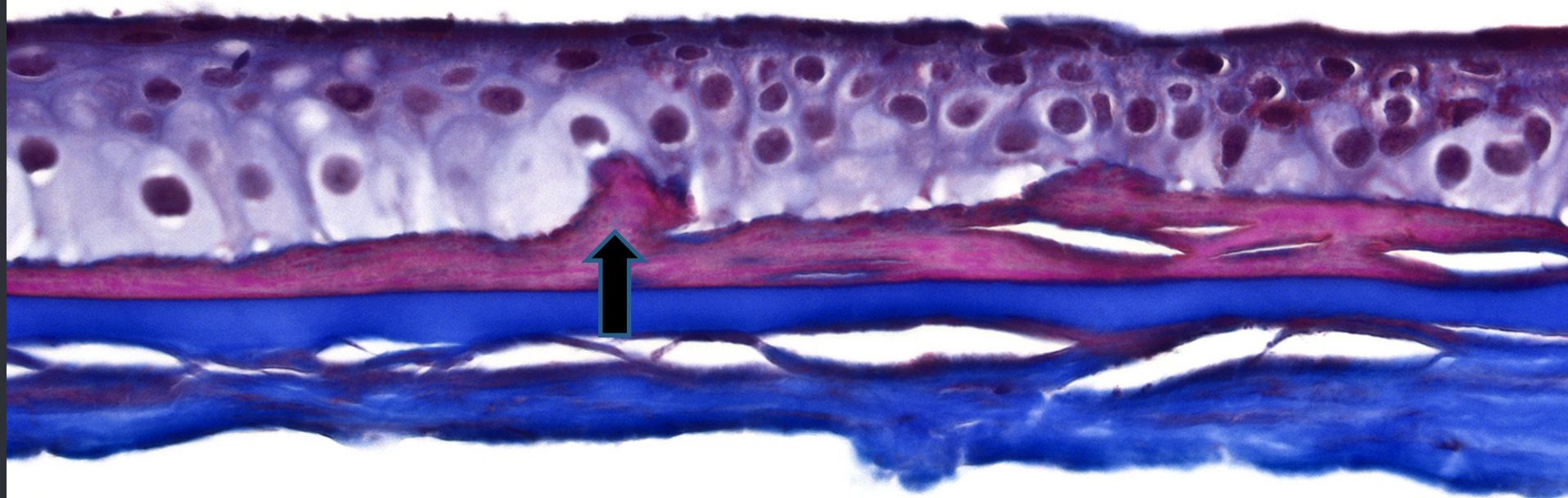




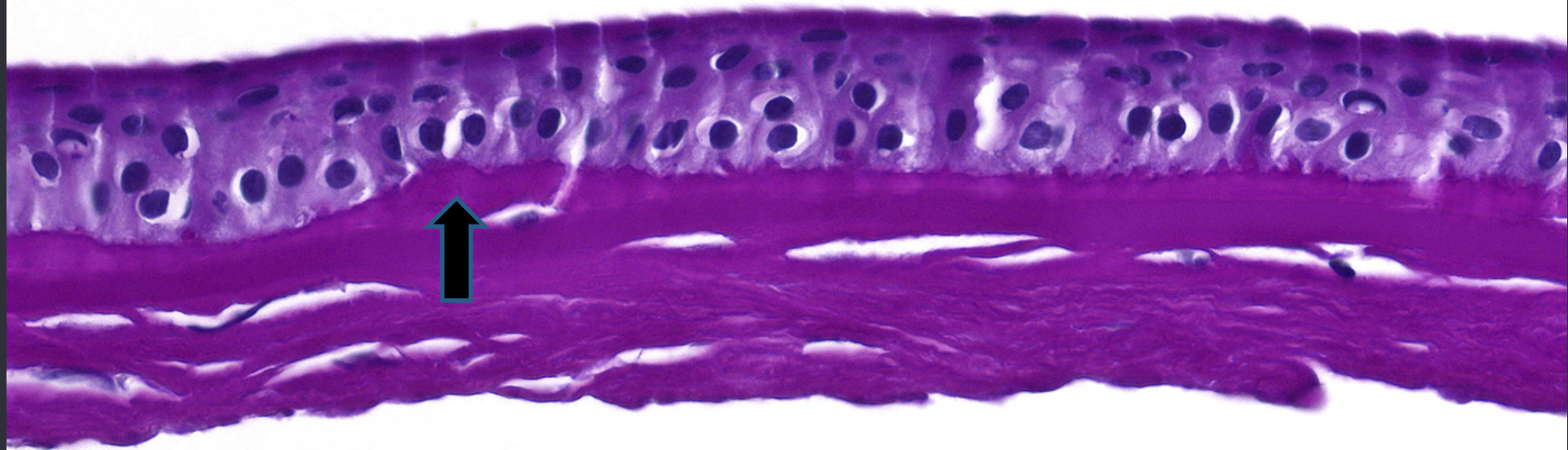




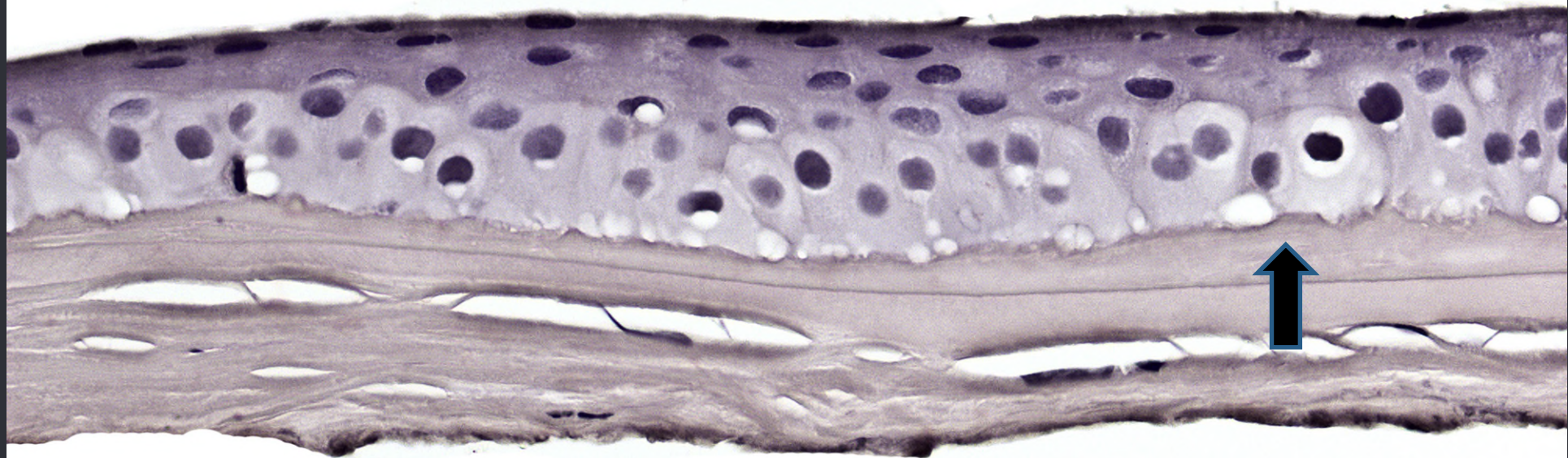
## Masson-trichrome stain



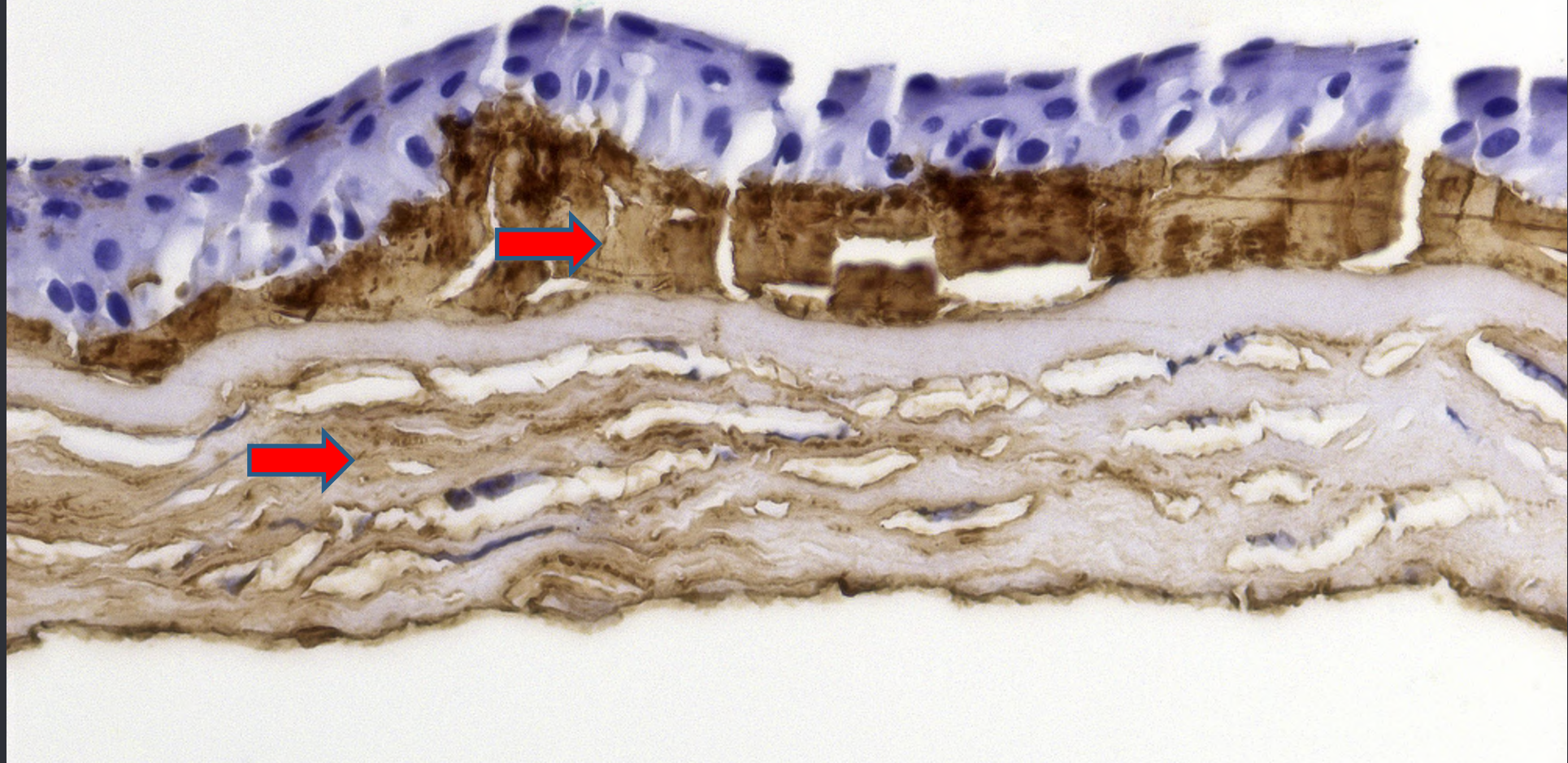
PAS stain



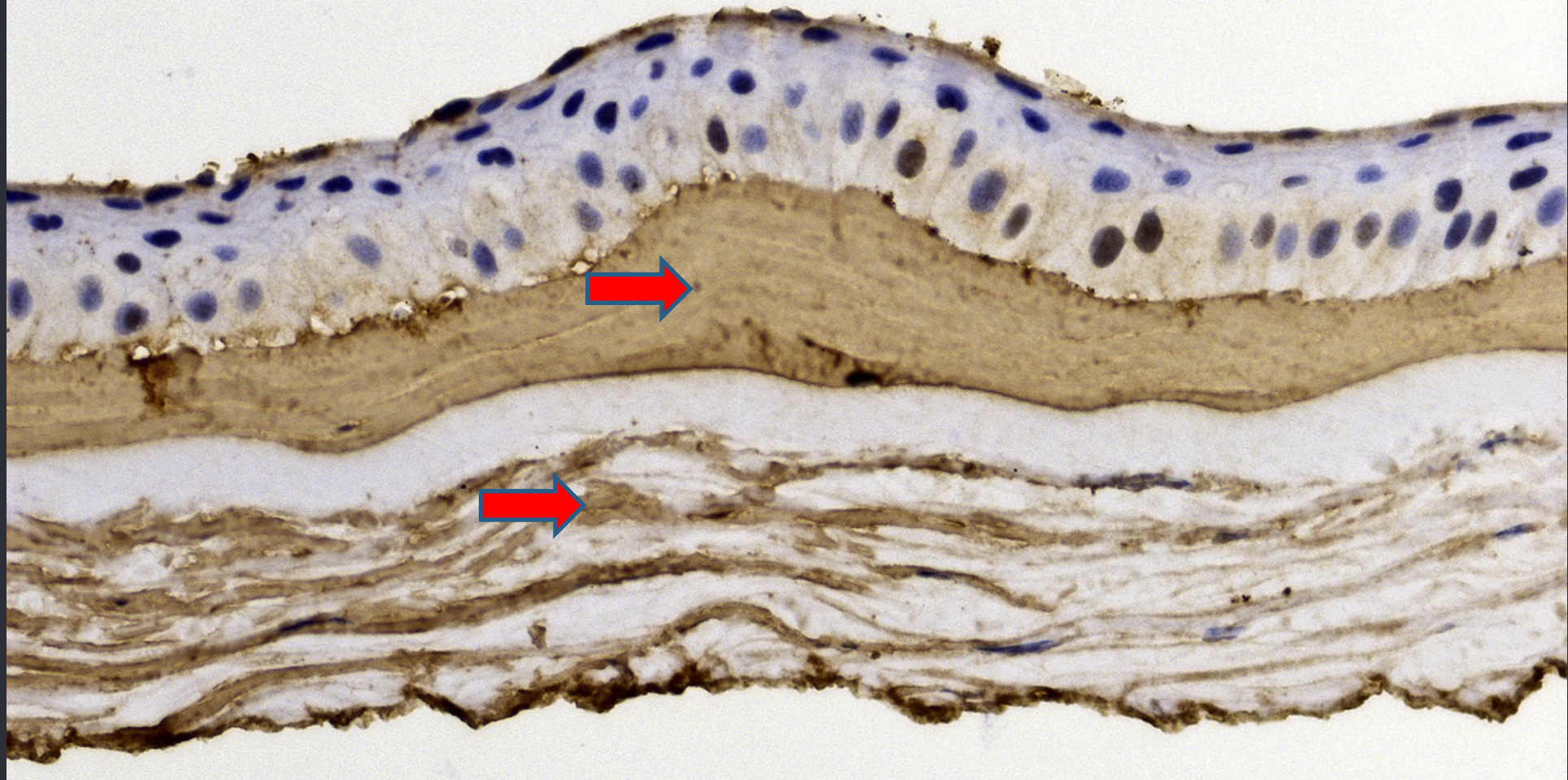
## Congo red stain



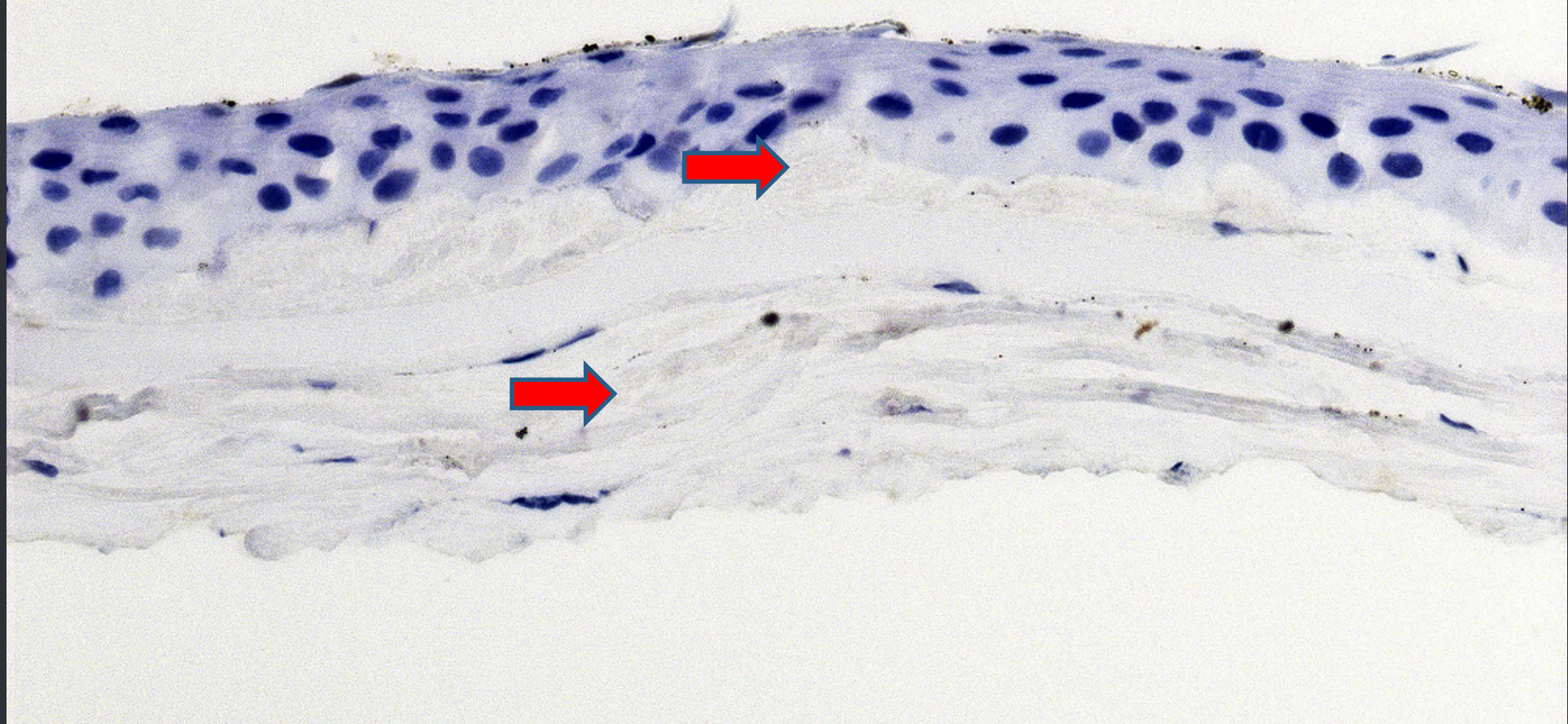
## IgG immunohistochemical stain



## Kappa light chain immunohistochemical stain



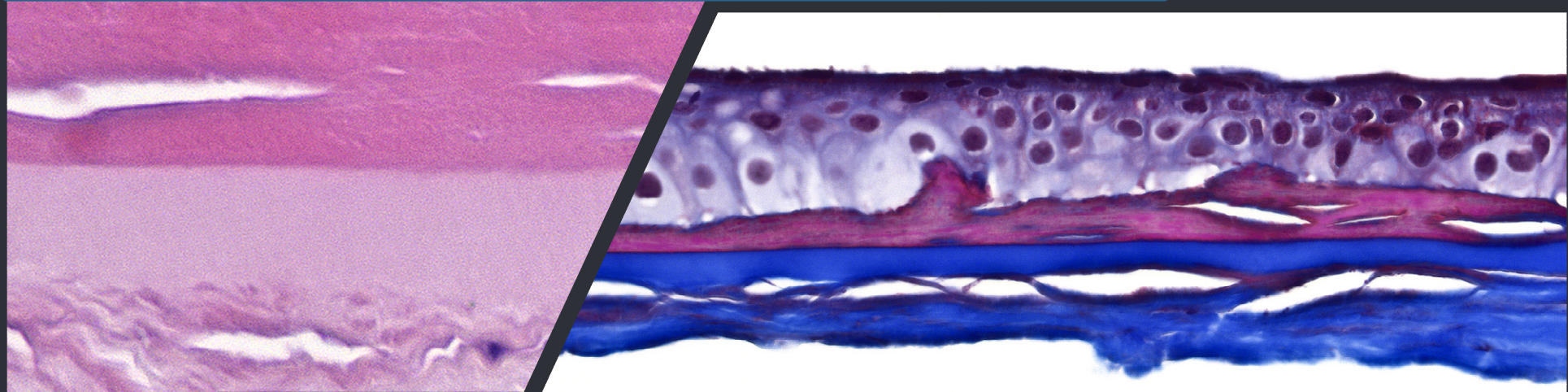
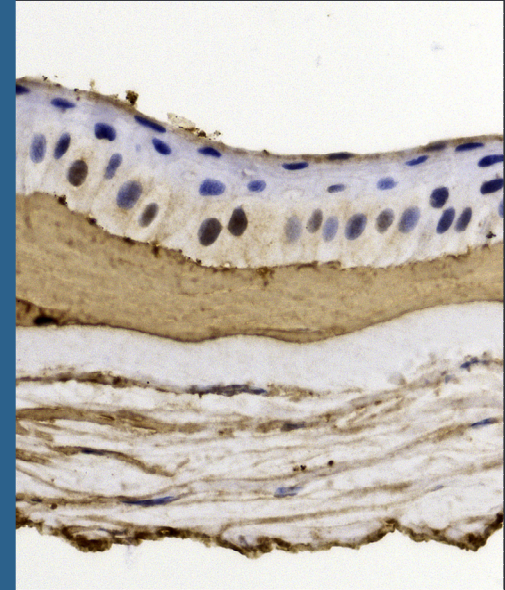
**IgM, IgD, IgA and lambda immunohistochemical stains**



Final Pathology Diagnosis

**Paraproteinemic keratopathy**

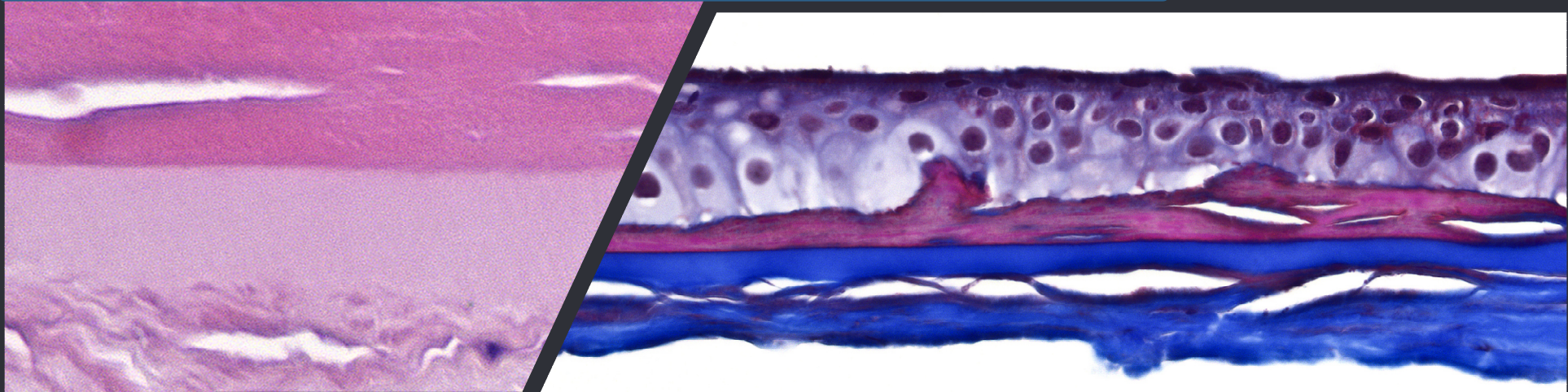
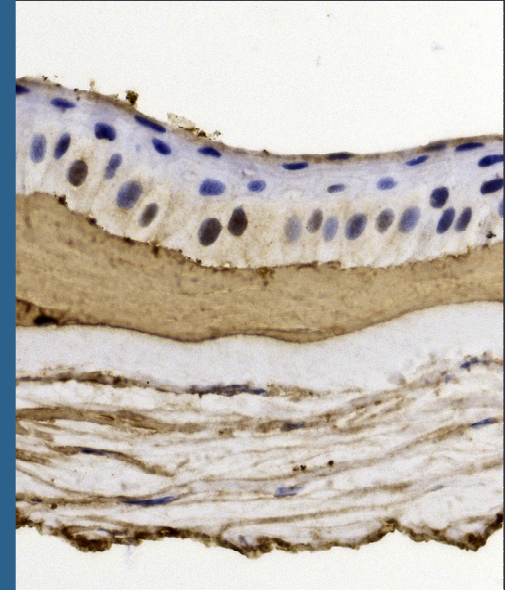
Recommend evaluation  
for plasma cell proliferative and  
lymphoproliferative disorders



## Systemic work-up

- Bone marrow bx – 15% clonal plasma cells
- UPEP, SPEP – K light chains (<10 mg/dl)
- MRI, PET/CT, skeletal survey – Negative
- **No end organ damage**

**“SMOLDERING MYELOMA”**







**Plan to initiate  
revlimid, dexamethasone, bortezomib**

***Teaching Points:***

**Consider paraproteinemic  
keratopathy in elderly with  
suspected Reis-Buckler Dystrophy**

An endoscopic view of a patient's colon, showing the mucosal lining and a small, reddish, polypoid lesion. The text "Patient 3" is overlaid in a white box. The background is dark, and the mucosal surface is illuminated by the endoscope's light source.

**Patient 3**



**60 year old woman**

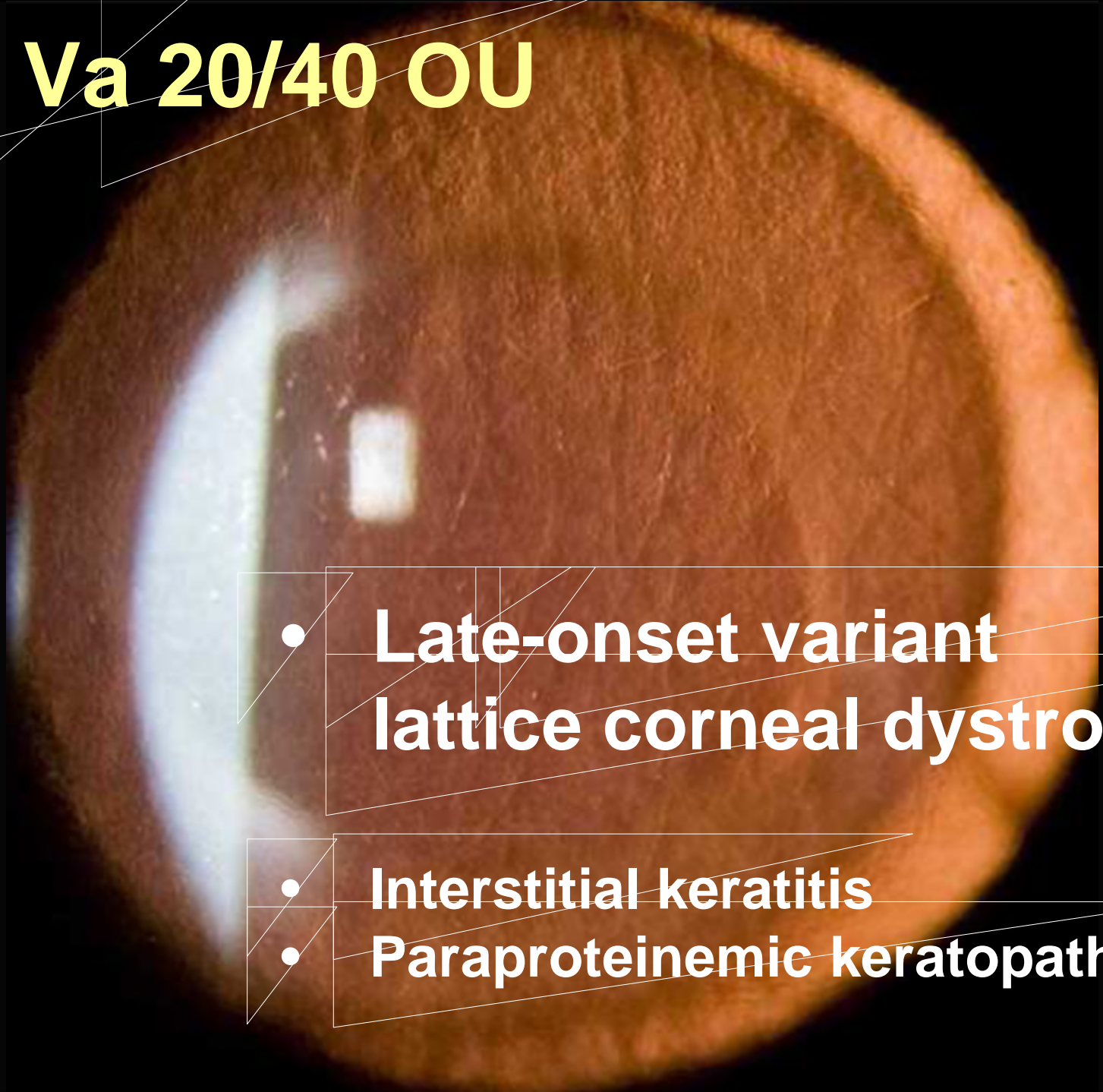
**CC:** Progressive visual loss over 6 months

**POH:** RGPs for myopia

**PMH:** HTN

**FH:** Negative for corneal disorders

# Va 20/40 OU

A fundus photograph of the eye, showing the optic disc and macula. The image is dominated by a large, bright, circular area in the center, which is the optic disc. To the right of the optic disc, there is a smaller, bright, circular area, which is the macula. The background of the fundus is a reddish-brown color. There are some white, irregular lesions visible on the fundus, particularly near the optic disc and macula.

- **Late-onset variant lattice corneal dystrophy**
- **Interstitial keratitis**
- **Paraproteinemic keratopathy**

# WORKUP

***TGFBI* mutation studies: Negative for mutation**

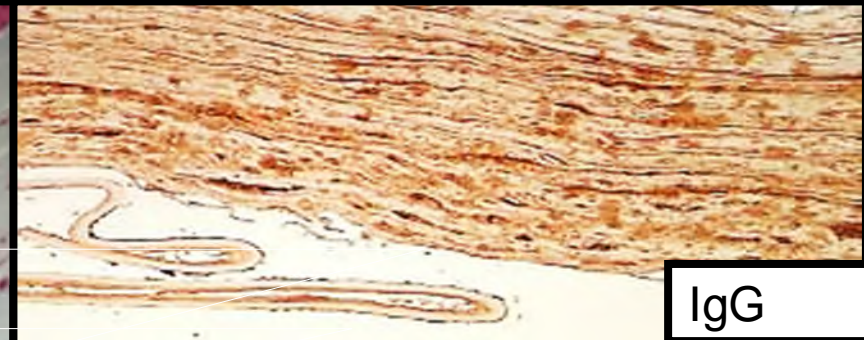
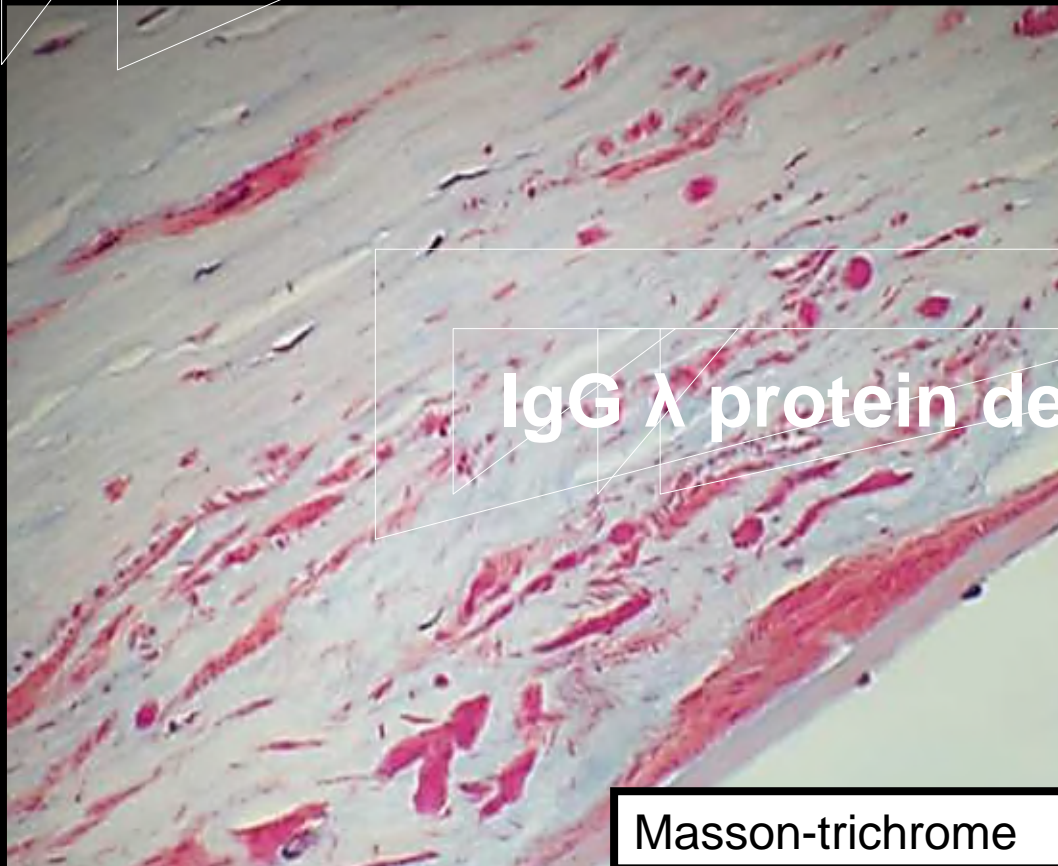
## Oncologic evaluation

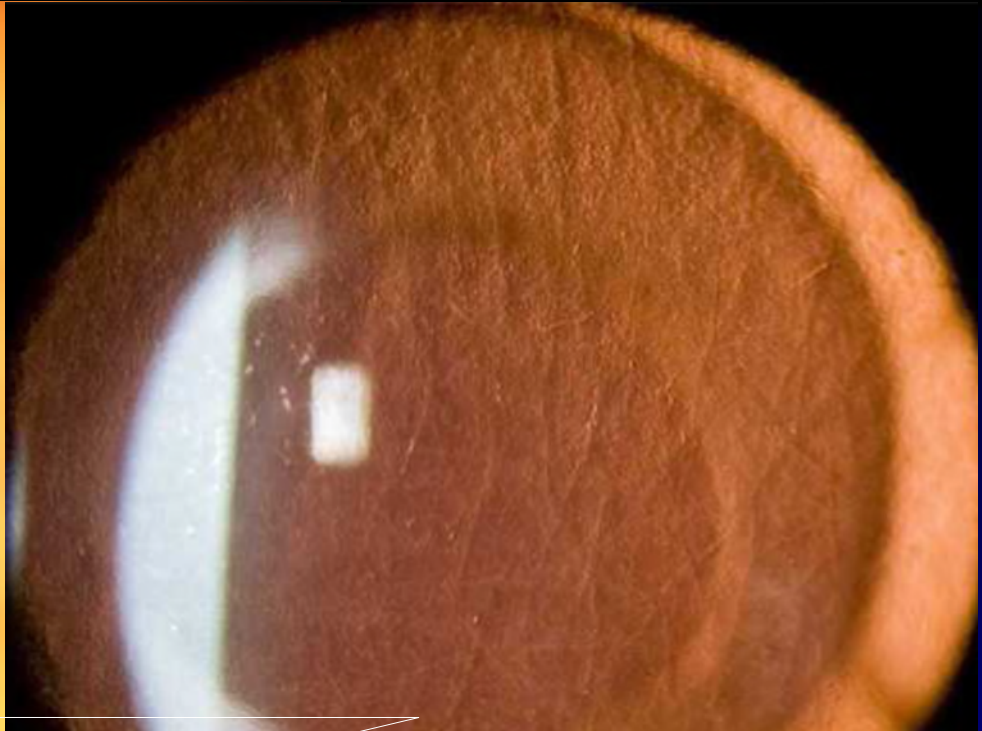
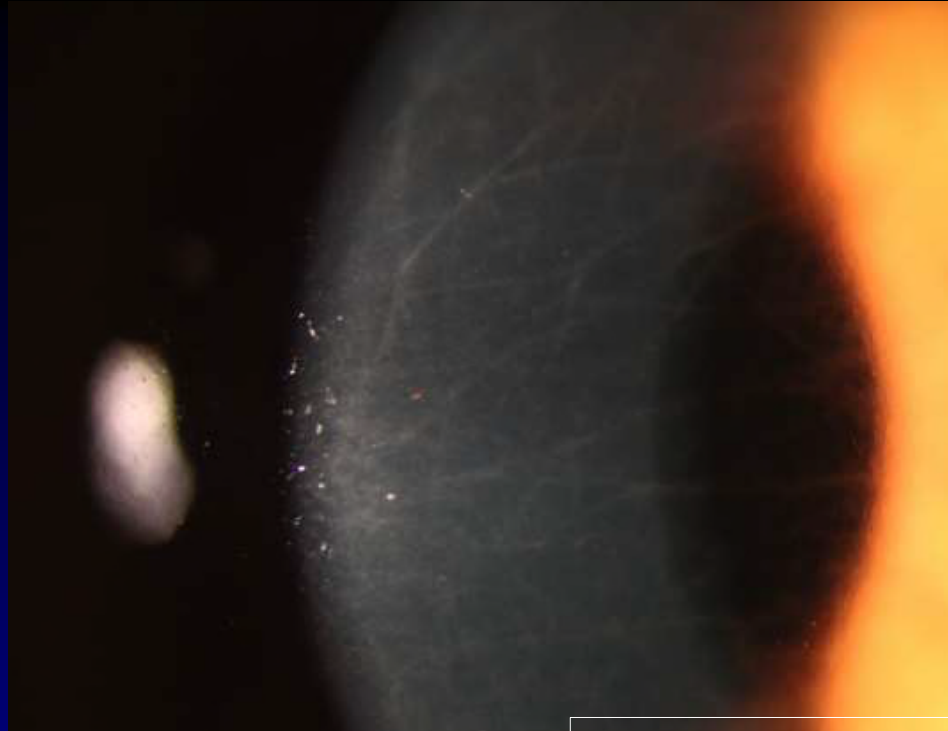
- **Elevated serum IgG (1.7 g/dL)**
- **Free urine lambda light chain (32.6 mg/dL)**
- **UPEP: Monoclonal protein ( $\lambda$  light chain)**
- **Bone marrow biopsy: 8% monoclonal  $\lambda$  light chain expressing plasma cells**

**MGUS**

# CLINICAL COURSE (F/U 3 years)

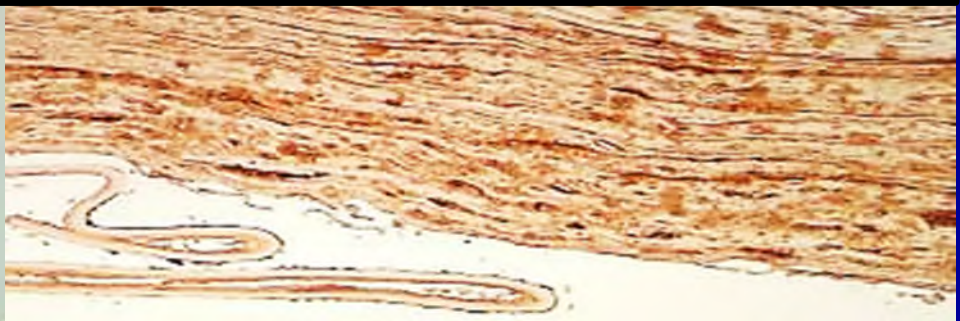
- Va 20/60 OU
- PKP OD





## ***Teaching Points:***

**Atypical late-onset variant lattice corneal dystrophy?  
...Consider paraproteinemic keratopathy**



**67 year old woman**

**CC:** Decreased vision OU for several months

**POH:** SCL-associated corneal ulcers

**PMH:** High cholesterol

**FH:** Negative for corneal disorders



**Va**

**20/30 OD**

**20/25 OS**



**Bilateral, axially-distributed,  
needle-like crystalline deposits**

**Schnyder corneal dystrophy?**

# WORKUP

## *UBIAD1* mutation analysis

- Negative

## Oncology

- **MGUS**

# **CLINICAL COURSE (F/U 1 YEAR)**

- **Stable vision**
- **Observed without therapy**

**No Pathology**

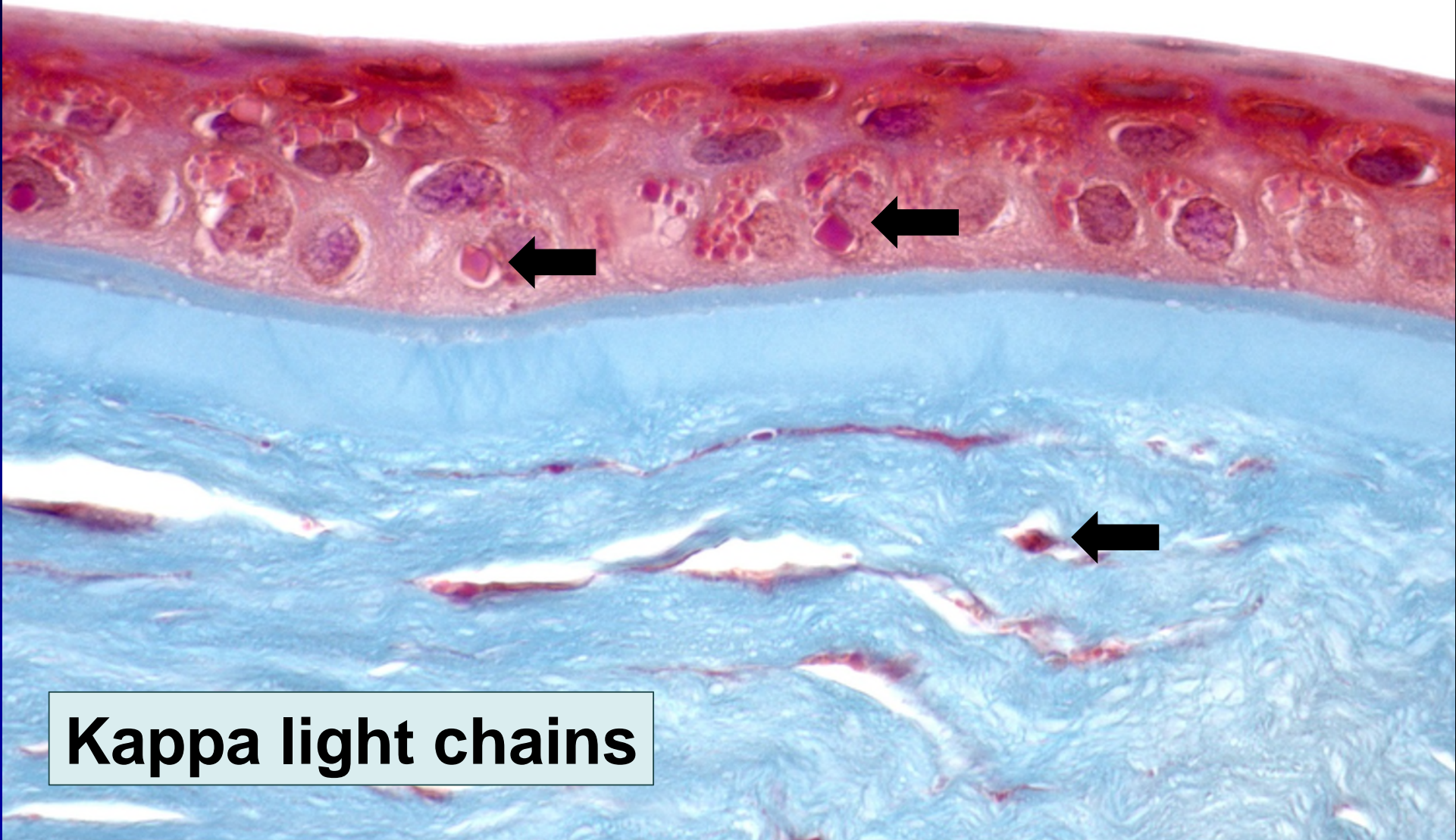
**Different patient**



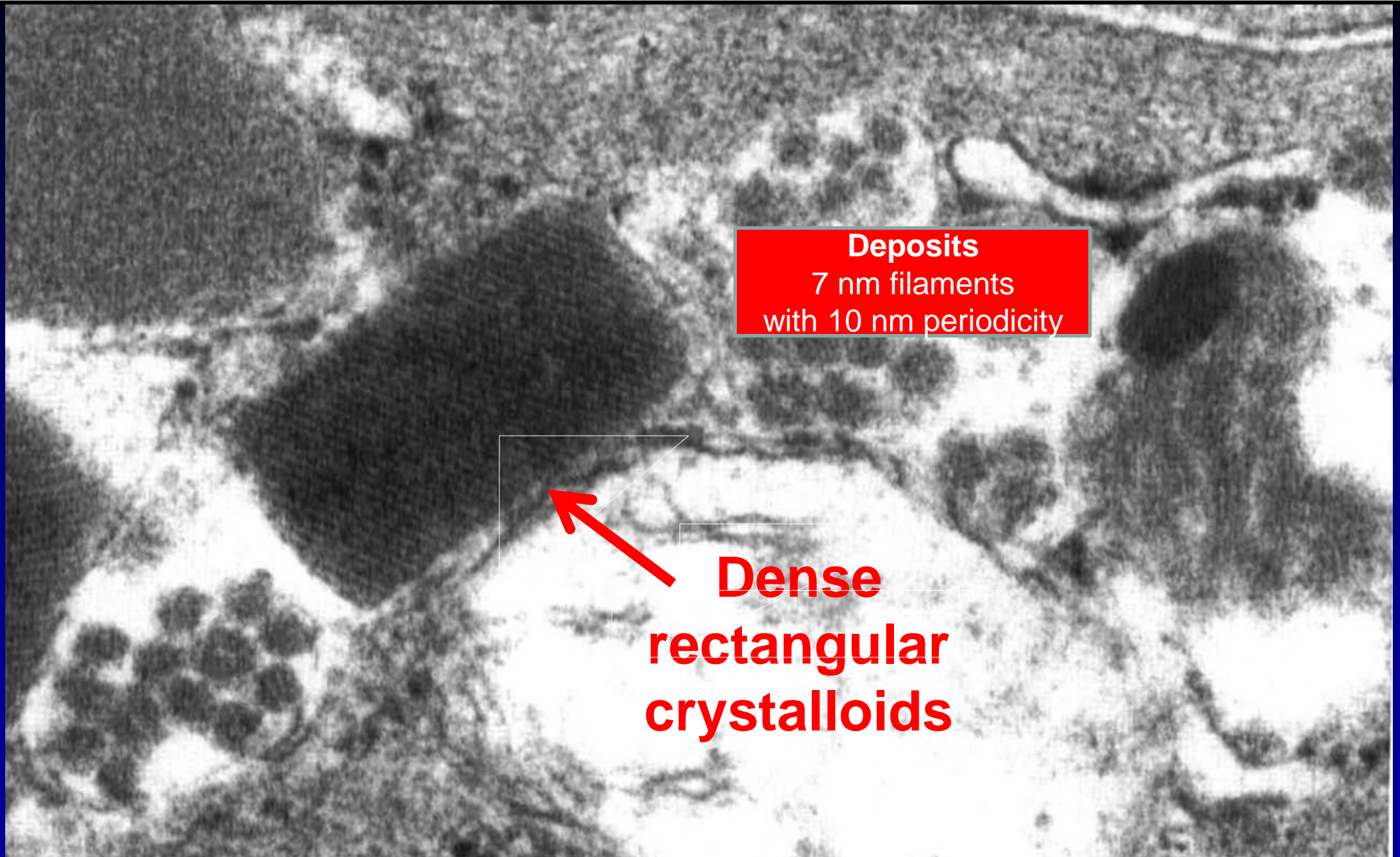
**WALDENSTROM MACROGLOBULINEMIA**

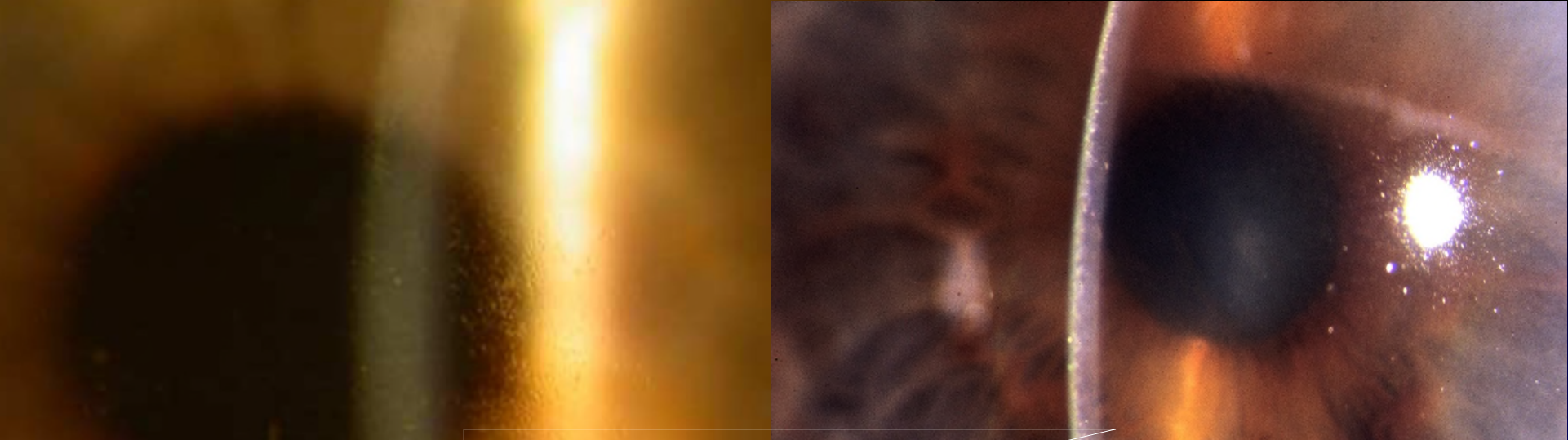
- **IgM kappa paraprotein**

# Immunoglobulin crystals



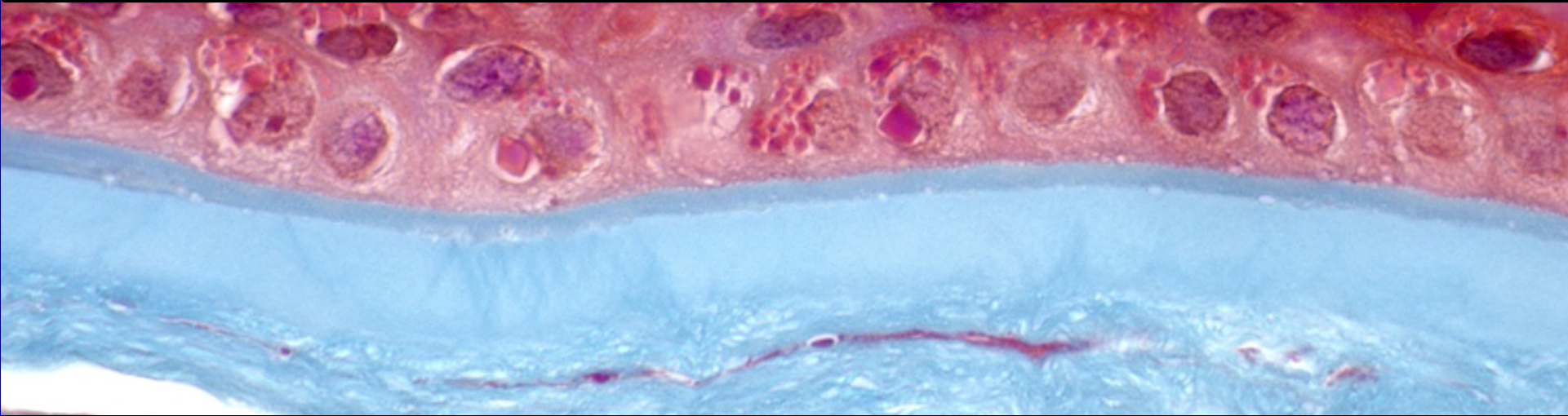
**Kappa light chains**





## ***Teaching Points:***

**Atypical Schnyder corneal dystrophy?  
...Consider paraproteinemic keratopathy**



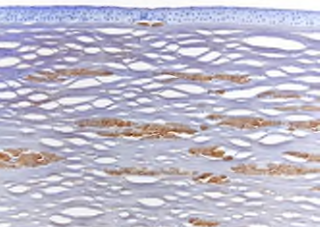
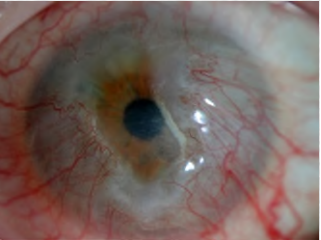
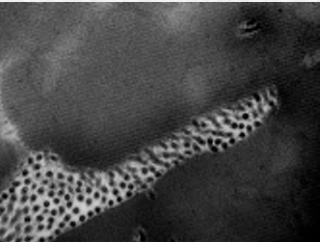
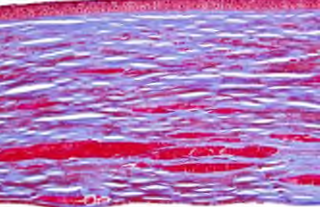
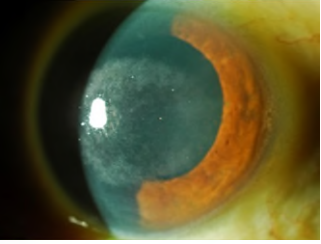
# Paraproteinemic keratopathy

**F**irst described by Meesmann in 1934

**S**ubsequently identified by Klintworth in 1978

**D**iagnosis implies paraproteinemia

- Plasma cell myeloma
- Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS)
- Lymphoma
- Cryoglobulinemia
- Autoimmune disorders





# Summary

- Learning Objective #1
  - Classify key corneal dystrophies
- Learning Objective #2
  - Identify pertinent clinical and pathologic features of key corneal dystrophies
- Learning Objective #3
  - Distinguish key corneal dystrophies from simulating lesions

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**Purpose:** To update the 2008 International Classification of Corneal Dystrophies (IC3D) incorporating new clinical, histopathologic, and genetic information.

**Methods:** The IC3D reviewed worldwide peer-reviewed articles for new information on corneal dystrophies published between 2008 and 2014. Using this information, corneal dystrophy templates and anatomic classification were updated. New clinical, histopathologic, and confocal photographs were added.

**Results:** On the basis of revisiting the cellular origin of corneal dystrophy, a modified anatomic classification is proposed consisting of (1) epithelial and subepithelial dystrophies, (2) epithelial-stromal *TGFBI* dystrophies, (3) stromal dystrophies, and (4) endothelial dystrophies. Most of the dystrophy templates are updated. The entity “Epithelial recurrent erosion dystrophies”

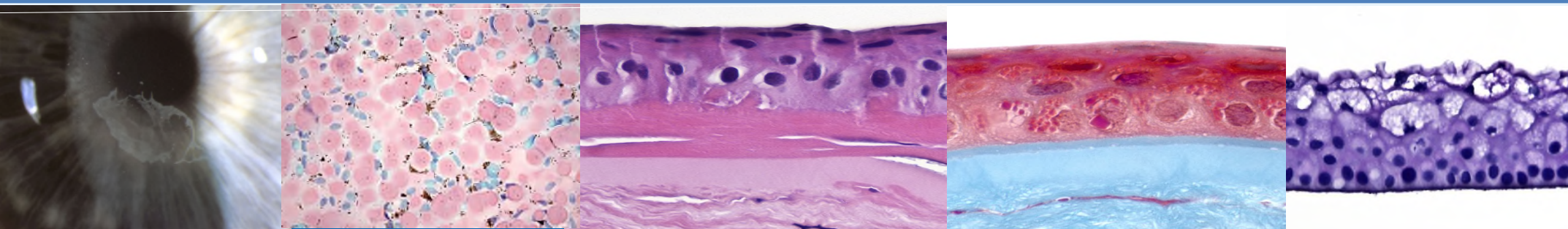
actually includes a number of potentially distinct epithelial dystrophies (Franceschetti corneal dystrophy, Dystrophia Smolandiensis, and Dystrophia Helsinglandica) but must be differentiated from dystrophies such as *TGFBI*-induced dystrophies, which are also often associated with recurrent epithelial erosions. The chromosome locus of Thiel-Behnke corneal dystrophy is only located on 5q31. The entity previously designated as a variant of Thiel-Behnke corneal dystrophy on chromosome 10q24 may represent a novel corneal dystrophy. Congenital hereditary endothelial dystrophy (CHED, formerly CHED2) is most likely only an autosomal recessive disorder. The so-called autosomal dominant inherited CHED (formerly CHED1) is insufficiently distinct to continue to be considered a unique corneal dystrophy. On review of almost all of the published cases, the description appeared most similar to a type of posterior polymorphous corneal dystrophy linked to the same chromosome 20 locus (PPCD1). Confocal microscopy also has emerged as a helpful tool to reveal in vivo features of several corneal dystrophies that previously required histopathologic examination to definitively diagnose.

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**Conclusions:** This revision of the IC3D classification includes an updated anatomic classification of corneal dystrophies more accurately classifying *TGFBI* dystrophies that affect multiple layers rather than are confined to one corneal layer. Typical histopathologic and confocal images have been added to the corneal dystrophy templates.

**Key Words:** cornea, cornea dystrophy, cornea pathology, cornea, genetics, genetic disease, hereditary disease, confocal microscopy, histopathology, epithelium, Bowman membrane, stroma, Descemet membrane, endothelium, *TGFBI*, epithelial and subepithelial dys-



# Corneal dystrophies and simulating lesions

## I. Normal histology

## II. Dystrophies

- Epithelial and subepithelial dystrophies
- Epithelial-stromal TGFBI dystrophies
- Stromal dystrophies
- Endothelial dystrophies

## III. Virtual slides

## IC3D Classification of Corneal Dystrophies—Edition 2

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# QUESTIONS?

**Purpose:** To update the 2008 International Classification of Corneal Dystrophies (IC3D) incorporating new clinical, histopathologic, and genetic information.

**Methods:** The IC3D reviewed worldwide peer-reviewed articles for new information on corneal dystrophies published between 2008 and 2014. Using this information, corneal dystrophy templates and anatomic classification were updated. New clinical, histopathologic, and confocal photographs were added.

**Results:** On the basis of revisiting the cellular origin of corneal dystrophy, a modified anatomic classification is proposed consisting of (1) epithelial and subepithelial dystrophies, (2) epithelial–stromal *TGFBI* dystrophies, (3) stromal dystrophies, and (4) endothelial dystrophies. Most of the dystrophy templates are updated. The entity “Epithelial recurrent erosion dystrophies”

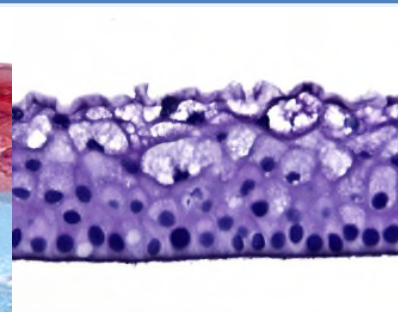
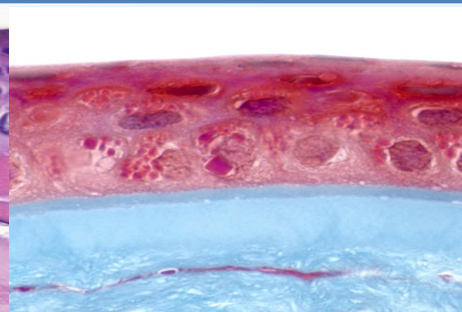
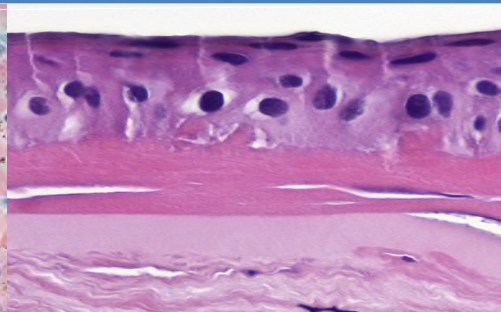
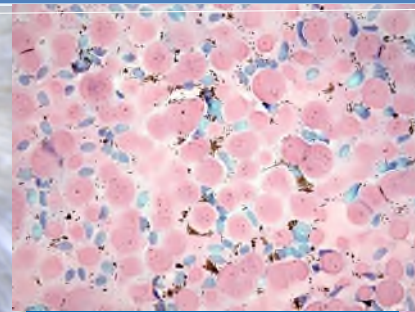
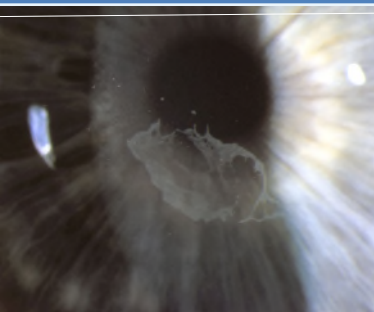
actually includes a number of potentially distinct epithelial dystrophies (Franceschetti corneal dystrophy, Dystrophia Smolandiensis, and Dystrophia Helsinglandica) but must be differentiated from dystrophies such as *TGFBI*-induced dystrophies, which are also often associated with recurrent epithelial erosions. The chromosome locus of Thiel-Behnke corneal dystrophy is only located on 5q31. The entity previously designated as a variant of Thiel-Behnke corneal dystrophy on chromosome 10q24 may represent a novel corneal dystrophy. Congenital hereditary endothelial dystrophy (CHED, formerly CHED2) is most likely only an autosomal recessive disorder. The so-called autosomal dominant inherited CHED (formerly CHED1) is insufficiently distinct to continue to be considered a unique corneal dystrophy. On review of almost all of the published cases, the description appeared most similar to a type of posterior polymorphous corneal dystrophy linked to the same chromosome 20 locus (PPCD1). Confocal microscopy also has emerged as a helpful tool to reveal *in vivo* features of several corneal dystrophies that previously required histopathologic examination to definitively diagnose.

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**Conclusions:** This revision of the IC3D classification includes an updated anatomic classification of corneal dystrophies more accurately classifying *TGFBI* dystrophies that affect multiple layers rather than are confined to one corneal layer. Typical histopathologic and confocal images have been added to the corneal dystrophy templates.

**Key Words:** cornea, cornea dystrophy, cornea pathology, cornea, genetics, genetic disease, hereditary disease, confocal microscopy, histopathology, epithelium, Bowman membrane, stroma, Descemet membrane, endothelium, *TGFBI*, epithelial and subepithelial dys-



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