

# Non-neoplastic Lung Pathology IV ILD with Airway Centering and Bronchiolitis

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COMMENTARY: KO LESLIE MD



# Format:

- **Case presentations**
- **Airway-centered ILD**
- **Bronchiolitis**
- **Disease entities: HP, PLCH, GIP, Bronchiolitis patterns, Follicular bronchiolitis**



# To be discussed:

Hypersensitivity pneumonitis (HP)

Chronic hypersensitivity pneumonitis (ChrHP)

Pulmonary Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis (PLCH)

Giant cell interstitial (Cobalt) pneumonitis (GIP)

Bronchiolocentric interstitial pneumonia

Bronchiolitis: cellular, constrictive, aspiration

Follicular bronchiolitis

Refs:

*Leslie KO and Wick MR. Practical Pulmonary Pathology (Elsevier 2017)*

*Colby TV. Bronchiolitis: Pathologic considerations. Am J Clin Pathol 1998; 109: 101.*





# Pathologic diagnosis in non-neoplastic lung disease requires integration of:

1. Information from four domains:
  - a. Clinical /laboratory (?immunosuppressed)
  - b. Radiologic findings (and Dx/Dx)
  - c. Pathologic injury pattern(s) identified
  - d. Individual disease entity that fits
2. Knowledge of the clinical question

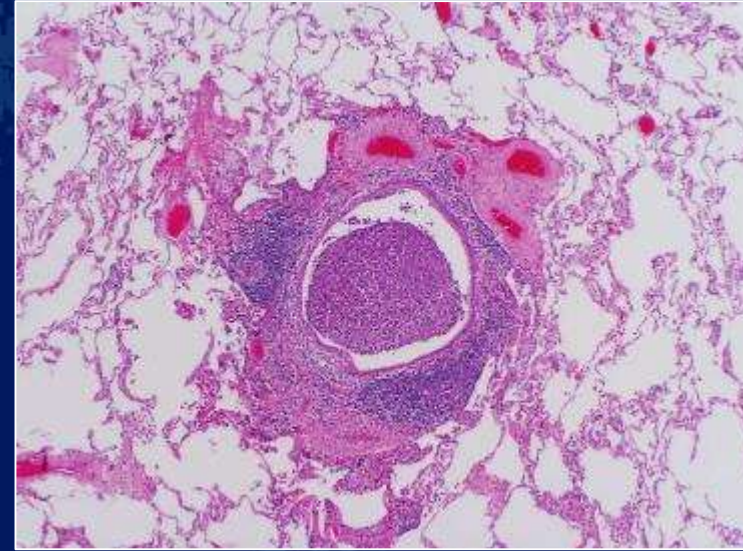
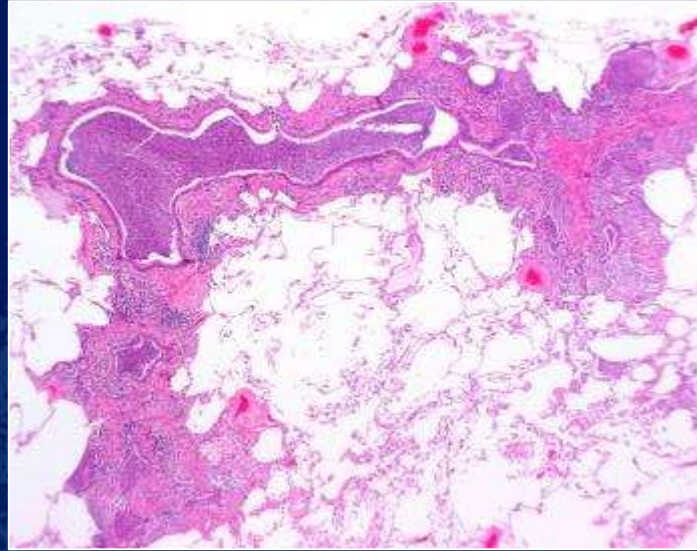
***“What question(s) am I answering with this Bx?”***



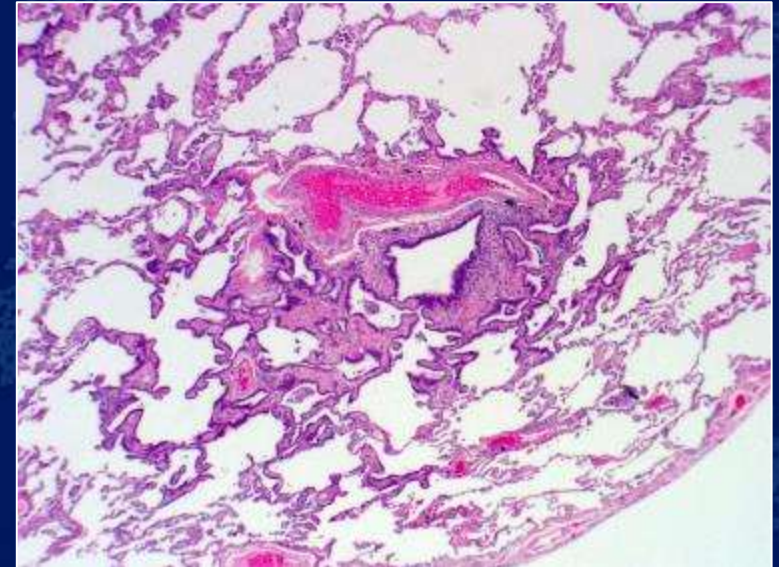
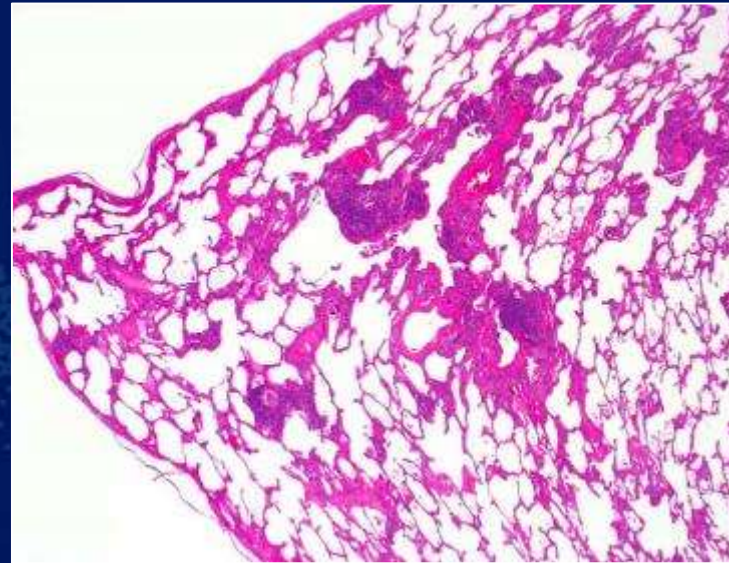


# Bronchiolitis vs Bronchiolocentric IP

**Bronchiolitis  
(In IBD)**



**Bronchiolocentric  
ILD (HP)**





# Bronchiolitis vs Bronchiolocentric ILD

This distinction is not always straightforward and differs with modalities of assessment:

*Clinical findings*

*Functional changes*

*Radiology*

*Pathology*

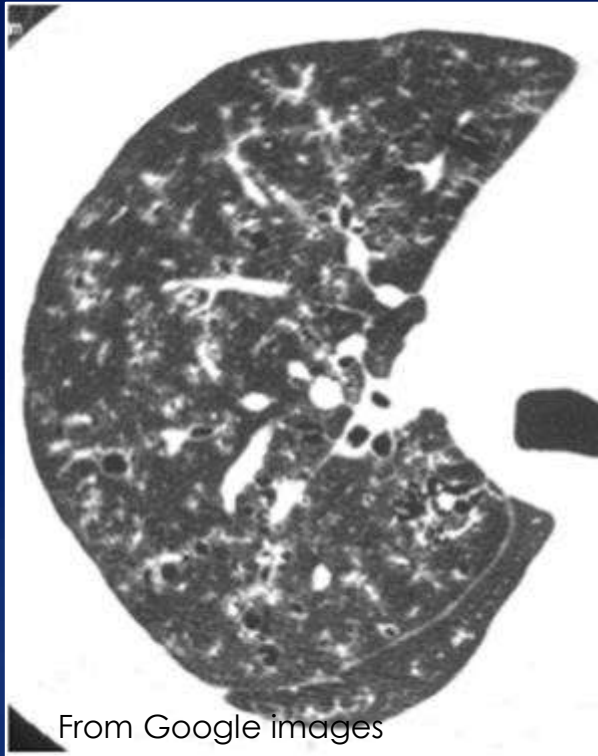
**These will be discussed separately for sake of simplicity**

There is appreciable overlap

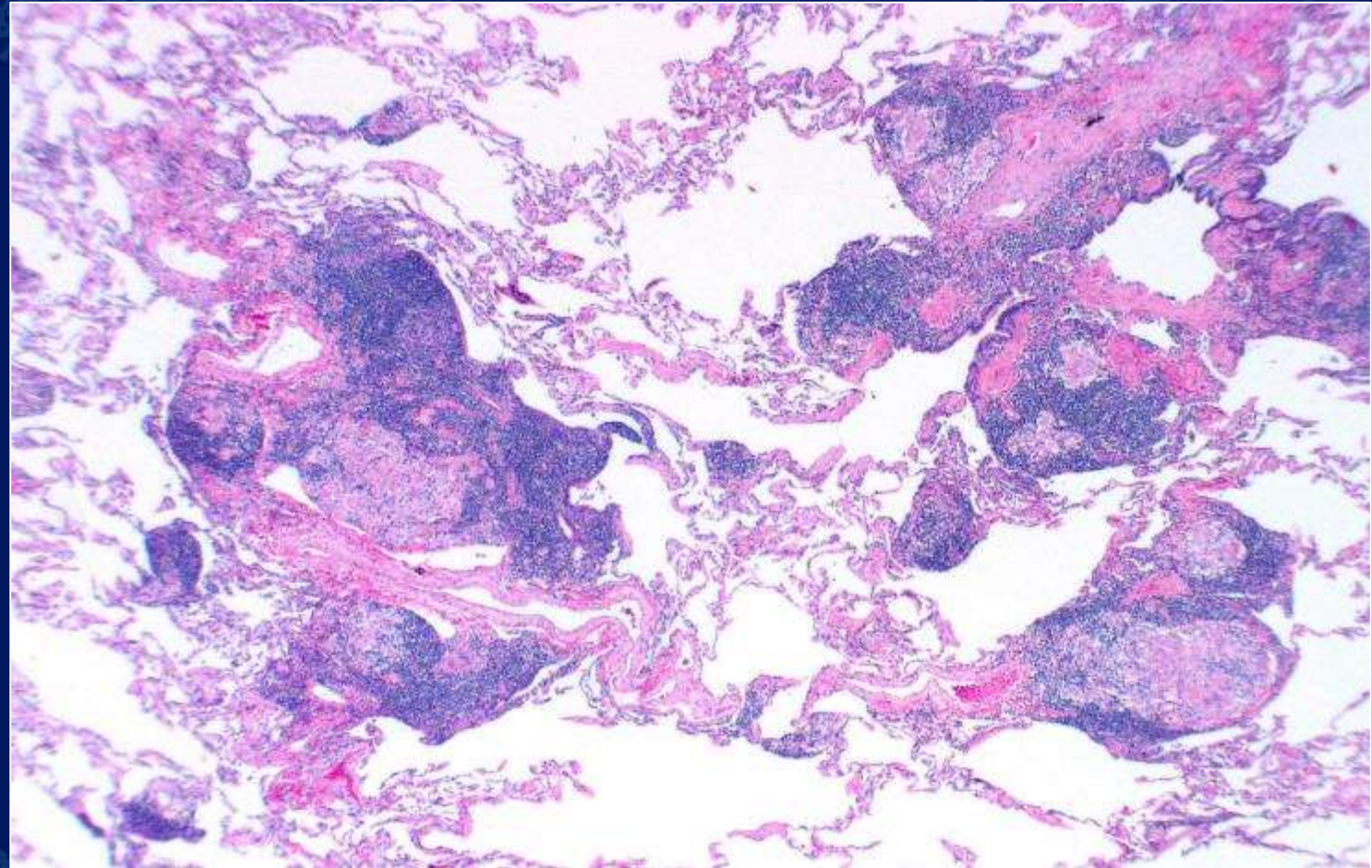




# Bronchiolitis vs Bronchiolocentric ILD?



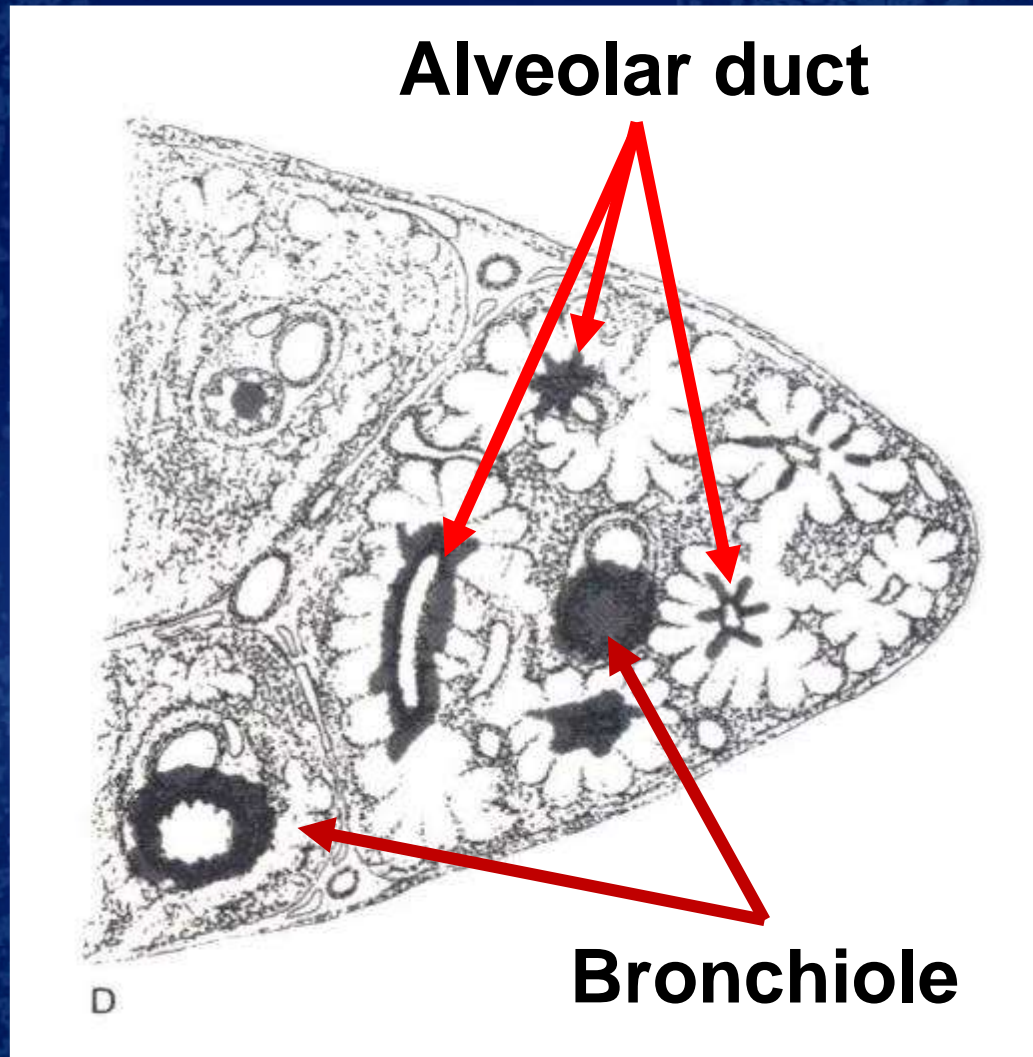
**Clinically and radiologically this might be considered an ILD**



**Follicular bronchiolitis with granulomas in Sjogren's**



# CENTRIOLOBULAR / BRONCHIOLOCENTRIC INJURY



Center on bronchiole and/or alveolar duct.

## Suggest inhalation Injury:

- Infection
- Smoke (RB-ILD, PLCH)
- Organic antigens (HP)
- Dust/pneumoconioses
- Many misc.



# Hypersensitivity Pneumonitis (HP) (Nonfibrotic and Fibrotic Subtypes)

ILD caused by the inhalation of (primarily) organic antigens in a susceptible individual



TABLE I. Causative agents of hypersensitivity pneumonitis

Agent*	Source	Disease
<b>Fungi</b>		
<i>Thermophilic actinomyces</i>	Milkly plant material	Farmer's lung
<i>Saccharomyces castellii</i> ( <i>Microsporum</i> form)	Milkly hay	
<i>Thermoactinomyces</i>	Milkly hay, compost	Farmer's lung, mushroom worker's lung, composer's lung
<i>Thermoactinomyces</i> spp.	Sugar cane and stalk	Harvester's lung
<i>Asclerium</i> spp.	Dampness/moisture	Dampness worker's lung
<i>Aspergillus clavatus</i>	Milkly grain	Milk worker's lung
<i>Aspergillus versicolor</i>	Grain, bedding	Dry house disease
<i>Aspergillus fumigatus</i>	Tobacco mold	Tobacco worker's lung
<i>Aspergillus niger</i>	Cheese mold	Cheese worker's lung
<i>Aspergillus terreus</i>	Milkly oak	Silico-silicosis
<i>Aspergillus chromatogenus</i>	Milkly wood dust	Woodworker's lung
<i>Coprinopsis</i> spp.	Milkly maple bark	Maple bark worker's lung
<i>Aspergillus nidulans</i>	Milkly isopropyl alcohol	Silico-silicosis
<i>Aspergillus nidulans</i> spores	Contaminated water	Swimmer's lung
<i>Aspergillus nidulans</i>	Wood or wood dust	Woodworker's lung
<i>Aspergillus nidulans</i>	—	Dry rot lung
<i>Aspergillus nidulans</i>	Grape mold	Winegrower's lung or Spindler's lung
<i>Aspergillus nidulans</i>	Mold in dry water tower	Silico-silicosis
<i>Aspergillus nidulans</i>	Sewage	Sewage worker's lung
<i>Aspergillus nidulans</i>	Popcorn	Popcorn worker's lung
<i>Aspergillus nidulans</i>	Synthetic material	Synthetic lung
<i>Aspergillus nidulans</i>	Contaminated water	Hot tub lung
<b>Mixed animal, fungi, and bacteria</b>	Cold room and other immunities, air conditioning	Nurse plant or office worker's or air conditioner's lung, ventilator pneumonia
<b>Bacteria and fungi</b>	Contaminated meat-working fluid	Machine operator's lung
<b>Animals</b>		
<i>Avian proteins</i>	Bird excreta, food, or feathers	Bird breeder's lung, bird fancier's lung, pigeon breeder's lung
<b>Plant proteins</b>		
Rat protein	Rat urine or stool	Booker's lung
Animal fat protein	Cheese	Richardson's lung
Cl and pork protein	Animal fat	Farmer's lung
Melastol and protein	Plantain seed	Plantain seed worker's lung
Fish	Mollusk shell dust	Oyster shell lung
Wheat germ	Hot meal dust	Flour worker's lung
Silk worm larva protein	Wool	Milker's lung
<b>Plants</b>		
Soybean	Soybean hulls	Soybean worker's lung
Coffee	Coffee bean dust	Coffee worker's lung
Copra (oil) species	Puffball	Copra worker's lung
<b>Chemicals</b>		
<b>Isocyanates</b>	Paints, plasters	Paint/plaster worker's lung
<b>Amides</b>	Phenols	Chemical worker's lung, phenol worker's lung, epoxy worker's lung
Red 7 (organic)	—	Paint's worker's lung
Trifluoroacetic acid	Vinylidene fluoride	Vinylidene fluoride worker's lung
Trifluoroacetic acid	Trifluoroacetic acid	Refrigerator worker's lung
<b>Metals</b>		
Cobalt	—	Hard metal lung disease
Beryllium	—	Berylliosis

\*The most frequent causative agent on Twitter's list.





# Hypersensitivity Pneumonitis (HP)

## (Nonfibrotic and Fibrotic/Chronic HP)

BAL lymphocytosis (usually  $> 20\%$ )

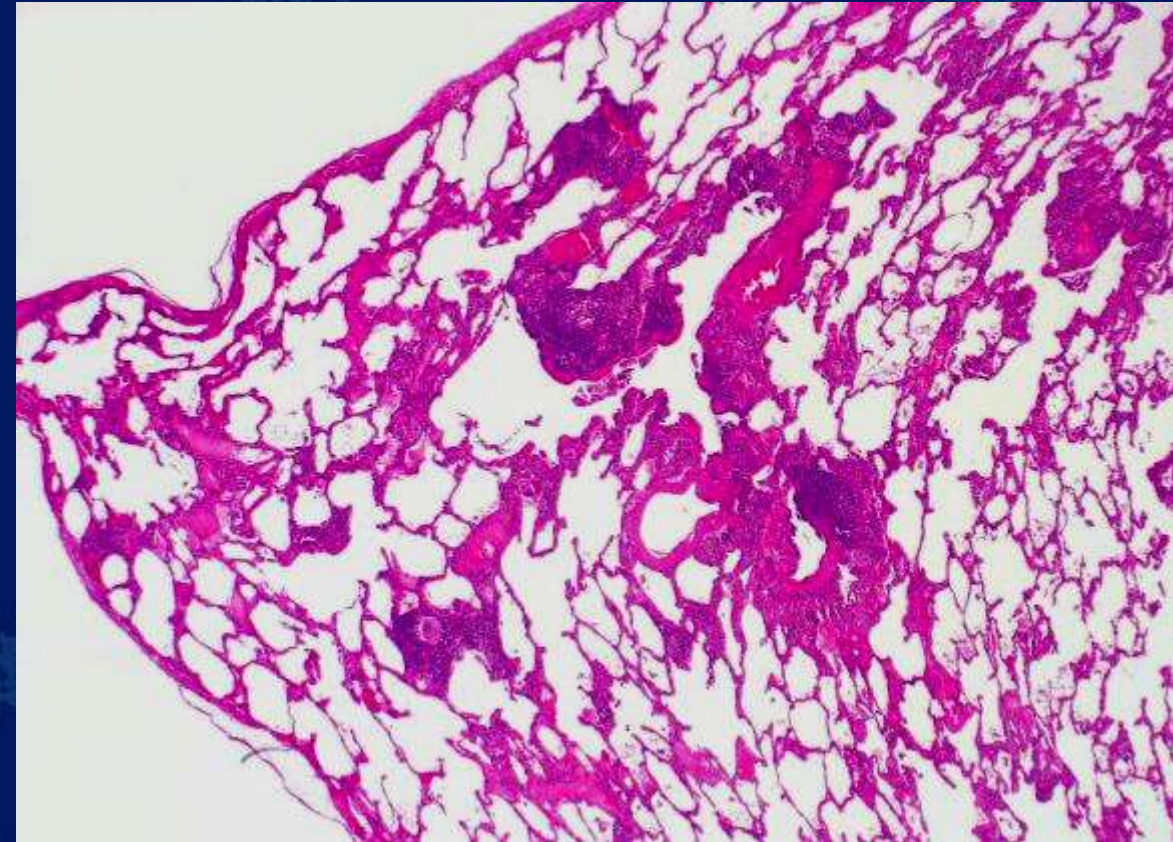
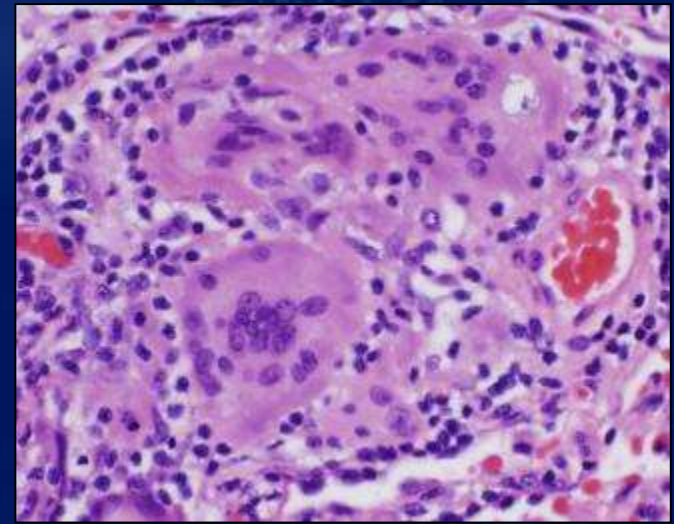
Histopathology:

Bronchiolocentric

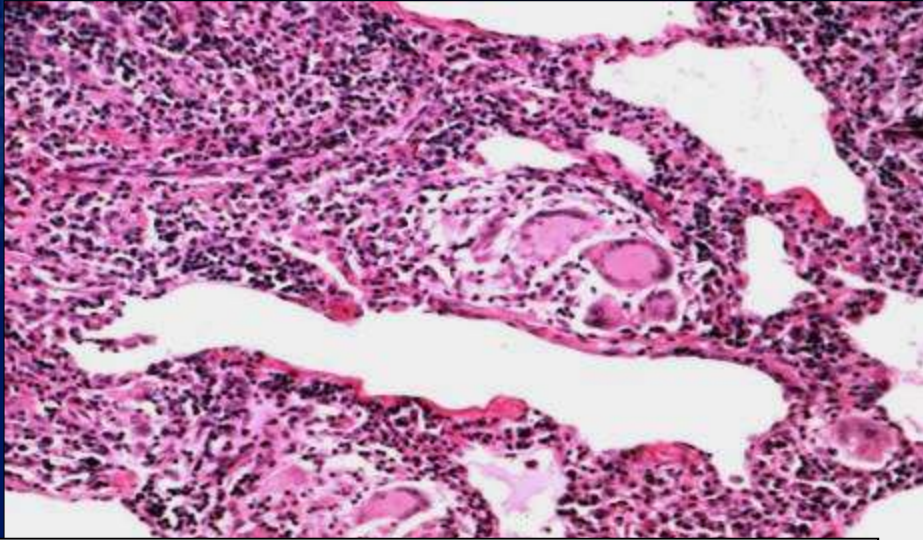
Cellular infiltrate

Granulomas

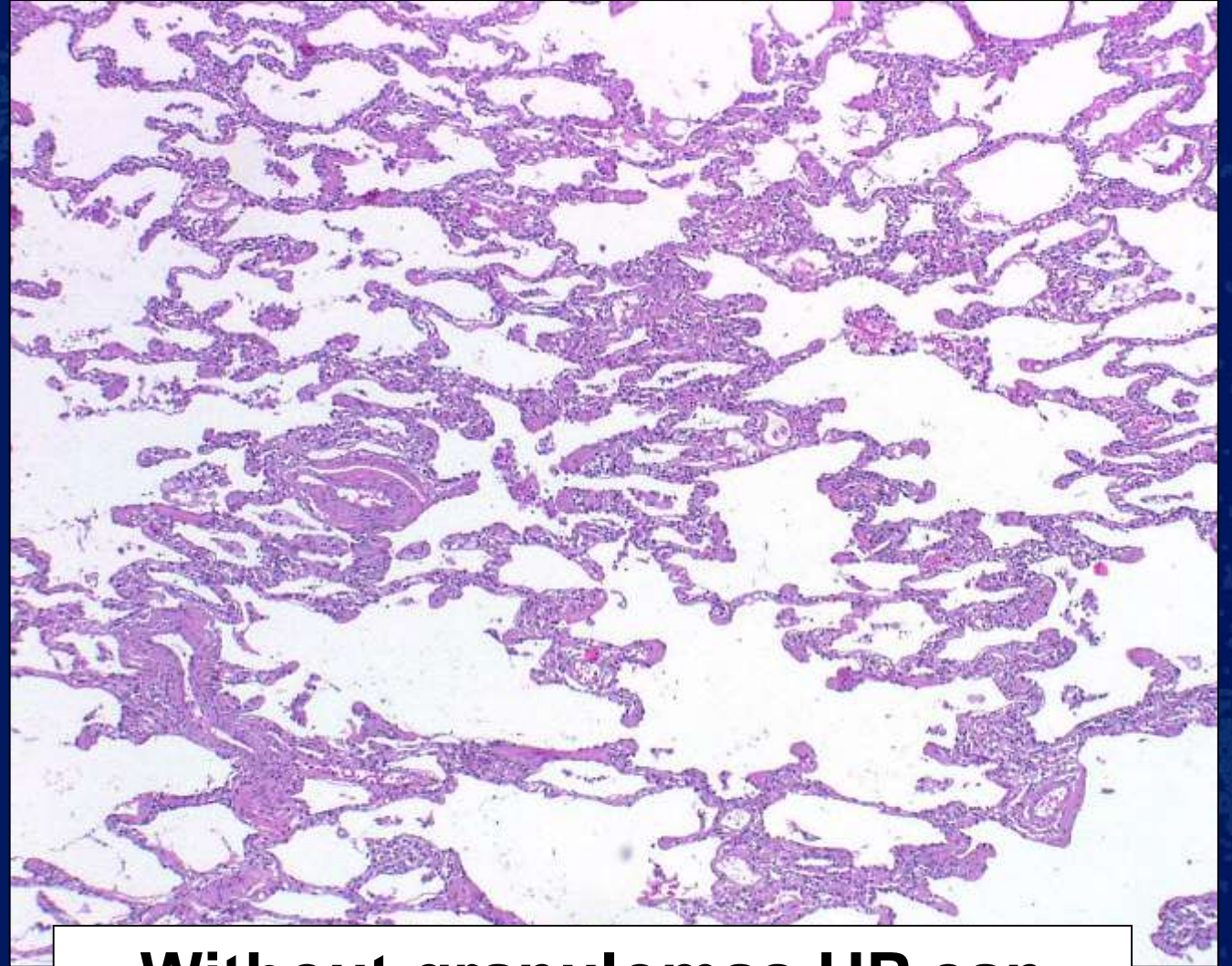
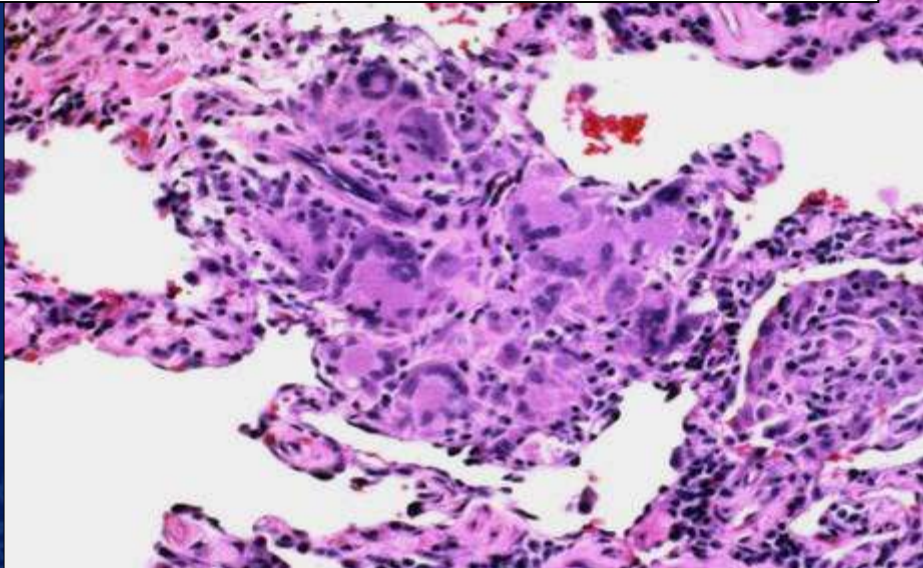
+/- OP, fibrosis (Fibr HP)







**Scattered, small, loosely formed granulomas**



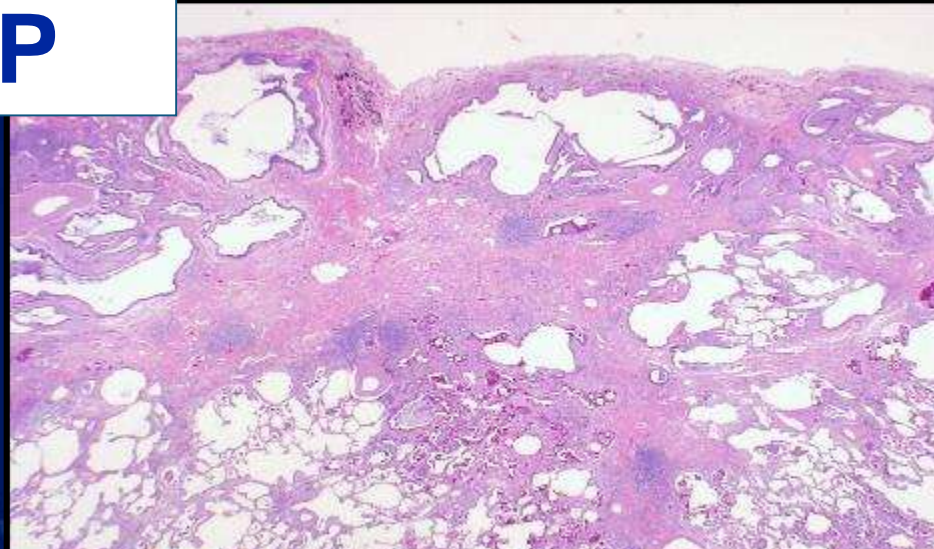
**Without granulomas HP can produce a cellular or fibrotic NSIP Pattern**



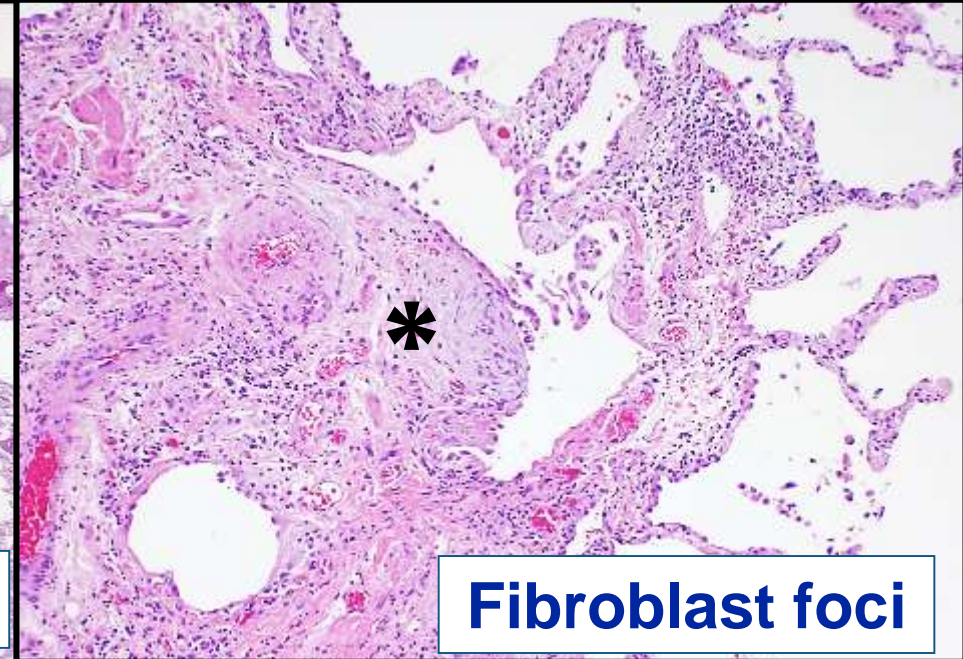
# Fibrotic HP

Akashi T., Am J Clin Pathol.  
2009;131:405-15.

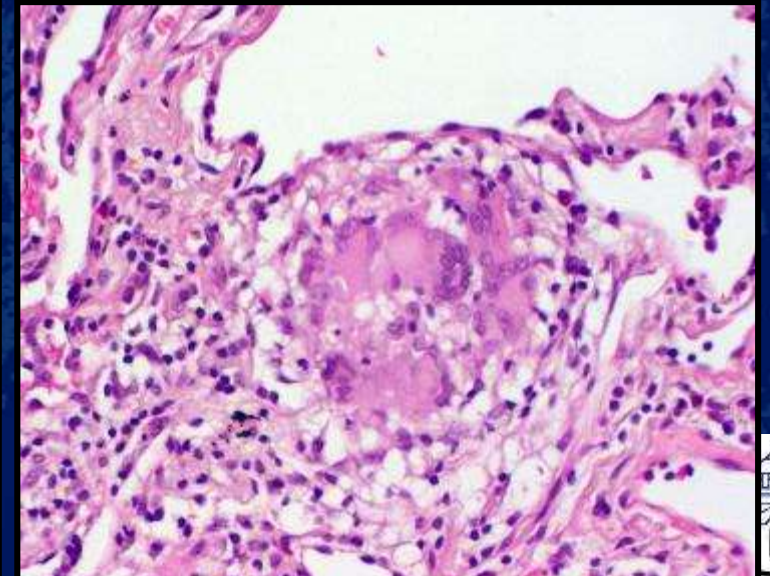
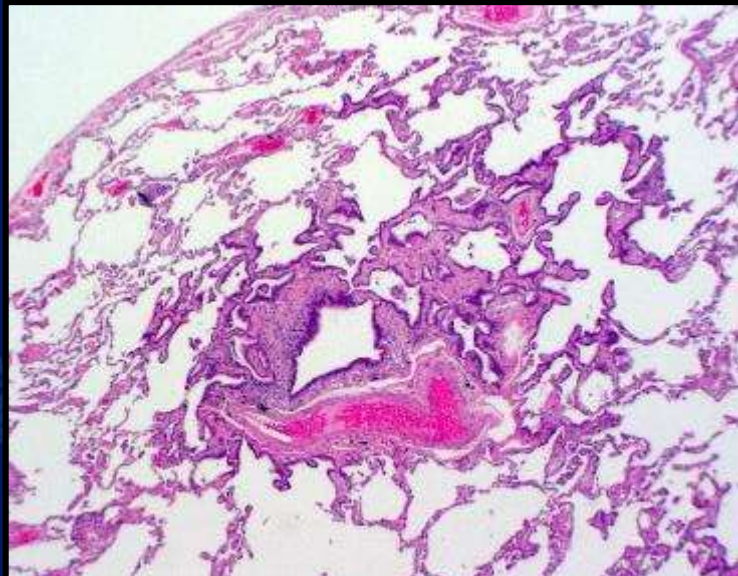
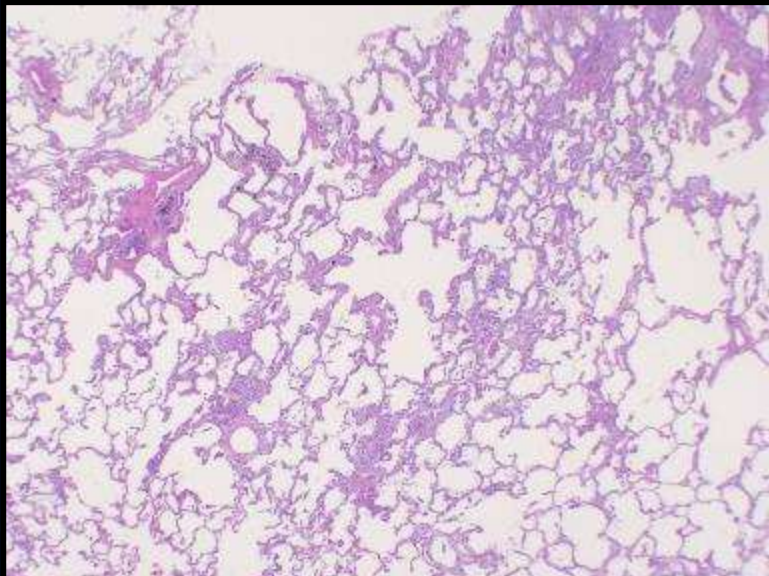
Takemura T. Histopathology.  
2012; 61:1026-35.



**Fibrotic HP with UIP pattern**



**Fibroblast foci**



**Fibrotic HP Clues: Incr. inflammation, centrilobular pathology, granulomas**

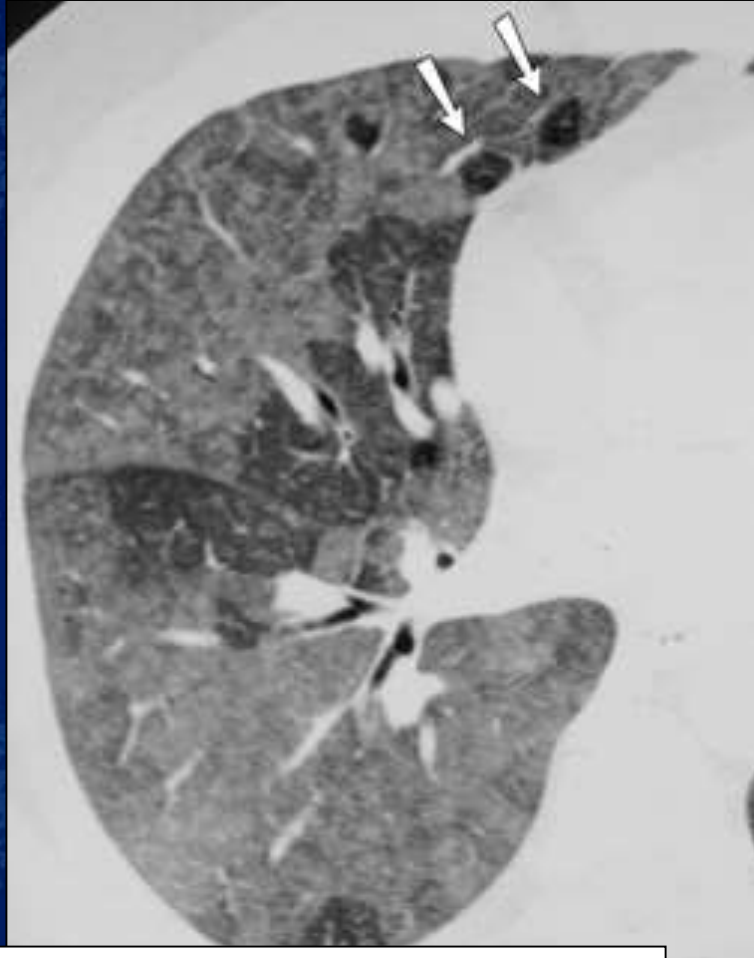


# Radiology in HP...is distinctive



**Centrilobular nodules and/or air trapping**

(From Kazerooni)



**Upper lobe distribution**

(ChrHP from Google images)



# HP Evaluation

## Four domains

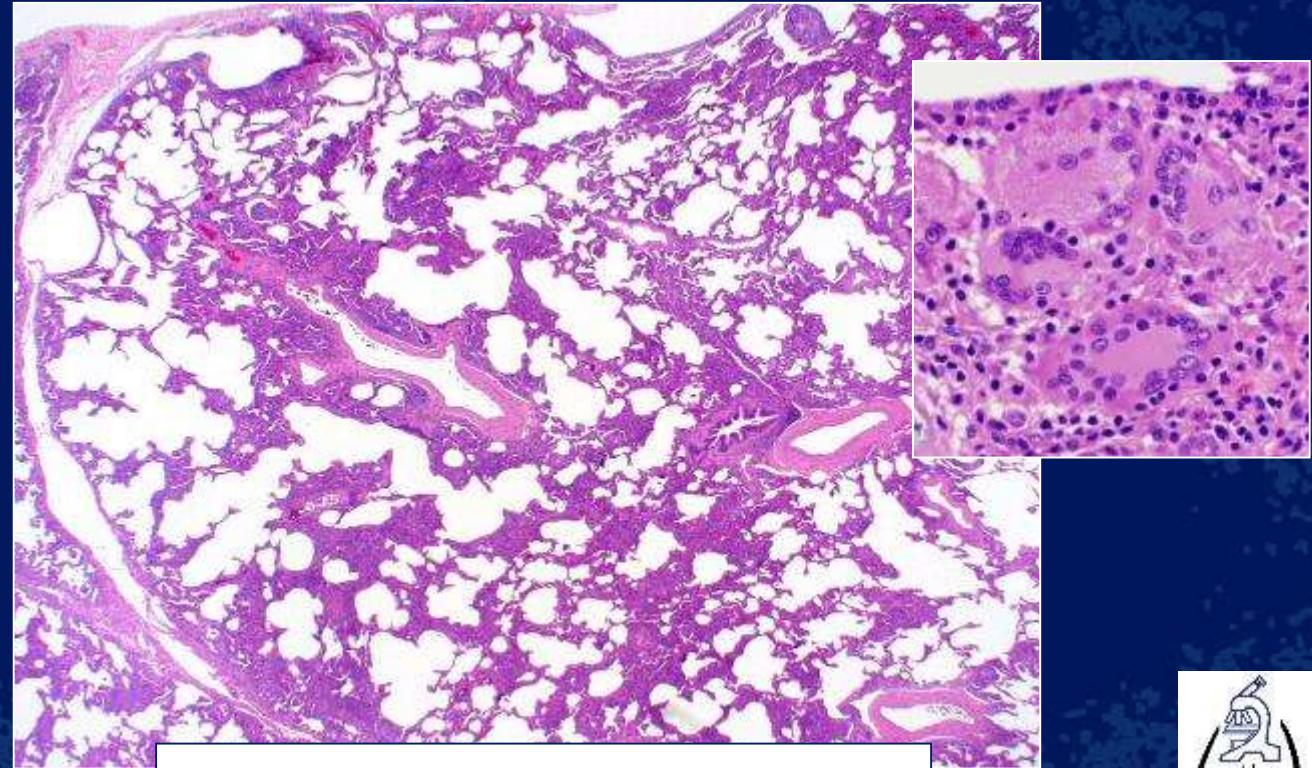
Clinical/Lab presentation

Radiologic findings

Pathologic injury pattern(s)

Disease entity that fits

Classic exposure and classic radiology need not be present



Typical Nonfibrotic HP

Diagnosis is pathology driven: “Changes typical of HP (fibrotic vs nonfibrotic)”



# HP Evaluation

## Four domains

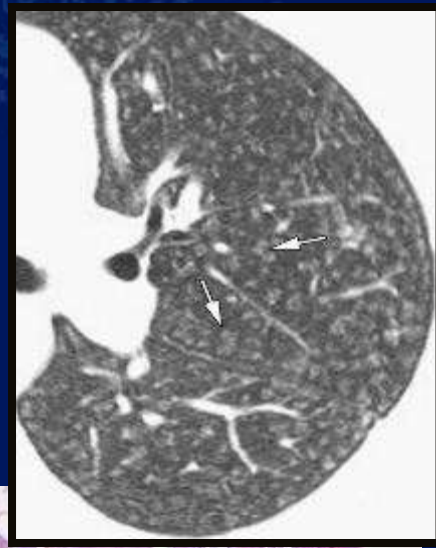
Clinical/Lab presentation

Radiologic findings

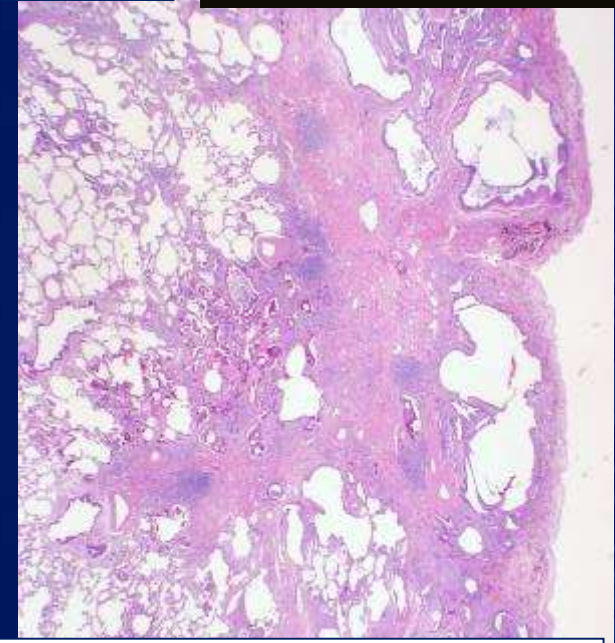
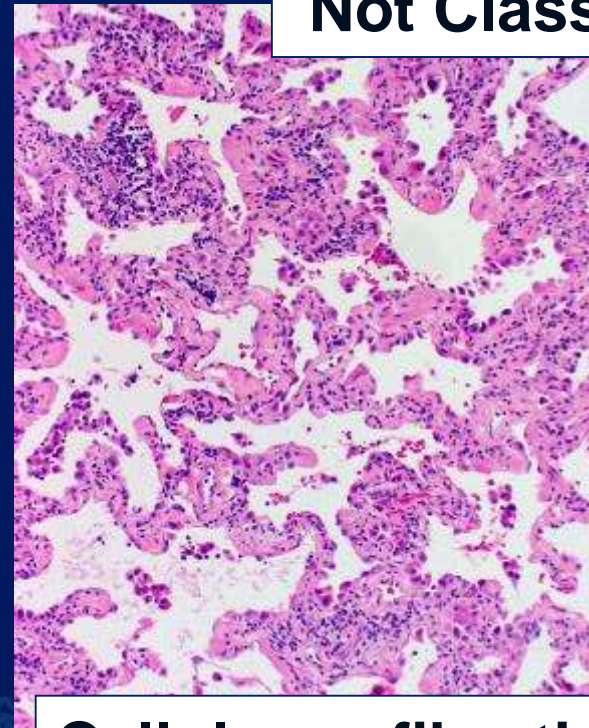
Pathologic injury pattern(s)

Disease entity that fits

Compelling clinical, BAL, radiologic findings for HP



Not Classic HP



Cellular or fibrotic NSIP or UIP pattern (No granulomas, +/- centrilobular)

HP diagnosis is Clin-Rad driven. Pathology nonspecific but c/w\*\* HP (Fibr or nonFibr)



# How common is Fibrotic HP ??

Chronic hypersensitivity pneumonitis in patients diagnosed with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis: a prospective case-cohort study

(Lancet Respir Med 2013; 1: 685.)

*Ferran Morell, Ana Villar, María-Ángeles Montero, Xavier Muñoz, Thomas V Colby, Sudhakar Pipvath, María-Jesús Cruz, Ganesh Raghu*

46 consecutive pts diagnosed with IPF (2011 guidelines)

20/46 reinterpreted as Chr HP (details available)

The study implicated....



...Feathers pillows and bedding

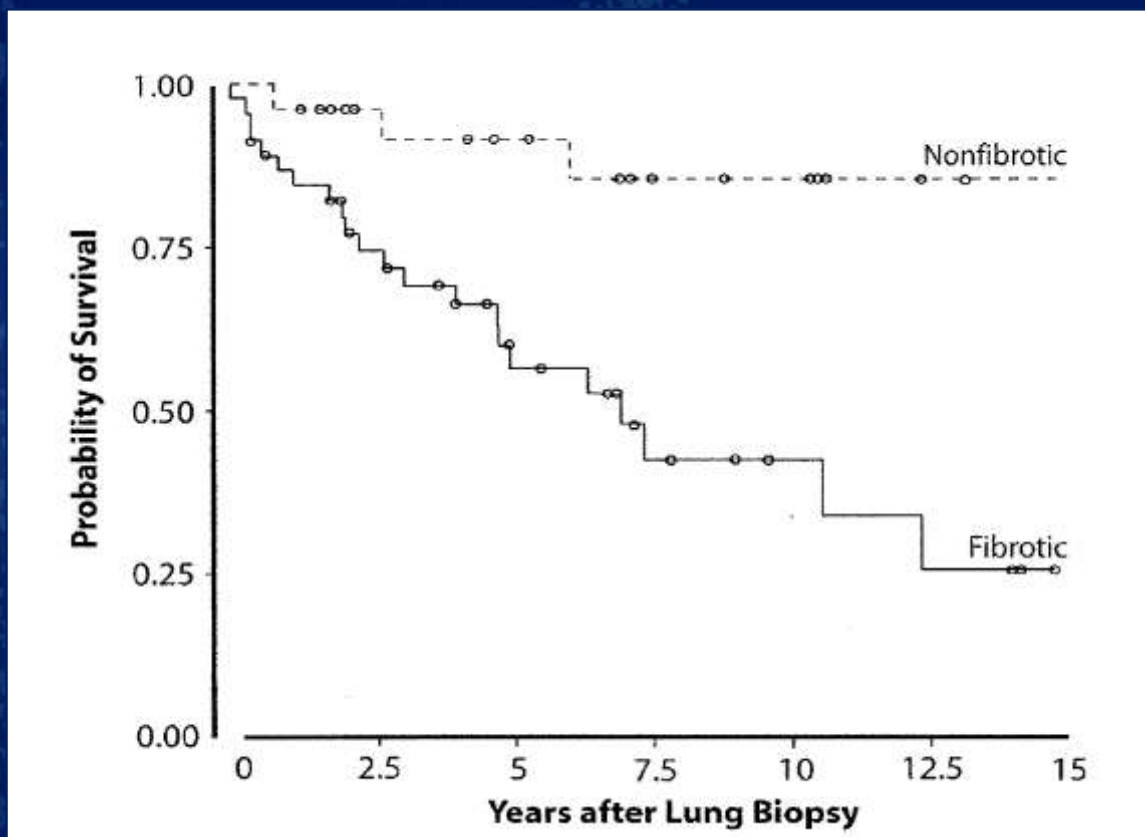




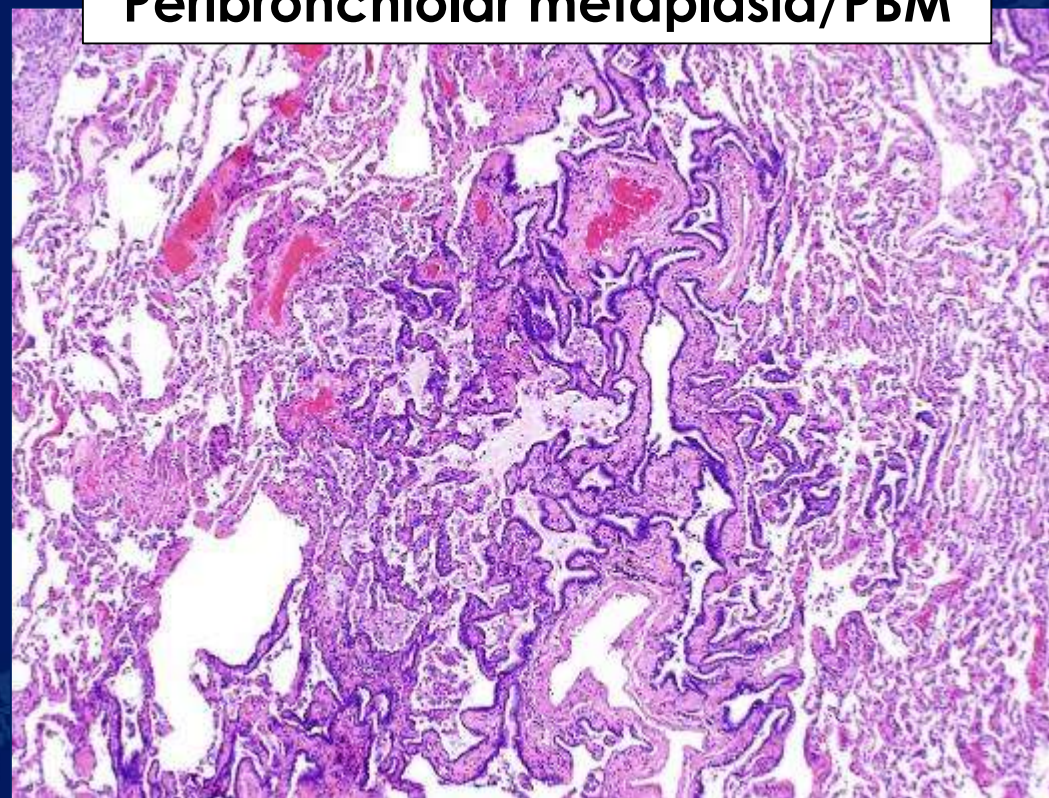
# THE EFFECT OF FIBROSIS ON SURVIVAL IN PATIENTS WITH HP

(Voulekis in Am J Med 2004; 116: 662)

46 of 72 pts identified were classified as “fibrotic”  
No correlation with implicated antigen



Peribronchiolar metaplasia/PBM





# Current Guidelines for HP

(Raghu et al Am J Resp Crit Care Med 2020; 202: e36.)

Nonfibrotic HP

Fibrotic HP

**Radiologic and Pathologic Criteria for:**

*Typical...*

*Compatible with...*

*Indeterminate for...*

**This scheme provides a framework for clinicians to diagnose and manage patients.**





# COMMENTARY.....



LungPath  
Consultants



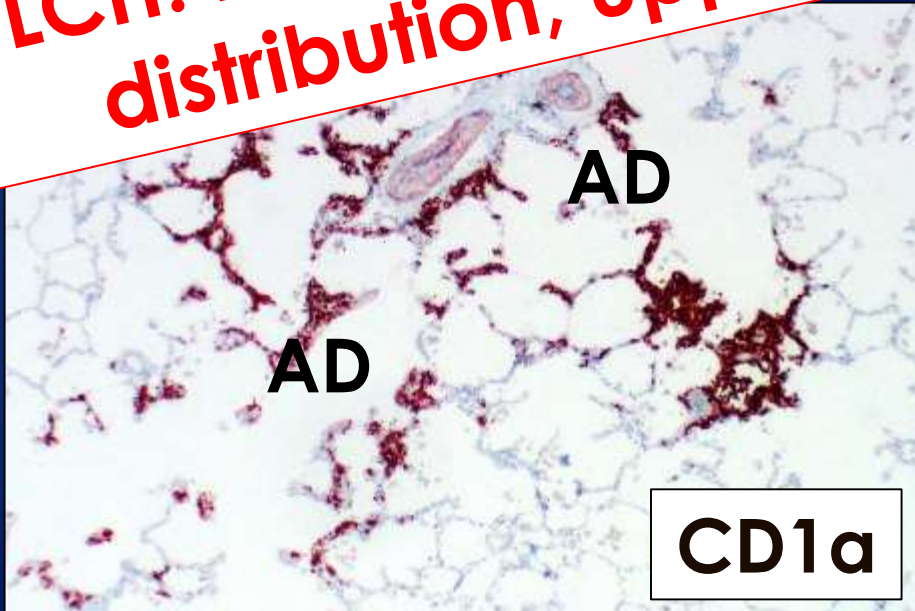
# Pulmonary Langerhans Cell histiocytosis (PLCH)

Current evidence strongly supports cigarette smoking and Langerhans Cell proliferation in the lung

**BRAF V600E mutation** common

Early lesions are

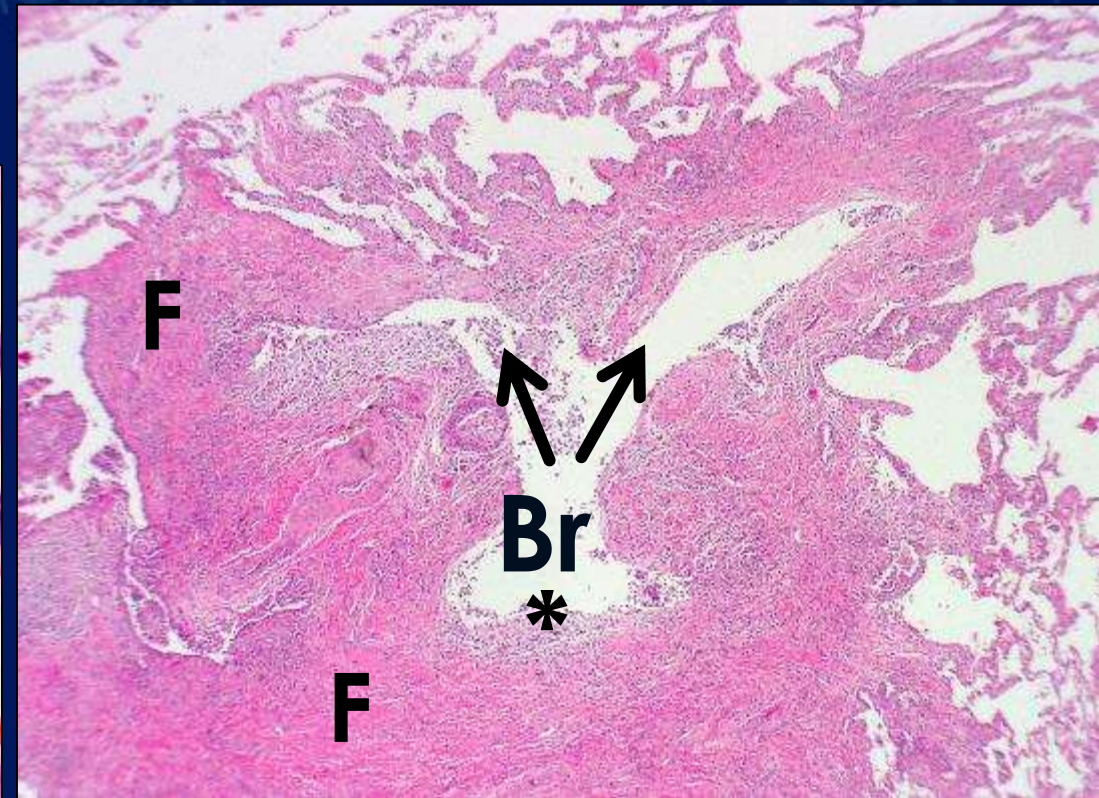
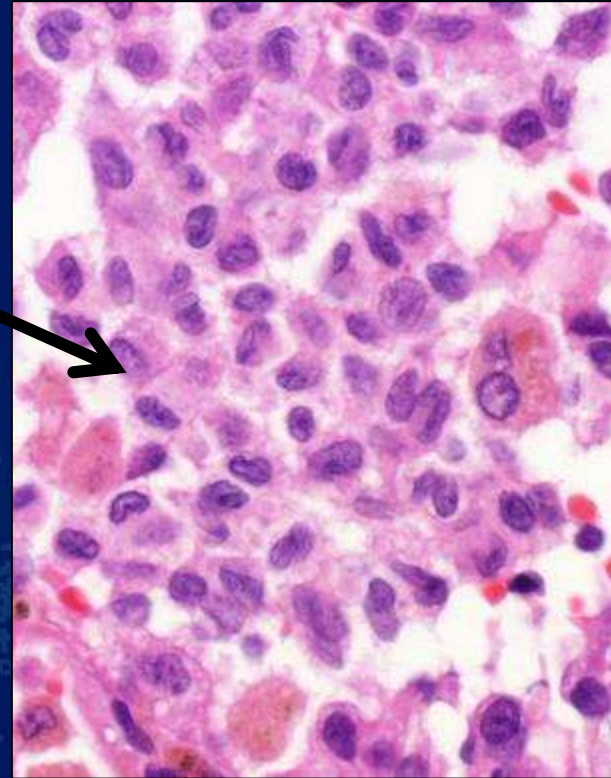
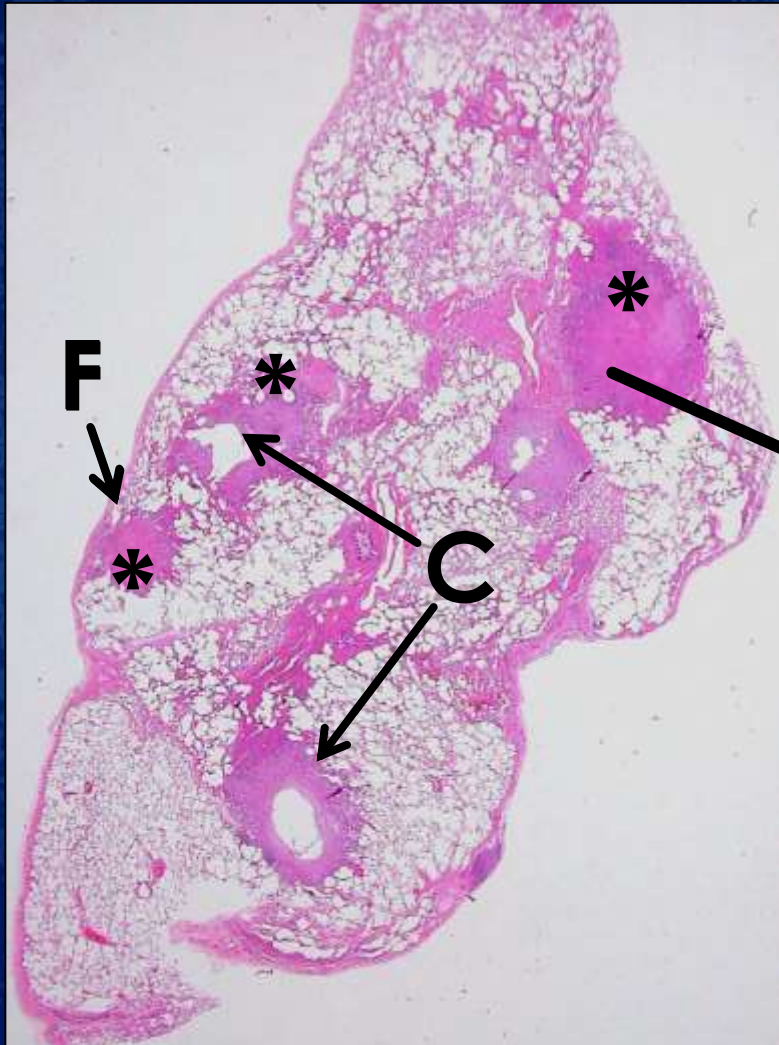
**PLCH: Inhalational etiology, airway-centered distribution, upper lobe predominance**



Langerhans cells stain with:  
CD1a, S-100, Langerin

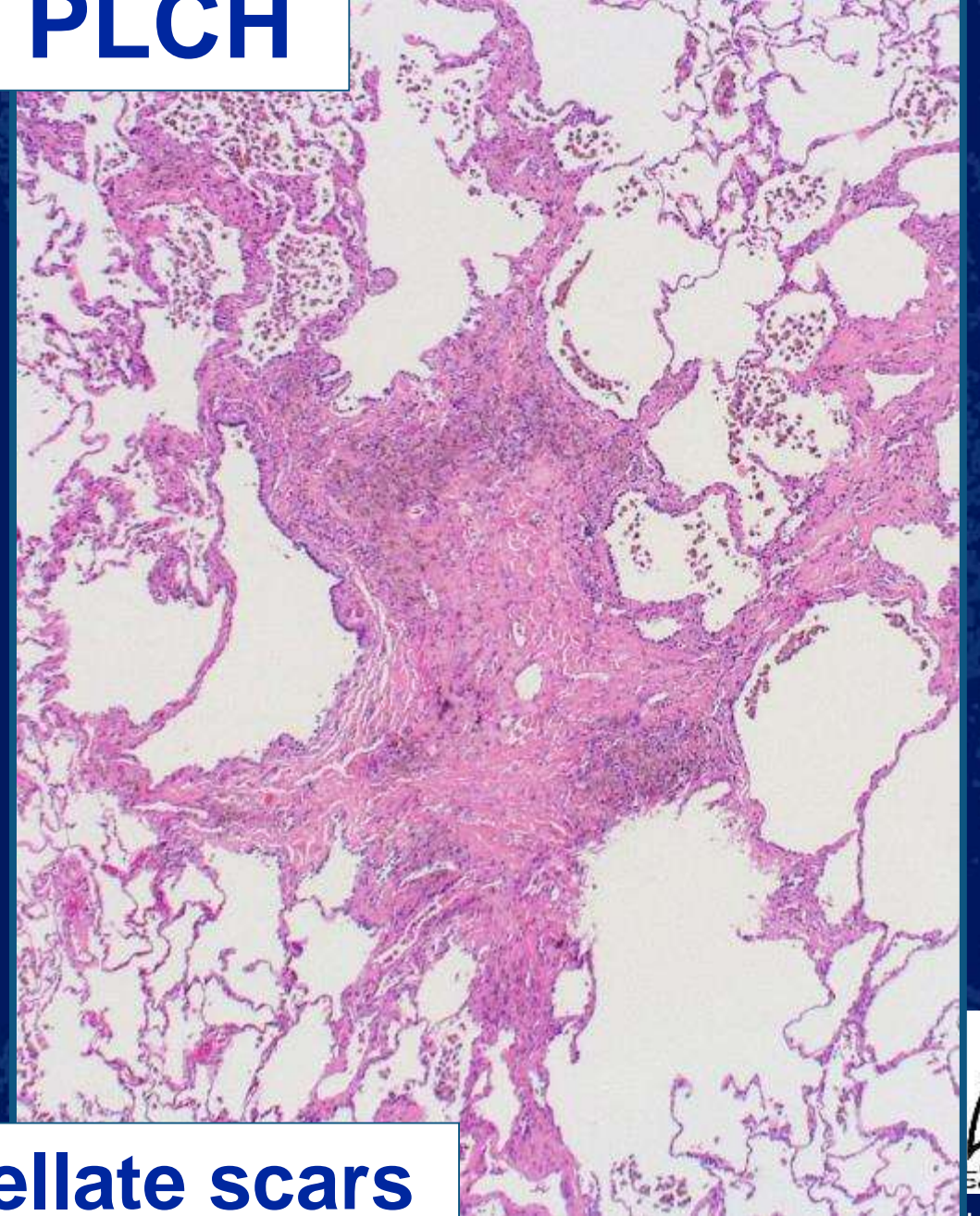
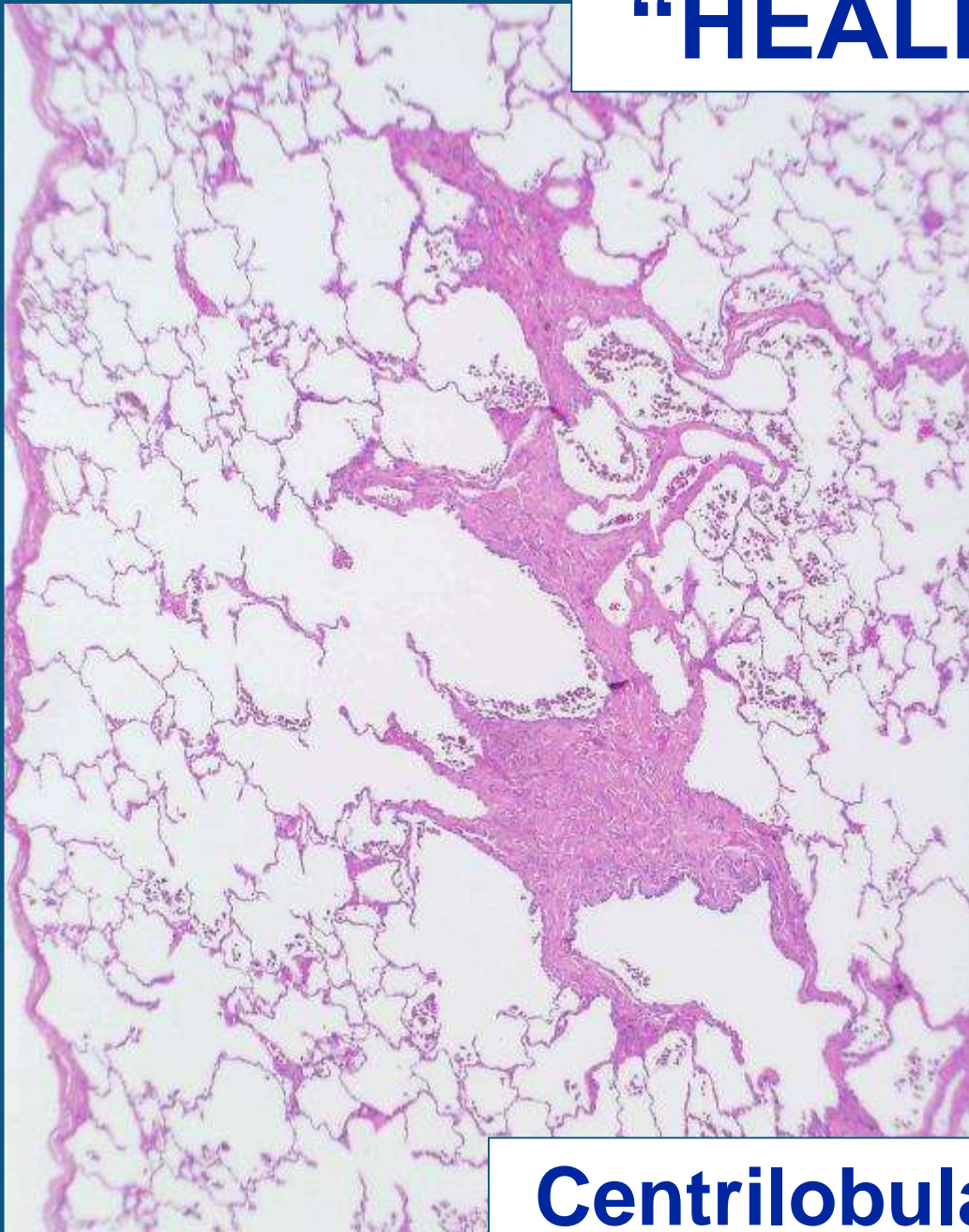


Langerhans cell proliferation leads to cellular centrilobular nodules\* that become fibrotic (F) and cavitate (C) over time





# “HEALED” PLCH



**Centrilobular stellate scars**



# PLCH Evaluation

## Four domains

Clinical/Lab presentation

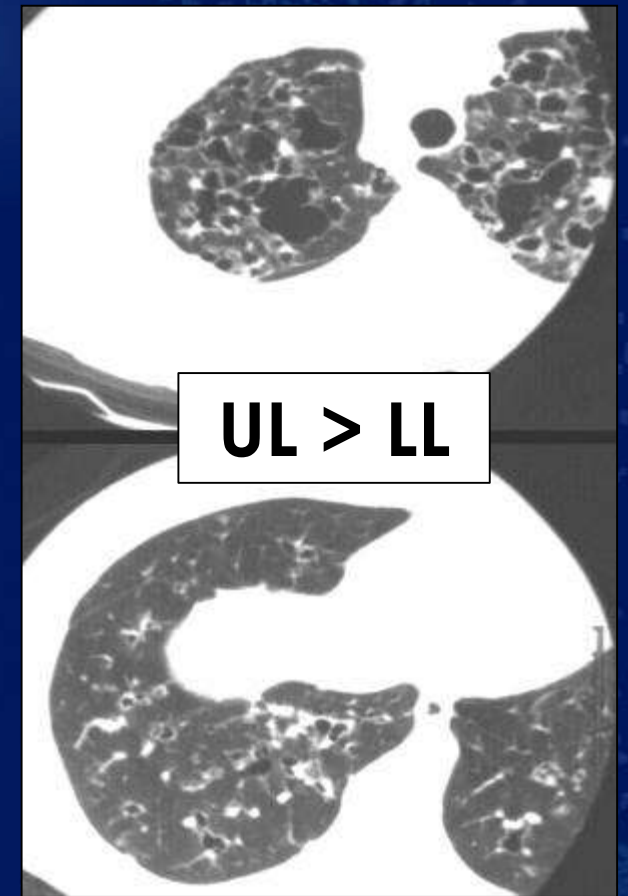
Radiologic findings

Pathologic injury pattern(s)

Disease entity that fits

Smoker

Typical CT findings



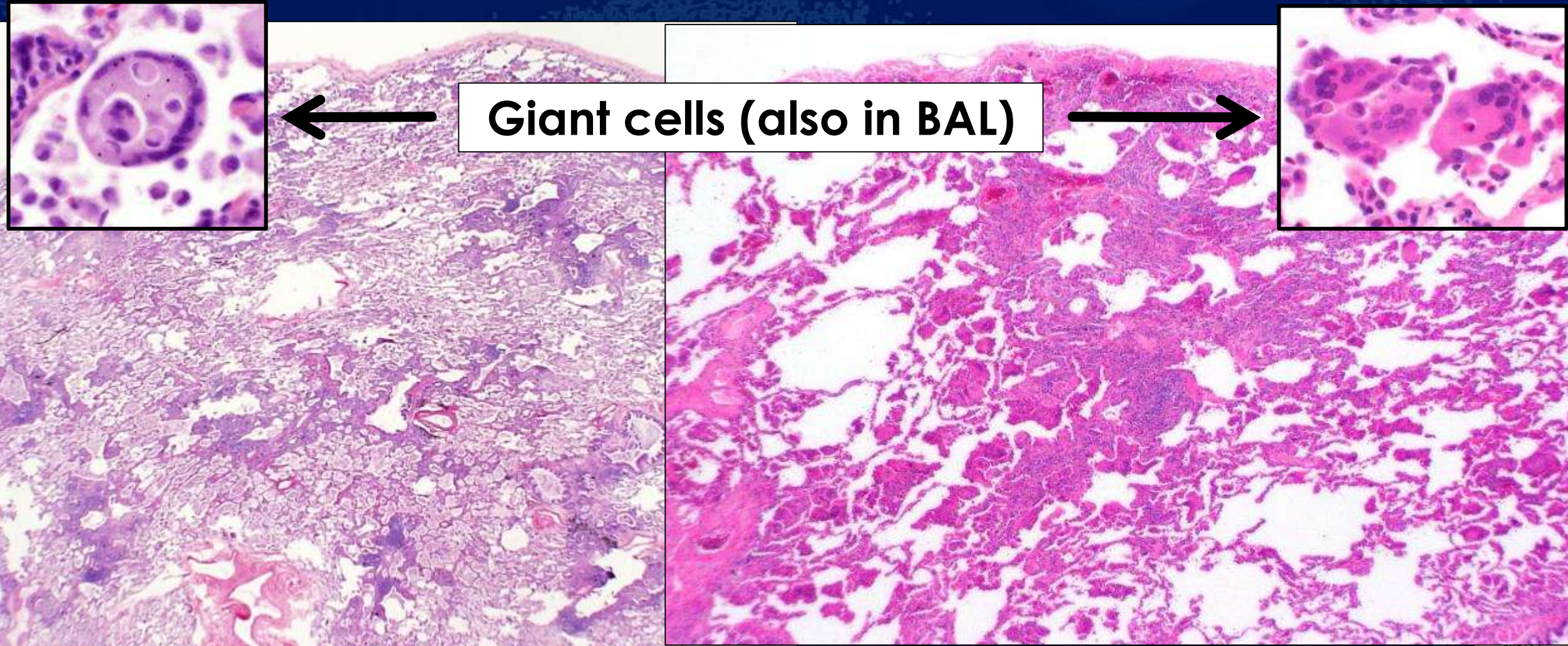
Unique histology in the active phase  
Scarred phase distinctive but no LCs

Definitive Dx in active phase

“c/w PLCH” in fibrotic phase



# Another unique centrilobular ILD



**Cobalt induced ILD (Giant cell interstitial pneumonia/GIP)**



# HARD METAL/COBALT PNEUMOCONIOSIS

**Hard metal: A metal of unusual hardness containing cobalt and tungsten carbide.**

**Cobalt implicated as cause of ILD**

**0.7 to 13% of exposed workers have evidence of ILD**

**Typical occupations: drill bits, grinding wheels, cut tools, jet engines, diamond polishing, paint and pigment, oil/chemical industry**





# REVIEW! Idiopathic Interstitial Pneumonias (IIPs)

## Major IIPs

Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (**UIP**)

Idiopathic NSIP (**NSIP**)

RB-ILD (**RBILD**)

DIP (**DIP**)

Cryptogenic Organizing Pneumonia/**COP** (OP)

Acute Interstitial Pneumonia/**AIP** (DAD)

## Minor IIPs

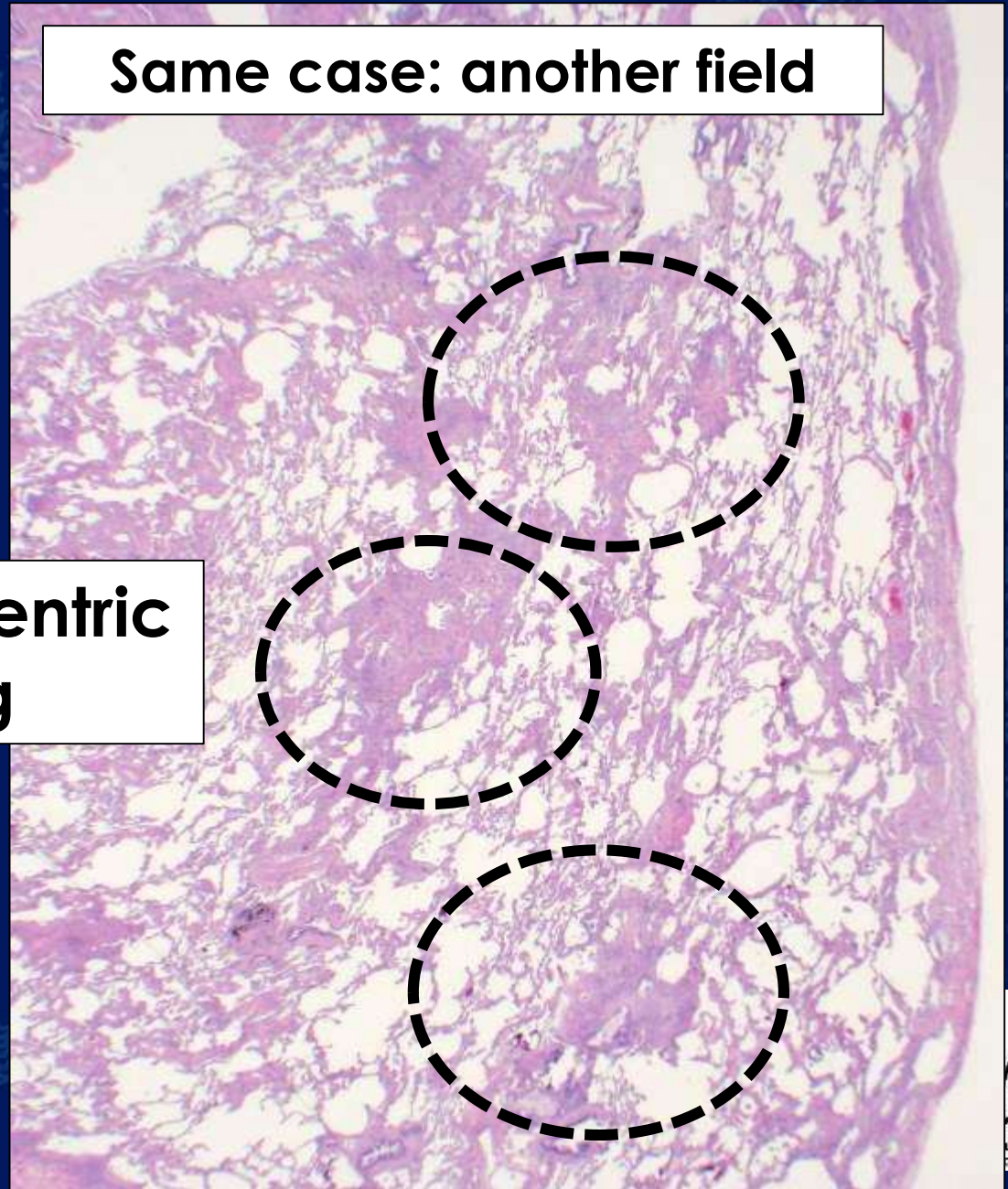
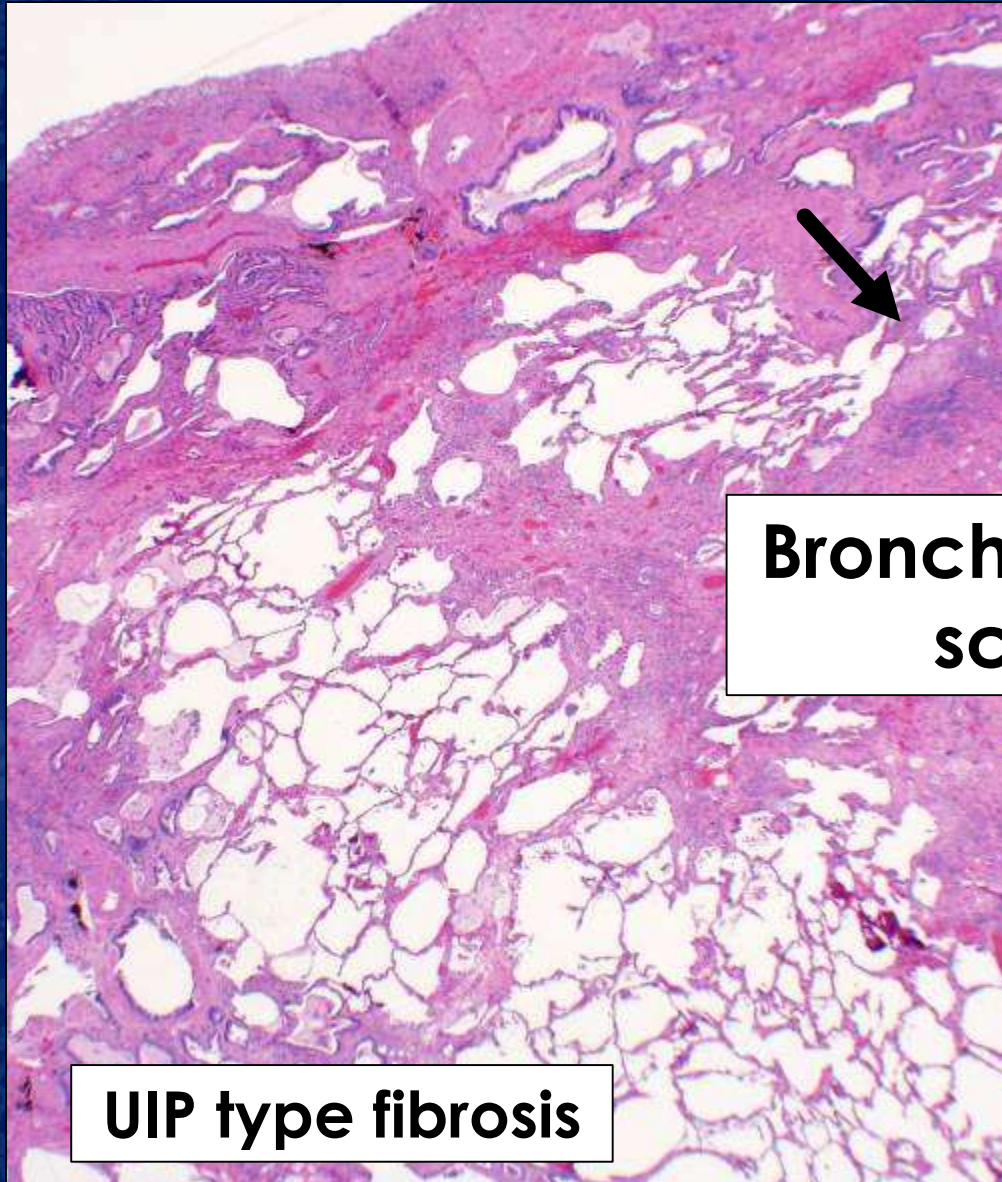
Idiopathic lymphocytic interstitial pneumonia (**LIP**)

Idiopathic pleuroparenchymal fibroelastosis (**PPFE**)

## Unclassifiable IIPs



# What do you see?





# Is there an Idiopathic Bronchiolocentric Interstitial Pneumonia???

## 1. IDIOPATHIC BRONCHIOLOCENTRIC INTERSTITIAL PNEUMONIA (BrIP)

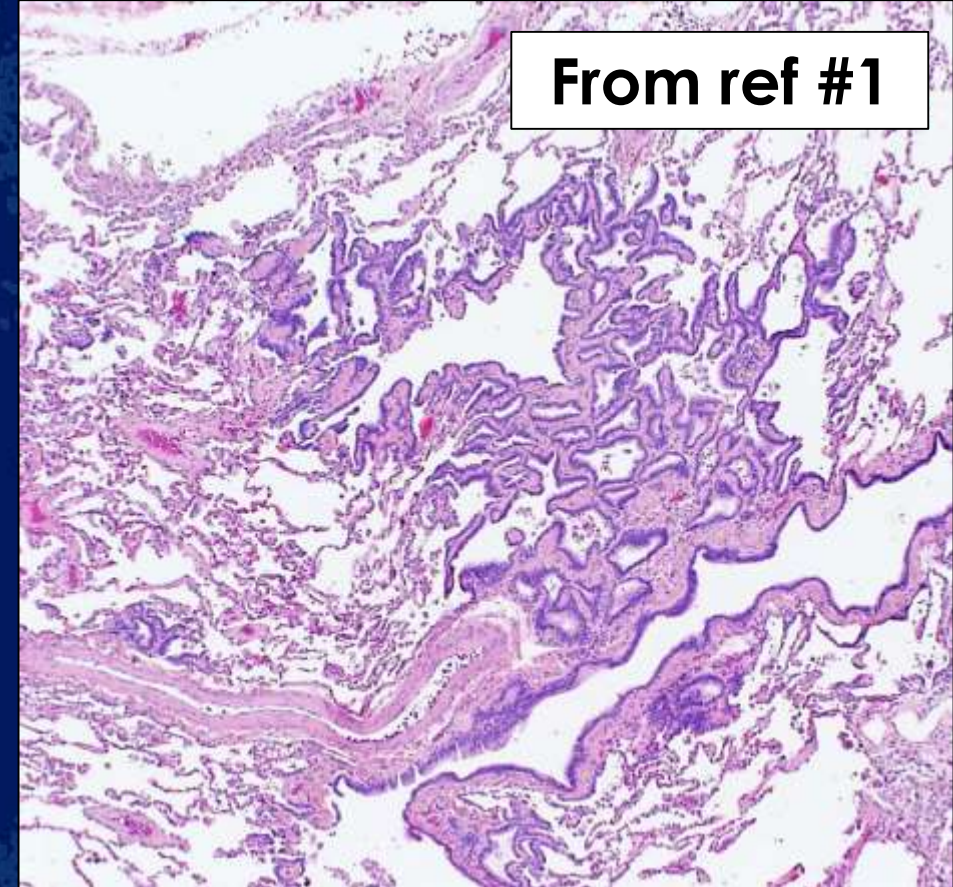
(Yousem and Dacic in Mod Pathol 2002; 15:1148-1153)

## 2. AIRWAY CENTERED INTERSTITIAL FIBROSIS: A DISTINCT FORM OF AGGRESSIVE DIFFUSE LUNG DISEASE

(Churg et al. in AJSP 2004;28:62-68)

## 3. PERIBRONCHIOLAR METAPLASIA: A COMMON HISTOLOGIC LESION IN DIFFUSE LUNG DISEASE AND RARE CAUSE OF ILD: 15 CASES

(Fukuoka et al. in AJSP 2005;29:948-954)



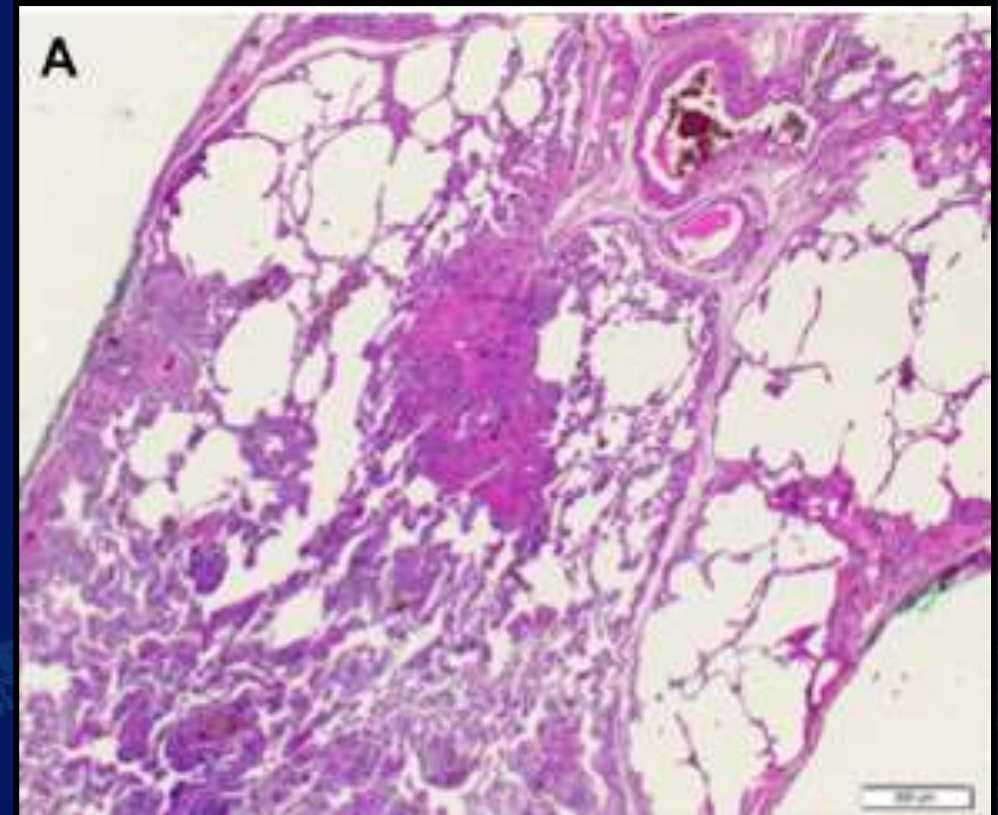
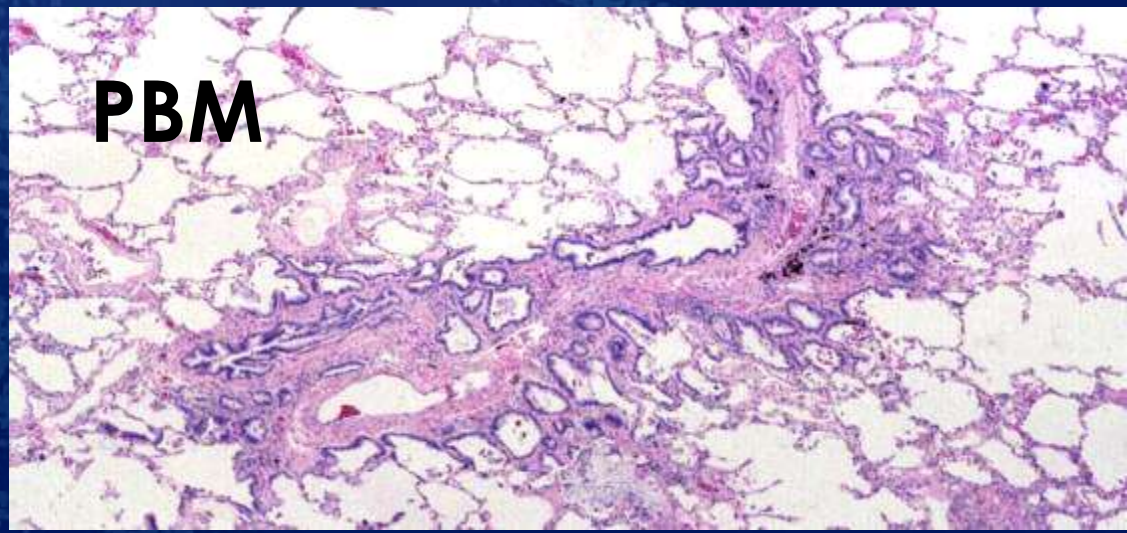


# Recent interest in airway centered ILD

Airway-centered interstitial fibrosis: etiology, clinical findings and prognosis Resp Res 2015; 16: 55

68 patients with ACIF (Among 600 pts with SLBx's for ILD)

- Airway centered fibrosis 100%
- Airway inflammation 98%
- Peribronchiolar metaplasia 88%

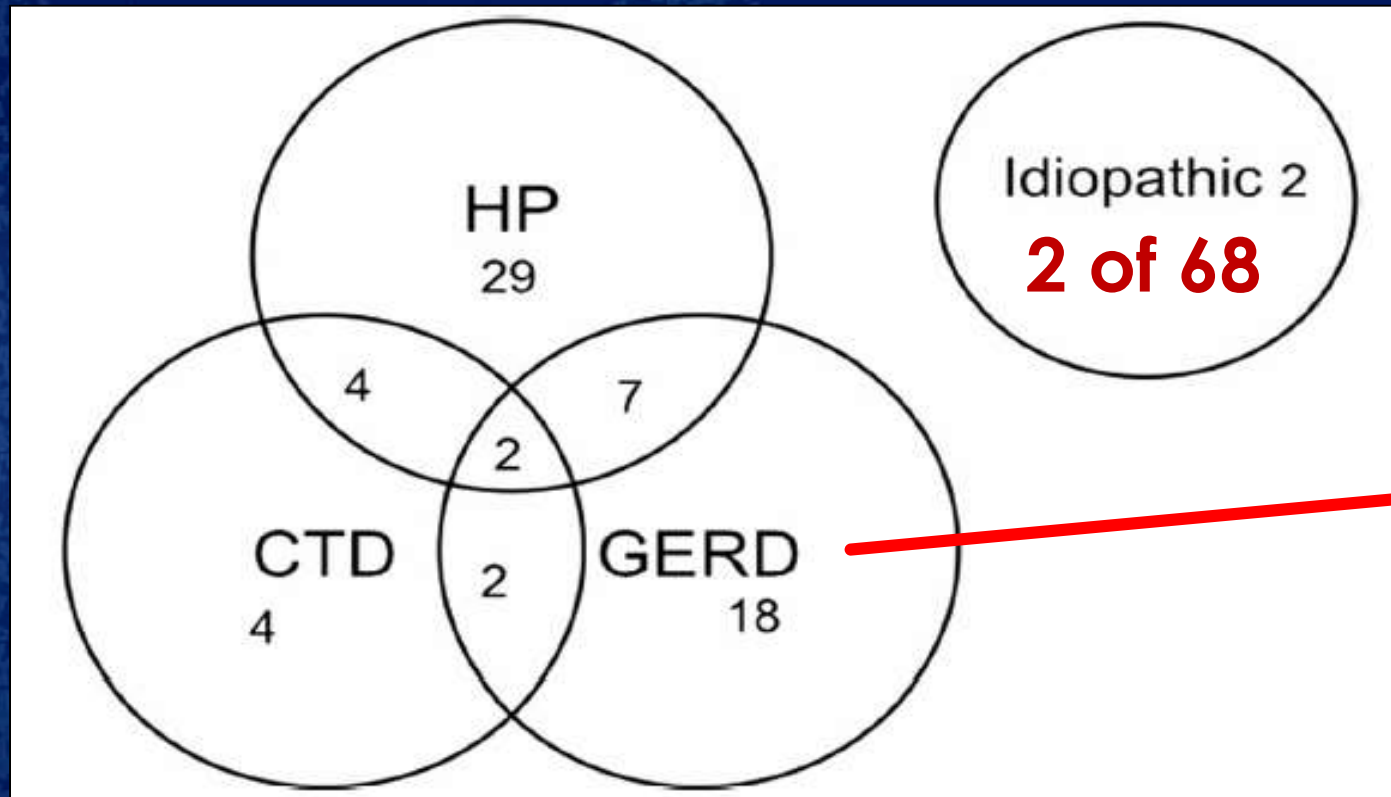




# Airway-centered interstitial fibrosis: etiology, clinical findings and prognosis

Resp Res 2015; 16: 55

## Multidisciplinary discussion (MDD) diagnoses in 68 patients



Implications for pathologist-Think:

Fibrotic HP

Aspiration

More to come



**CASE:**

# Peribronchiolar Metaplasia (PBM)

## Four domains

Clinical/Lab presentation

Radiologic findings

Pathologic injury pattern(s)

Disease entity that fits

**Dx: Probable fibrotic HP**



# COMMENTARY.....



LungPath  
Consultants



# Aspiration can produce localized mass, ILD, or Bronchiolitis

(Mukhopadhyay S, Katzenstein AL. in AJSP 2007; 31: 752)

59 cases of lung disease due to aspiration of food or other particulates

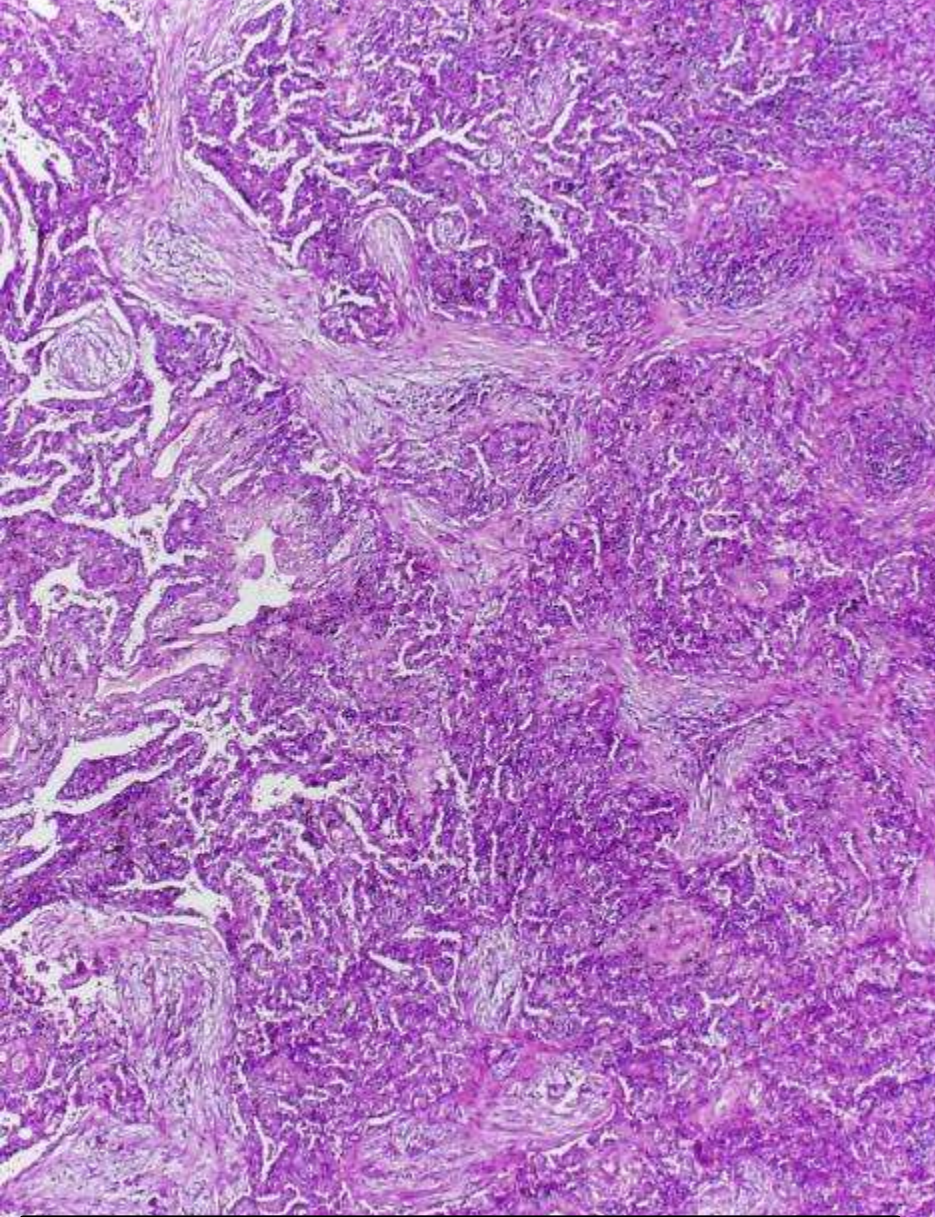
Sx: dyspnea, cough, fever, recurrent pneumonias

**Radiology:** Bilateral infiltrates in 50%; unilateral in 50%; infiltrates could be “diffuse.”

→ “Interstitial lung disease/ILD”



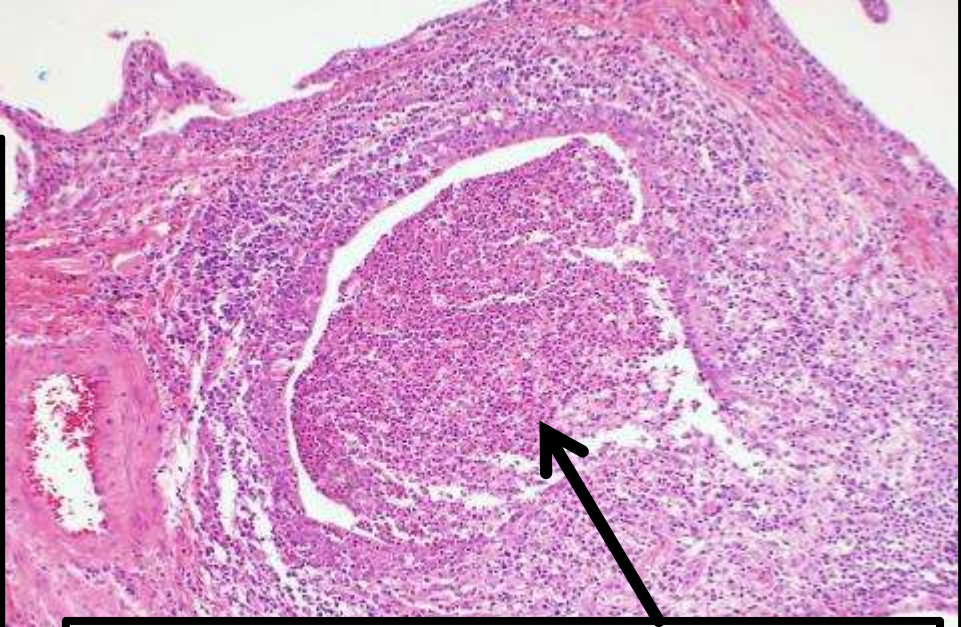
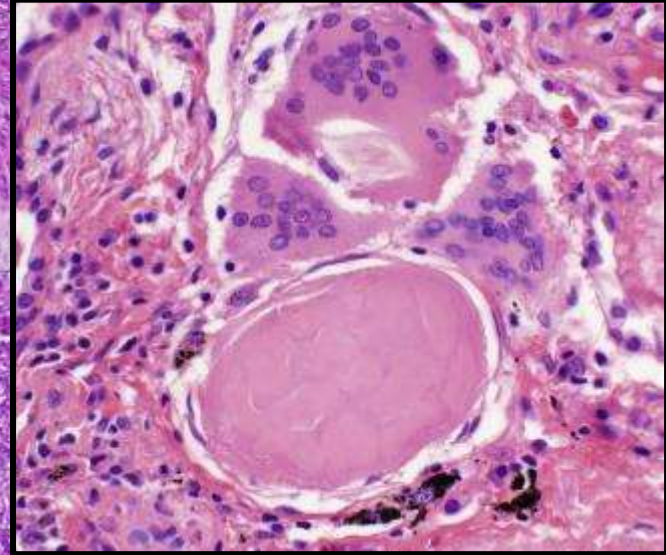




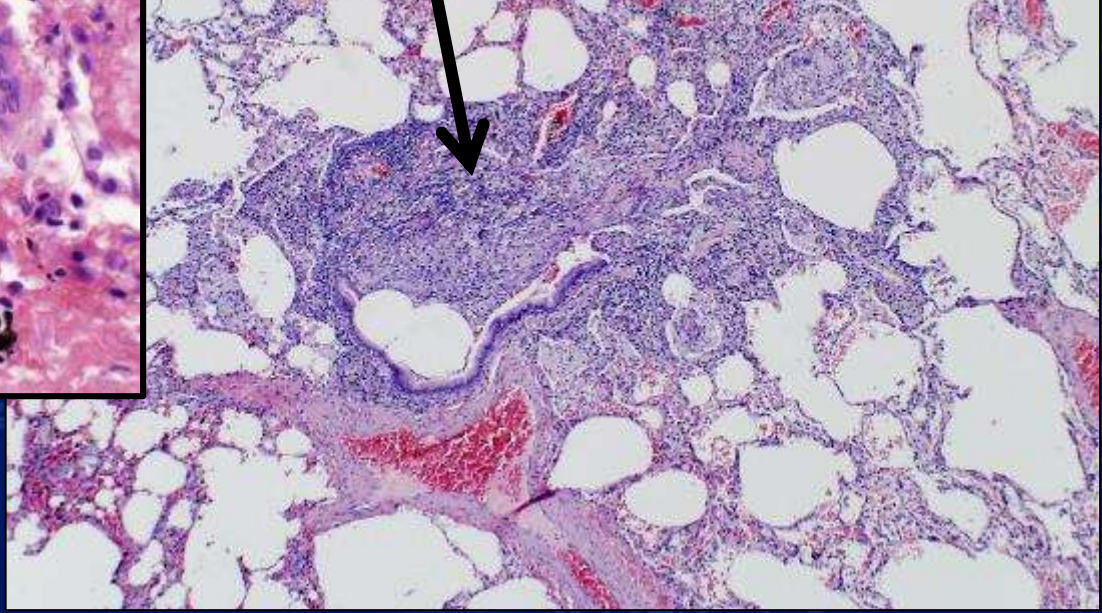
**Aspiration as a patchy  
ILD with OP**



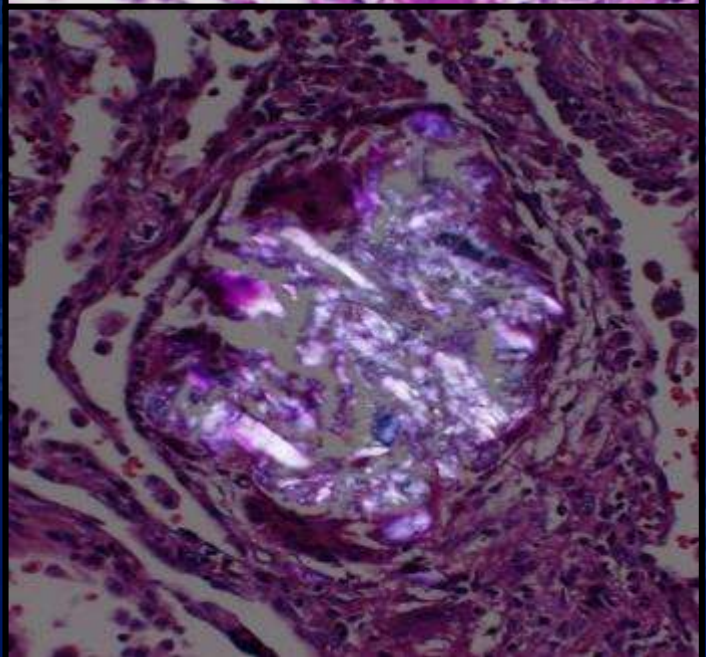
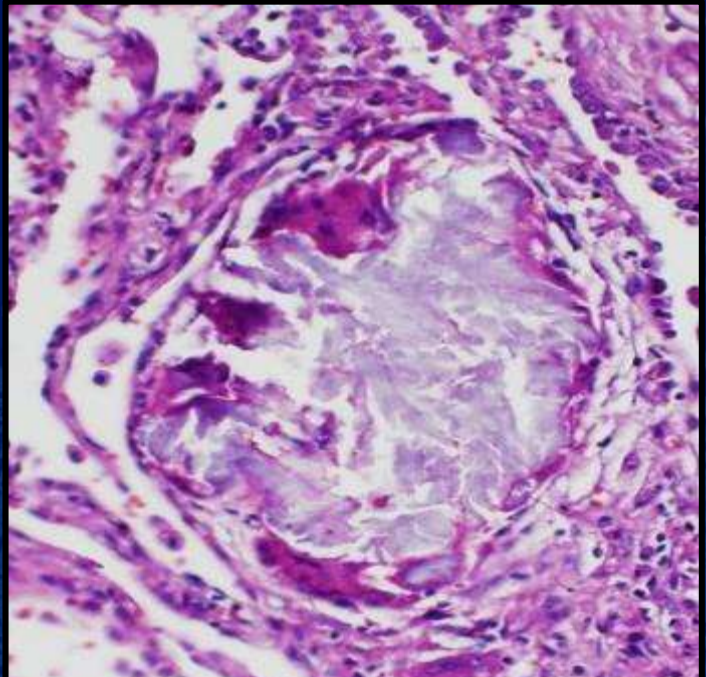
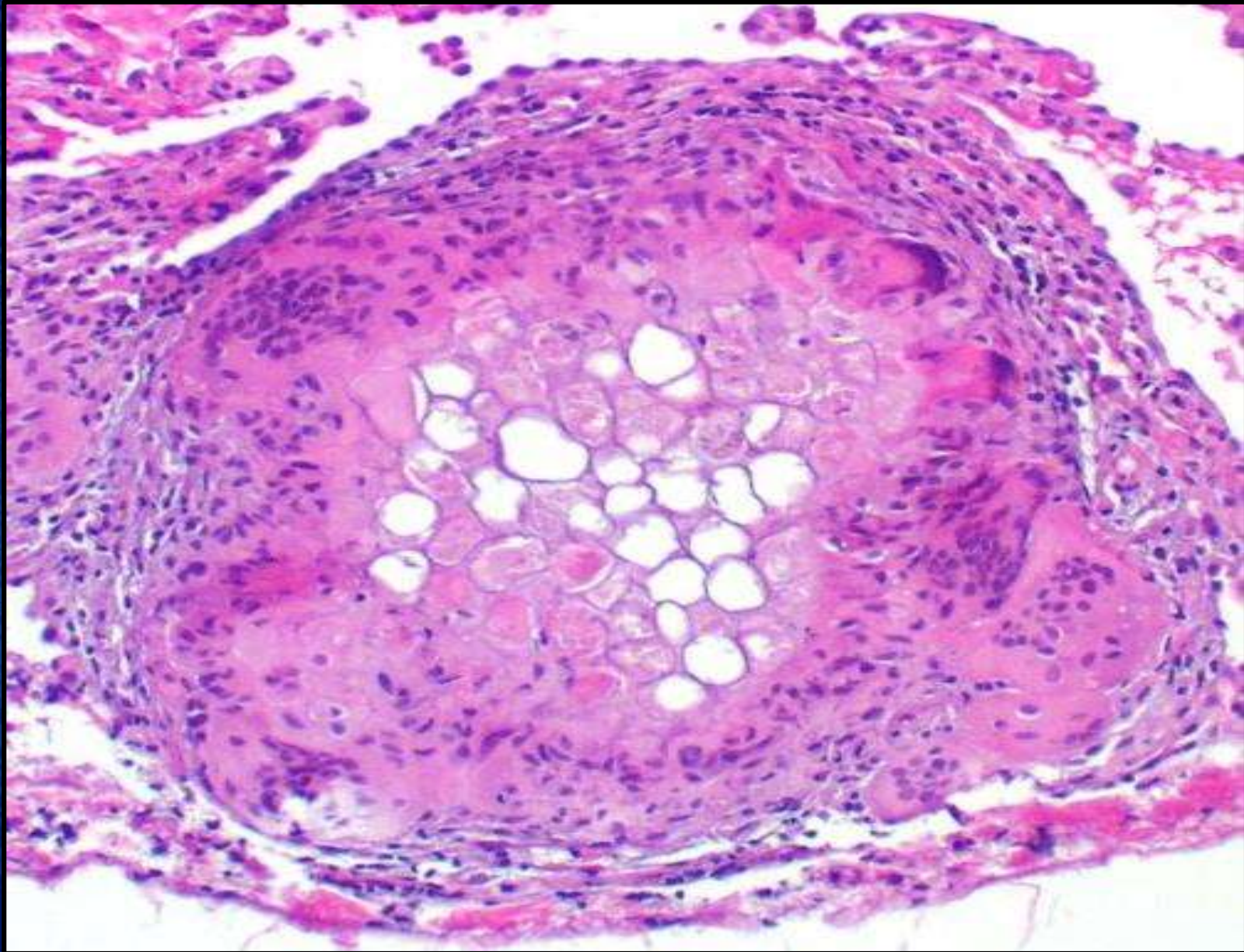
**Degenerate  
Food**



**Aspiration as Acute or  
Chronic Bronchiolitis**



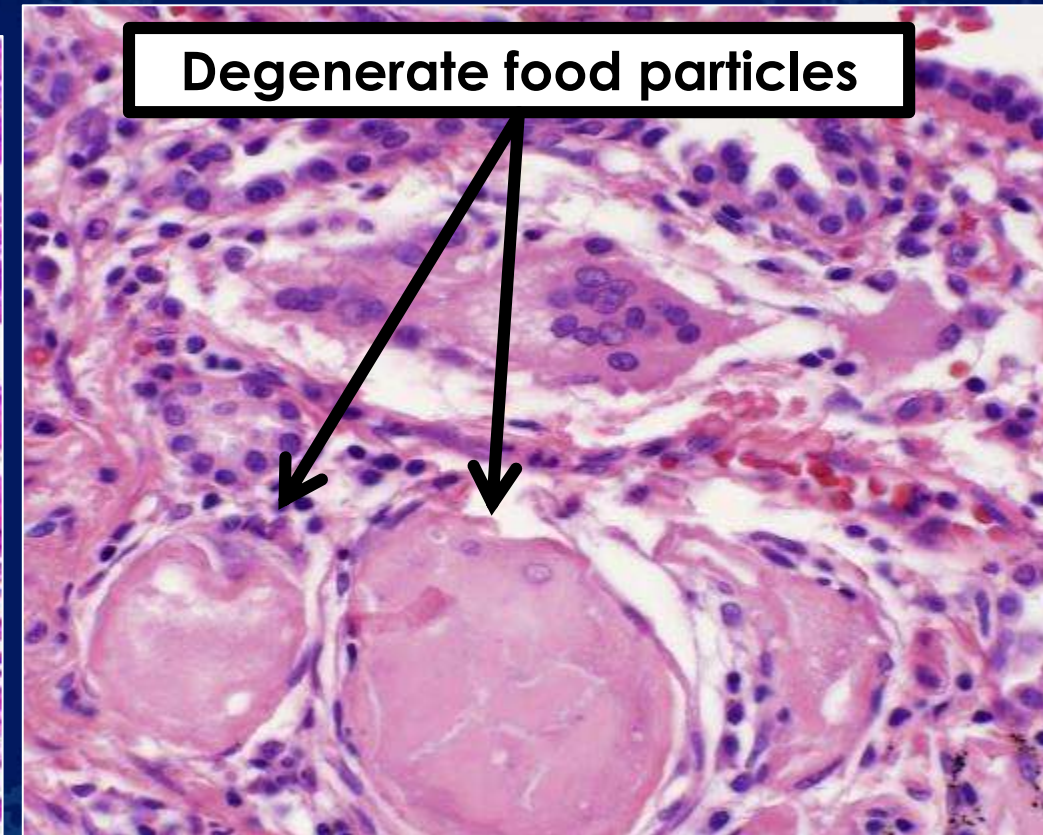
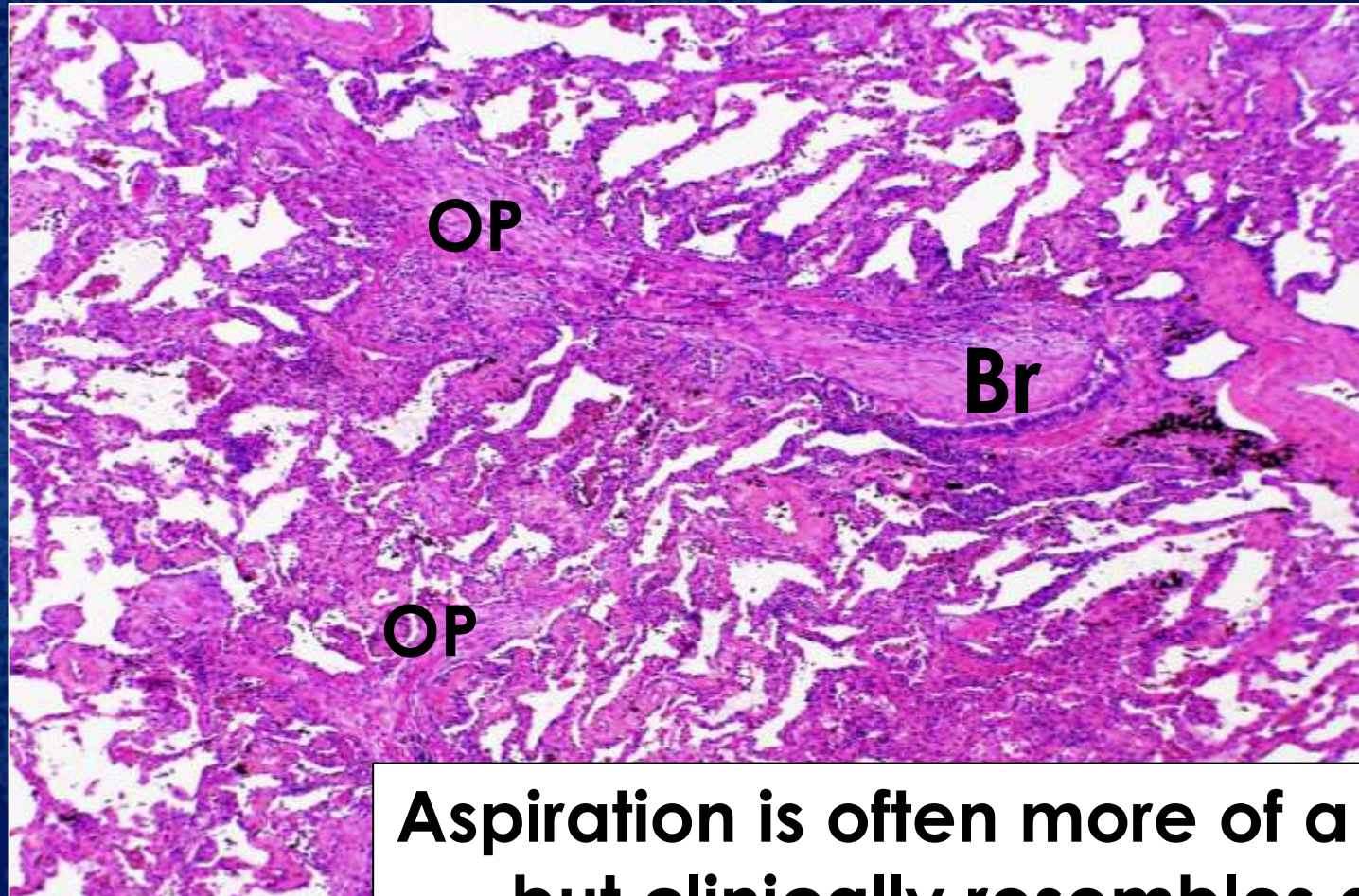






# Aspiration as a cause of a bronchiolocentric IP

Chronic aspiration:

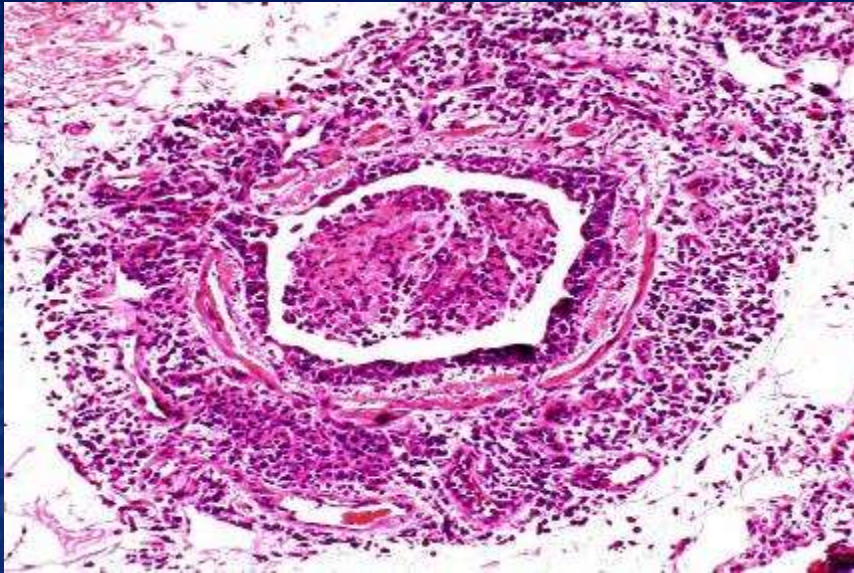
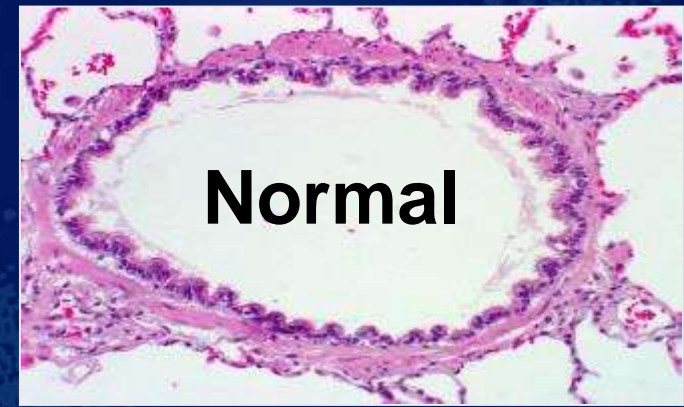


Aspiration is often more of a bronchiolitis pathologically but clinically resembles an interstitial pneumonia

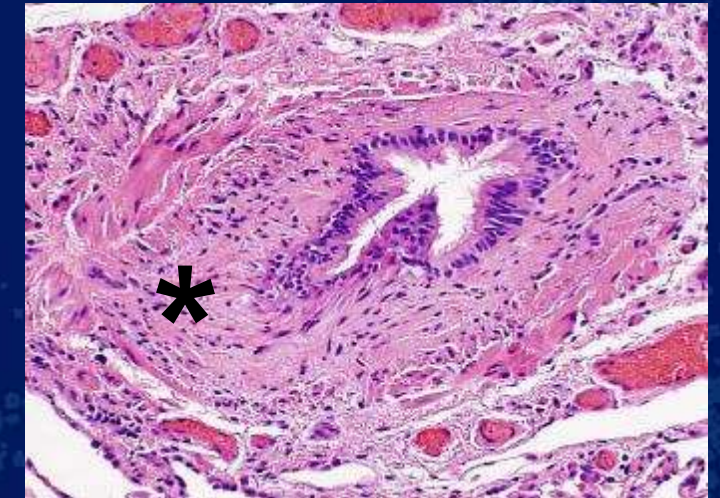
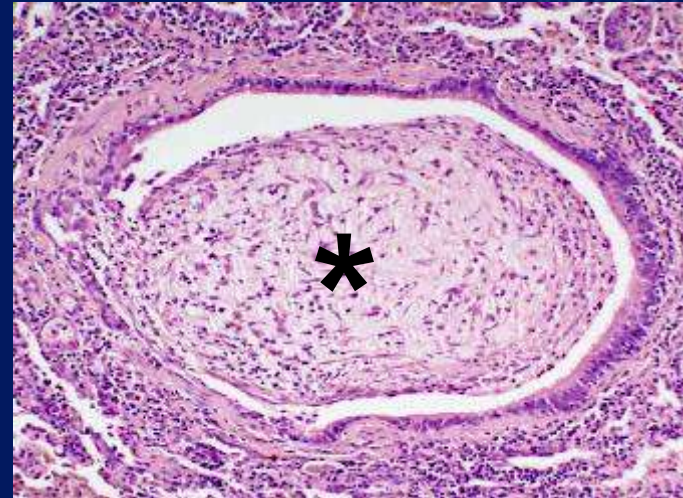


# BRONCHIOLITIS

(inflammation of bronchioles)



**Cellular infiltration**  
(+/- fluid, mucus)



**Mesenchymal reactions 1\* and 2\***

The clinical, radiologic and functional effects of these lesions vary from case to case

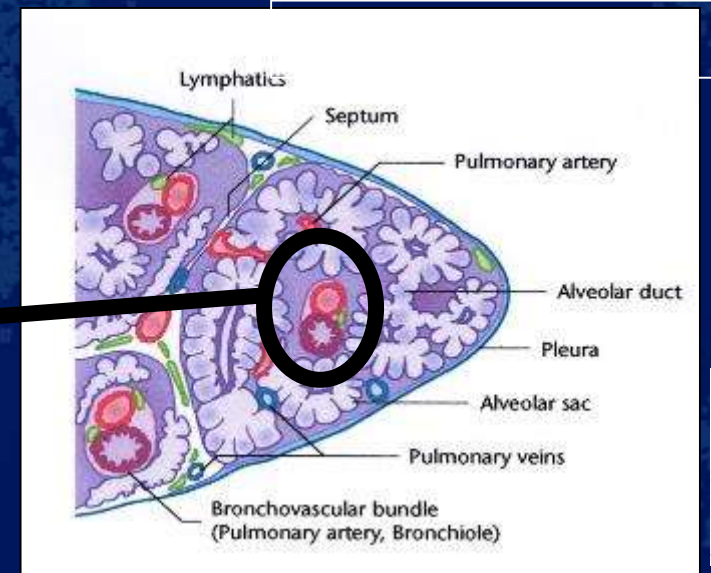
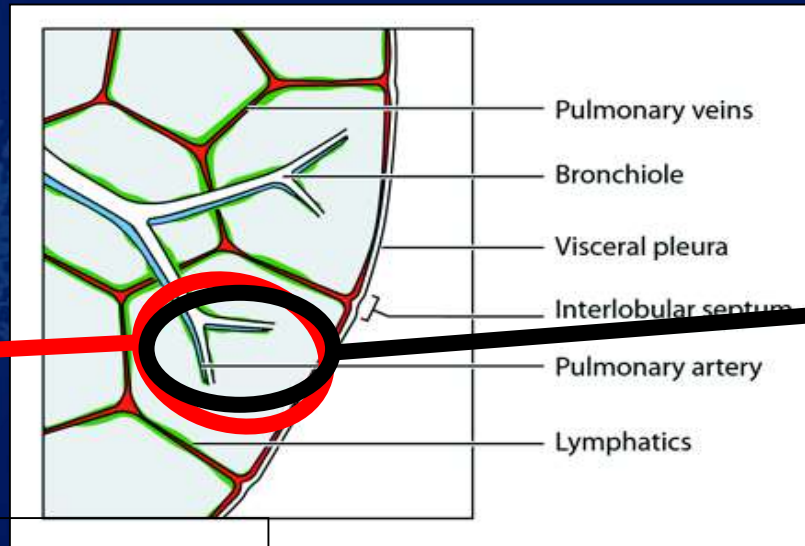
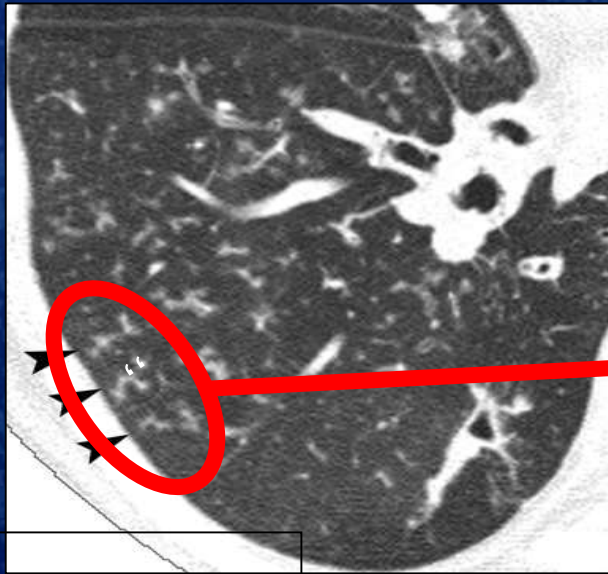


# SMALL AIRWAYS/BRONCHIOLES

Small airways are  $\leq 2$  mm

Unless abnormalities are present, small airways are not visible on HRCT.

Abnormal small airways often apparent on HRCT





# BRONCHIOLAR PATHOLOGY

## *Major Pathologic Groups*

**Cellular/exudative reaction** dominates

**Mesenchymal reaction** predominates with:

- 1) Organization with intraluminal polyps
- 2) Subepithelial fibrosis and scarring with partial or complete luminal compromise
- 3) Peribronchiolar scarring with luminal patency

**Mixed patterns (are actually most common)**





# Cellular Bronchiolitis

Cellular/exudative reaction dominates

Acute, chronic, follicular bronchiolitis

Infections (viral, bacterial, et.al.)

Aspiration

Collagen vascular diseases

Lung/bone marrow transplantation

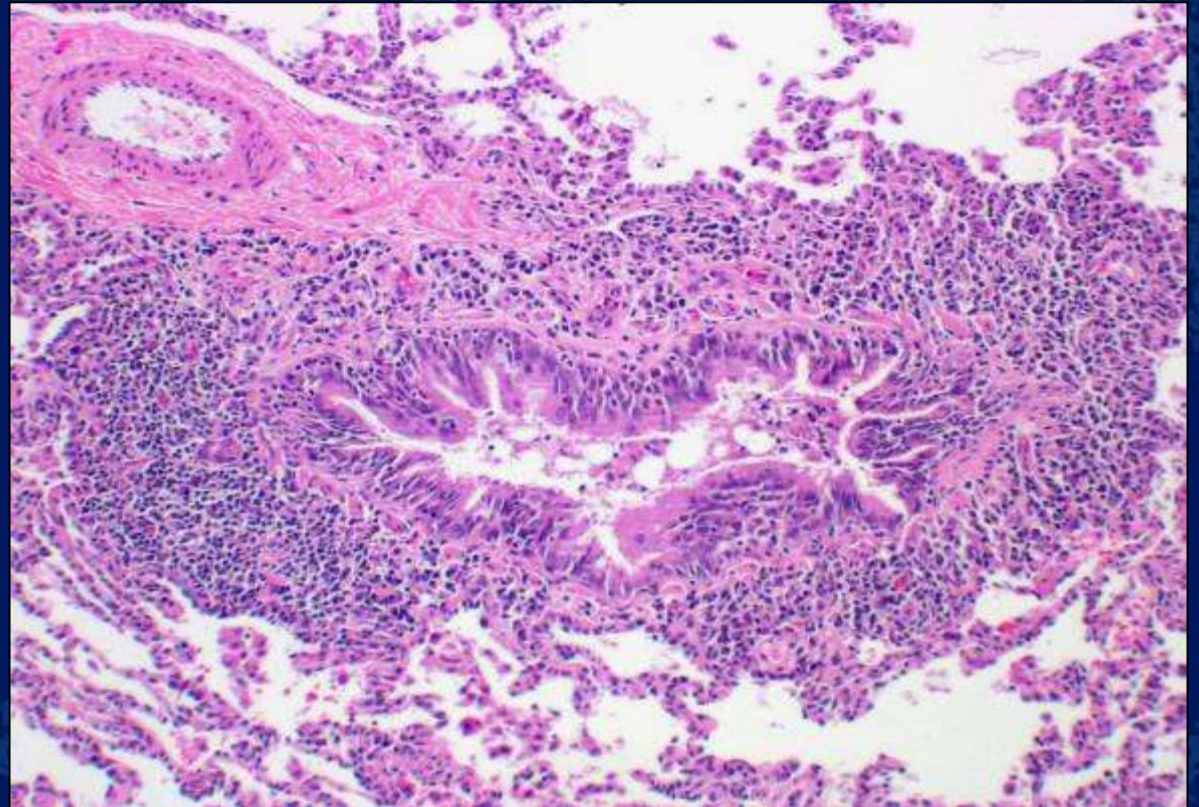
Inflammatory bowel disease

Idiopathic

As part of interstitial pneumonia

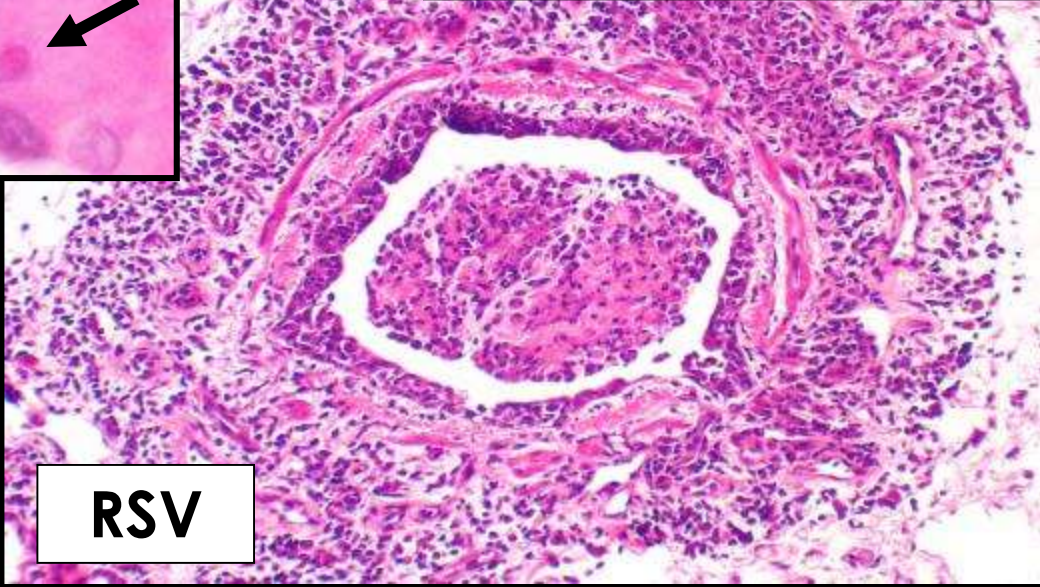
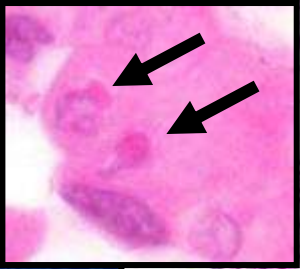
RB-ILD

Extrinsic allergic alveolitis

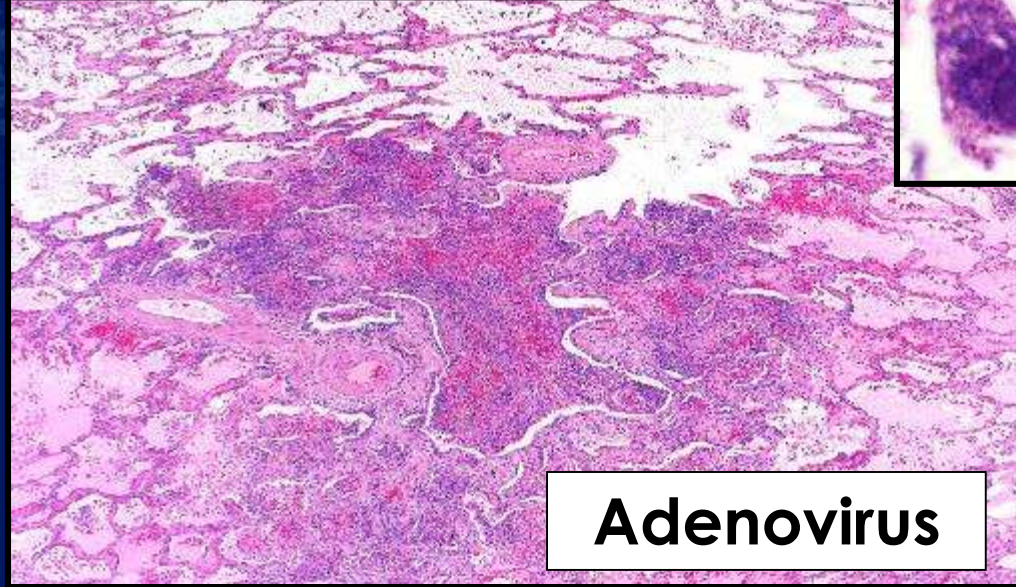




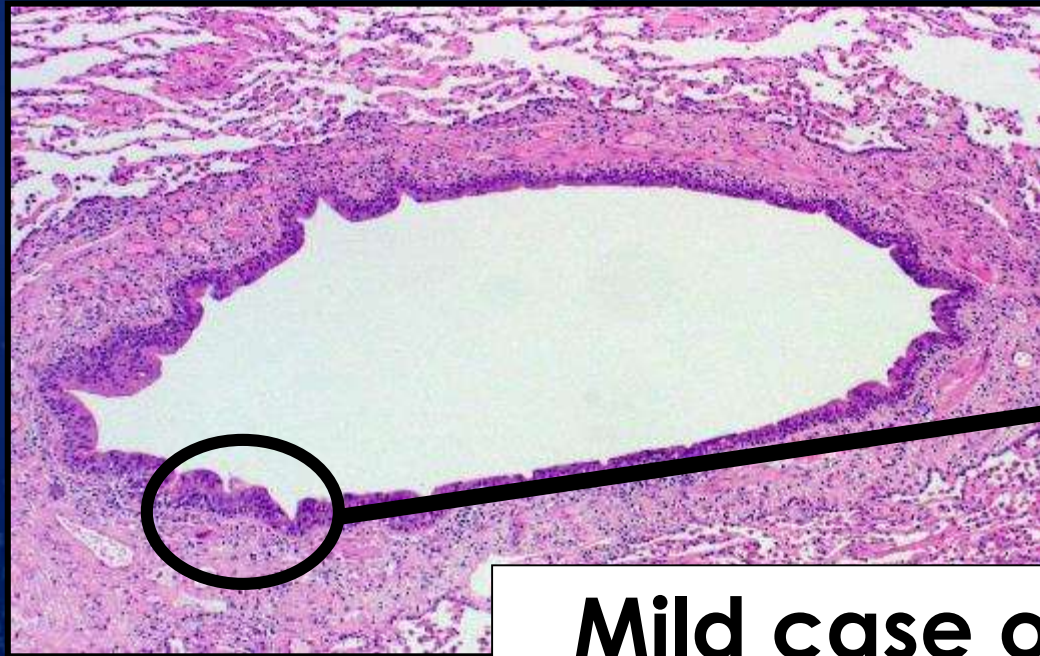
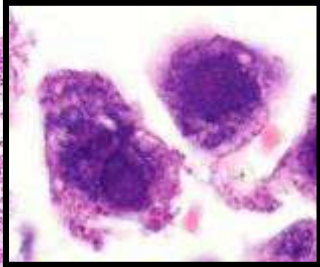
# Infectious Bronchiolitis; Viral



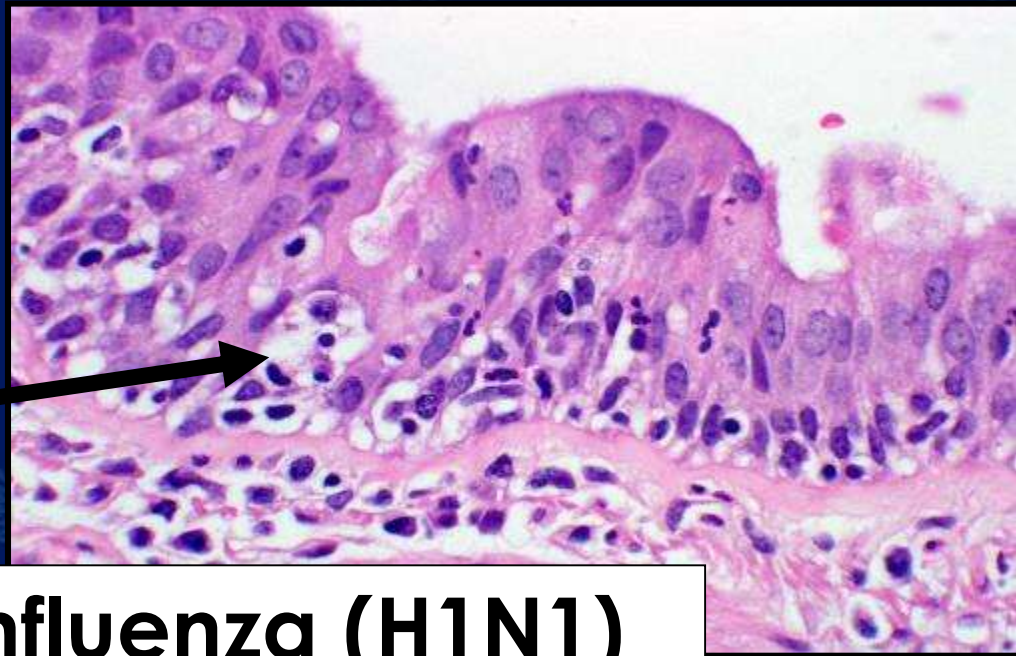
**RSV**



**Adenovirus**

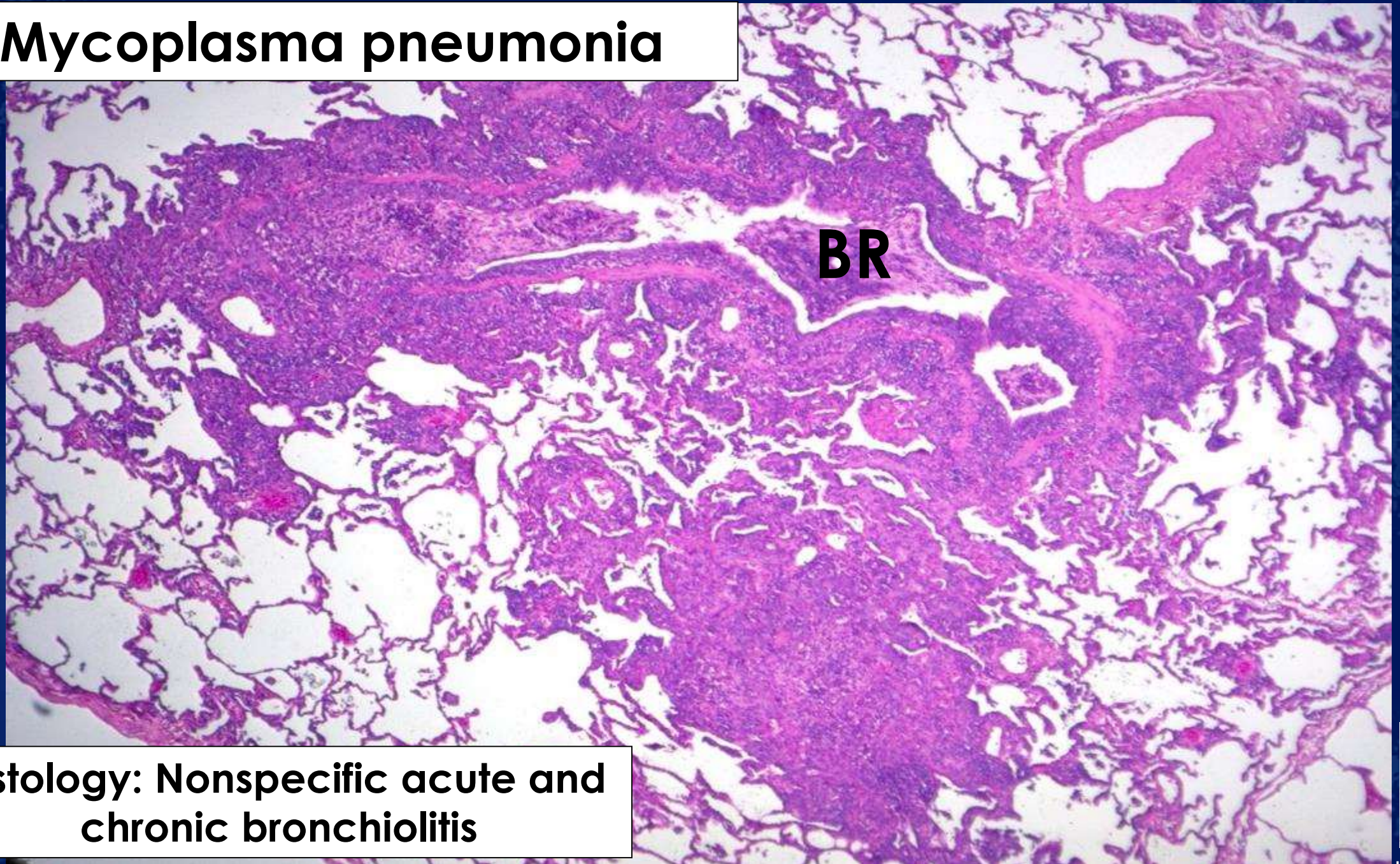


**Mild case of Influenza (H1N1)**





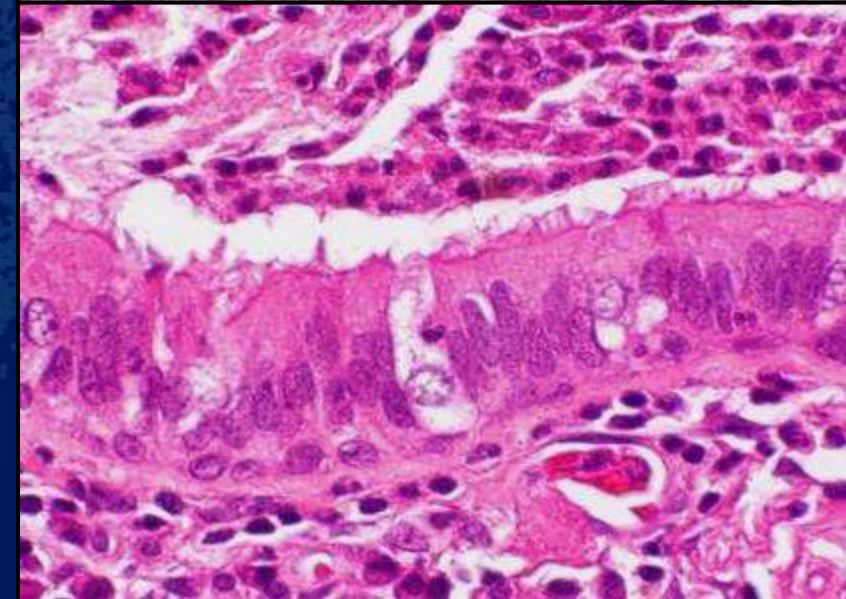
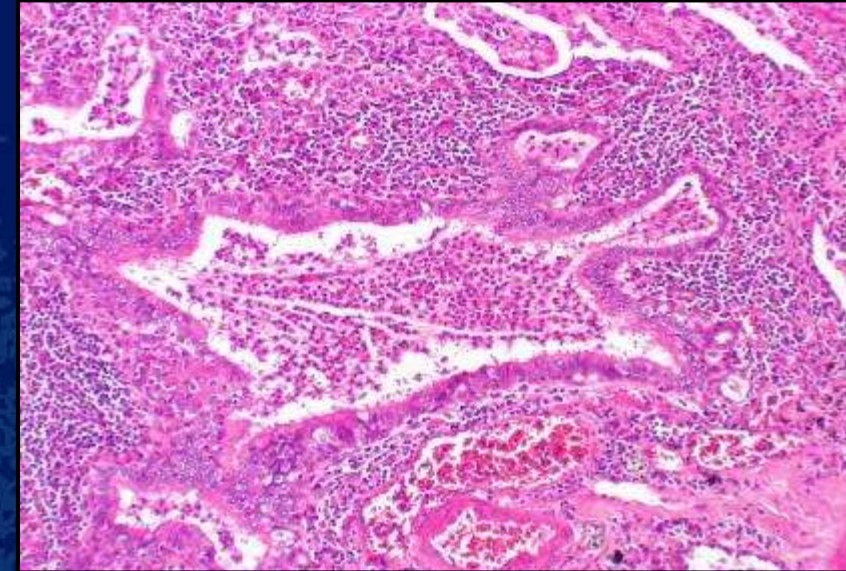
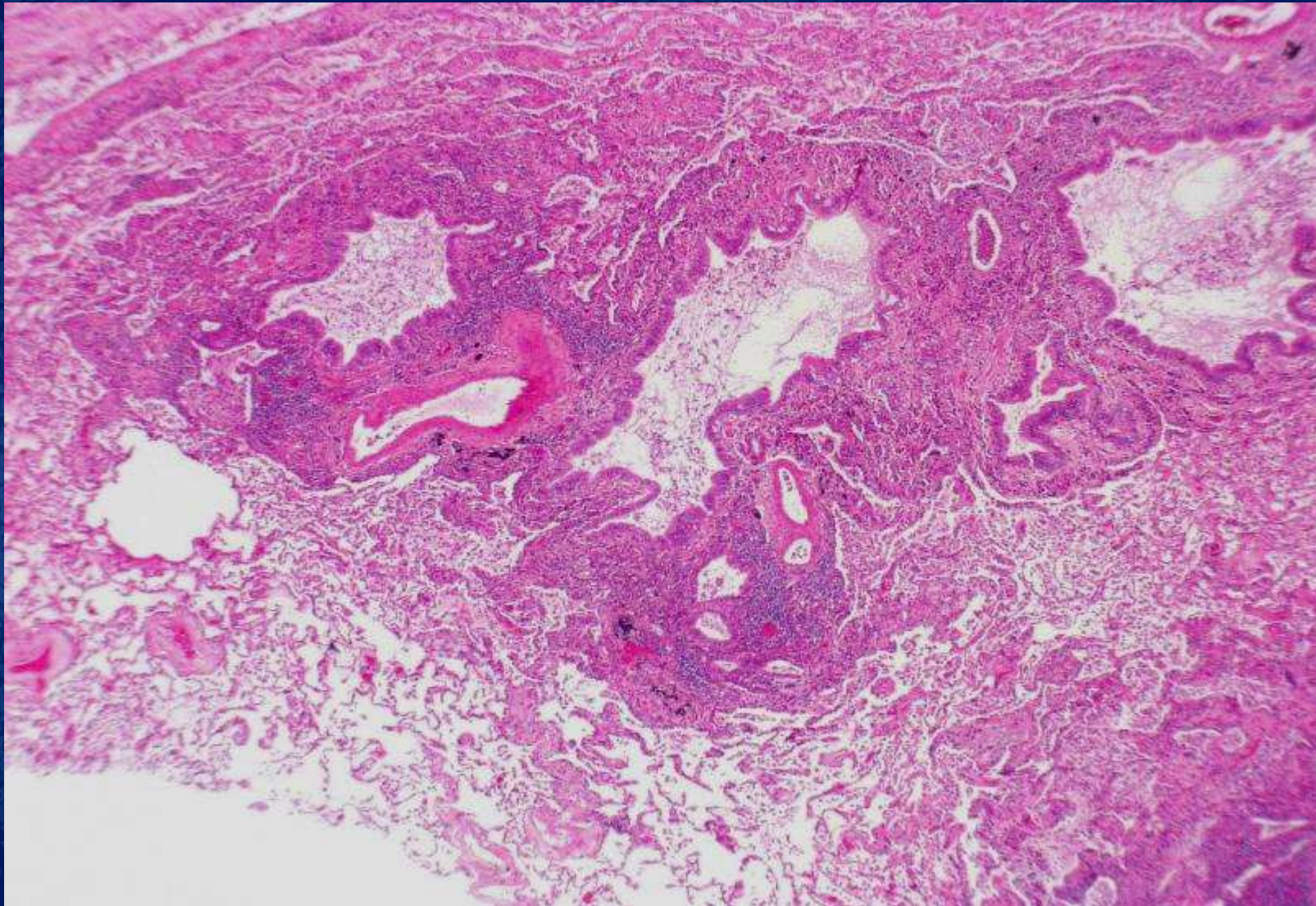
# Mycoplasma pneumoniae



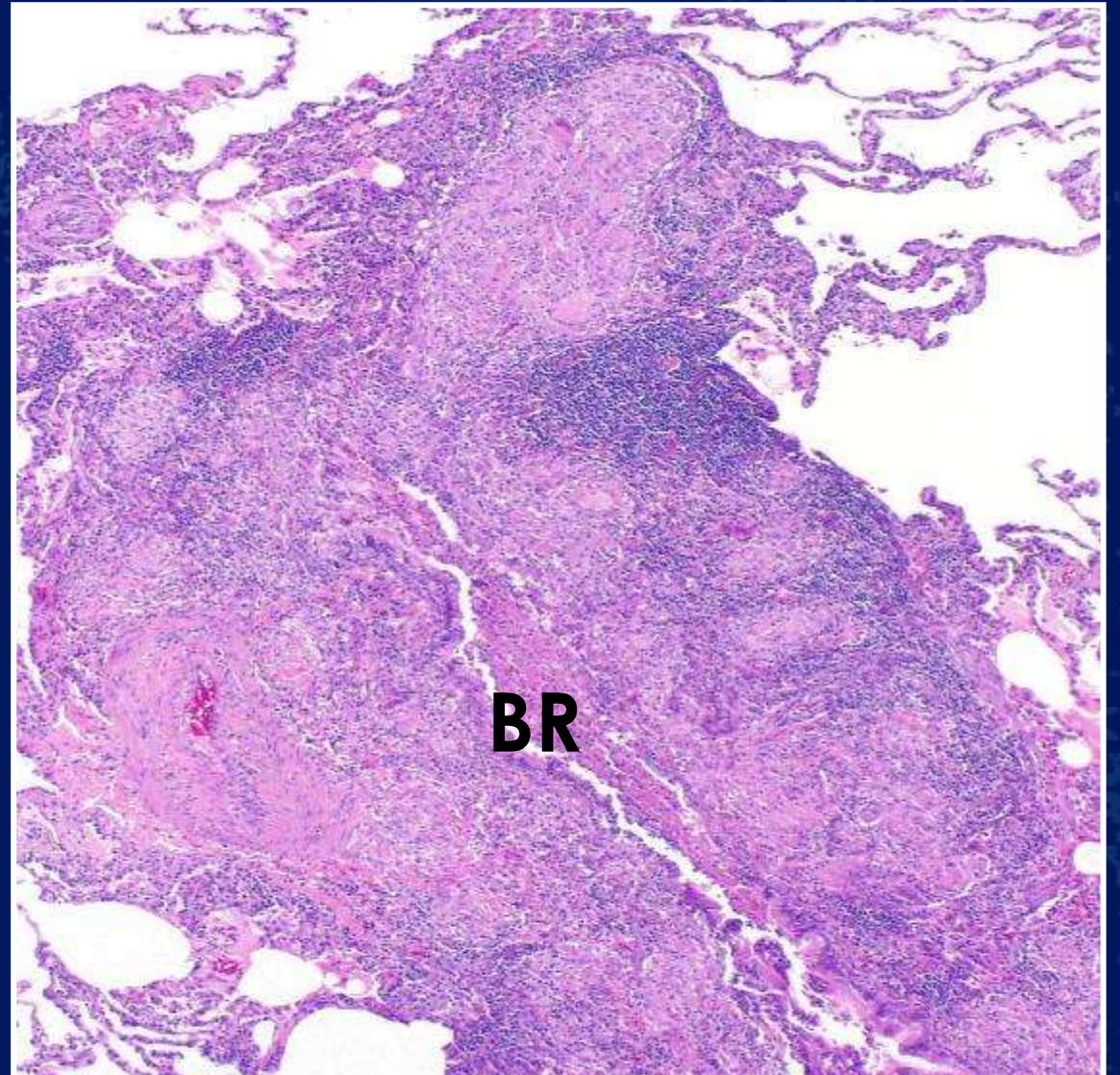
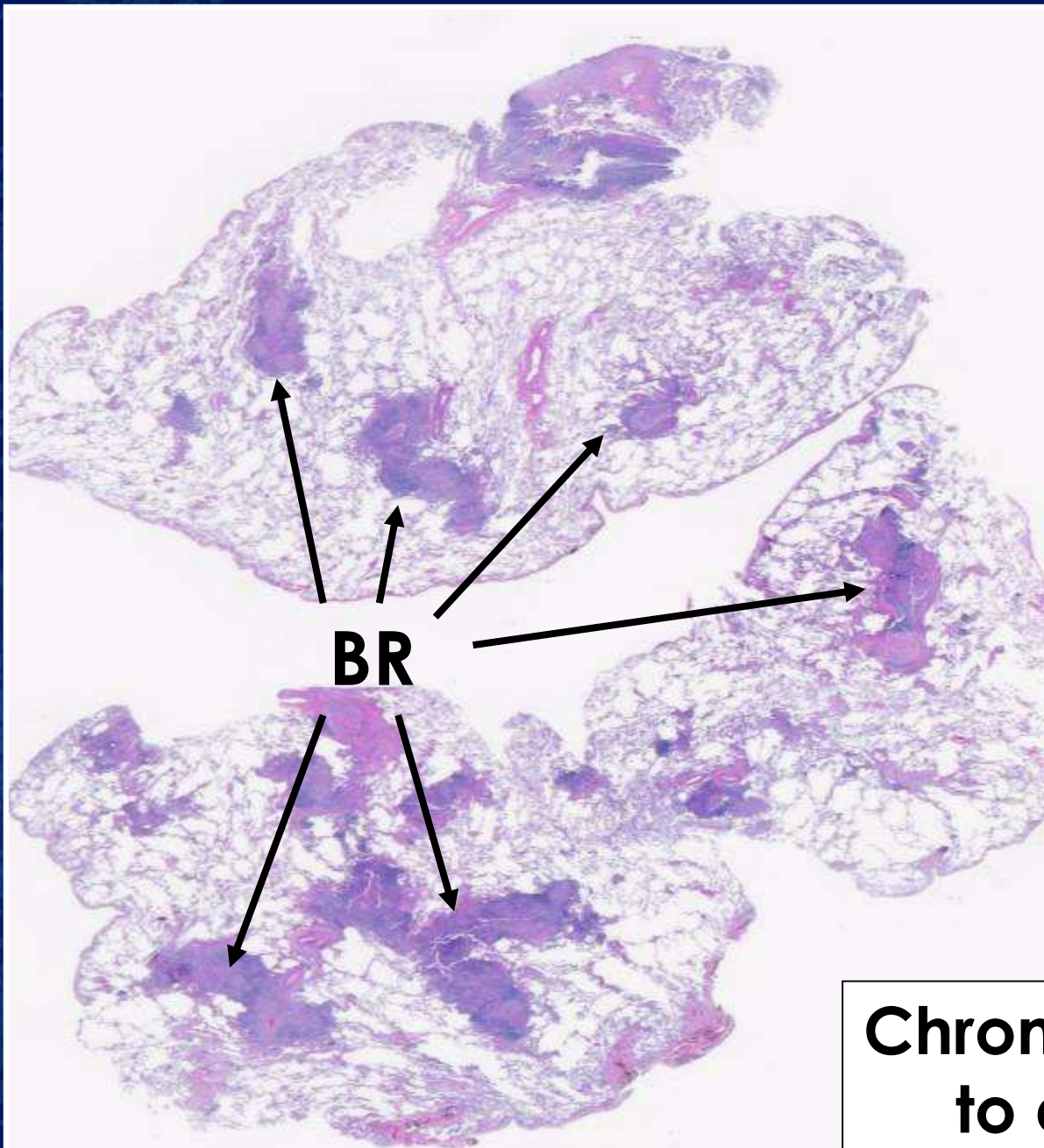
**Histology: Nonspecific acute and chronic bronchiolitis**



# Acute and chronic bacterial bronchiolitis in Primary Ciliary Dyskinesia



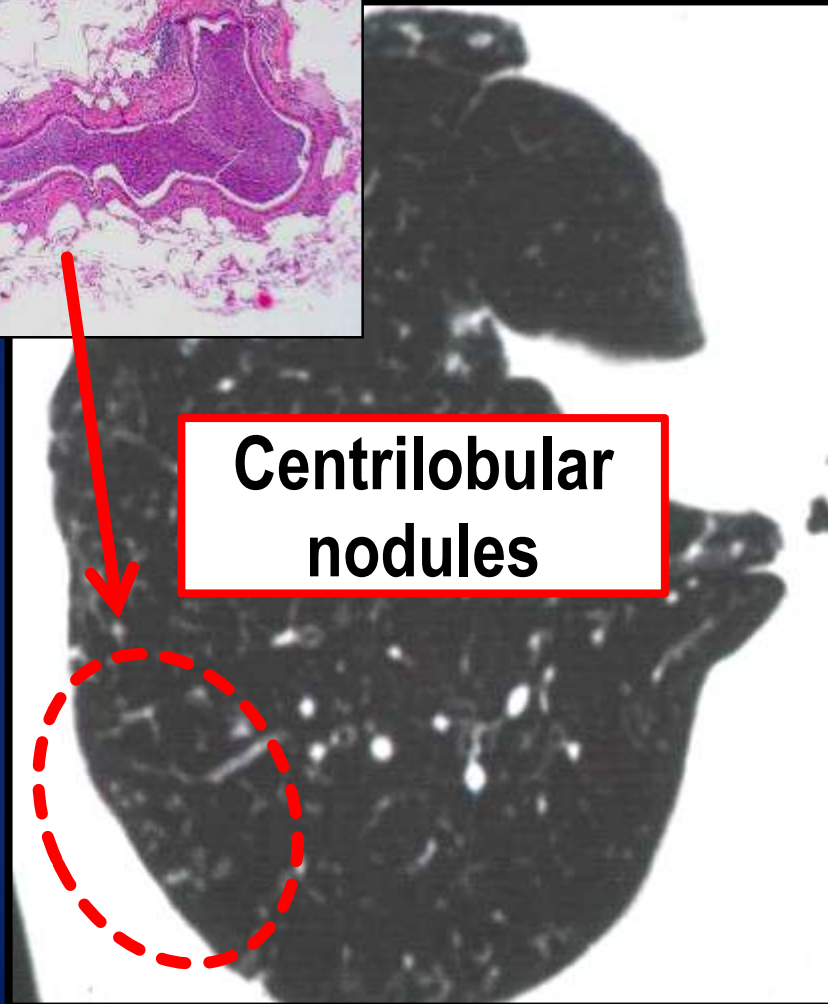
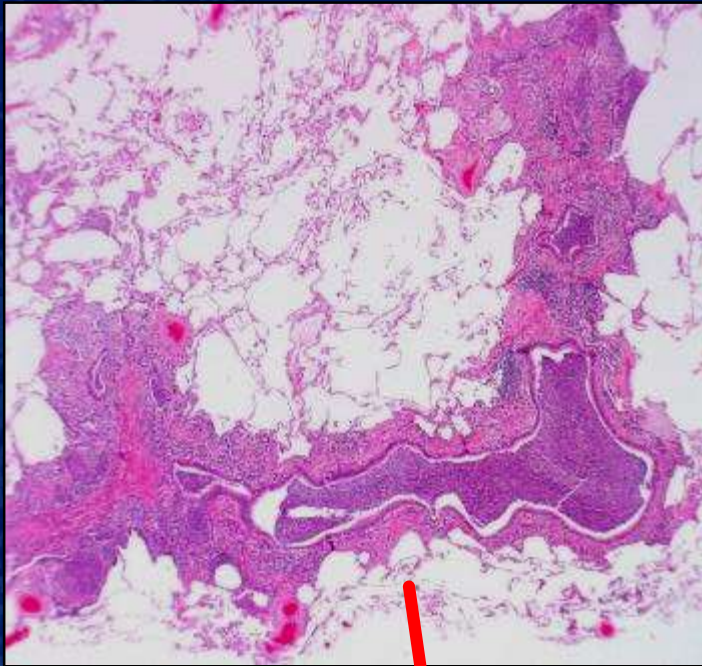




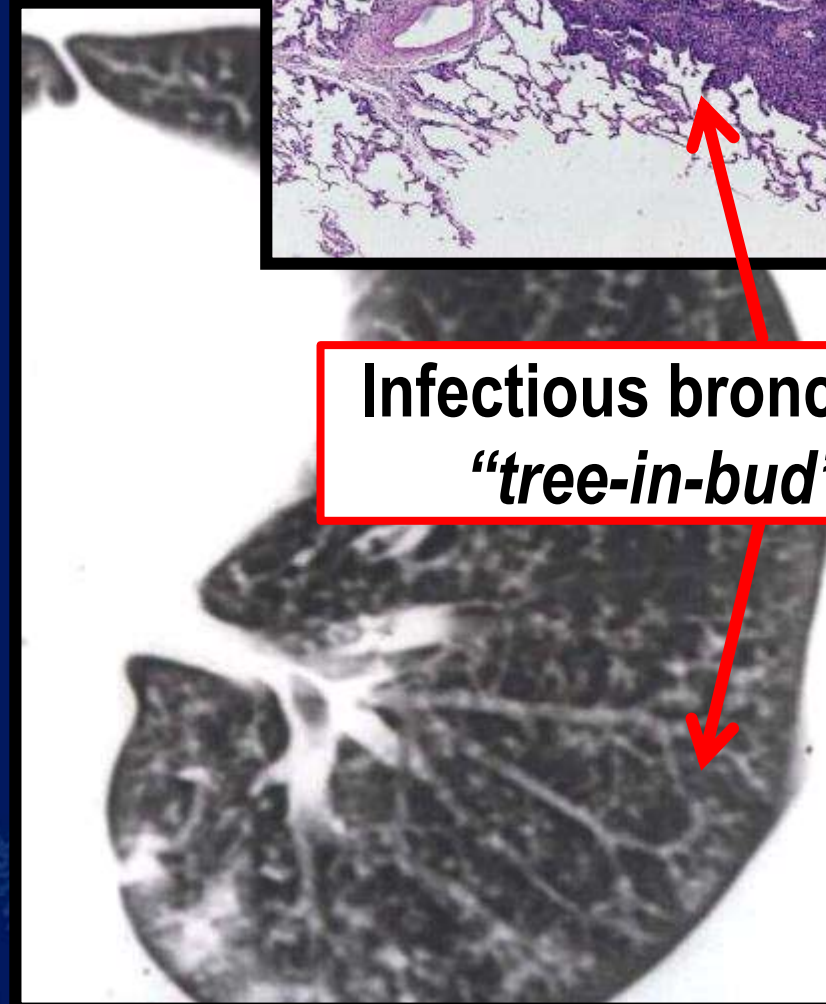
**Chronic granulomatous bronchiolitis due to atypical mycobacteria infection**



# HRCT in Bronchiolitis



**Centrilobular nodules**



**Infectious bronchiolitis with "tree-in-bud" pattern**

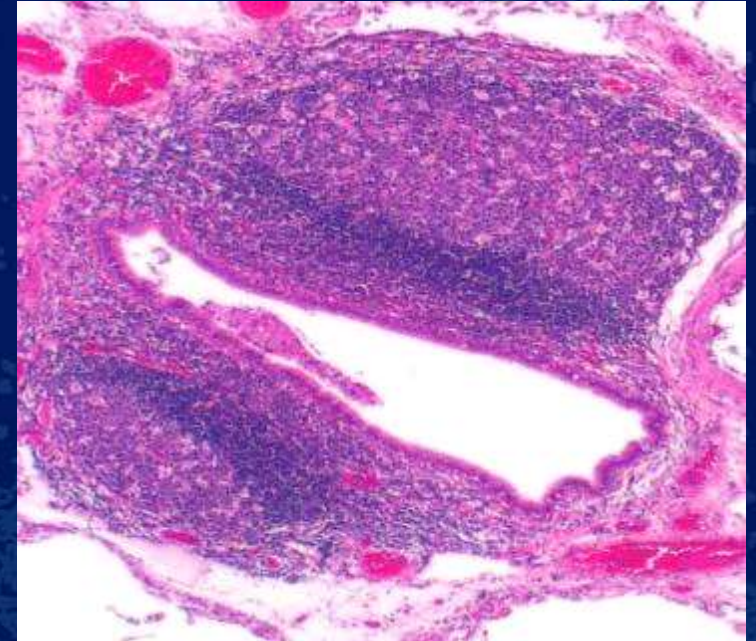


# FOLLICULAR BRONCHIOLITIS

Definition: Lymphoid hyperplasia along bronchioles (a reflection BALT hyperplasia)

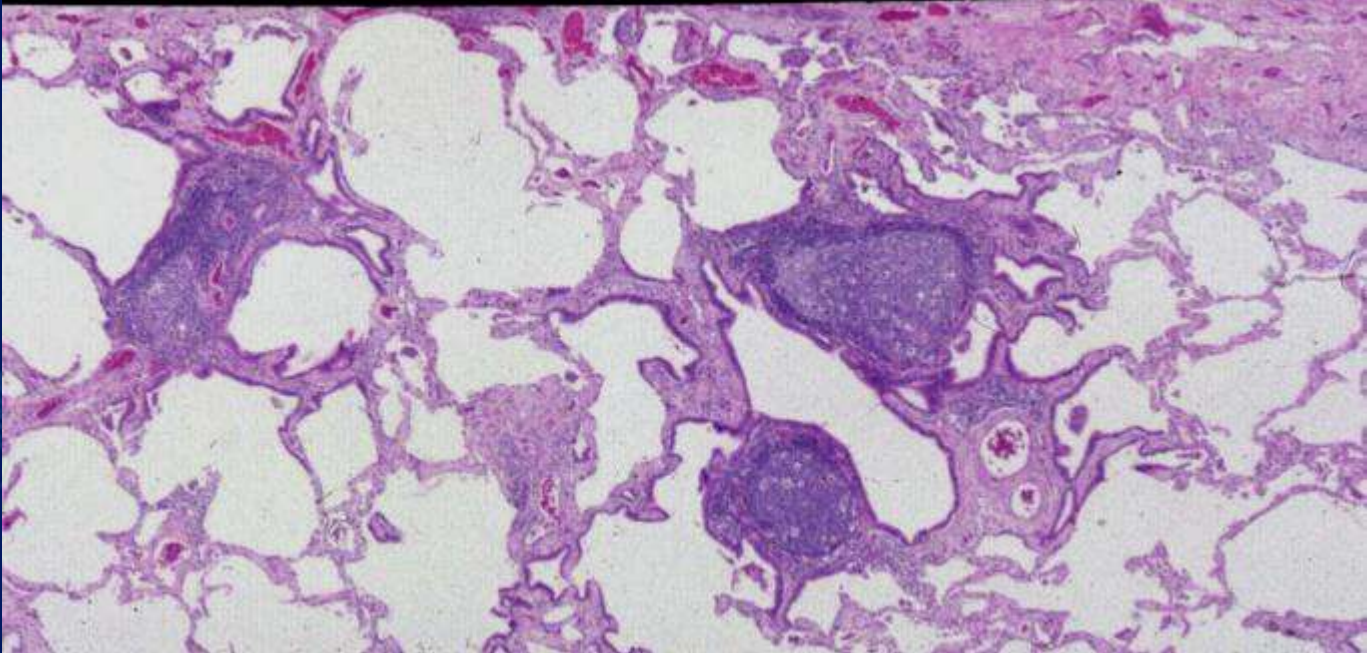
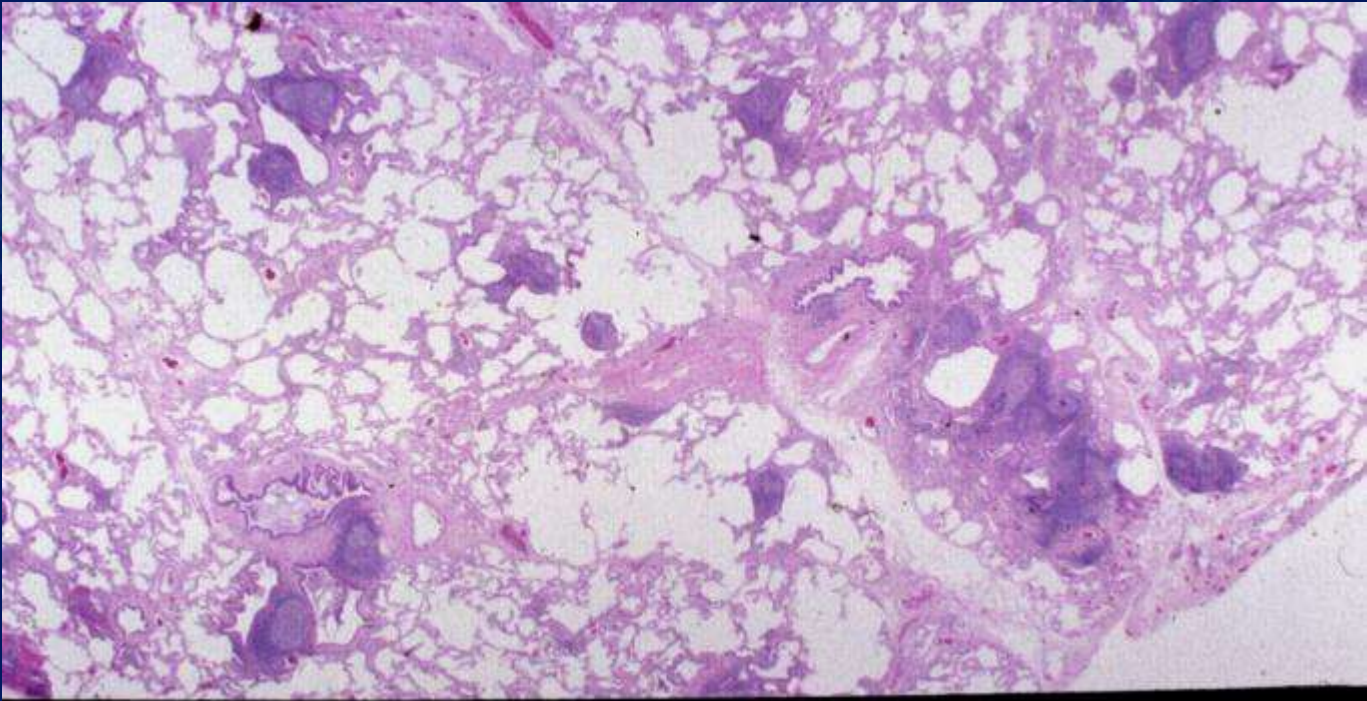
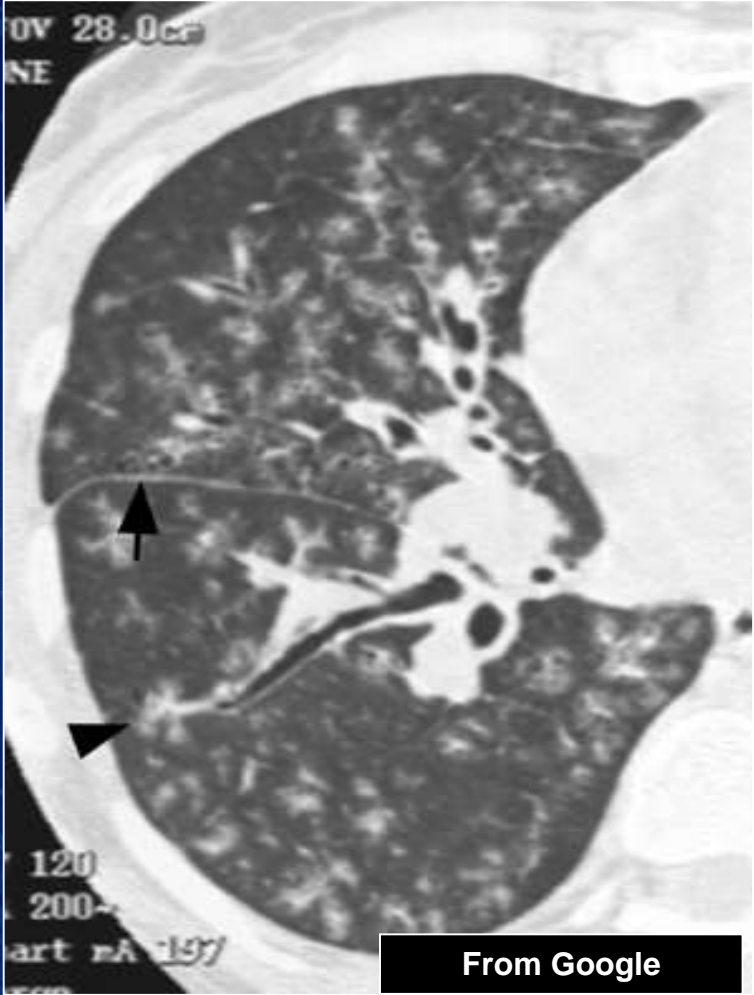
## Causes and Associations:

Connective tissue disease (especially RA, Sjogrens)  
Immunoglobulin deficiencies (including HIV)  
Hypersensitivity reaction  
Chronic infection/inflammation





# Follicular bronchiolitis in RA

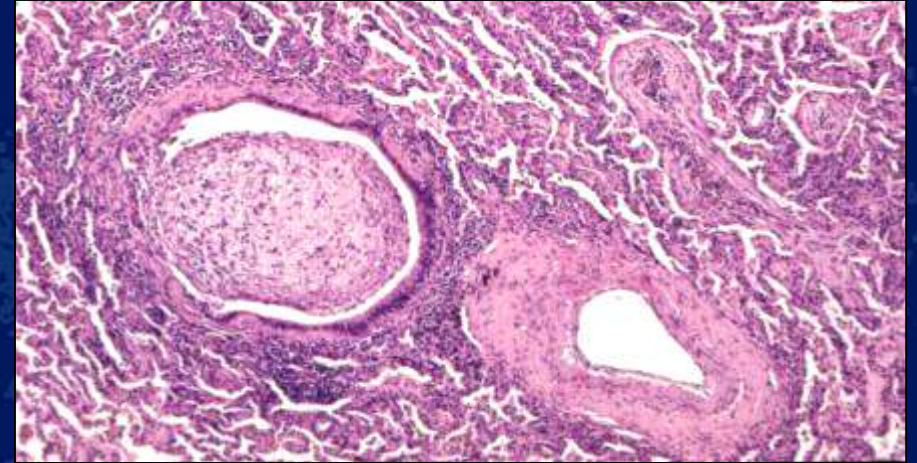




# Mesenchymal reactions #1 and #2 in bronchioles

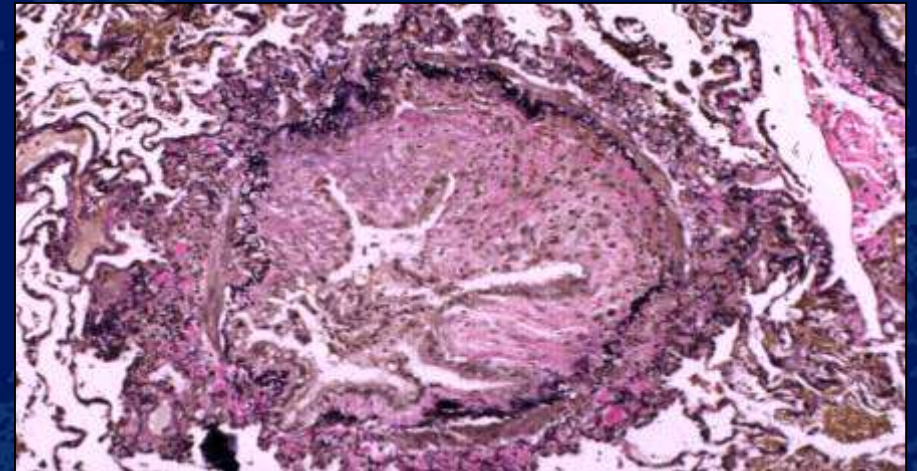
## 1) Organization with intraluminal polyps

(Terms: *bronchiolitis obliterans*,  
organizing pneumonia (OP))



## 2) Subepithelial fibrosis and scarring with partial or complete luminal loss

(Terms: constrictive bronchiolitis,  
*bronchiolitis obliterans*, *obliterative bronchiolitis*)

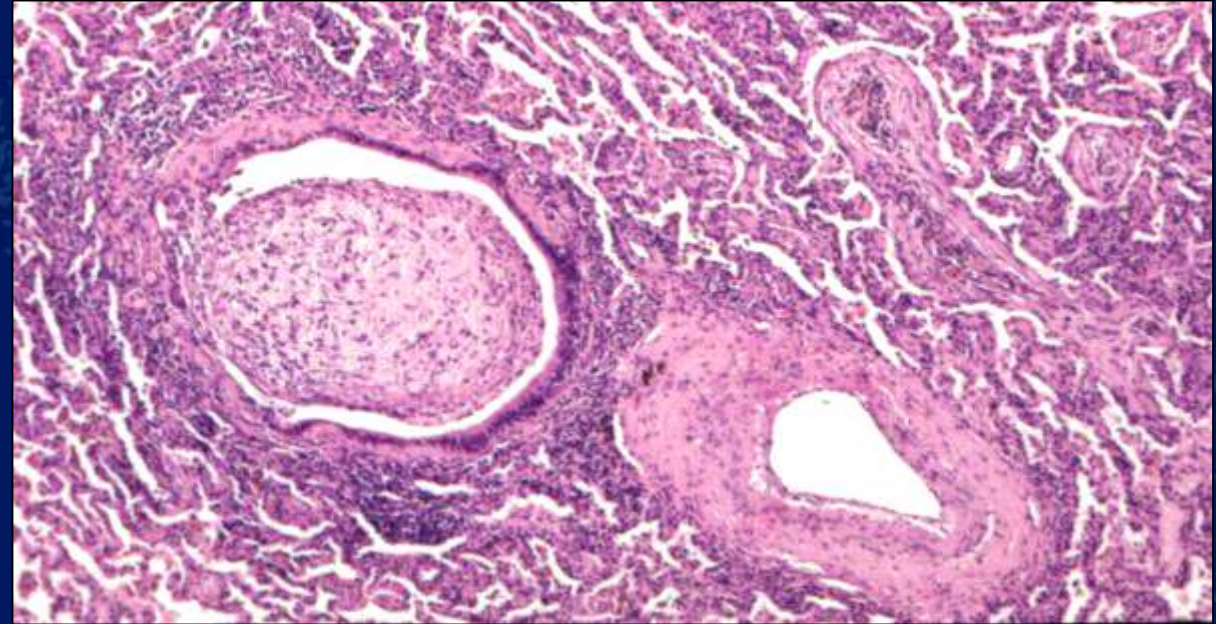


**Both of these have been called  
“*bronchiolitis obliterans*”**



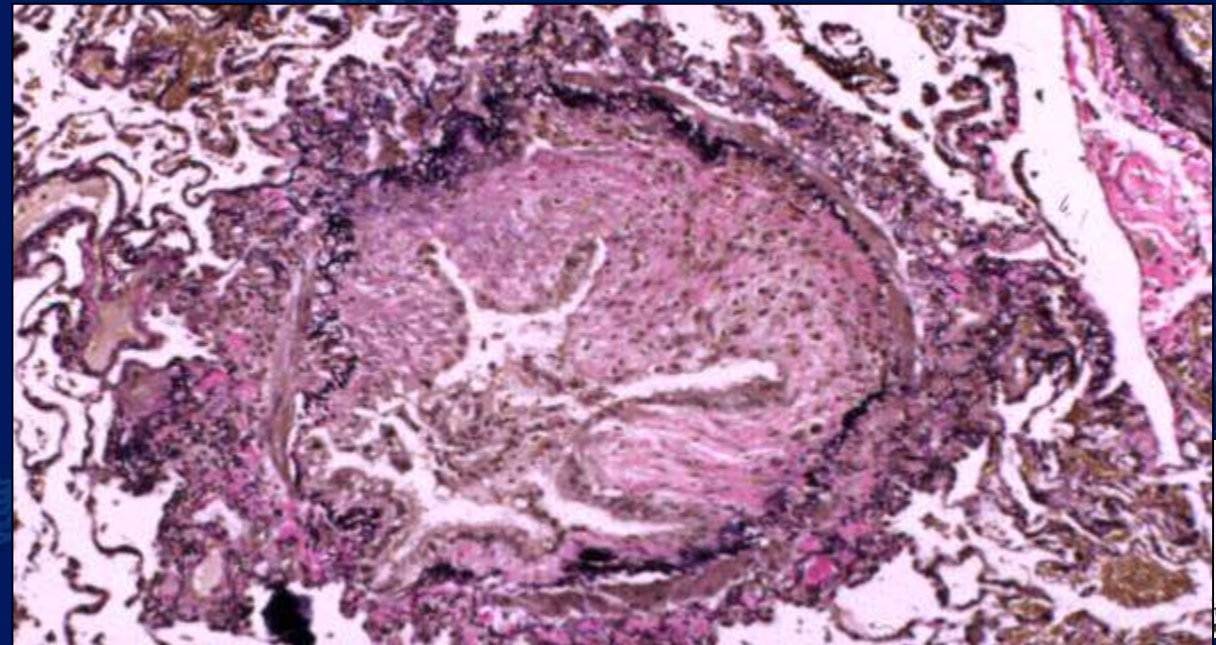
## OP with intraluminal polyps

**Common reparative reaction**  
**Infiltrative lung disease clinically**



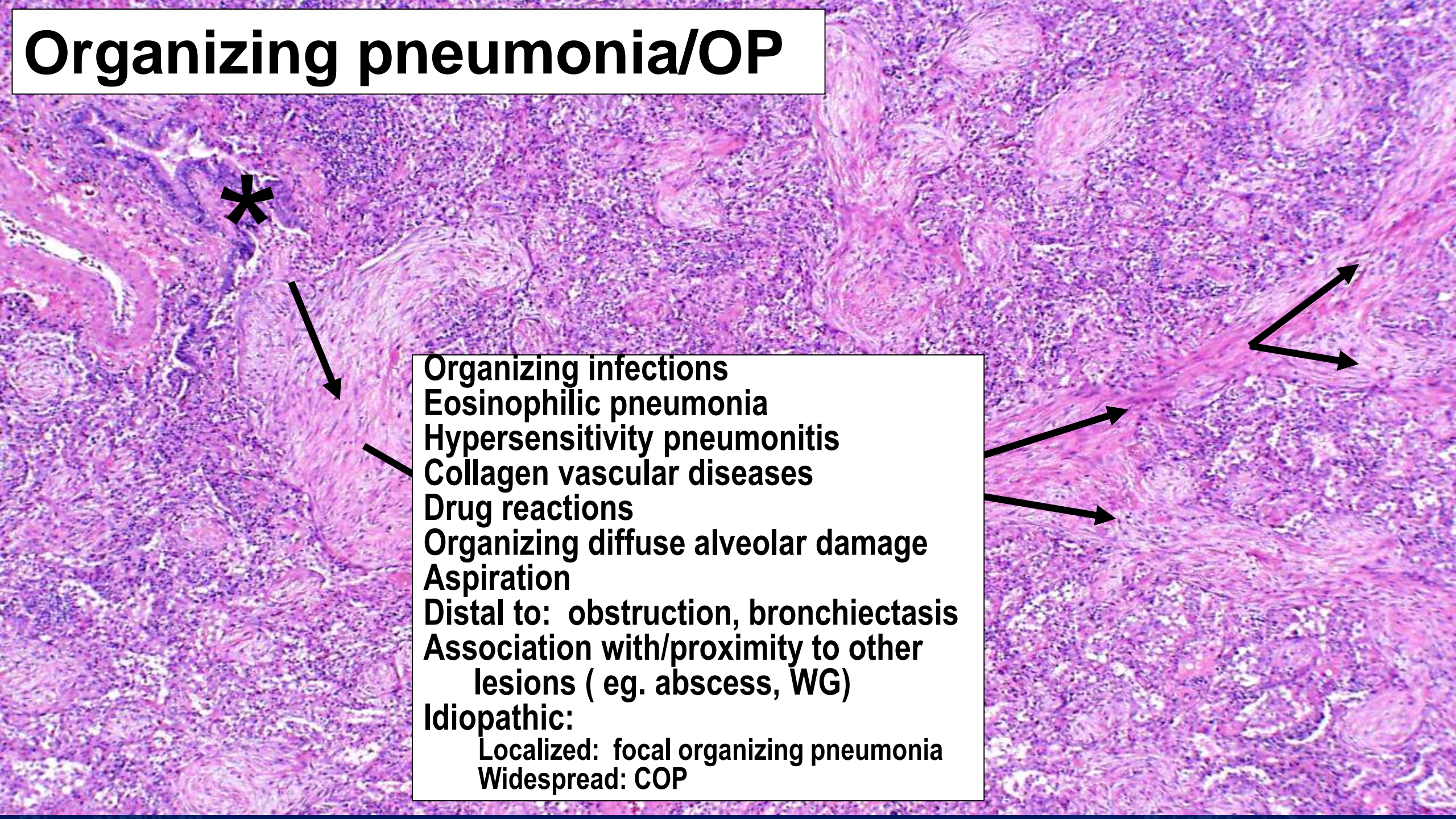
## Constrictive bronchiolitis

**Uncommon**  
**Usually “pure” (restricted to membranous bronchioles)**  
**Obstructive disease clinically**





# Organizing pneumonia/OP



**Organizing infections**  
**Eosinophilic pneumonia**  
**Hypersensitivity pneumonitis**  
**Collagen vascular diseases**  
**Drug reactions**  
**Organizing diffuse alveolar damage**  
**Aspiration**  
**Distal to: obstruction, bronchiectasis**  
**Association with/proximity to other lesions ( eg. abscess, WG)**  
**Idiopathic:**  
    **Localized: focal organizing pneumonia**  
    **Widespread: COP**



# CONSTRICTIVE BRONCHIOLITIS

## Causes

Post infectious (e.g. adenovirus)

Fume exposure-related

Transplantation (lung, GVH in BM Tx)

Collagen vascular disease-associated

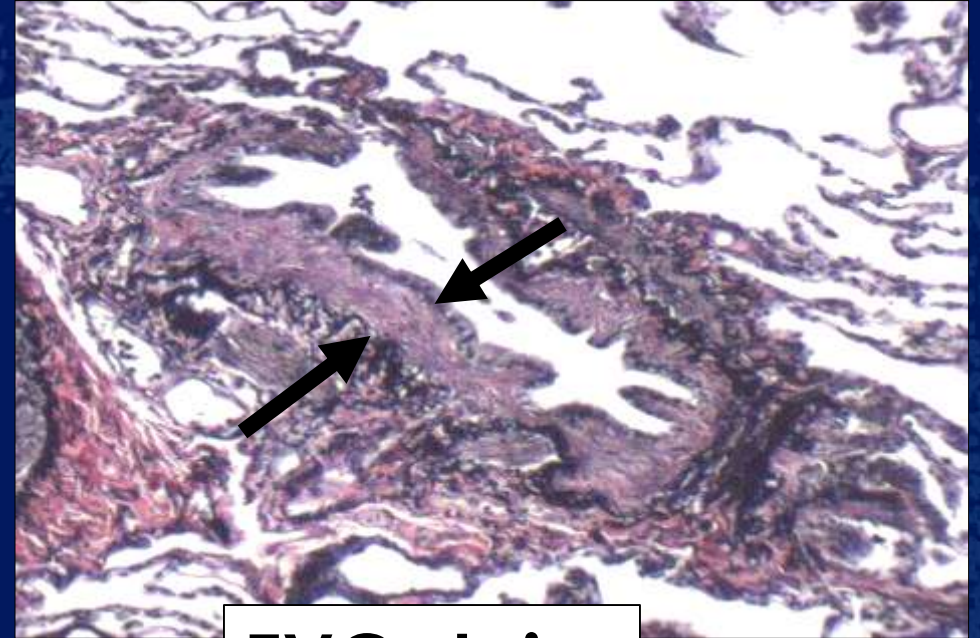
Drug reaction (e.g. penicillamine)

Inflammatory bowel disease-associated

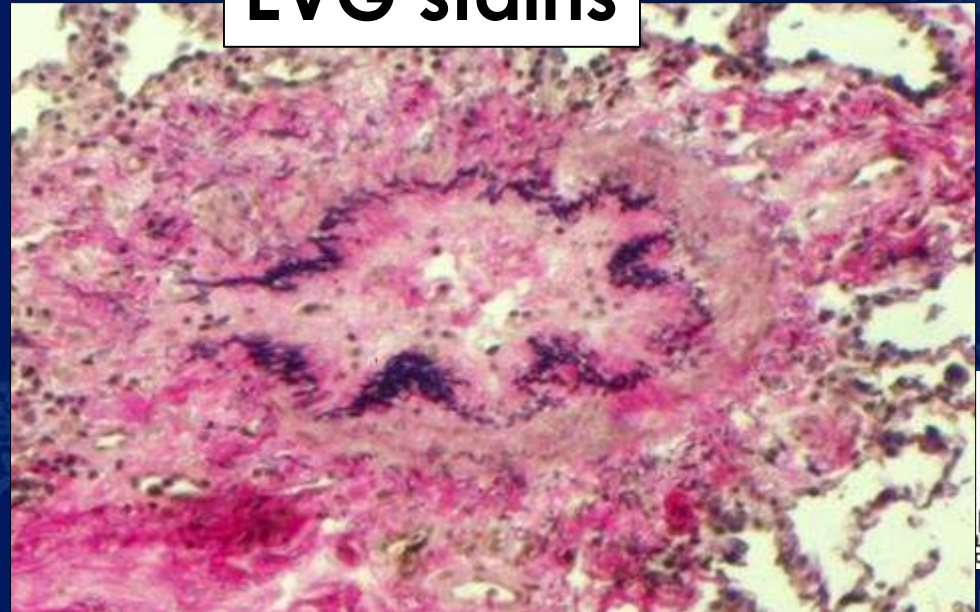
Bronchiolar NE cell hyperplasia

Idiopathic

Secondary (e.g. bronchiectasis)

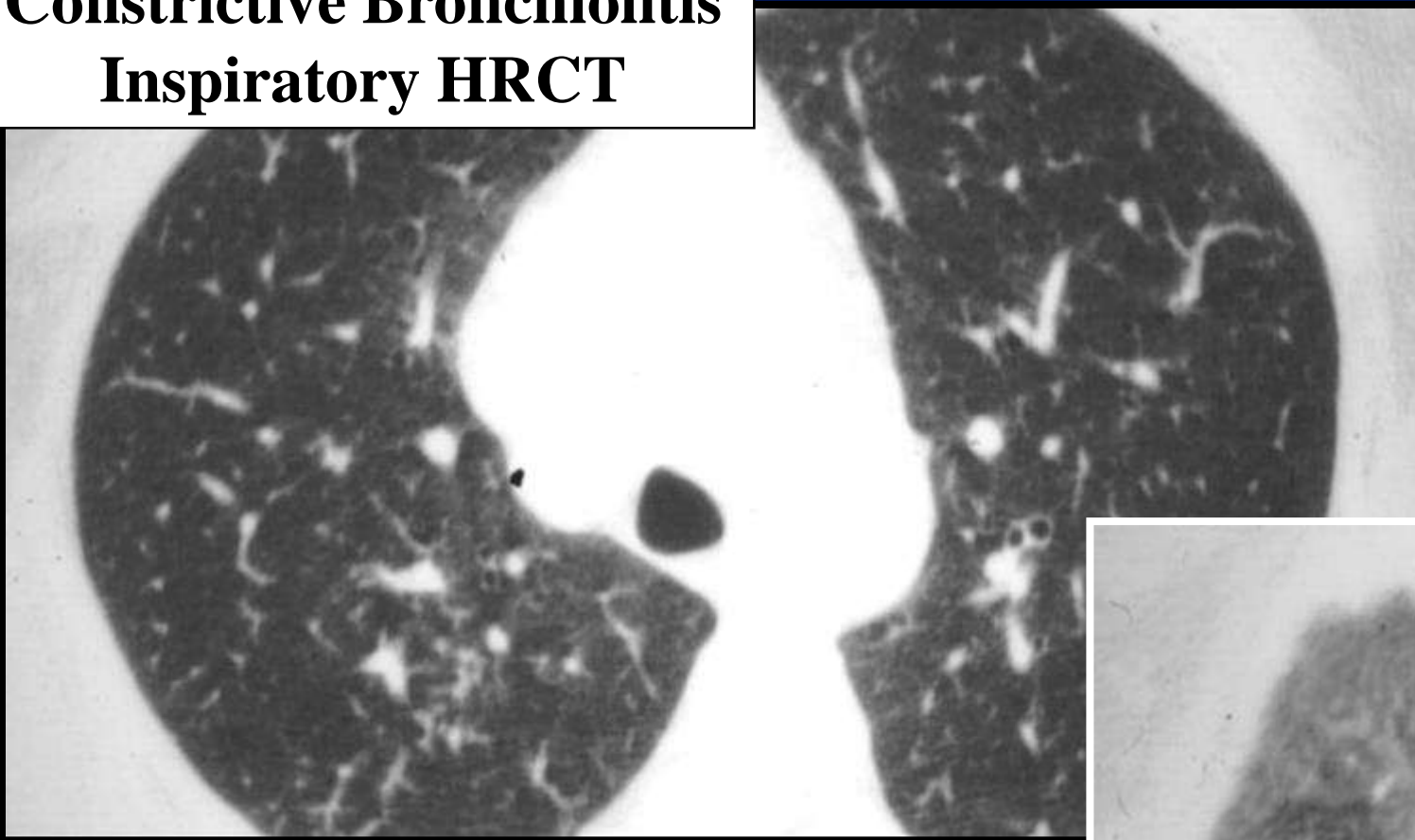


**EVG stains**



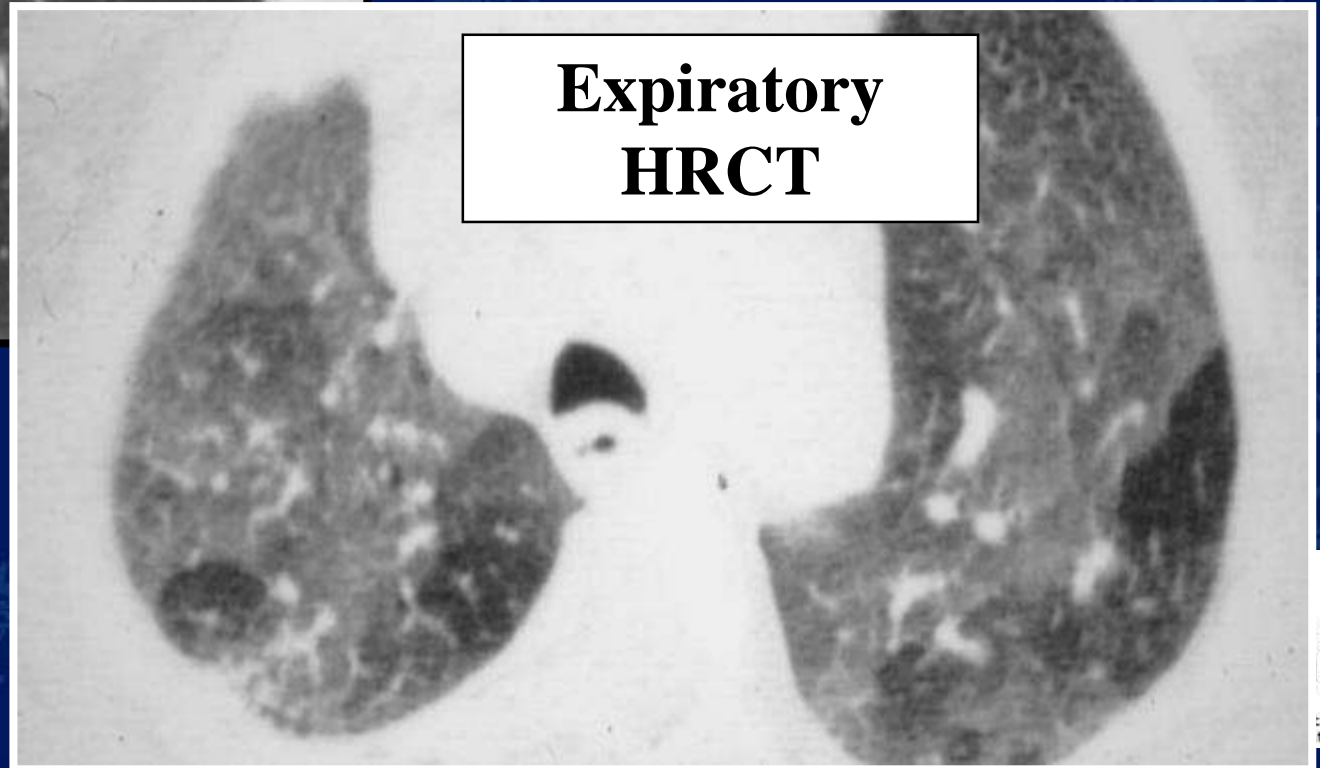


**Constrictive Bronchiolitis  
Inspiratory HRCT**



**Mosaic pattern with  
air trapping**

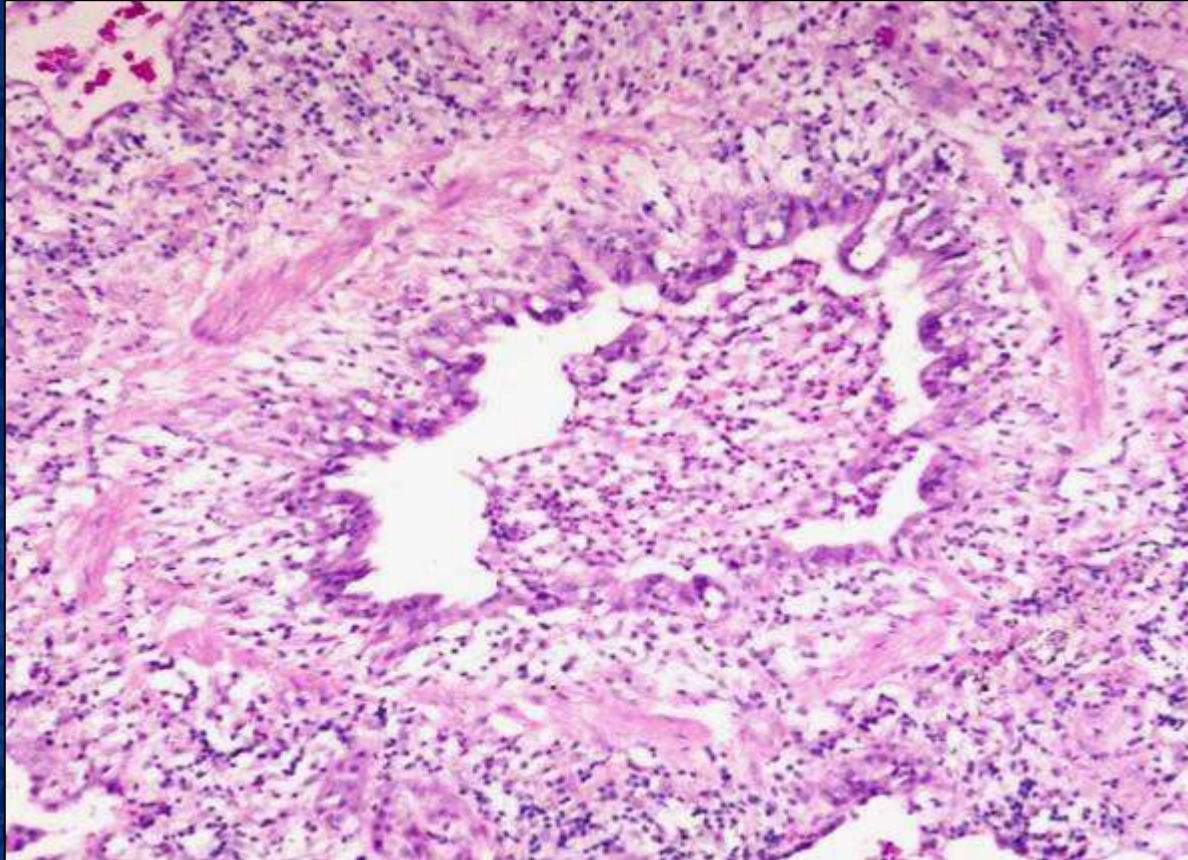
**Expiratory  
HRCT**



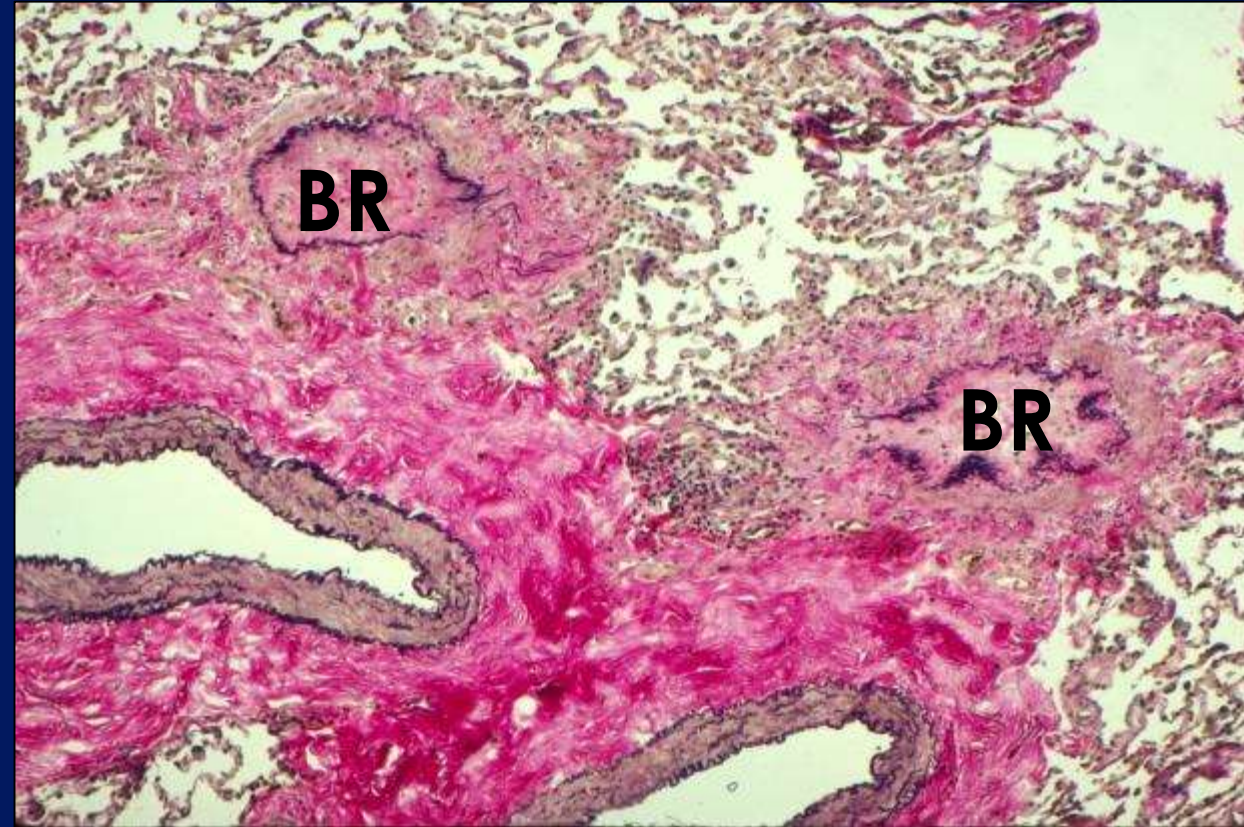


# SEQUELAE OF BRONCHIOLITIS: Depend on the cause

Return to normal vs mild scarring vs severe scarring



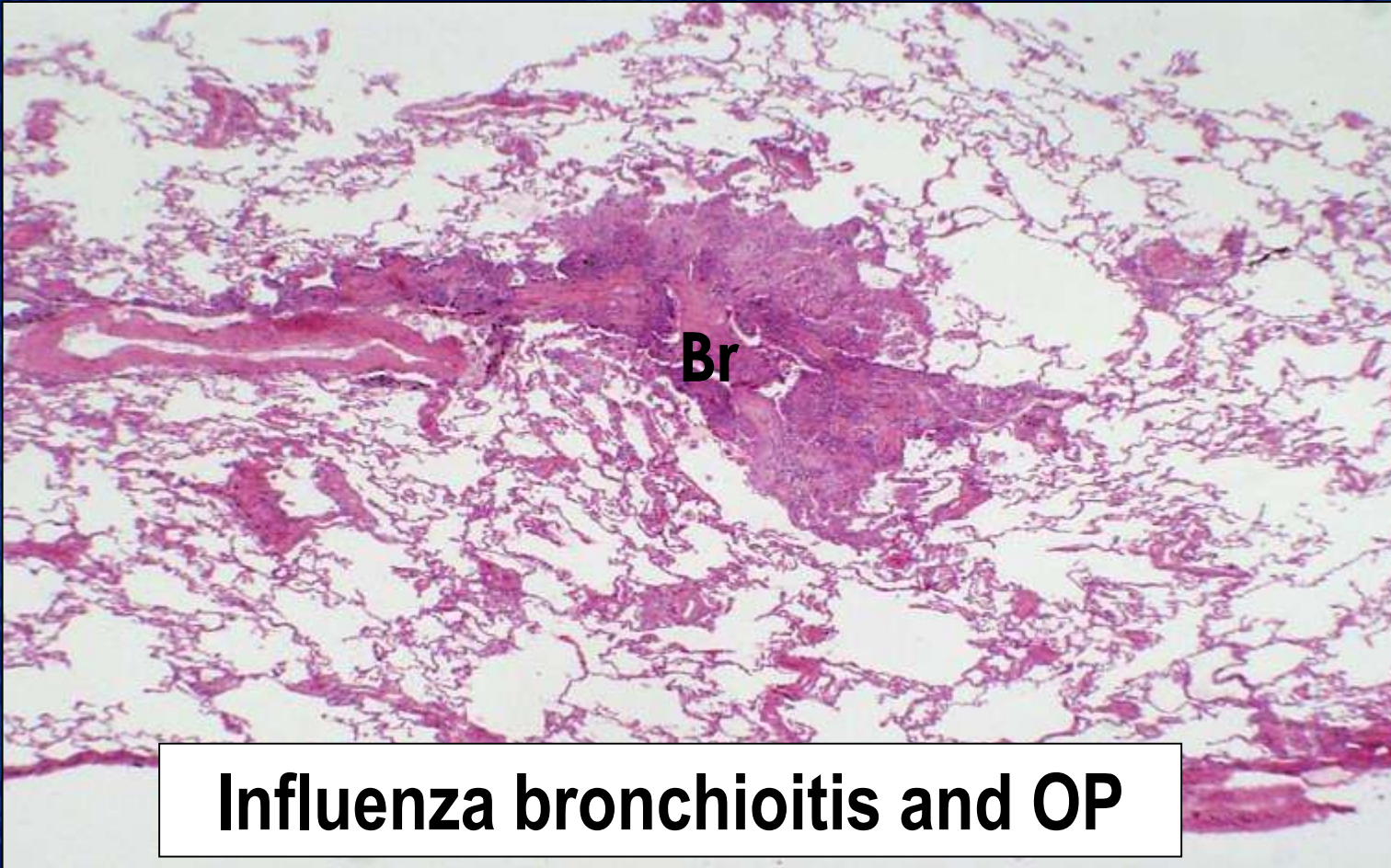
**Acute mycoplasma**



**Post mycoplasma constrictive  
bronchiolitis**



# Pathologic Changes in the Bronchioles Produce Clinically Diverse Syndromes and distinction from Interstitial Lung Disease may be difficult and arbitrary



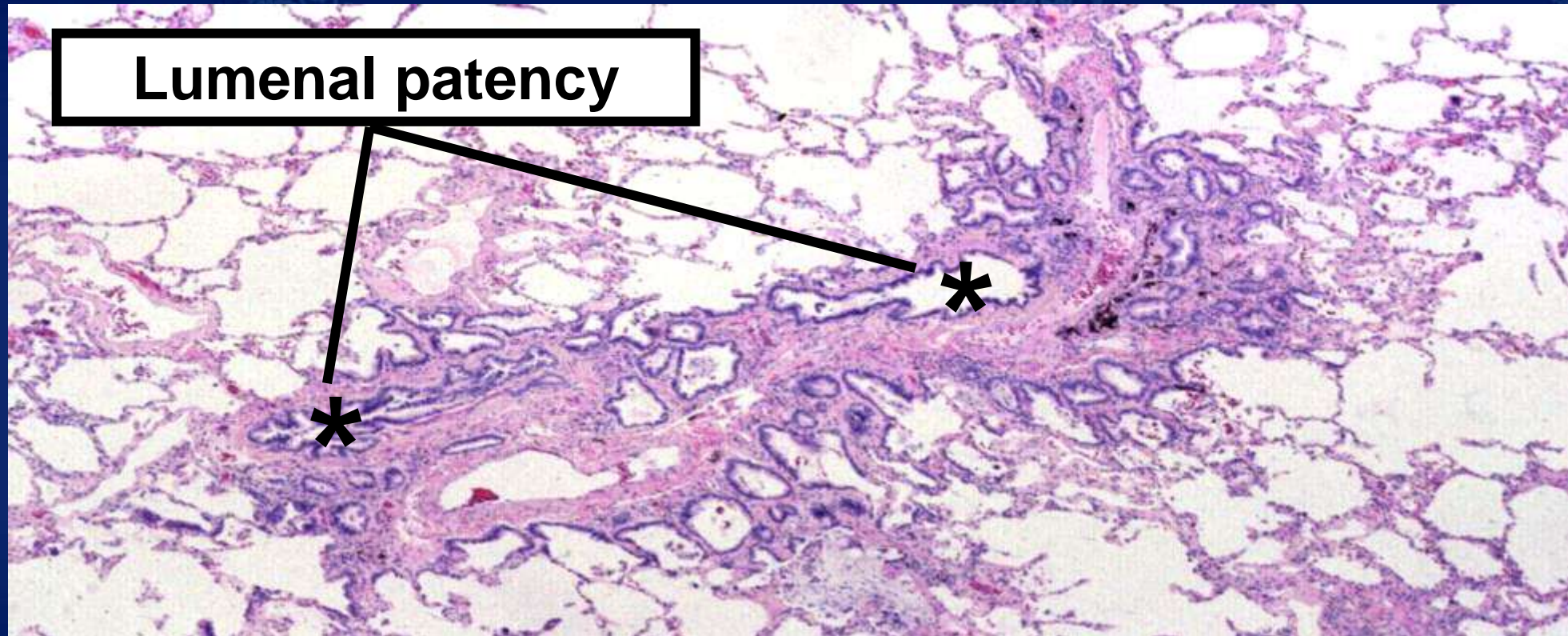
**Influenza bronchioitis and OP**

**Luminal patency is often maintained in small airway pathology**



# BRONCHIOLAR PATHOLOGY

Mesenchymal reaction #3 predominates with:  
Peribronchiolar scarring with luminal patency  
(Peribronchiolar metaplasia/PBM)





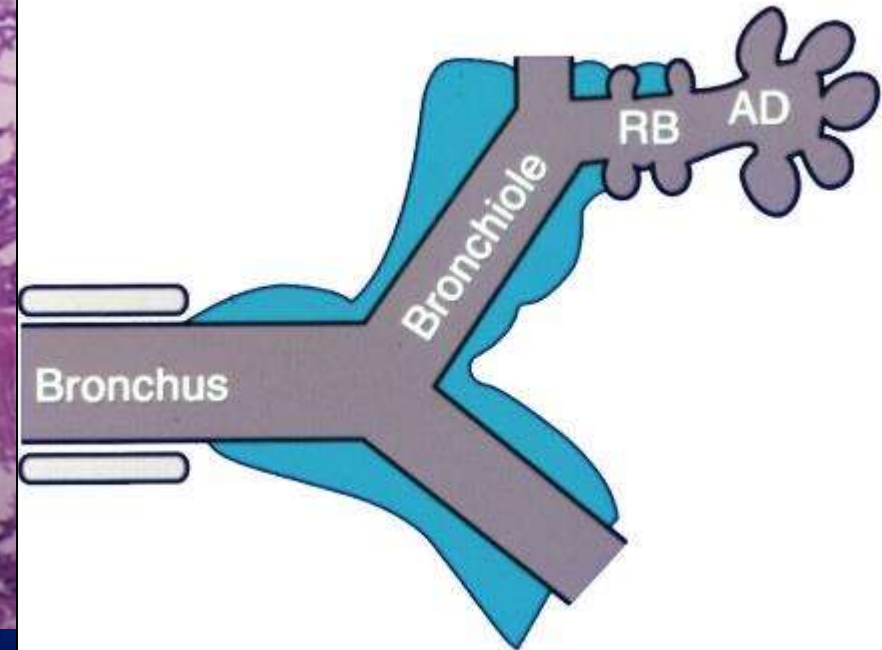
# PERIBRONCHIOLAR METAPLASIA (PBM)

## Causes of PBM

- Prior infection
- Hypersensitivity pneumonitis
- Healed ARDS
- Unknown/incidental finding (the majority of cases)

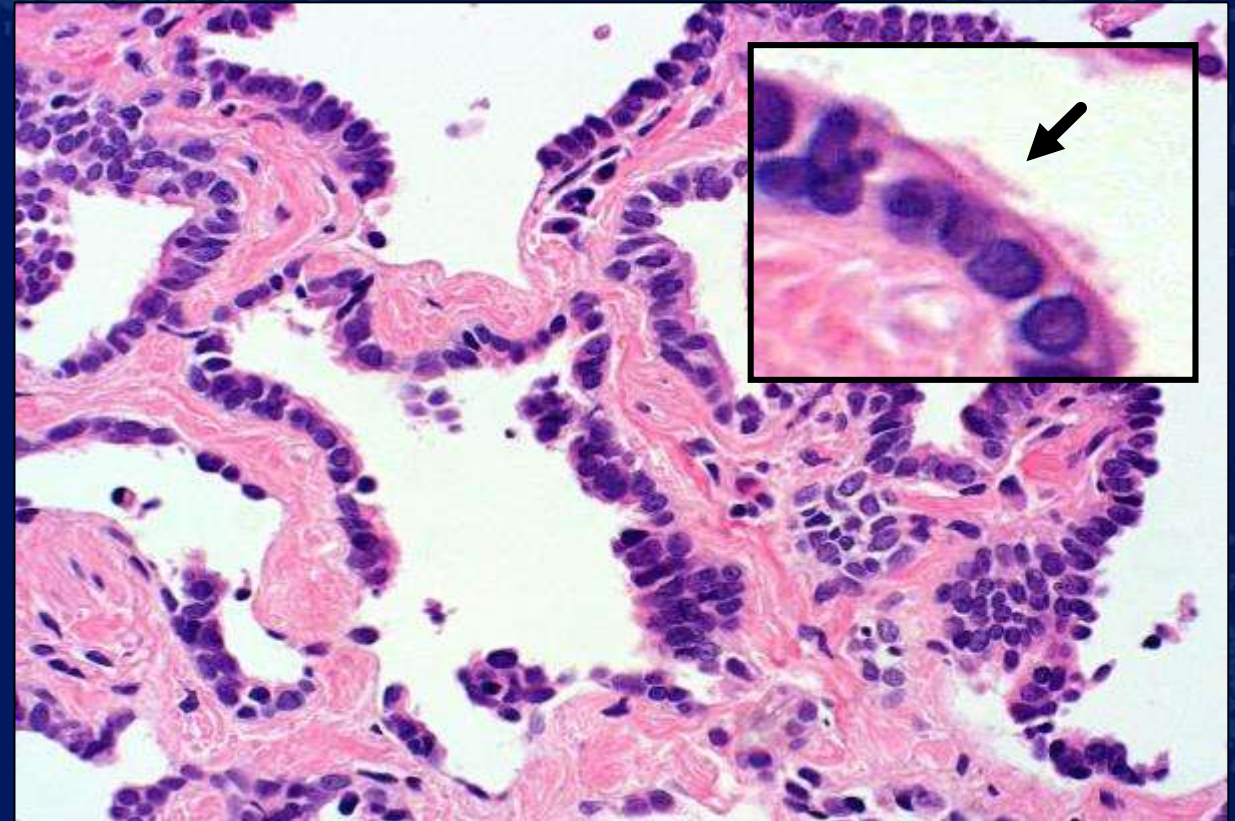
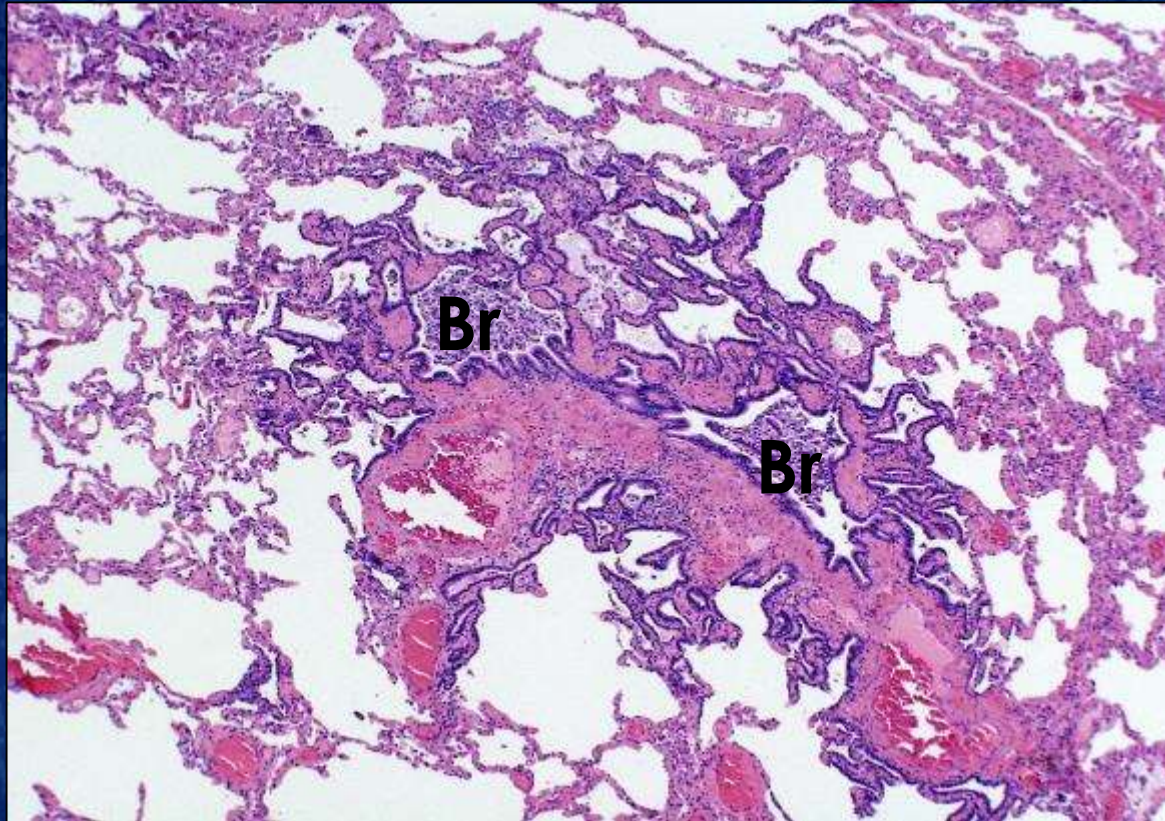
Peribronchiolar fibrosis  
along the airway  
Luminal patency

Cilia





# Peribronchiolar Metaplasia (PBM)



We consider PBM a residue of small airway injury yet accept it as a common component of interstitial lung disease.



# BRONCHIOLAR PATHOLOGY: SUMMMARY

Cellular/exudative reaction

Mesenchymal reaction

- 1) Organization with intraluminal polyps  
(part organizing pneumonia )
- 2) Subepithelial fibrosis/scarring with luminal compromise  
(constrictive bronchiolitis)
- 3) Peribronchiolar scarring (PBM)

Mixed patterns

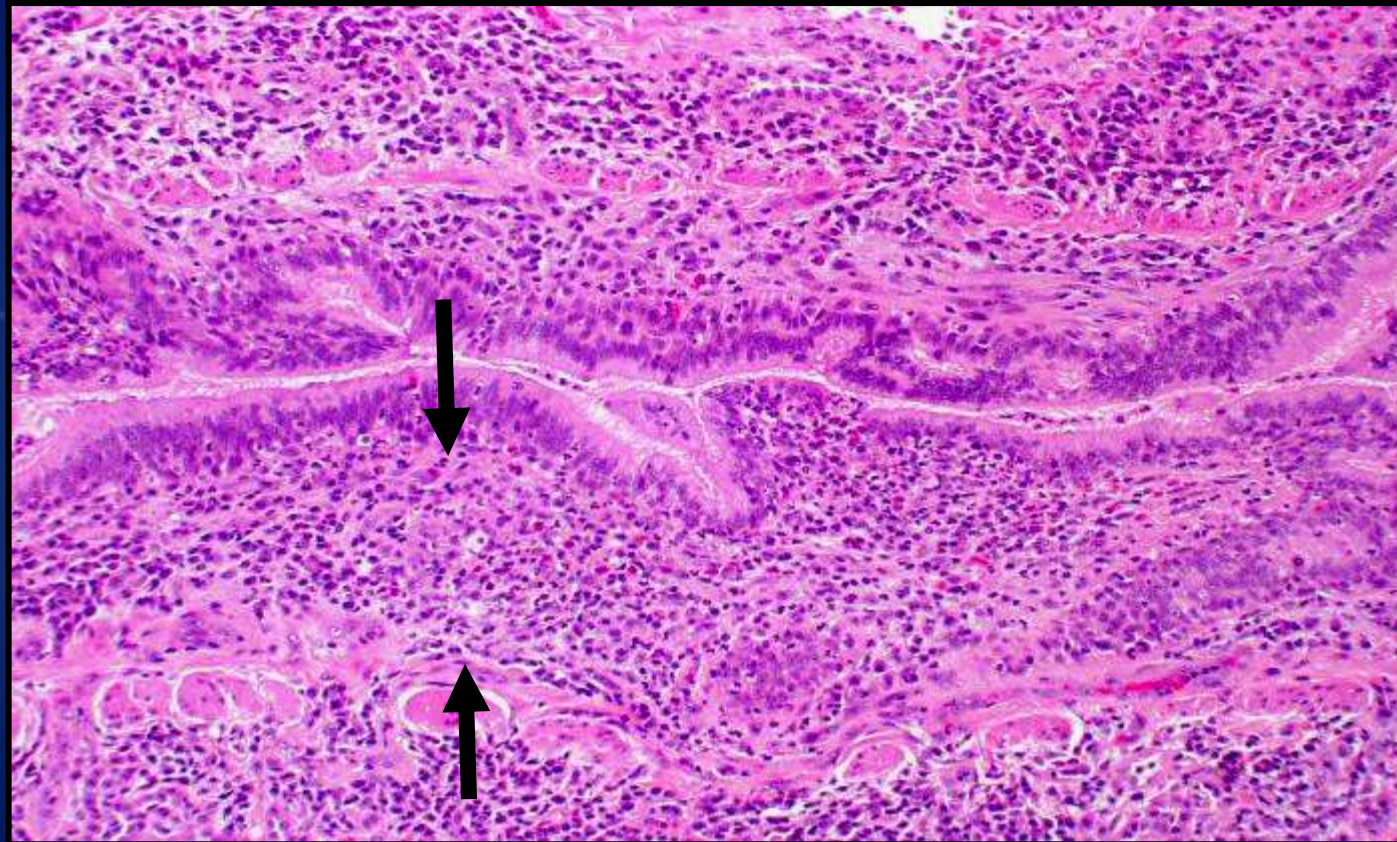




# CHRONIC BRONCHIOLITIS IN PRACTICE: THE REALITY

Many cases show a spectrum of changes with both cellular and mesenchymal components

Eg.





# BRONCHIOLAR PATHOLOGY: Evaluation

## Four domains

Clinical/Lab presentation

Radiologic findings

Pathologic injury pattern(s)

Disease entity that fits

Diverse clinical and radiologic findings may suggest airway disease (ie. obstruction) or ILD

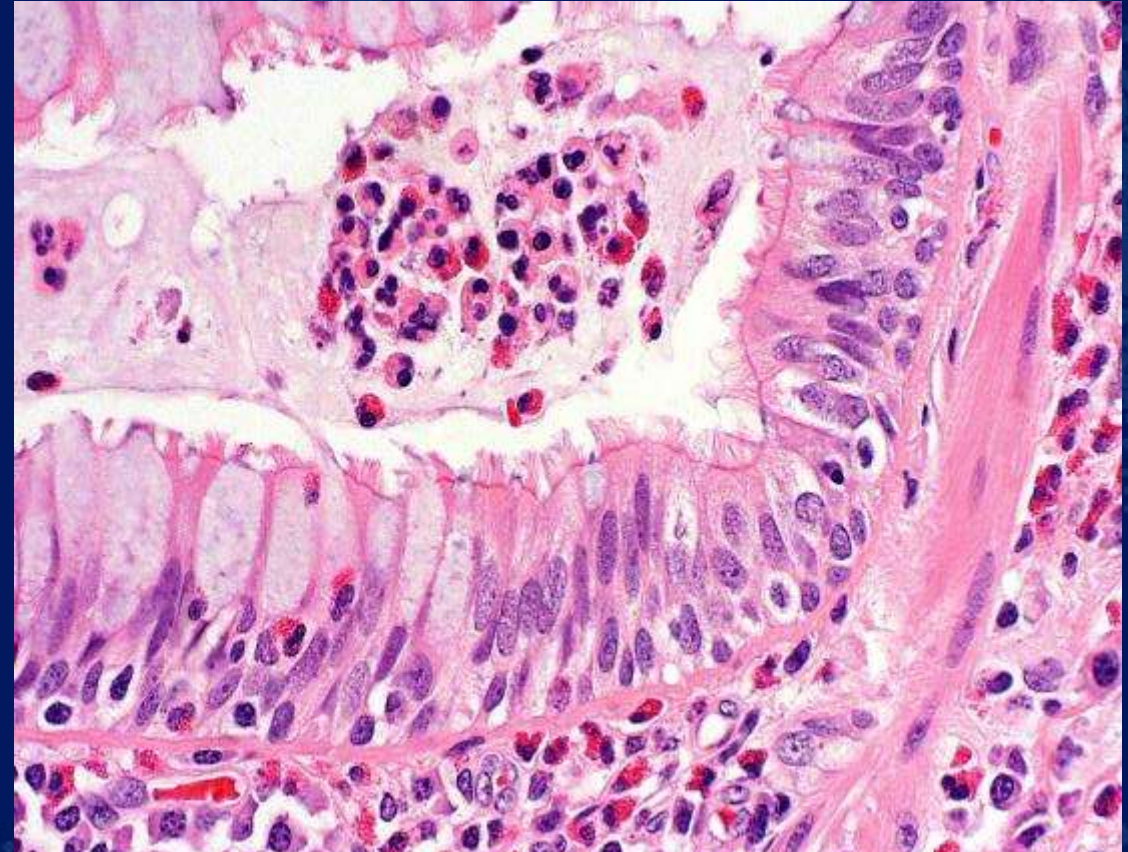
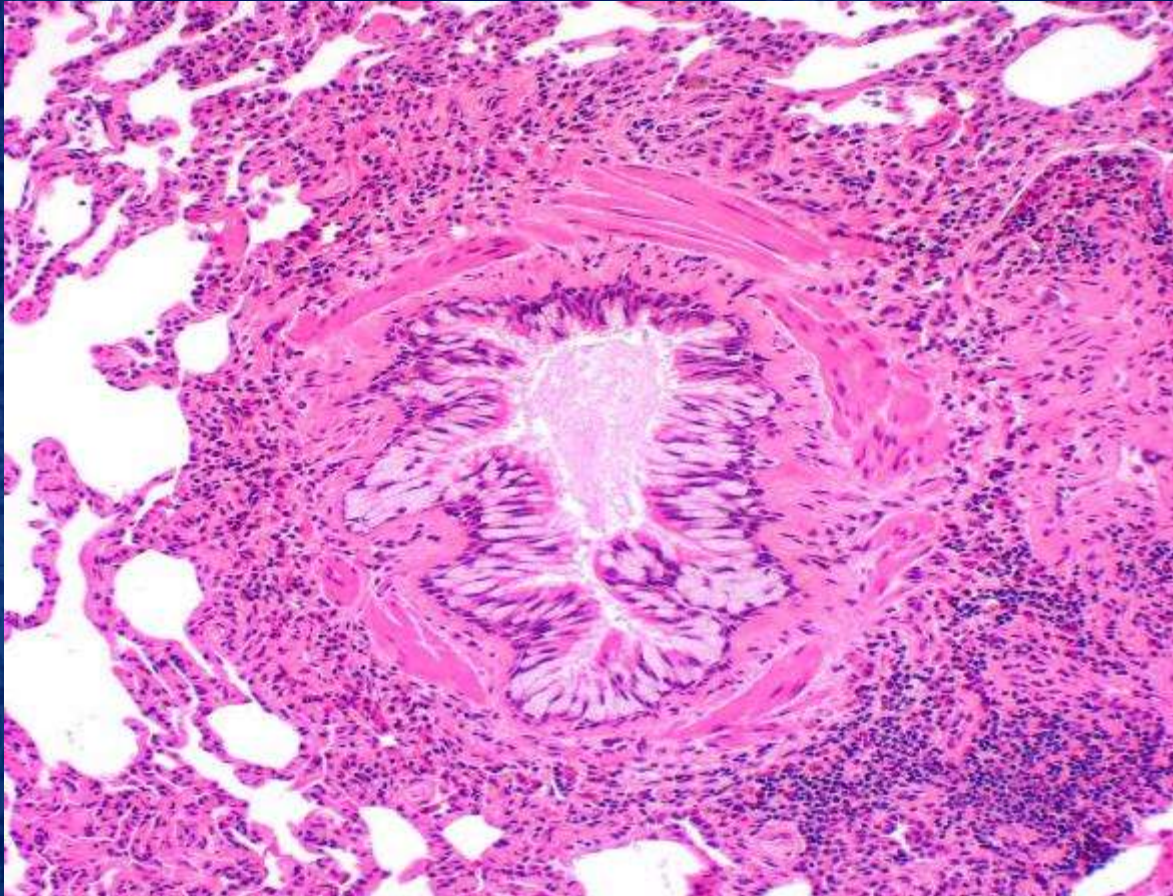
Spectrum of cellular and mesenchymal changes +/- luminal compromise...

....and hence ascribing a clinical diagnosis is of necessity multi-disciplinary





# CLINICOPATHOLOGIC ENTITIES with small airway pathology



**Asthma is a distinct form of bronchiolitis (and bronchitis) with:  
*Eosinophils, goblet cell metaplasia, smooth muscle ↑ and BM ↑***



The image is a composite of four histological micrographs. The top row shows two normal airways with clear lumens and regular epithelial lining. The bottom row shows two airways from an asymptomatic asthmatic. The left one shows hyperplastic goblet cells (indicated by an arrow) and mucus stasis. The right one shows a large, eosinophilic mucus plug filling the airway lumen. A central text box reads 'Histology in asymptomatic asthmatics' and a bottom text box reads 'Minor changes: goblet↑, mucus stasis'.

**Normal**

**Histology in asymptomatic asthmatics**

**Minor changes: goblet↑, mucus stasis**



**Thank you for your attention!**

**COMMENTARY.....**

**?QUESTIONS**

