

Neonatal Enteropathies: A review of selected entities with distinct molecular signatures

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Keck School of Medicine of USC

Disclosure statement

**I have absolutely nothing to
disclose**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "nmShillingford". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the "nm" and "Shillingford" parts connected. The "Shillingford" part is written in a more formal, slightly slanted cursive.



Objectives

At the end of the exercise the audience will be able to:

- 1. Broaden their list of differential diagnoses in children with refractory diarrhea to include less common entities**
- 2. Describe the salient pathologic features of these enteropathies**
- 3. Discuss the molecular/genetic signatures of microvillus inclusion disease, congenital tufting enteropathy and enteroendocrine cell dysgenesis**
- 4. Implement the appropriate ancillary studies that will aid in the diagnosis of the rarer entities**

ARTICLES

INTRACTABLE DIARRHEA IN EARLY INFANCY

**Gordon B. Avery, M.D., Ph.D., Olmedo Villavicencio, M.D.,
John R. Lilly, M.D., and Judson G. Randolph, M.D.**

*From the Departments of Pediatrics and Surgery, Children's Hospital of the District of Columbia;
the Department of Pediatrics, Georgetown University School of Medicine; and the Department
of Surgery, George Washington University School of Medicine, Washington, D.C.*

Pediatrics, Vol. 41, No. 4, April 1968

ABSTRACT. Twenty infants with intractable diarrhea, whose onset was before 3 months of age, were analyzed. Twelve had identifiable pathological entities sufficient to explain their protracted diarrhea. A systematic diagnostic scheme for such babies is presented.

destruction of the mucosa and inflammatory infiltration. The authors believe that in these latter cases, regardless of the initial cause of the diarrhea, certain vicious cycles came into play which perpetuated the diarrhea. Preliminary evidence suggests that colostomy and, perhaps adrenal corticoste-

Protracted (Intractable) Diarrhea of Infancy

- **Onset before 3 months of age**
- **Symptom complex characterized by diarrhea >2 weeks**
- **Repeatedly negative stool cultures**
- **Varying degrees of villous atrophy**
- **Exact etiology is often unclear**
- **Consequent malnutrition**

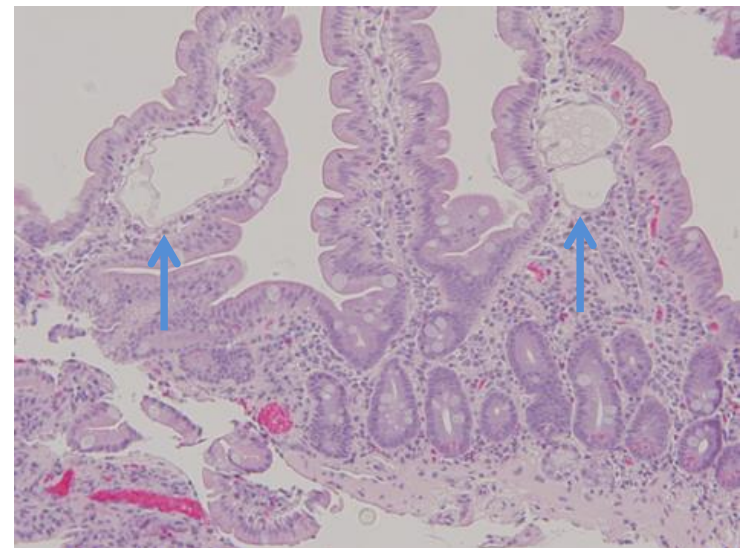
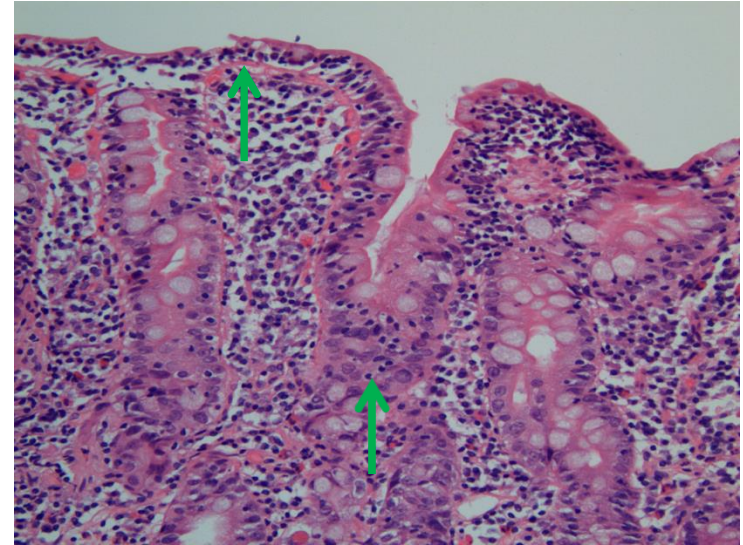
TABLE I
20 CASES OF INTRACTABLE DIARRHEA

<i>Name</i>	<i>Diagnosis</i>	<i>Onset</i>	<i>Duration (da)</i>	<i>Special Treatment*</i>	<i>Other Intravenous Therapy</i>	<i>Confirmatory Tests</i>	<i>Outcome</i>
A.H.	Disaccharide intolerance	Birth	180	Monosaccharide formula	Blood	Lactose tolerance + acid stool pH stool reducing sugars, response monosaccharide formula	Improved
T.B.†	Disaccharide intolerance	30 da	150	Monosaccharide formula	Blood; gamma-globulin; vitamins	Stool reducing sugars, response monosaccharide formula	Improved
T.D.‡	Disaccharide intolerance	Birth	85	Monosaccharide formula	Blood; albumin; plasma vitamins	Lactose tolerance, response monosaccharide formula	Improved
L.B.	Cystic fibrosis	14 da	210	Enzymes	Vitamins; antibiotics	Sweat test, absent trypsin	Improved
S.S.	Cystic fibrosis	Birth	120	Enzymes	Blood; vitamins; antibiotics	Sweat test; cystic fibrosis at autopsy	Died
K.W.	Salmonella enteritis	Birth	45	Antibiotics		Stool positive for salmonella after many negatives	Improved
D.L.	Ulcerative colitis	3 da	25	Supportive		Sigmoidoscopy and barium enema	Improved
K.G.§	Perinephric abscess	15 da	48	Antibiotics	Blood; plasma; albumin; Mg; vitamins	Perinephric abscess at autopsy	Died
D.W.	Urinary tract infection	14 da	16	Antibiotics	Vitamins	Several cultures 100,000 <i>E. coli</i> in urine	Improved
G.M.	Adrenal insufficiency	Birth	36	Supportive	Blood; albumin	Adrenal atrophy at autopsy	Died
D.R.	Ileal stenosis	Birth	75	Stenotic segment resected	Blood; albumin; vitamins	Confirmed at laparotomy	Improved
A.P.	Hirschsprung's disease	Birth	21	Colostomy	Blood; albumin; vitamins	Barium enema; rectal biopsy	Improved
A.W.	Non-specific enterocolitis	21 da	54	Steroids	Blood; plasma; vitamins	See Table II	Died
S.M.	Non-specific enterocolitis	Birth	48	Colostomy	Blood; plasma; vitamins	See Table II	Died
G.C.	Non-specific enterocolitis	10 da	22	Steroids	Blood; albumin; vitamins	See Table II	Died
M.F.	Non-specific enterocolitis	Birth	14	Steroids and colostomy	Blood; plasma	See Table II	Died
B.B.H.	Non-specific enterocolitis	4 da	63	Steroids	Blood; plasma; albumin; vitamins; Mg; casein hydrolysate (Amigen)	See Table II	Died
P.H.	Non-specific enterocolitis	28 da	54	Steroids and colostomy	Blood; plasma; albumin; vitamins; Mg; casein hydrolysate (Amigen)	See Table II	Died
M.M.	Non-specific enterocolitis	Birth	35	Steroids and colostomy	Blood; albumin; vitamins	See Table II	Improved
D.D.	Non-specific enterocolitis	Birth	105	Colostomy	Blood; plasma; vitamins	See Table II	Improved

Enteropathies Presenting with Profuse Diarrhea:

Those with detectable histologic changes

- Lipid malabsorption
- Celiac disease
- Cystic fibrosis
- Autoimmune enteropathy
- IPEX Syndrome
- Intestinal lymphangiectasia
- **Enteroendocrine Cell Dysgenesis**
- **$\alpha 6\beta 4$ integrin defects (some with epidermolysis bullosa)**
- **Congenital Tufting Enteropathy**
- **Microvillus Inclusion Disease**

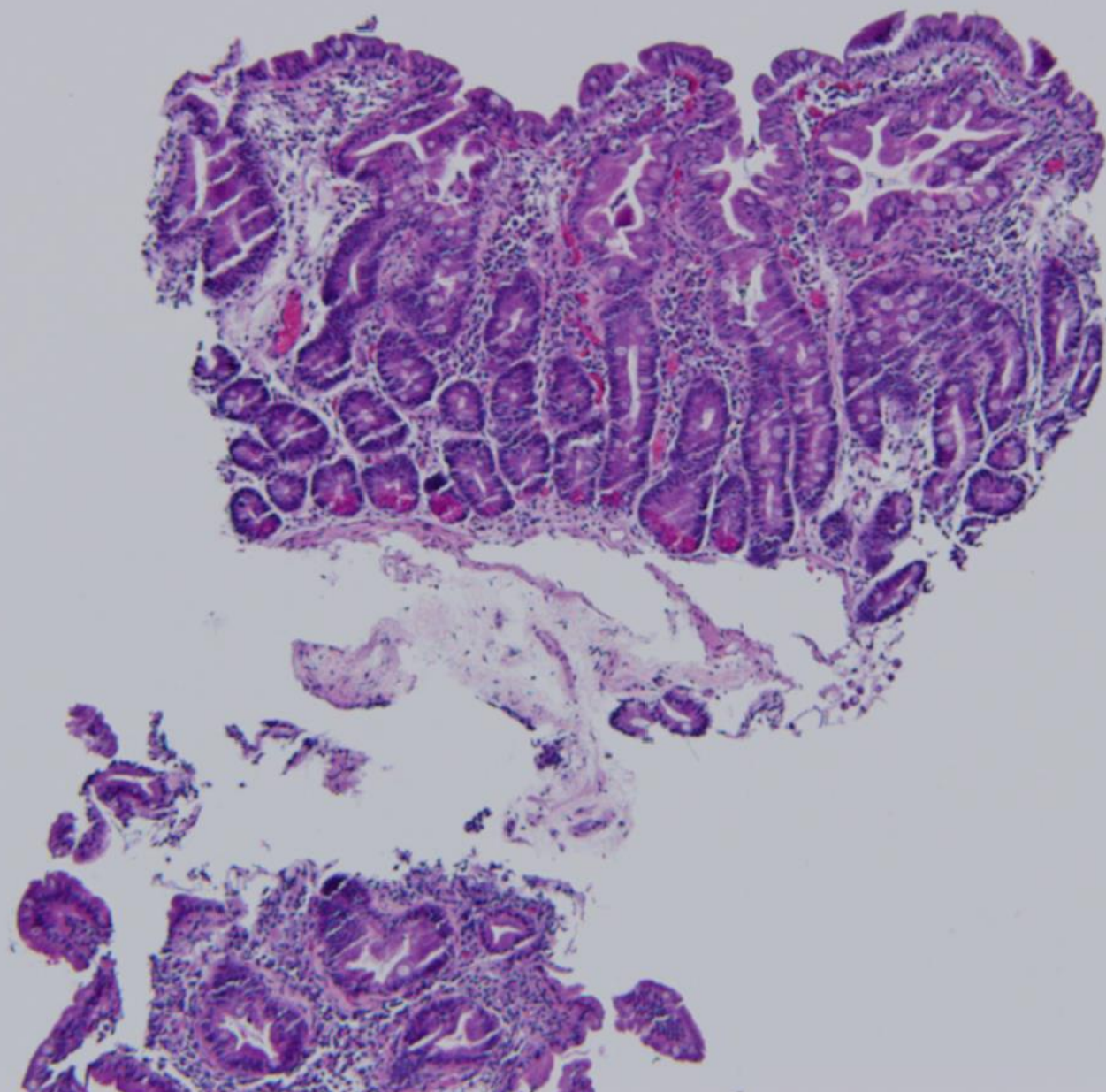




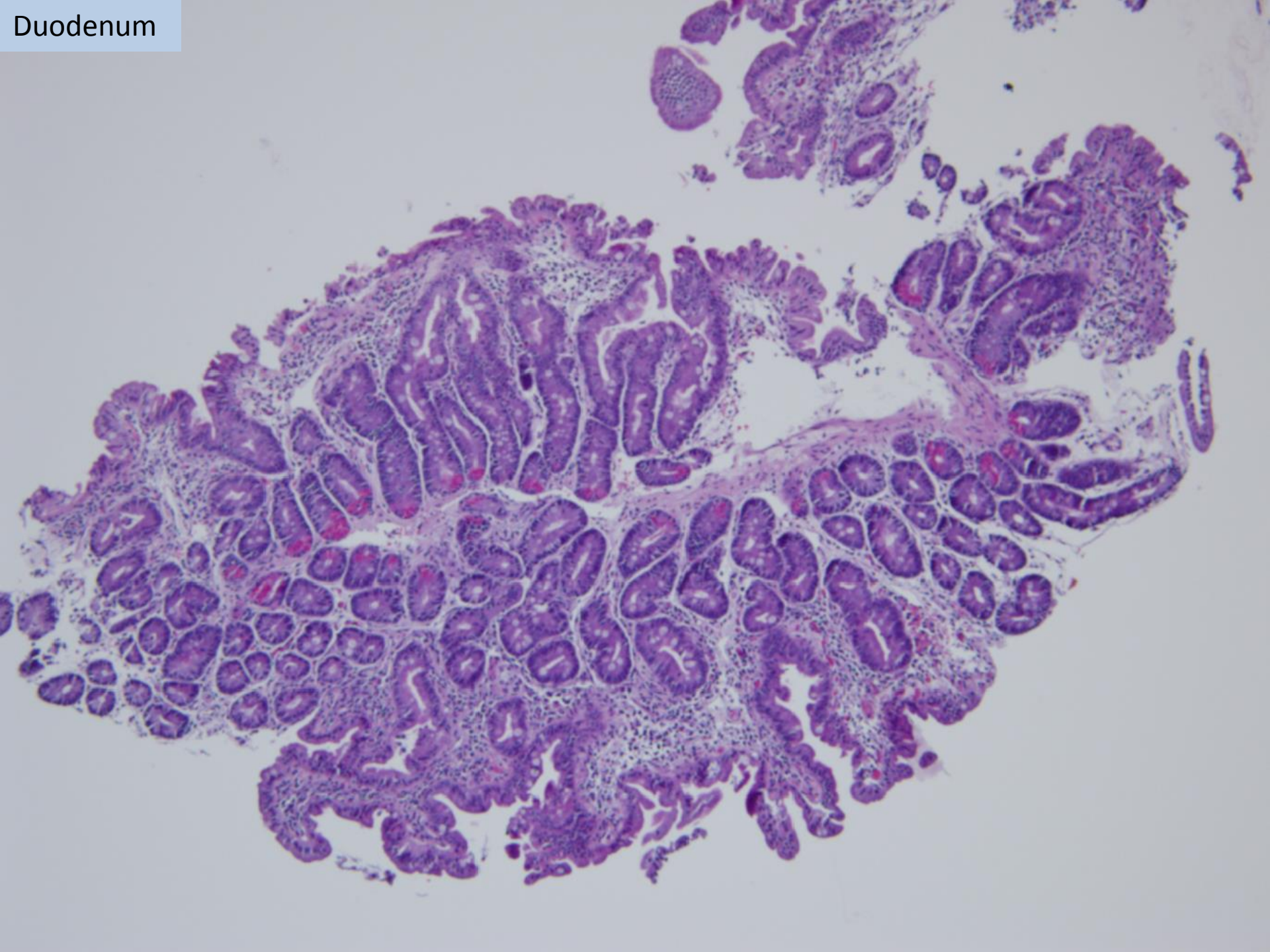
Case 1

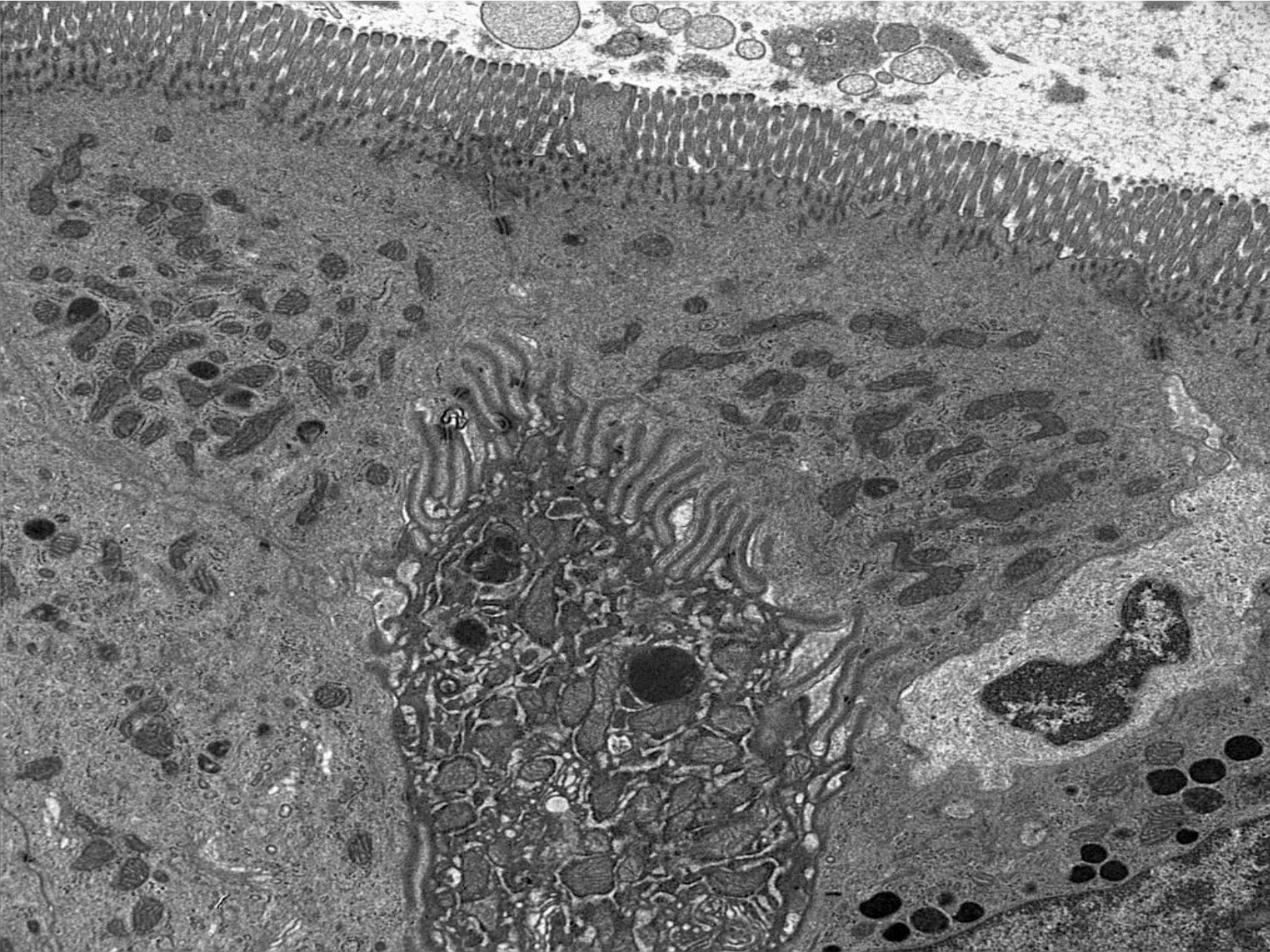
- 25 day old boy presented with severe watery diarrhea
- He was referred to gastroenterology at an outside hospital where a grossly malnourished appearing child was described
- Endoscopic examination showed normal appearing duodenum, stomach, esophagus, terminal ileum and colon however biopsies were taken
- The biopsies were read as normal
- It was recommended that he be switched from breast milk to cow's milk based formula, then soy based formula
- He continued to have protracted diarrhea and was categorized as failure to thrive
- He was referred to our institution
- The slides from the duodenum from his initial biopsy were reviewed at our consensus conference

Duodenum



Duodenum





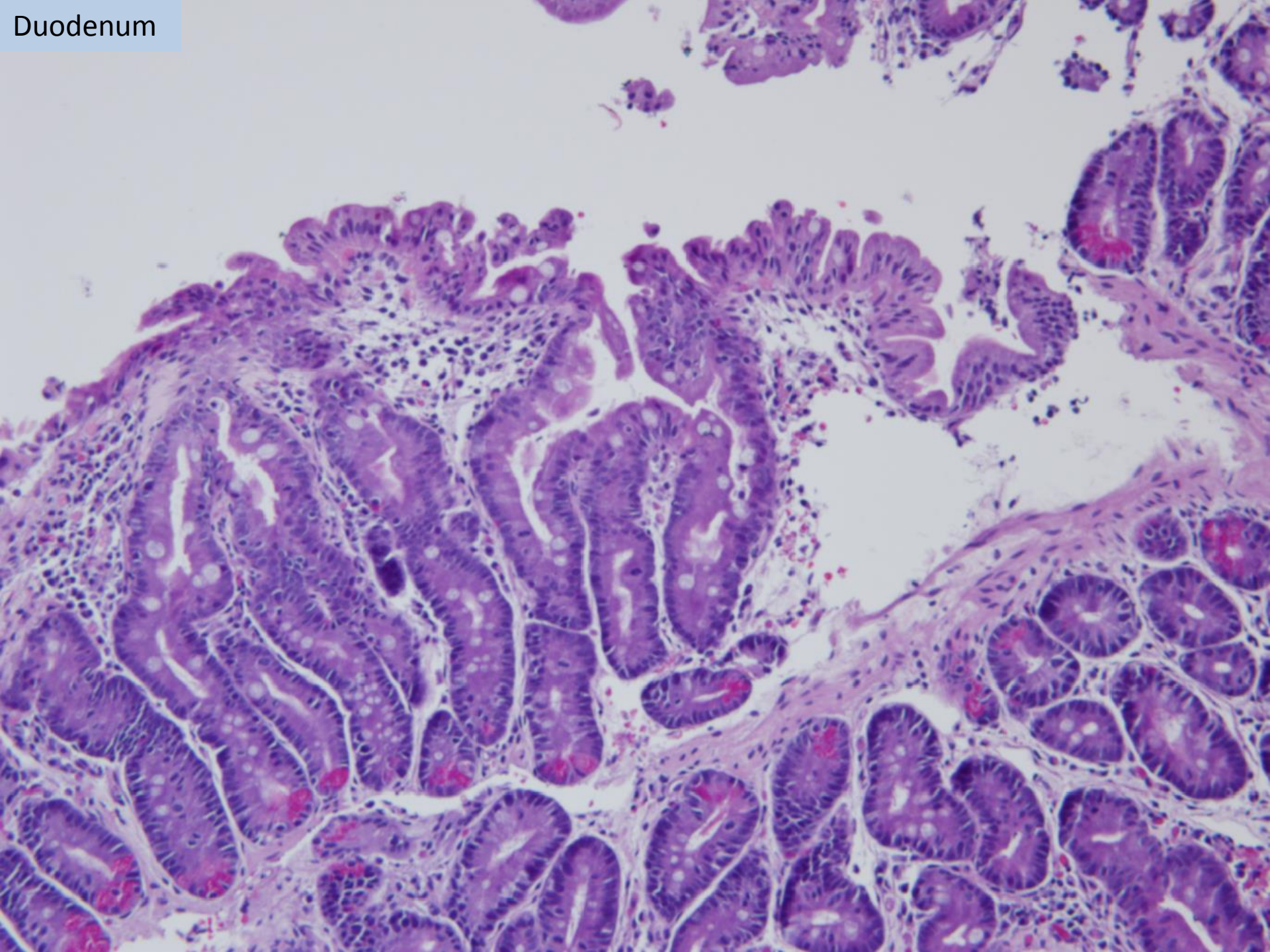
DIAGNOSTIC IMPRESSION

- **Microvillus inclusion disease**
- **Congenital tufting enteropathy**
- **IPEX syndrome**
- **A6 β 4 integrin defect**
- **Enteroendocrine cell dysgenesis**

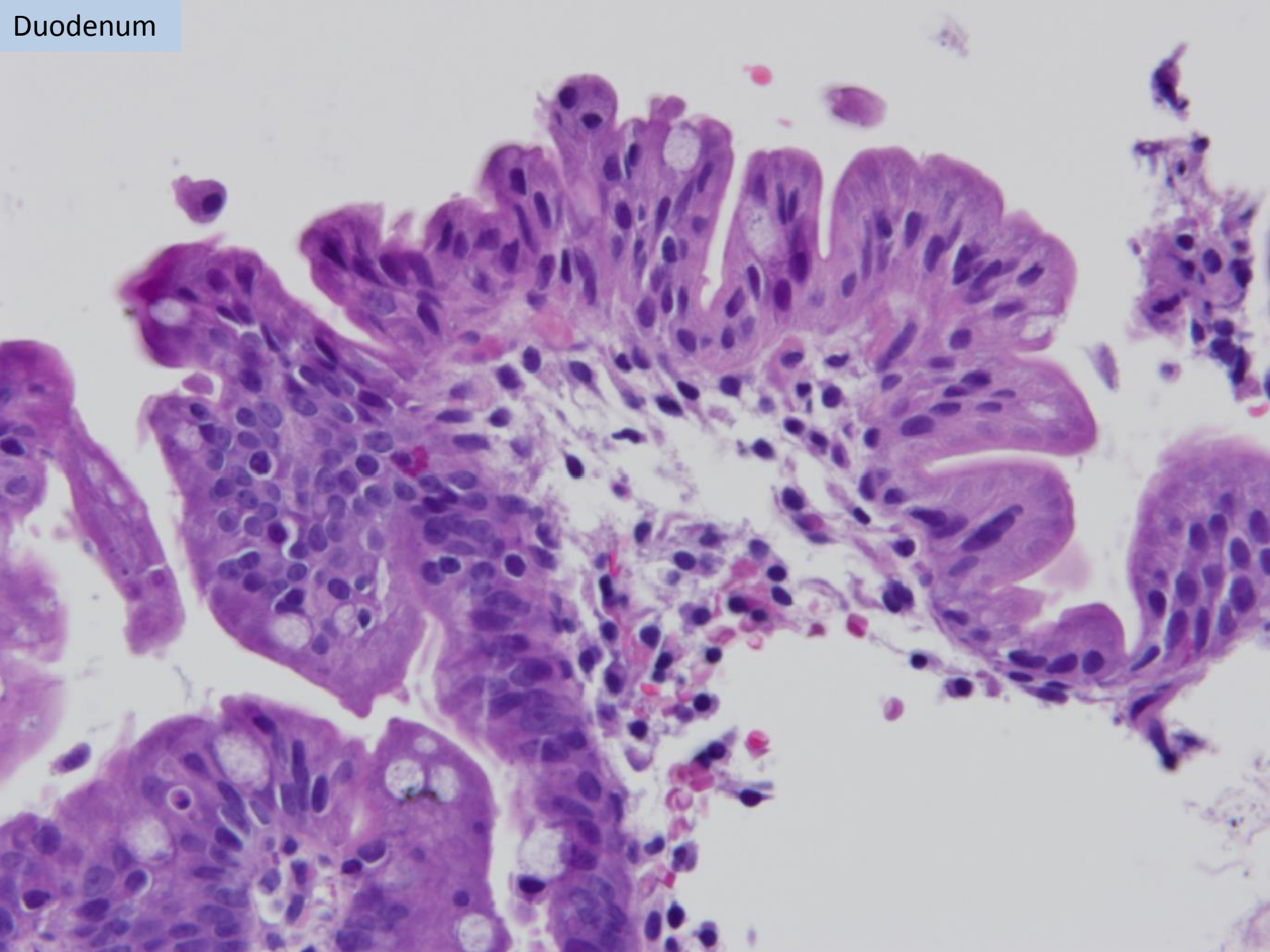
Diagnostic impression

- **A junior pediatric pathologist suggested the possibility of CTE**
- **The slides were re-examined in greater detail and the remaining slides were retrieved and examined**

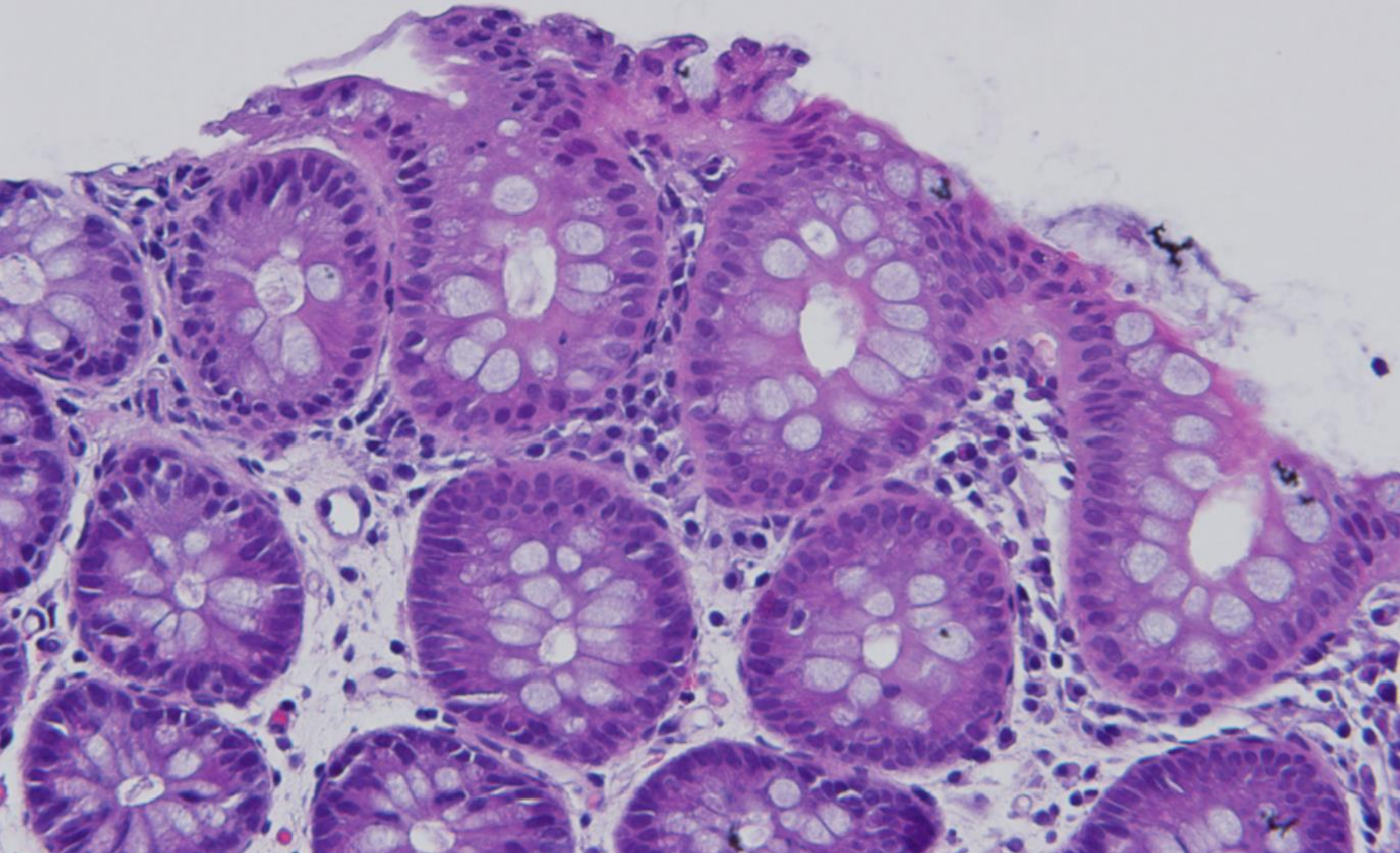
Duodenum



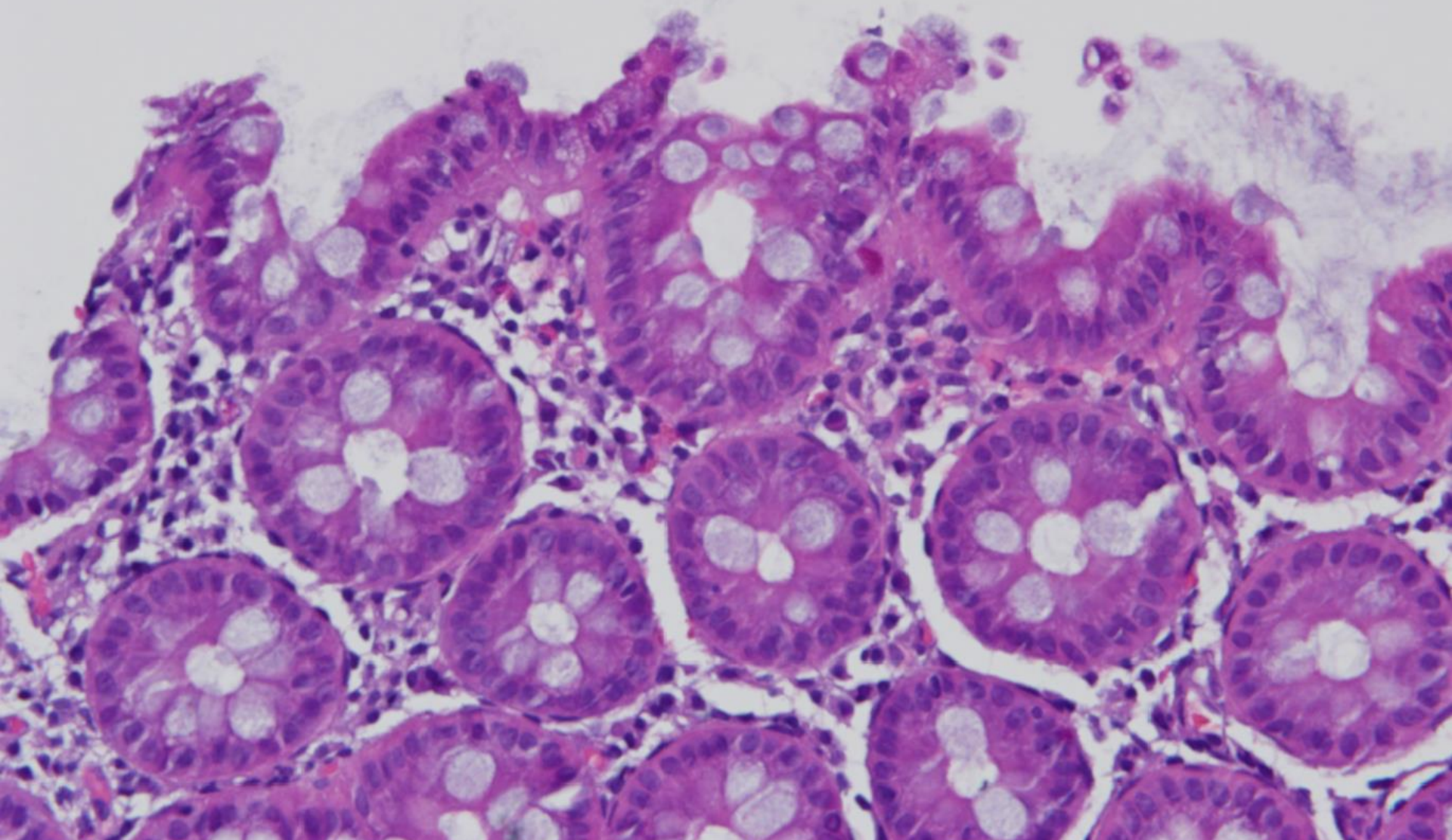
Duodenum

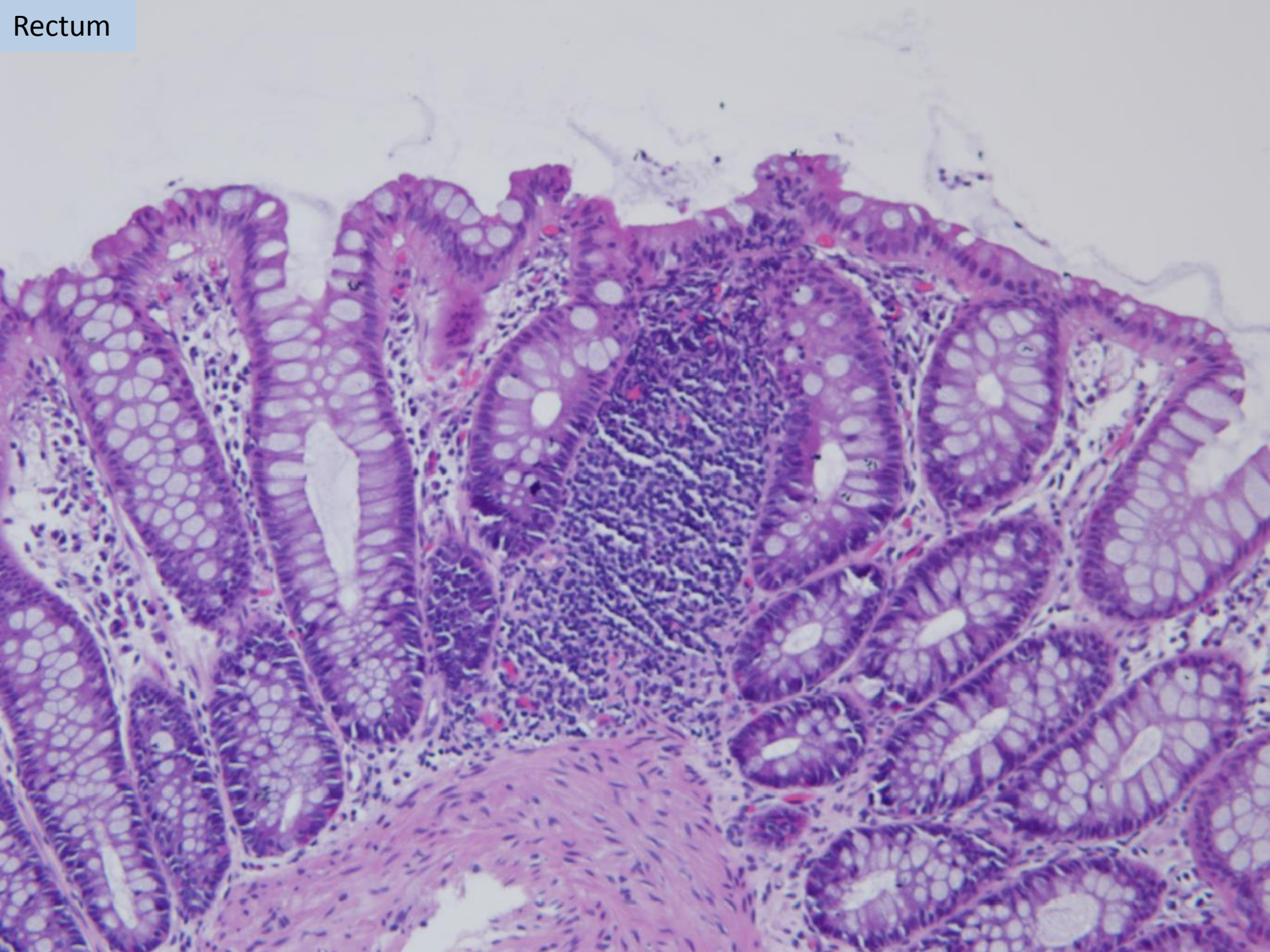


Ascending colon



Transverse Colon





Rectum

Case Report

Tufting Enteropathy: A Newly Recognized Clinicopathological Entity Associated with Refractory Diarrhea in Infants

*Ram M. Reifen, †Ernest Cutz, *‡Anne-Marie Griffiths, †§Bo Y. Ngan, and
*‡Philip M. Sherman

**Division of Gastroenterology, Research Institute, the Hospital for Sick Children; §Department of Pathology, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Center; Departments of ‡Pediatrics and †Pathology, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada*

Congenital tufting enteropathy

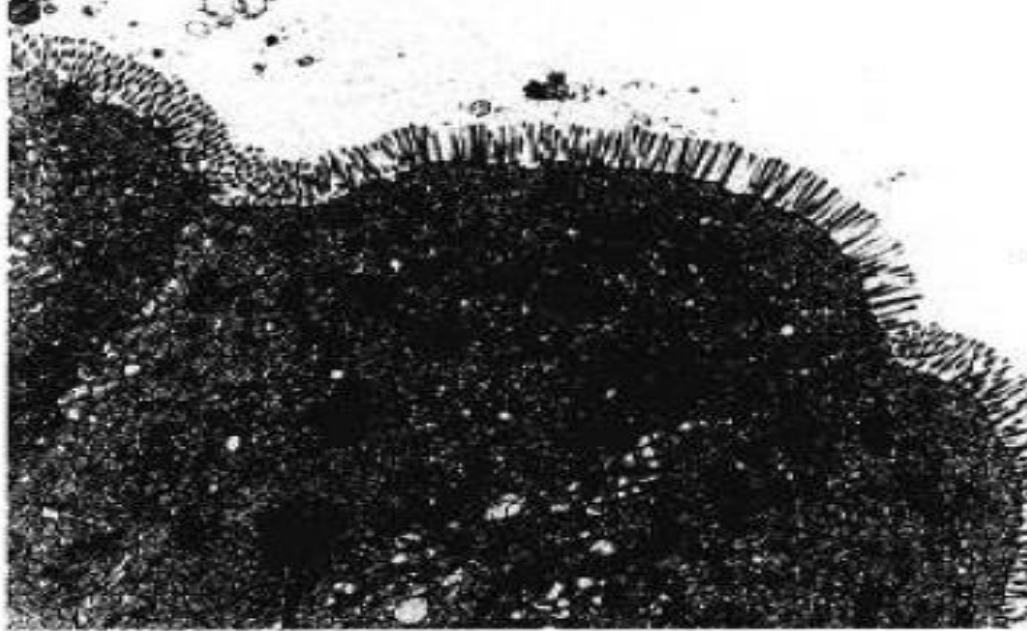
- **3 patients with protracted diarrhea**
- **1 girl and 1 boy investigated for unexplained protracted diarrhea**
- **Re-evaluation of biopsies from patients with Dx of unclassified intractable diarrhea over previous 25 yrs**
- **Similar features to those seen in the biopsies of the 2 current patients were seen in one of the previously unclassified patients**



B



C



B

What is CTE?

- **Aka intestinal epithelial dysplasia**
- **Enteropathy presents in neonatal period**
- **Characterized by profuse watery diarrhea**
- **Uneventful prenatal history**
- **Appears to be inherited in an autosomal recessive fashion**
- **Increased incidence in siblings and with consanguinity**

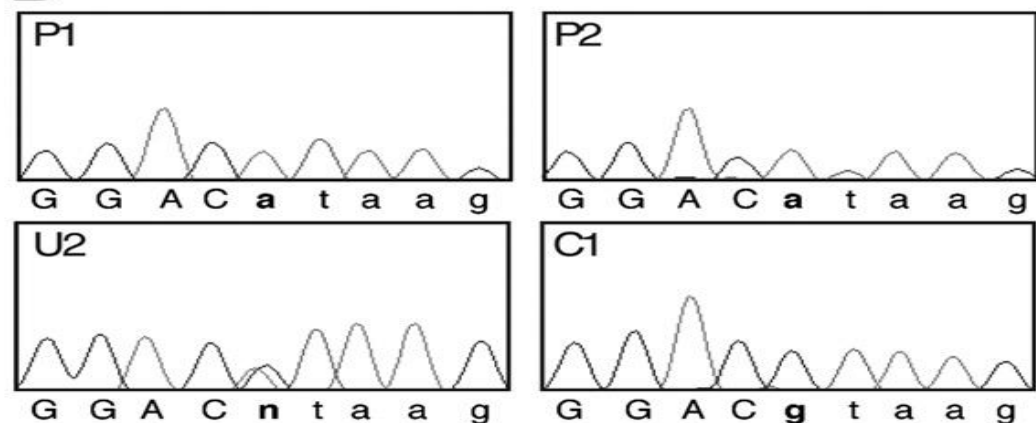
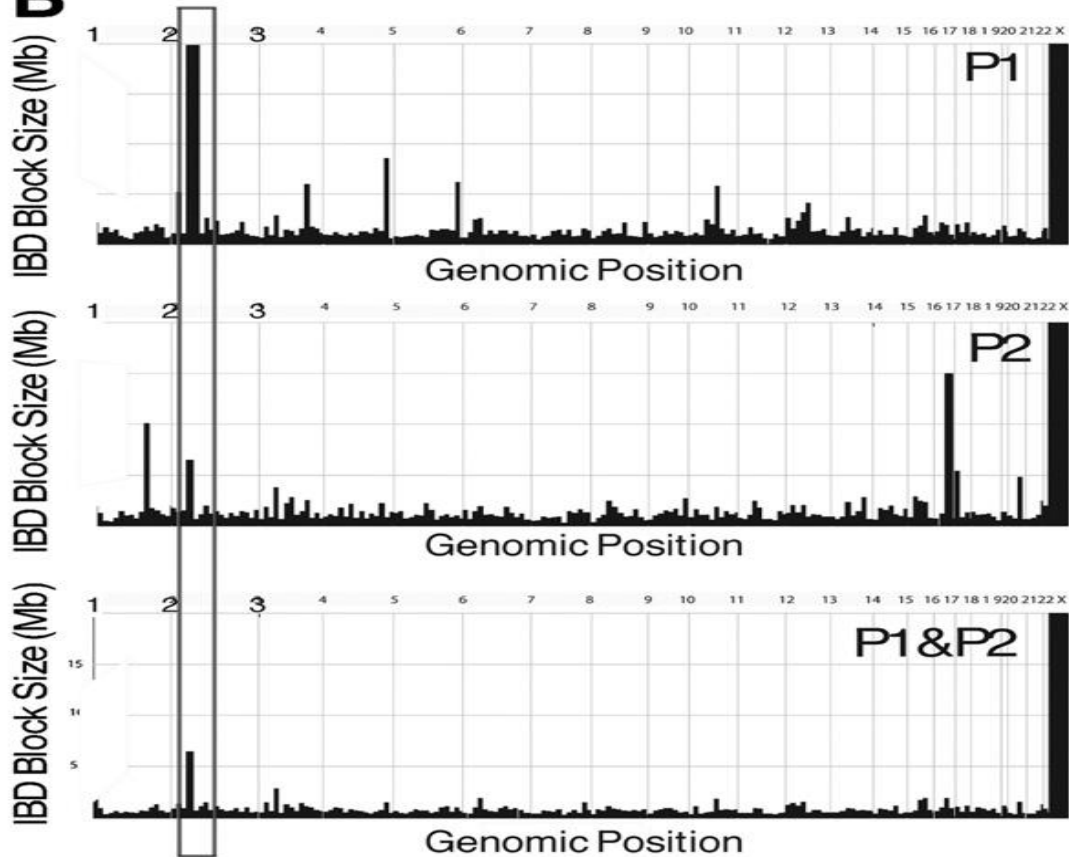
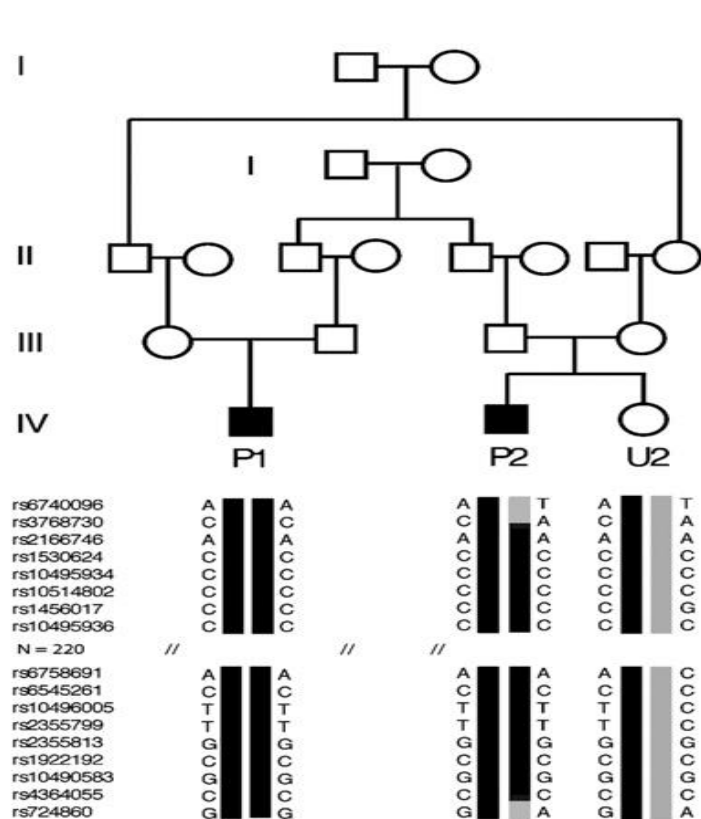
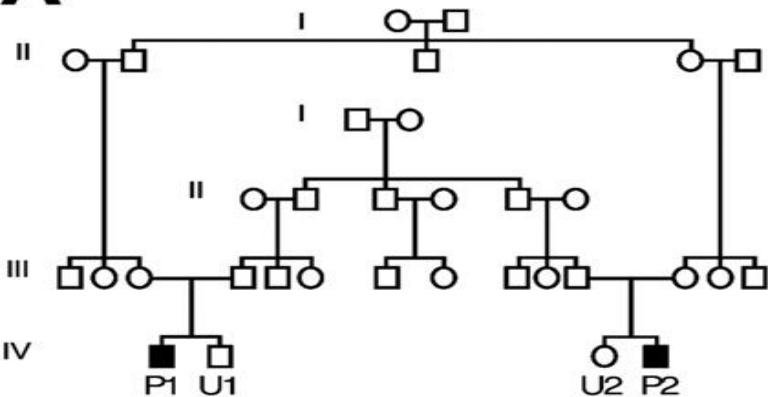
Pathophysiology

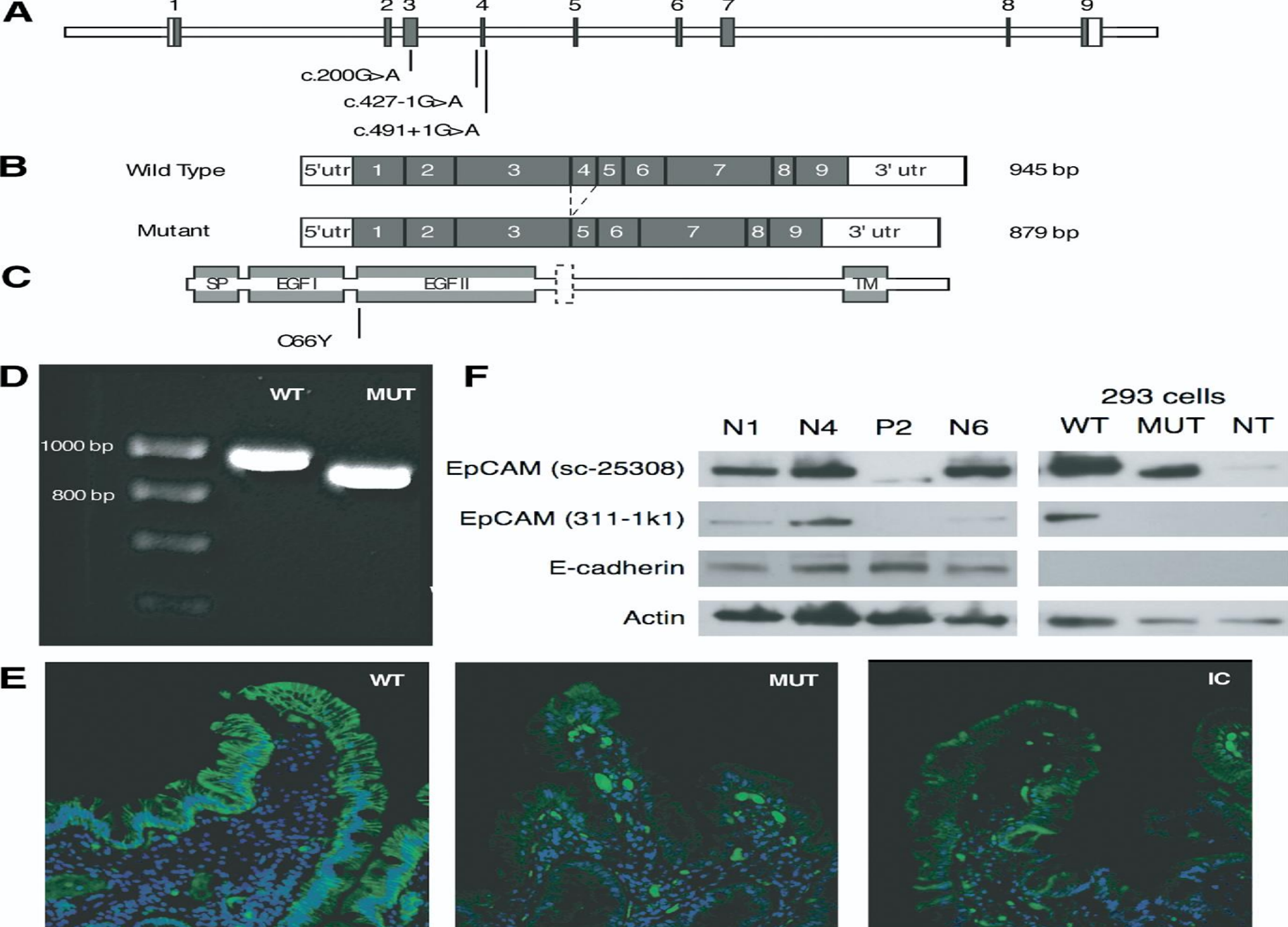
- Villous atrophy with tufted, rounded, teardrop-shaped enterocytes
- Shedding of enterocytes
- Mutation of EpCAM on chromosome 2p
- Pan-epithelial differentiation antigen and seen in all carcinomas
- Immunotherapeutic target in gastrointestinal and urologic carcinoma
- Linked to Cadherin-Catenin and WNT pathways

Sivagnanam's Study

- **One family with 2 affected children studied**
- **Subjects were doubled 2nd cousins**
- **Genotype performed on 2 affected children and 1 unaffected sibling using SNP chips**
- **DNA sequencing of EpCAM gene, reverse-transcription PCR, IHC and western blot on patients' and control samples**
- **Unique 6.5 Mbp haplotype of homozygous SNPs on 2p21, site of 40 genes**

C





Tufting Enteropathy Revisited

The Utility of MOC31 (EpCAM) Immunohistochemistry in Diagnosis

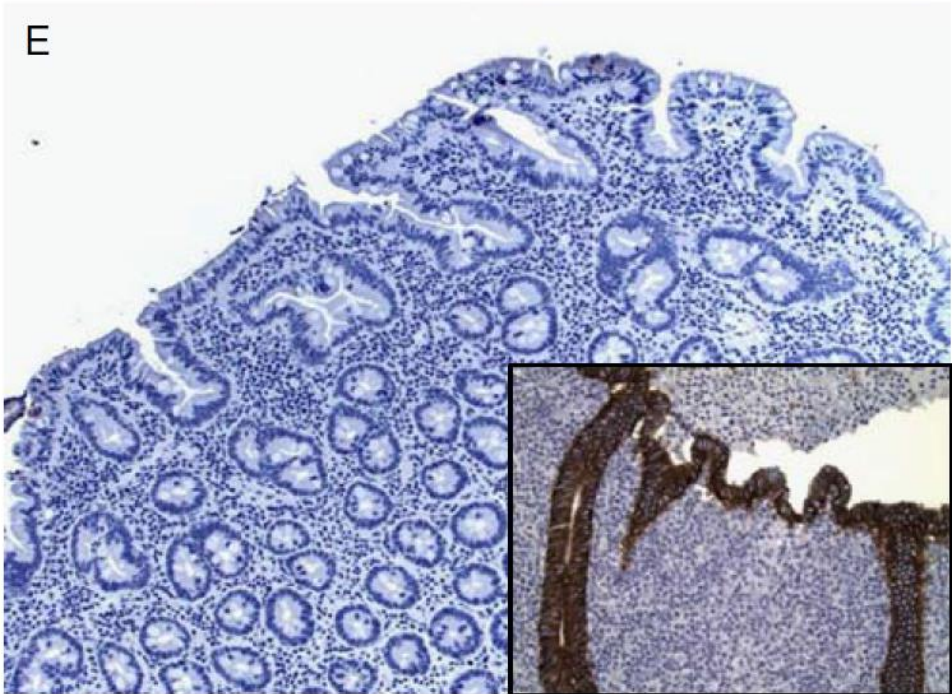
Sarangarajan Ranganathan, MD, Lori A. Schmitt, BS,* and Rakesh Sindhi, MD†*

Am J Surg Pathol; 2014;38:265-272

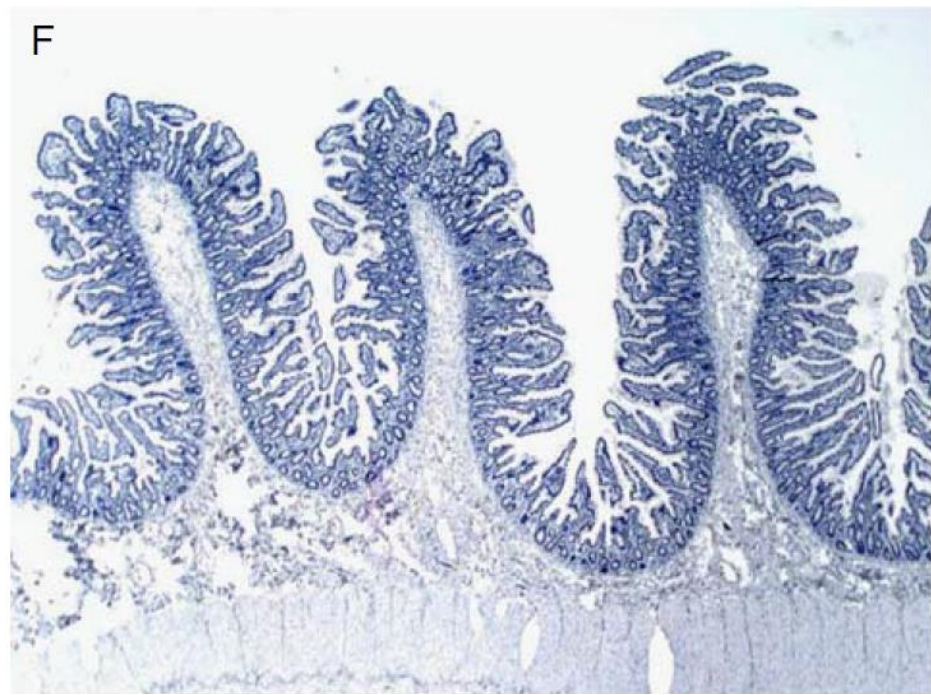
Abstract: Tufting enteropathy (TE) is an uncommon disease causing intractable diarrheas starting in early childhood and resulting in failure to thrive, dependence on total parenteral nutrition, and eventually requiring transplantation for treatment. The diagnosis has been based on histology showing the presence of epithelial “tufts” in the small bowel and colonic mucosa and variable villus alterations with mild to no in-

Intractable diarrhea of infancy can be defined as a group of disorders causing persistent diarrhea in early infancy, despite protracted bowel rest, requiring long-term parenteral nutrition for survival. The term was coined by Avery¹ to describe chronic, unexplained diarrhea in young infants. Over the years, the spectrum of diseases that could manifest with protracted infantile diarrhea has expanded and includes those that do not alter the villus/

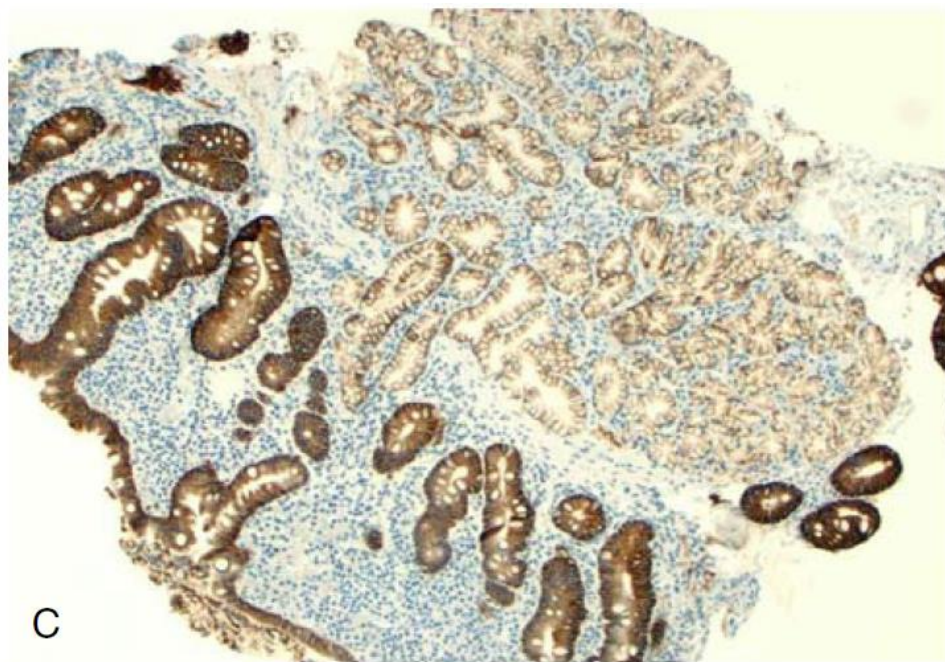
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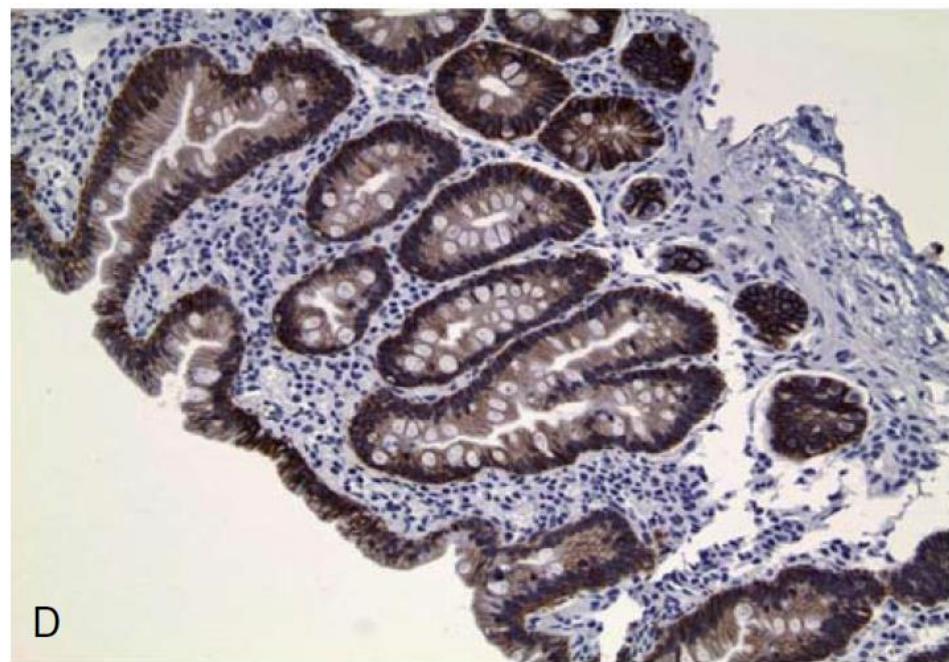
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Sarangarajan Ranganathan, Lori Schmitt, Rakesh Sindhi. Am J Surg Pathol 2014;38:265-272



C



D

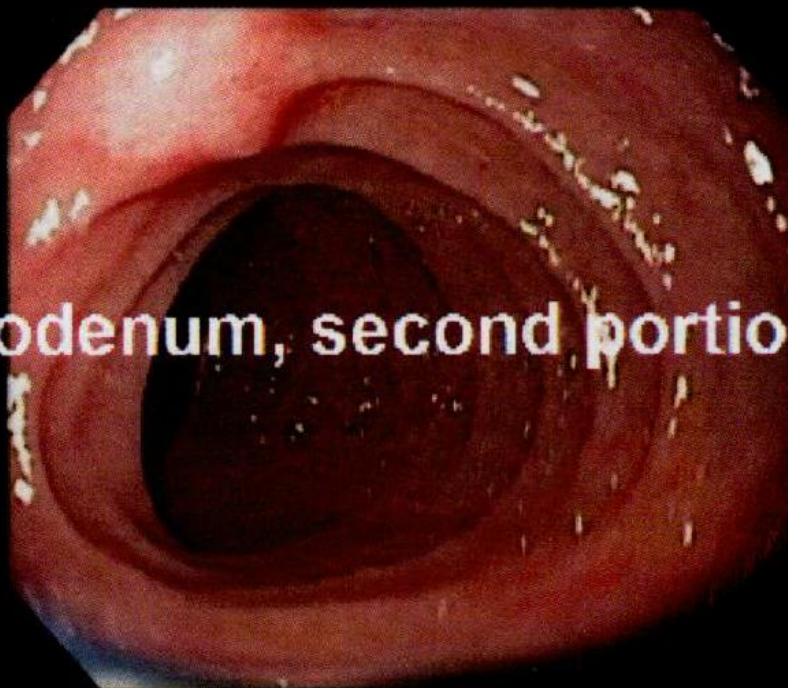
Sarangarajan Ranganathan, Lori Schmitt, Rakesh Sindhi. Am J Surg Pathol 2014;38:265-272



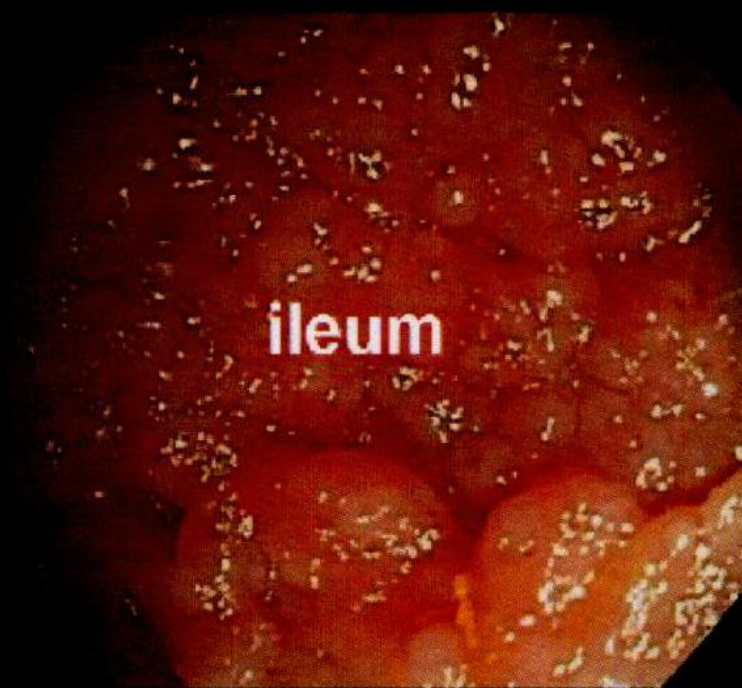
Case 2

- 9 month old female infant of Mexican parentage is brought to medical attention because of profuse watery diarrhea
- Careful interrogation by the medical student reveals that the diarrhea is brought on by oral feeding of any type
- She has no symptomatology after drinking water
- Mom claims that stool output ceases once oral feeding is stopped
- On physical examination the child appears malnourished
- Parameters of infant wellbeing show that the child is at the 15th percentile for body length and at the 10th percentile for weight
- She was referred to the gastroenterology service where she had endoscopic studies performed

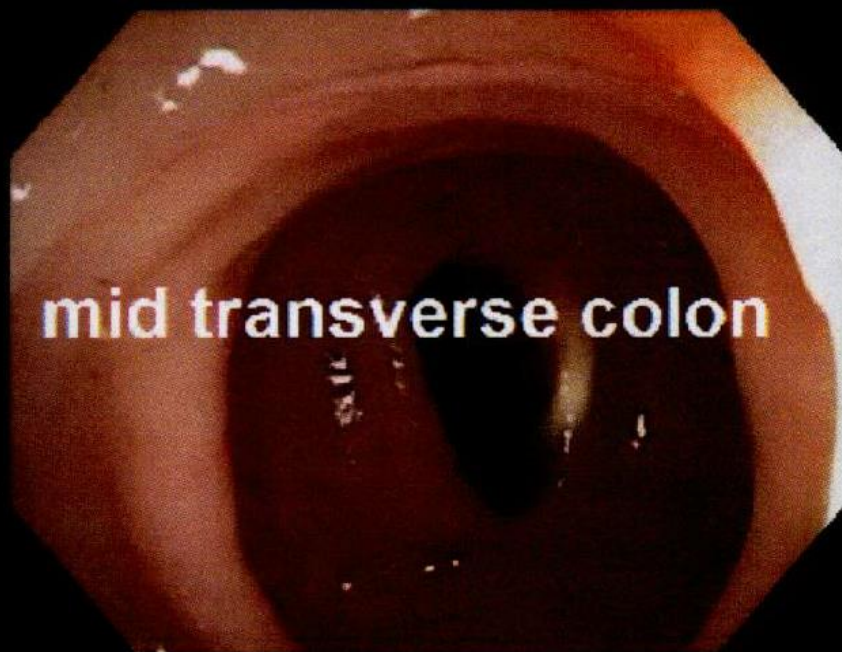
duodenum, second portion



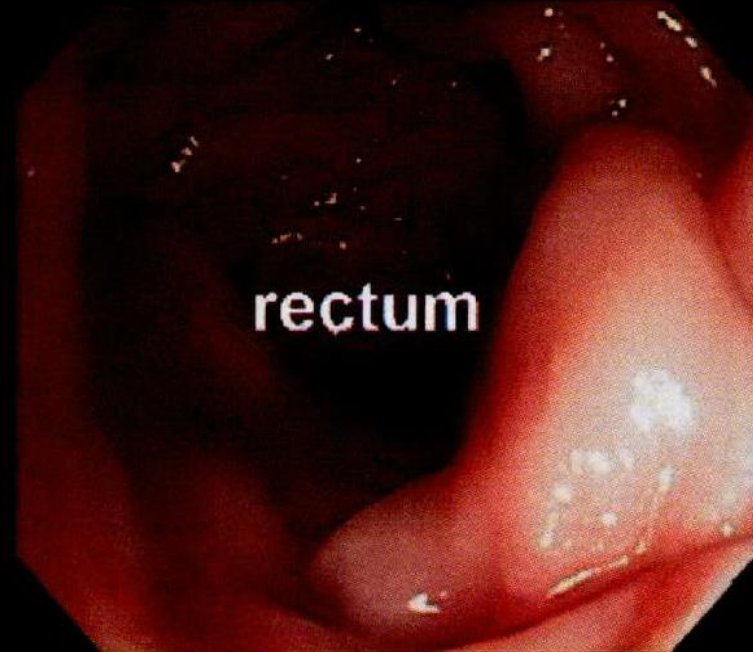
ileum

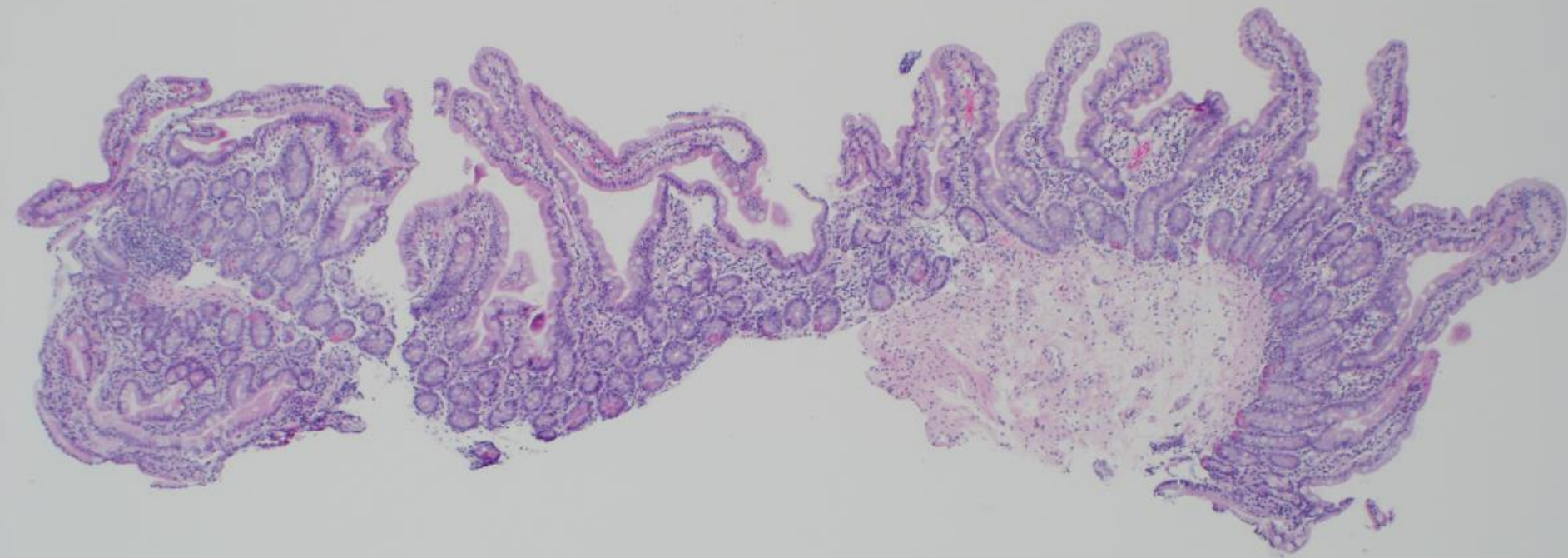


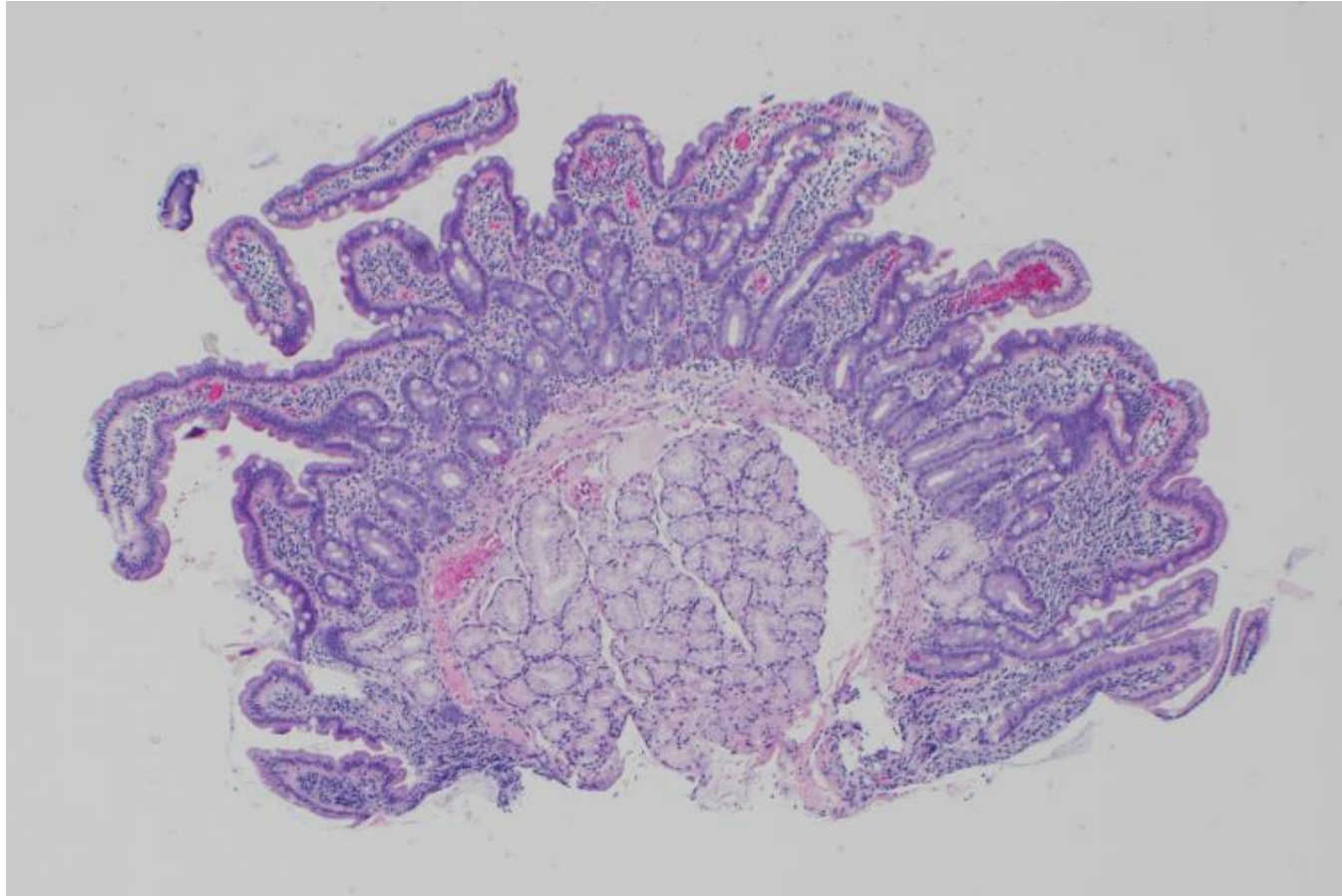
mid transverse colon

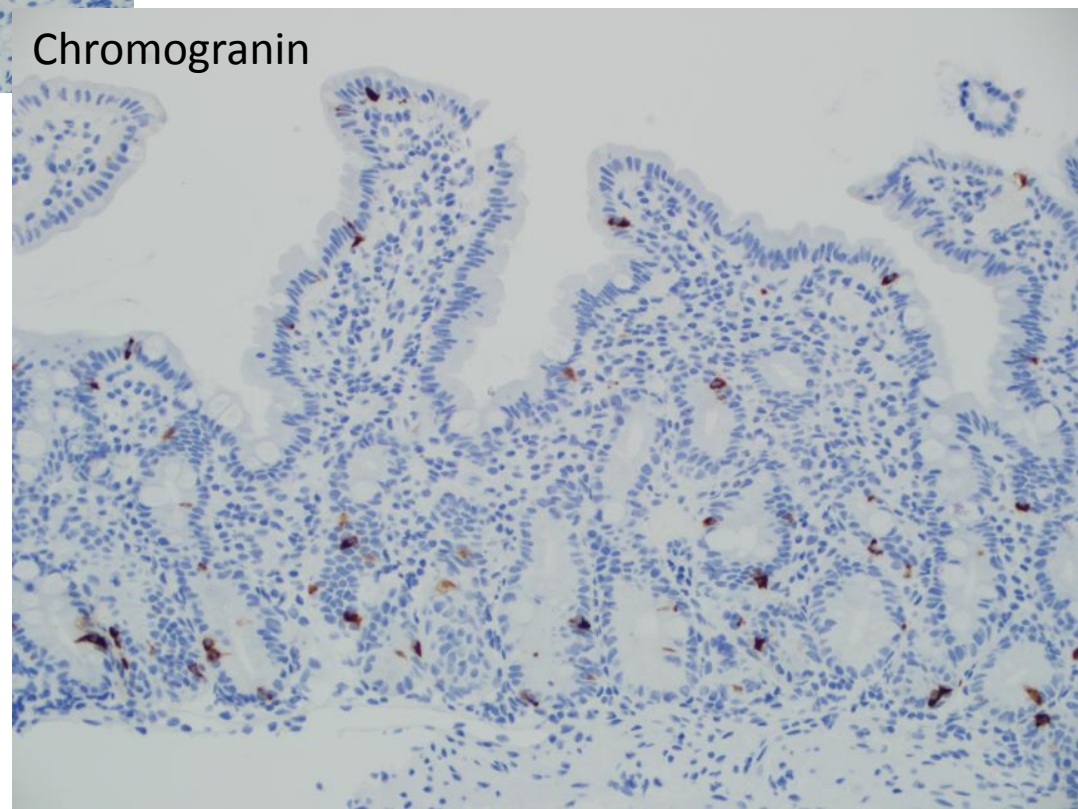
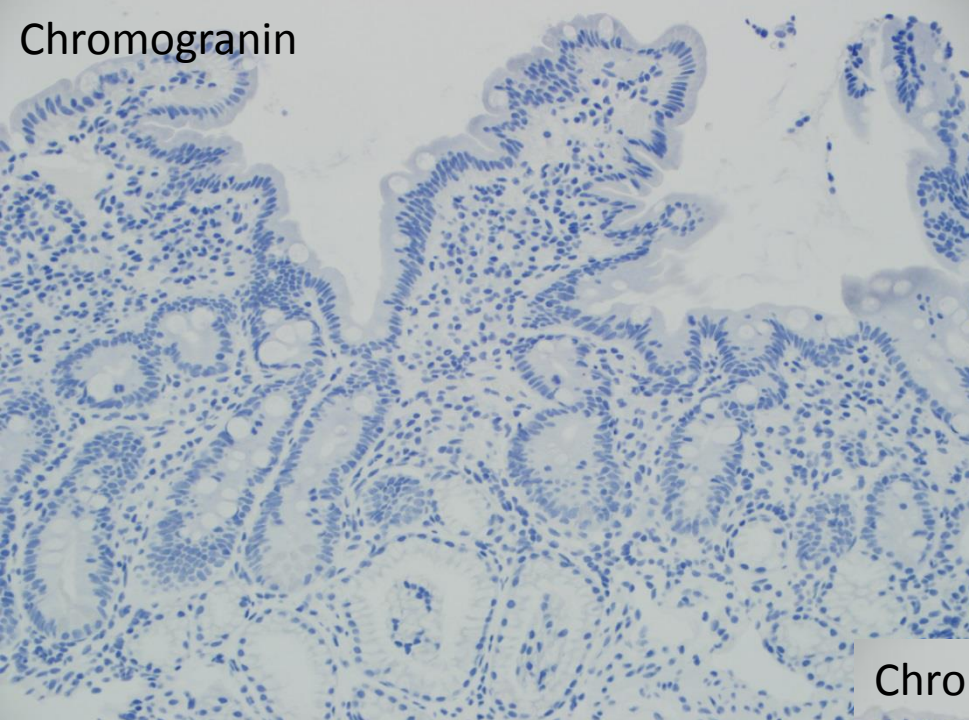


rectum









Diagnosis

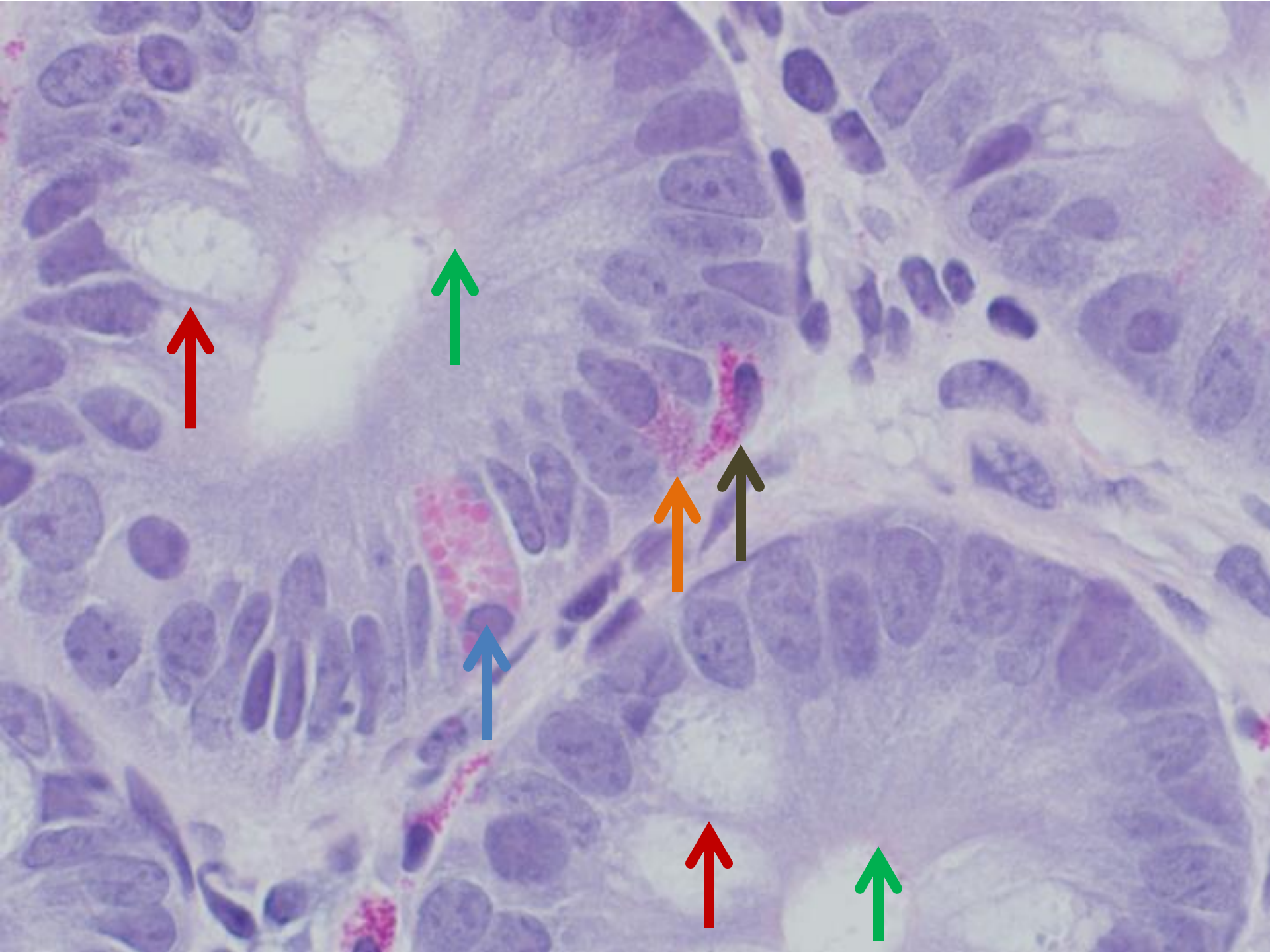
- Microvillus inclusion disease
- Congenital tufting enteropathy
- $\alpha 6\beta 4$ integrin defect
- Enteroendocrine cell dysgenesis
- IPEX syndrome

Enteroendocrine cell dysgenesis

- **Rare congenital disorder, recently recognized**
- **Life threatening intestinal malabsorption early in life**
- **Water is absorbed normally**
- **Dehydration, metabolic acidosis, malnutrition of all nutrients**
- **Most patients are of Mexican origin**

Pathophysiology and Pathology

- **Arrest in endocrine cell development in small intestine and colon**
- **Biopsies may appear normal or show nonspecific changes on H&E**
- **Absence of enteroendocrine cells revealed by chromogranin IHC**
- **Normal compliment of Paneth, goblet and absorptive cells**
- **Autoimmune enteropathy may also show loss of enteroendocrine cells along with loss of Paneth and Goblet cells**



Mutant Neurogenin-3 in Congenital Malabsorptive Diarrhea

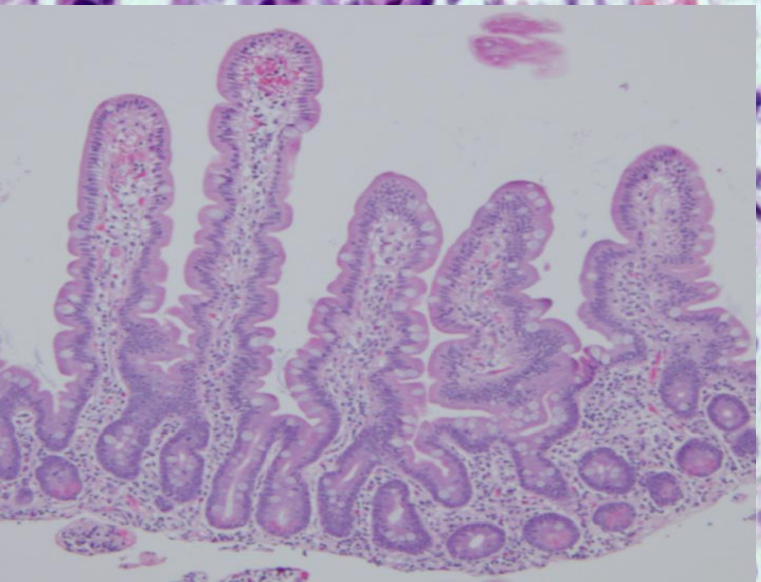
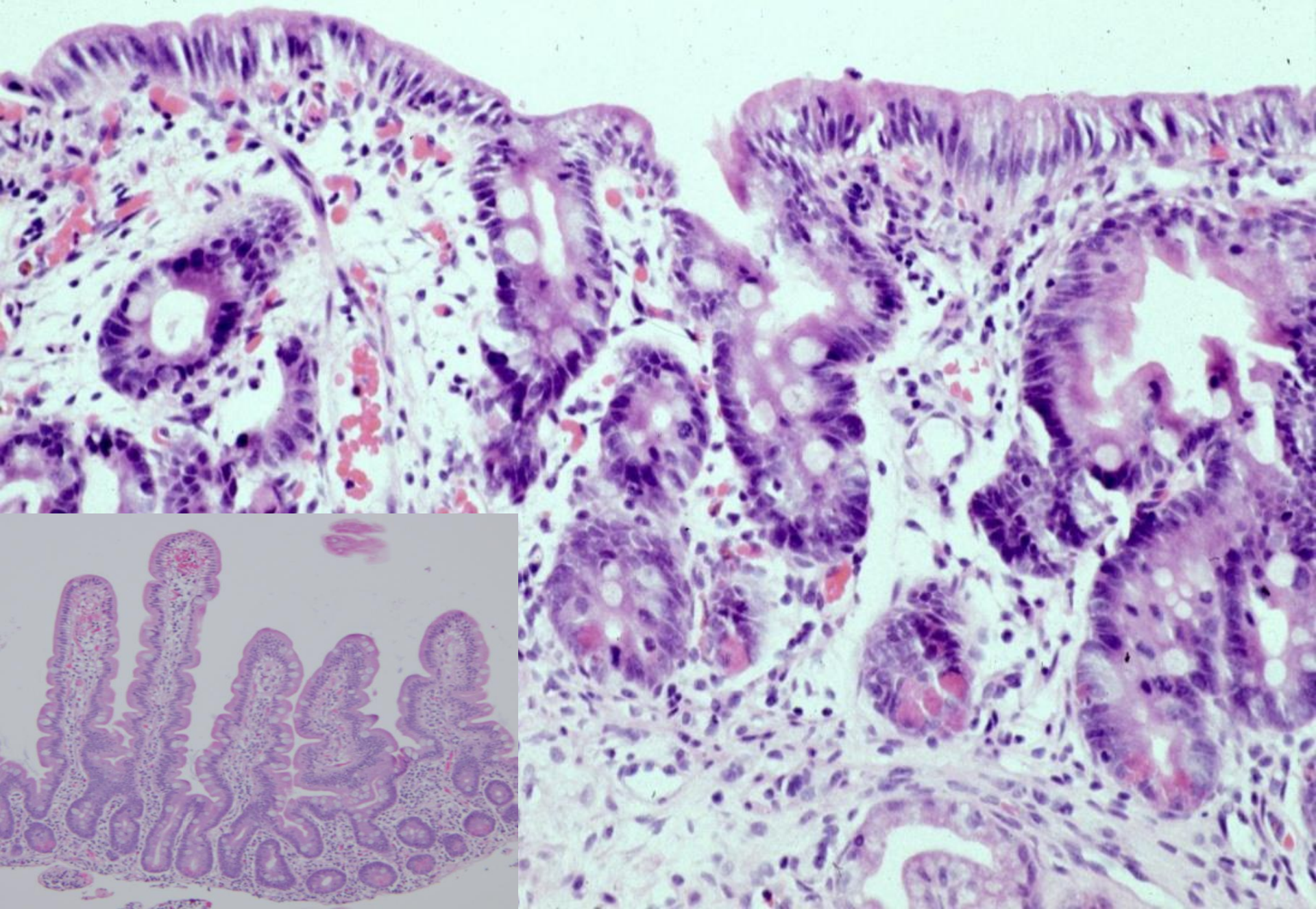
Jiafang Wang, B.S., Galen Cortina, M.D., Ph.D., S. Vincent Wu, Ph.D.,
Robert Tran, M.D., Jang-Hyeon Cho, Ph.D., Ming-Jer Tsai, Ph.D.,
Travis J. Bailey, Ph.D., Milan Jamrich, Ph.D., Marvin E. Ament, M.D.,
William R. Treem, M.D., Ivor D. Hill, M.D., Jorge H. Vargas, M.D.,
George Gershman, M.D., Douglas G. Farmer, M.D.,
Laurie Reyen, M.N., and Martín G. Martín, M.D.

N Engl J Med 2006;355:270-80.

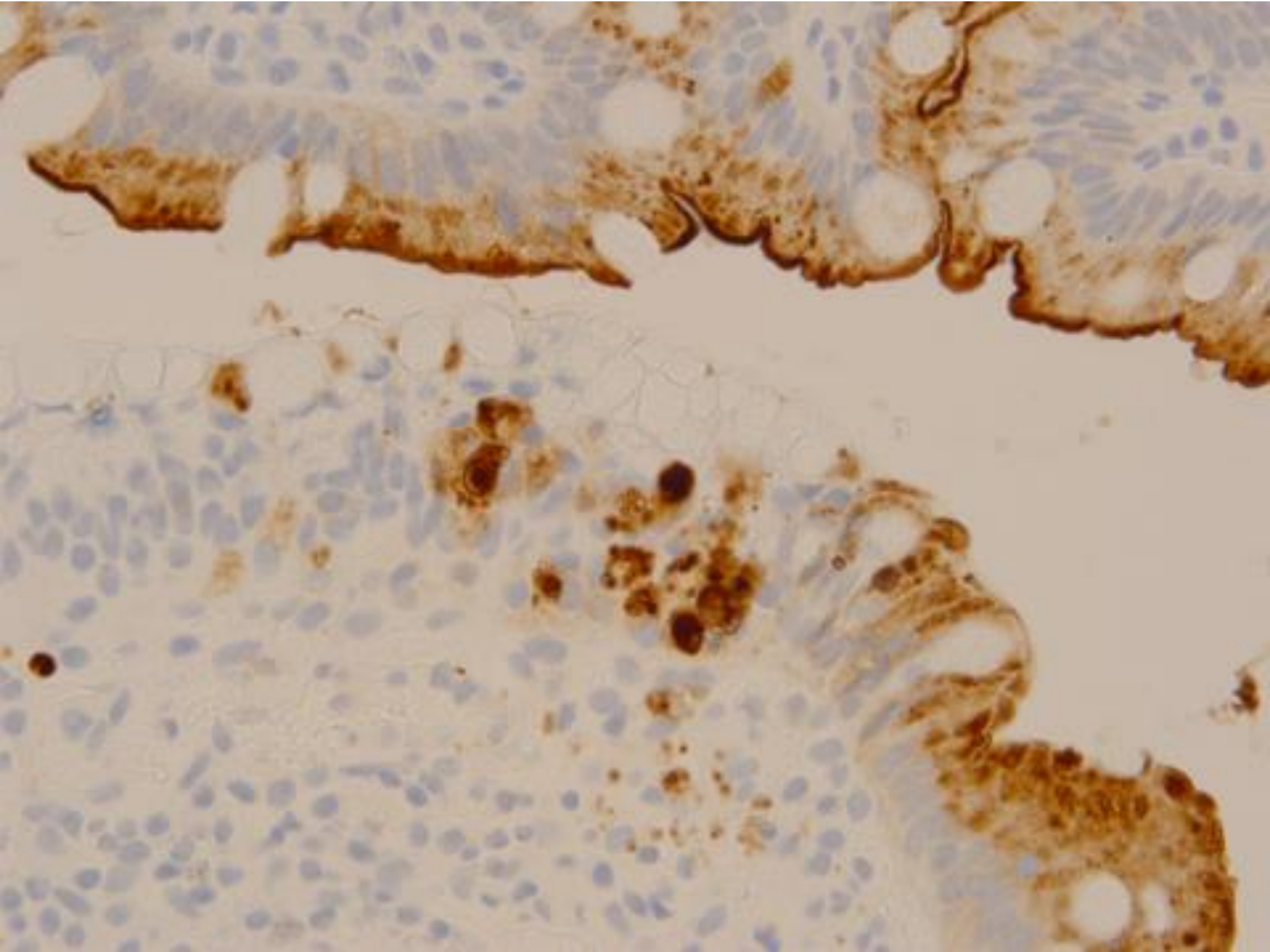


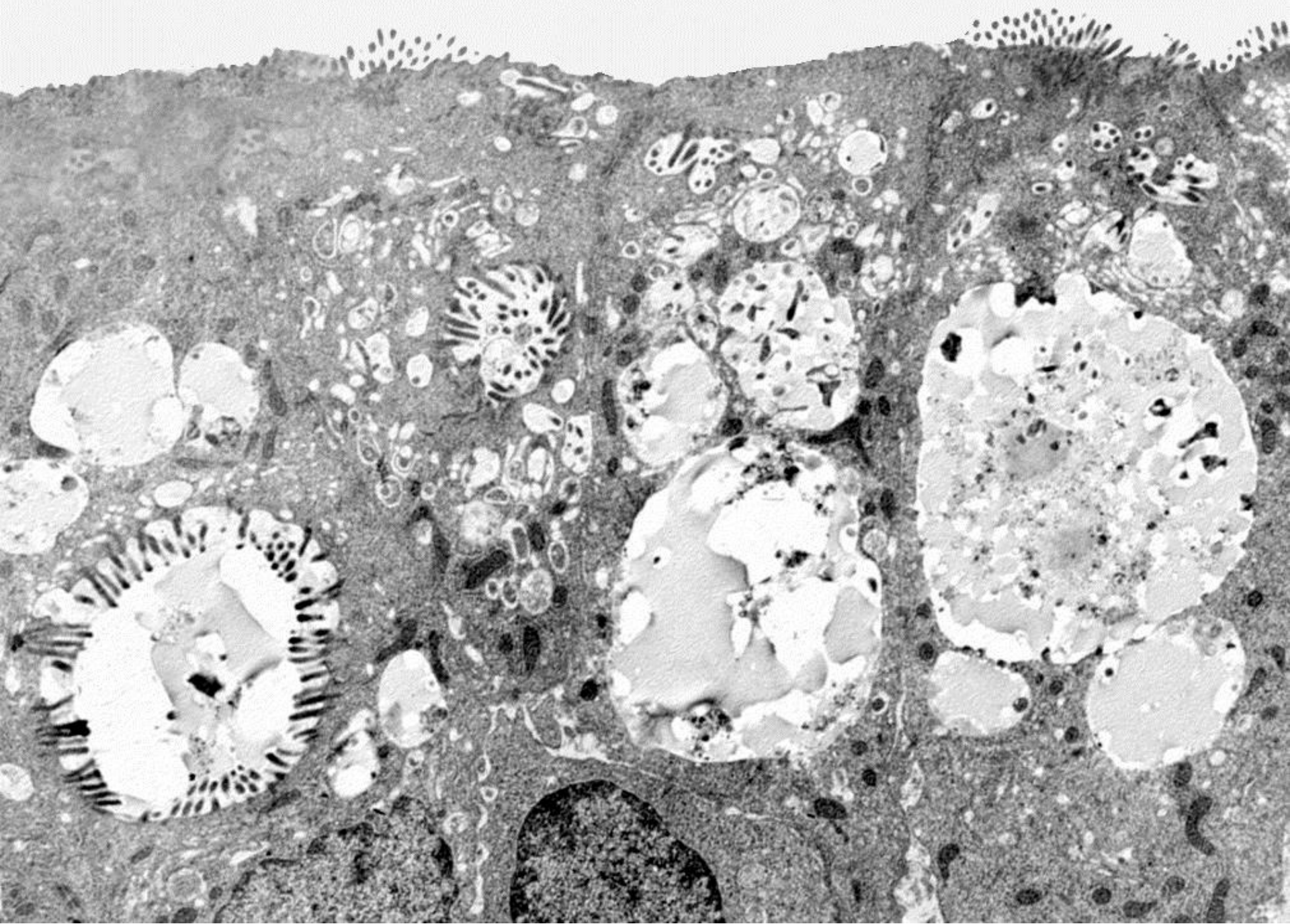
Case 3

- **46 day old boy from the Four Corners region of the United States**
- **Has been having severe bouts of watery diarrhea that started mere days after birth**
- **Parents mention a similar history in a paternal cousin**
- **The infant appears lethargic**
- **He is at the 10th percentile for both body length and weight**
- **A biopsy showed villous blunting with no significant increase in intraepithelial lymphocytes**



Diagnostic considerations





Diagnosis

Microvillus inclusion disease

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT MVID?

- **Rare congenital, autosomal recessive disorder**
- **First described by Davidson**
- **Presents within first days of life with protracted diarrhea**
- **Due to an enterocyte defect**
- **Initial survival depends on early recognition and institution of TPN**
- **Intestinal transplant is necessary for long term survival**

Gastroenterology. 1978 Nov;75(5):783-90.

Familial enteropathy: a syndrome of protracted diarrhea from birth, failure to thrive, and hypoplastic villus atrophy.

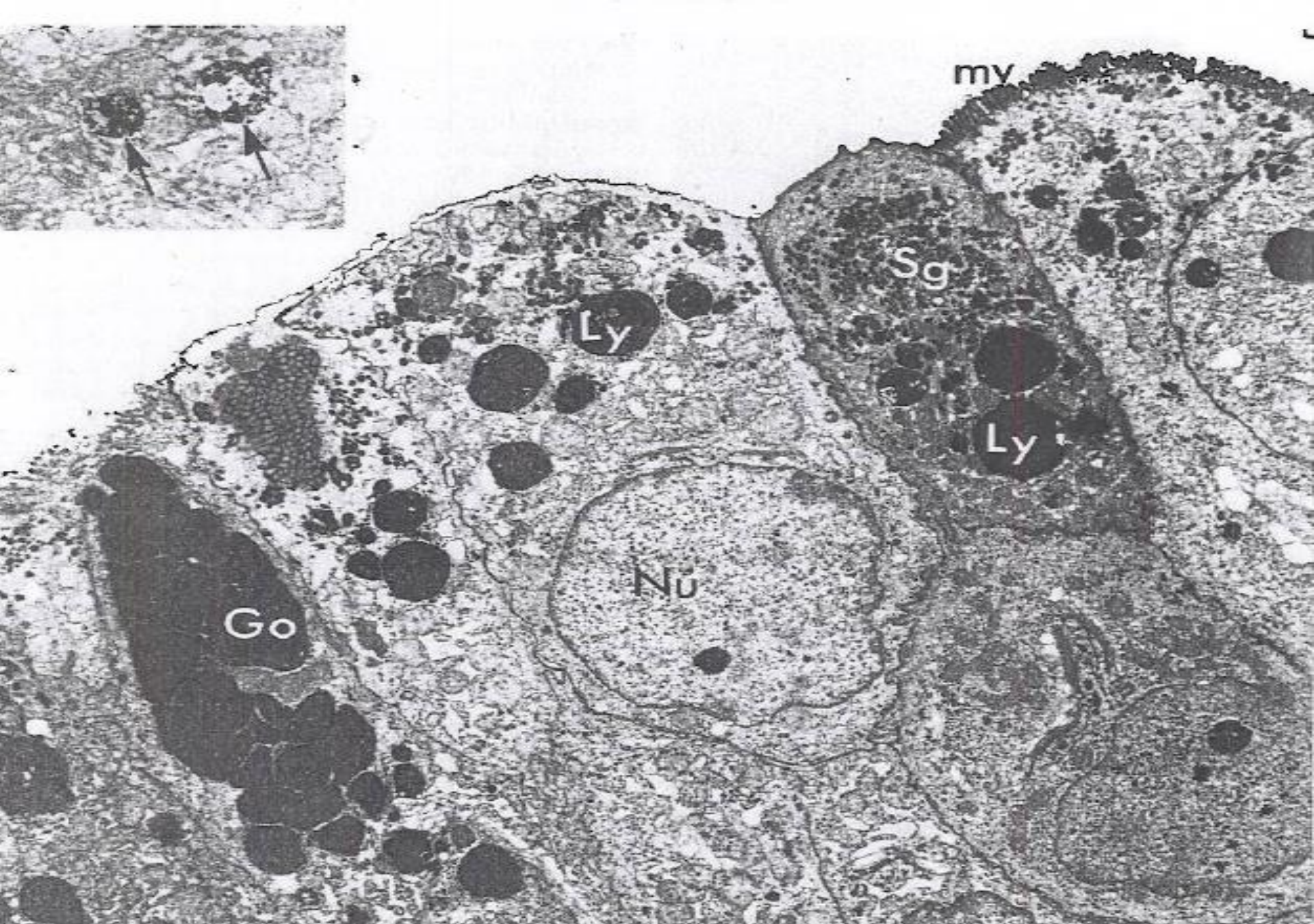
Davidson GP, Cutz E, Hamilton JR, Gall DG.

Abstract

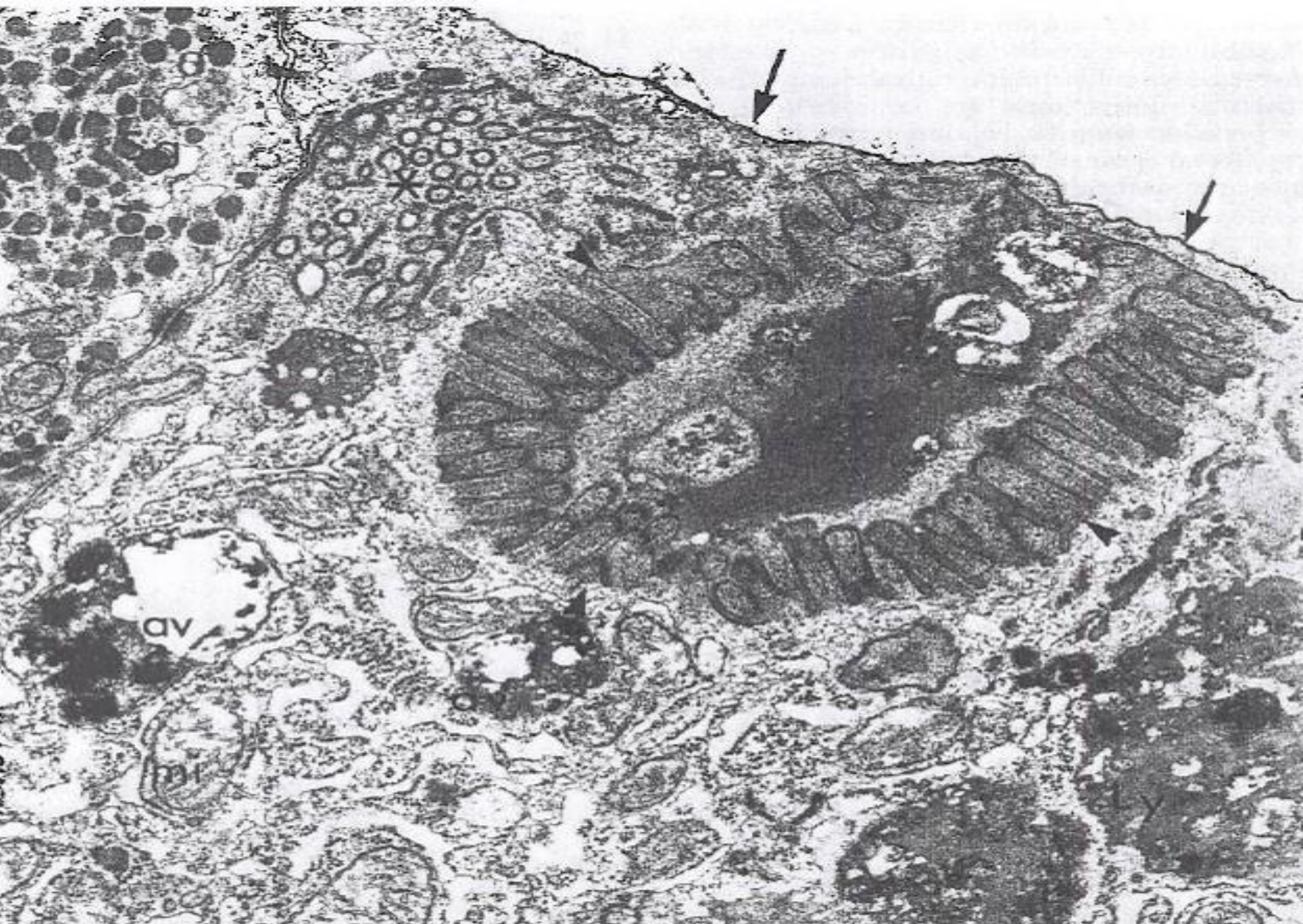
We have studied 5 infants with persistent severe diarrhea from birth and marked abnormalities of absorption associated with failure to thrive leading to death in 4 infants. Three had siblings who died and a sibling of a 4th is ill at present, all with a similar illness; 2 were the products of consanguineous marriages. Exhaustive investigation failed to identify a recognized disease entity in any patient. Steatorrhea, sugar malabsorption, dehydration, and acidosis were severe in all patients, whatever the diet fed. Total parenteral nutrition was used, but excessive stool water and electrolyte losses persisted even when nothing was fed by mouth. There was no evidence of a hematological or consistent immunological defect in any infant and no abnormalities of intestinal hormones were noted. In the duodenal mucosa of all infants we saw similar abnormalities characterized by villus atrophy, crypt hypoplasia without an increase in mitoses or inflammatory cell infiltrate in the lamina propria and in villus enterocytes absence of a brush border, increase in lysosome-like inclusions, and autophagocytosis. In 3 infants studied by marker perfusion of the proximal jejunum we found abnormal glucose absorption and a blunted response of Na⁺ absorption to actively transported nonelectrolytes; in 2 there was net secretion of Na⁺ and H₂O in the basal state. Our patients evidently suffered from a congenital enteropathy which caused profound defects in their capacity to assimilate nutrients. The similar structural lesion seen in the small intestinal epithelium of all of our cases undoubtedly contributed to their compromised intestinal function, but the pathogenesis of this disorder, if indeed it is a single disease, remains obscure.

History

- **5 infants with persistent severe diarrhea and failure to thrive**
- **3 had siblings who died and 1 with a severely ill sibling**
- **2 were products of consanguineous marriages**
- **No recognizable disease entity even after exhaustive investigation**



Davidson GP et al. Gastroenterology 1978; 75:783-90.



Davidson GP et al. Gastroenterology 1978;75:783-90.

MICROVILLUS INCLUSION DISEASE

646

THE NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE

March 9, 1989

MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE



MICROVILLUS INCLUSION DISEASE: AN INHERITED DEFECT OF BRUSH-BORDER ASSEMBLY AND DIFFERENTIATION

ERNEST CUTZ, M.D., J. MARC RHOADS, M.D.,
BRENDAN DRUMM, M.B., B.CH.,
PHILIP M. SHERMAN, M.D.,
PETER R. DURIE, M.D.,
AND GORDON G. FORSTNER, M.D.

transport, leading to aberrant assembly of the components of the enterocyte surface membrane.

METHODS

Patients

The general clinical features of our nine patients with microvillus inclusion disease are summarized in Table 1. Patients 1, 2, and 3 were from our original group of five infants with familial enteropathy described in 1978.¹ The disease was diagnosed retrospectively in Patients 2 and 3 after a review of jejunal biopsy material preserved for electron microscopy demonstrated typical intracytoplasmic brush-border inclusions in surface enterocytes.^{1,2} The disease in the other six patients was diagnosed and treated at our institution after 1980. Five of the nine patients were girls, and four were boys. Eight were born after at least 36 weeks of gestation. One patient had a low birth weight (Patient 9), and one (Patient 6) was moderately premature. In all cases, pregnancy and delivery were uneventful. Hydramnios was not observed in any of our patients, in contrast to congenital chloride diarrhea and diarrhea due to deficient sodium-hydrogen exchange, both of which are invariably associated with hydramnios.^{5,6} Three sets of siblings were represented among the patients. Patients 2 and 3 were siblings, as were Patients 4 and 5. Patient 1 had an older brother who died at four months of age with a

- Nine cases were studied
- An autosomal recessive pattern of inheritance was suspected
- They speculated that the cause was an inborn error of intracellular transport
- 8 of 9 died by age 18 months

GENETICS

- In 1999 Pohl et al. described 5 unrelated cases of MVID among the Navajo people and suggested a founder effect
- Erickson et al. in 2008, identified a shared homozygous mutation in MYO5B
- Muller et al. reported similar findings in Turkish families in 2008
- Earlier studies by Caruthers et al. using protein electrophoresis implicated myosin

DIAGNOSTIC TOOLS: HISTORY

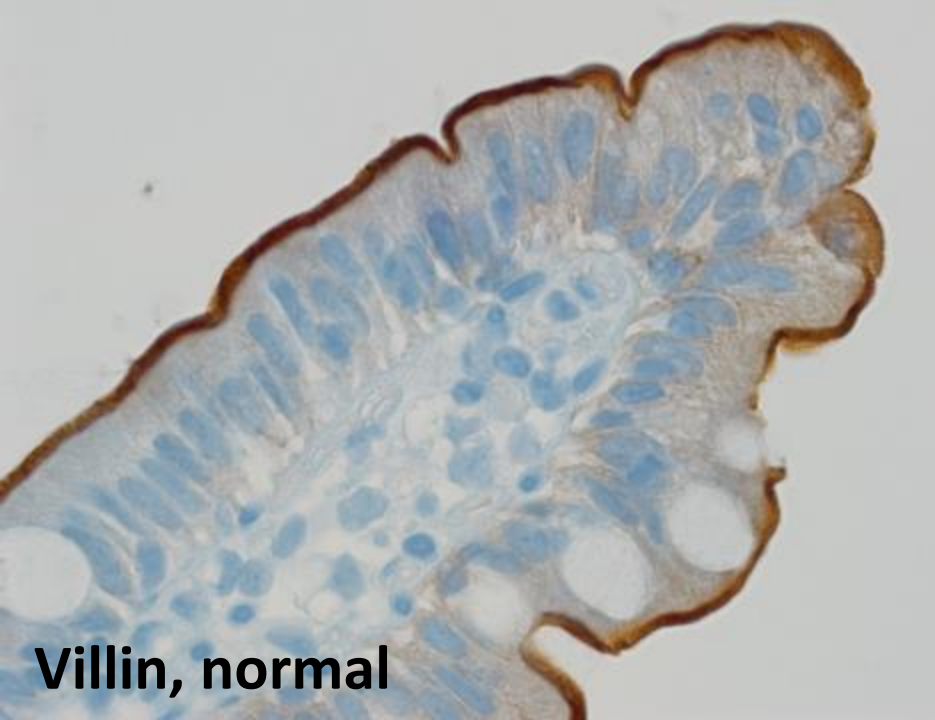
- **Light and electron microscopy, Davidson et al., 1978**
- **PAS, Schmitz et al., 1982**
- **Alkaline phosphatase histochemistry, Lake, 1988**
- **Polyclonal CEA IHC, Groisman et al., 1993**
- **CD10 IHC, Groisman et al., 2002**
- **Rab 11 IHC, Talmon et al., 2012**
- **We decided to try a new marker, villin immunohistochemistry, as an adjunct in the diagnosis of MVID**

Materials

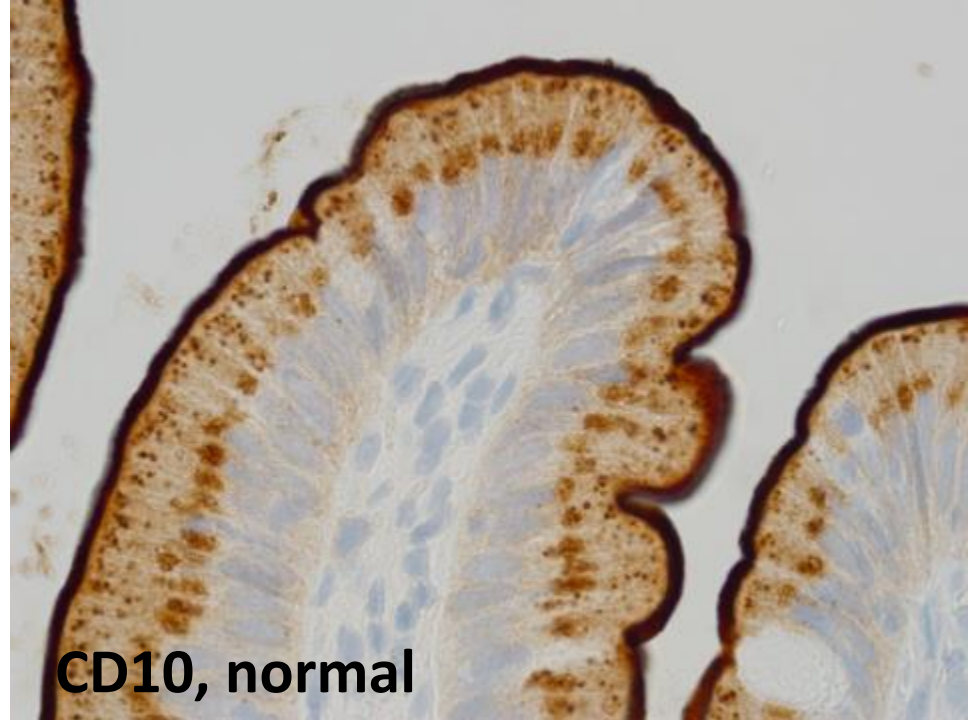
- **6 patients with a diagnosis of MVID since 1993**
 - ✓ 7 duodenal
 - ✓ 5 gastric
 - ✓ 4 colonic
 - ✓ 1 terminal ileum

- **5 patients with a diagnosis of celiac disease**
 - ✓ All duodenal biopsies

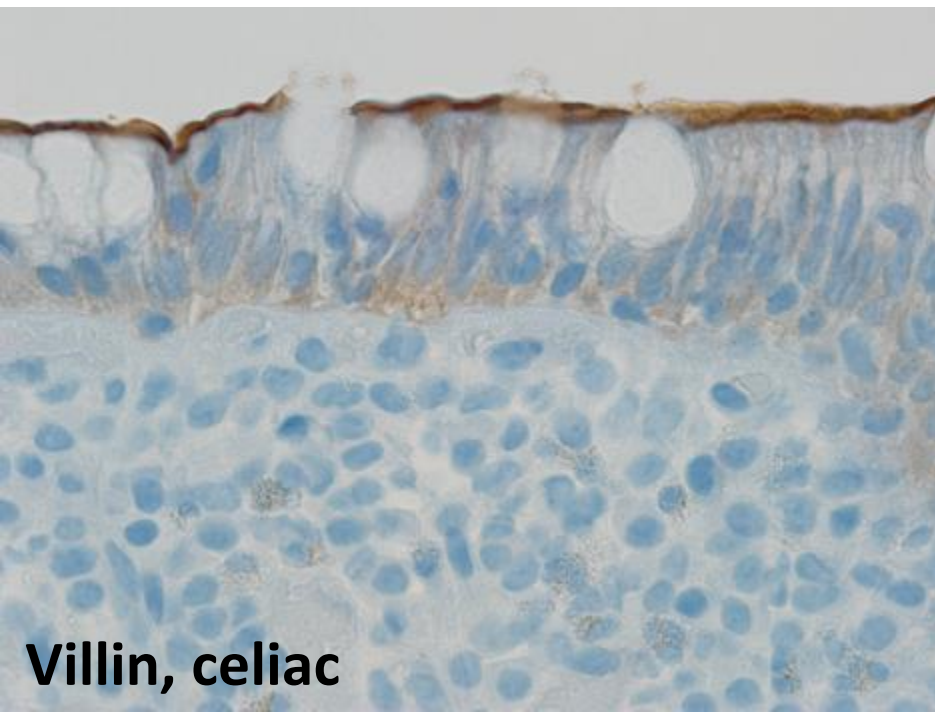
- **16 normal controls**
 - ✓ 16 duodenal
 - ✓ 6 gastric
 - ✓ 5 colonic
 - ✓ 5 terminal ileum



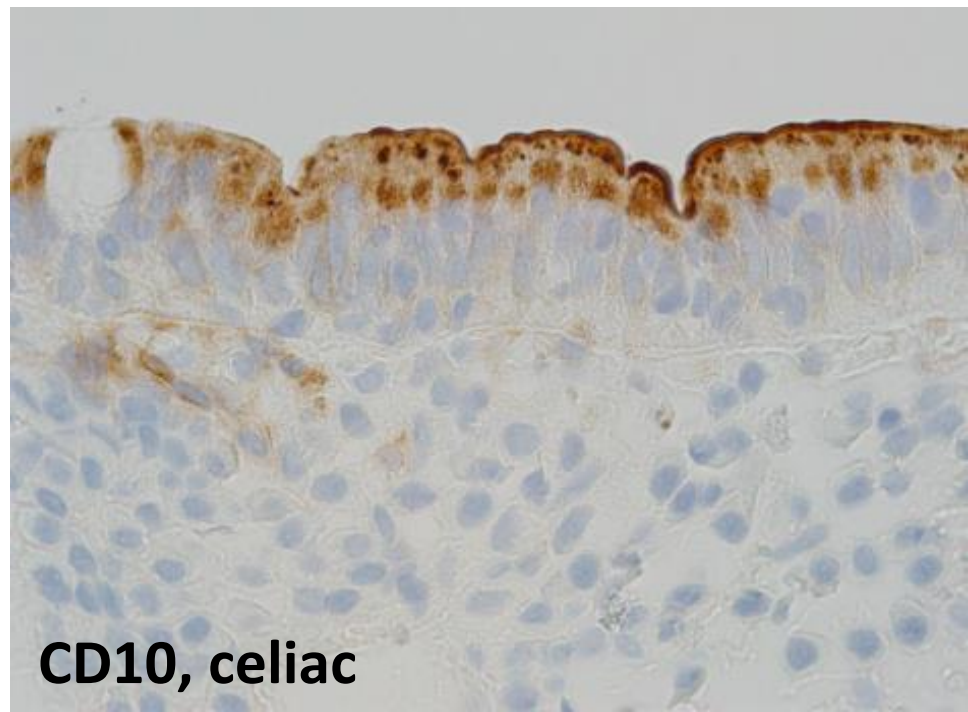
Villin, normal



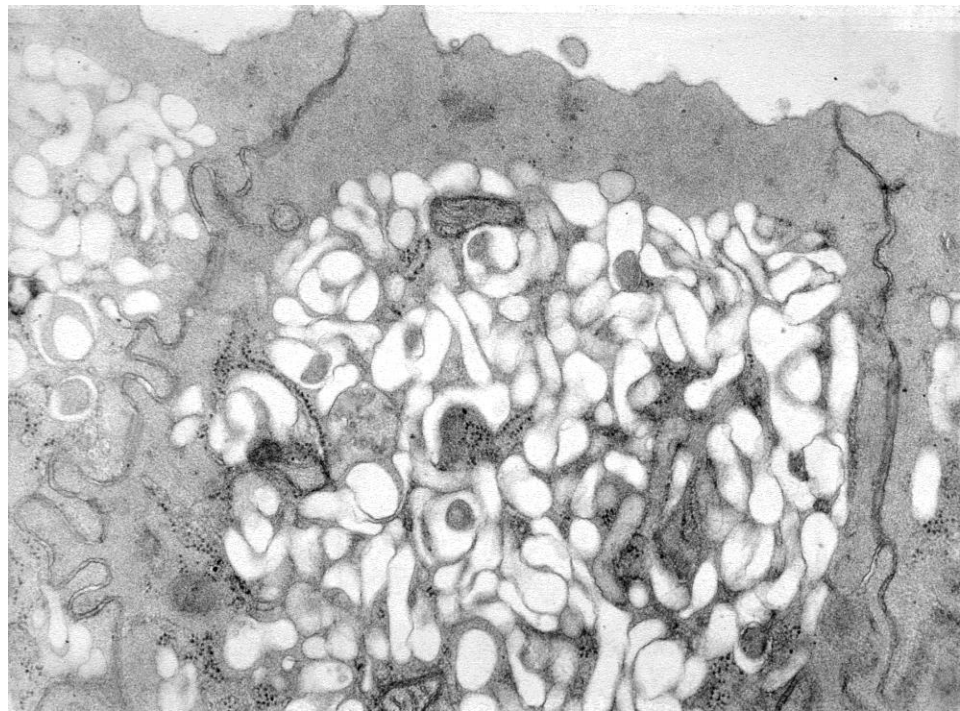
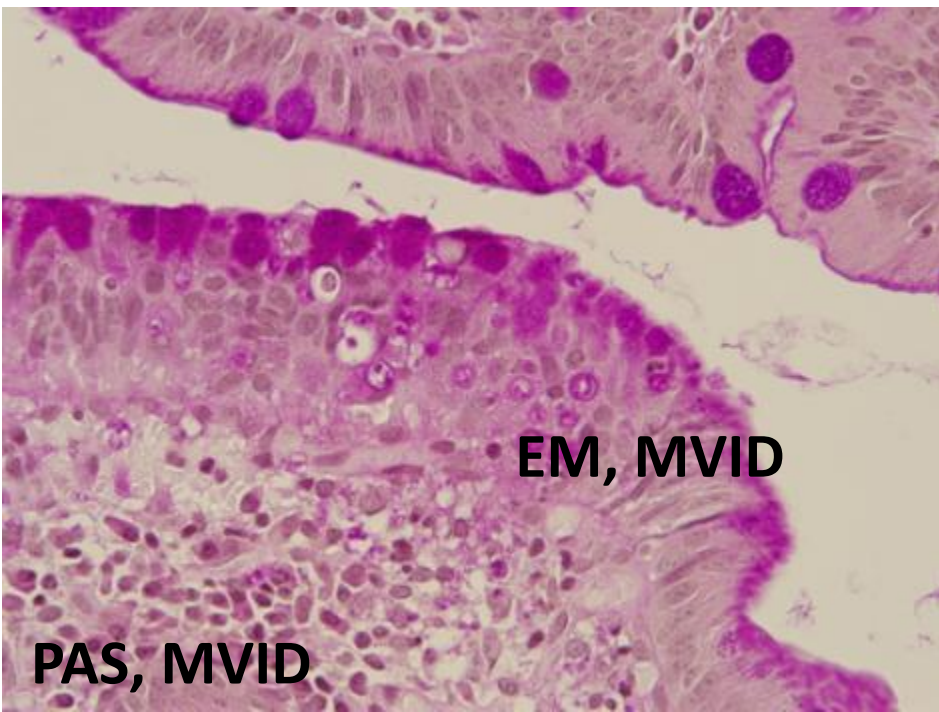
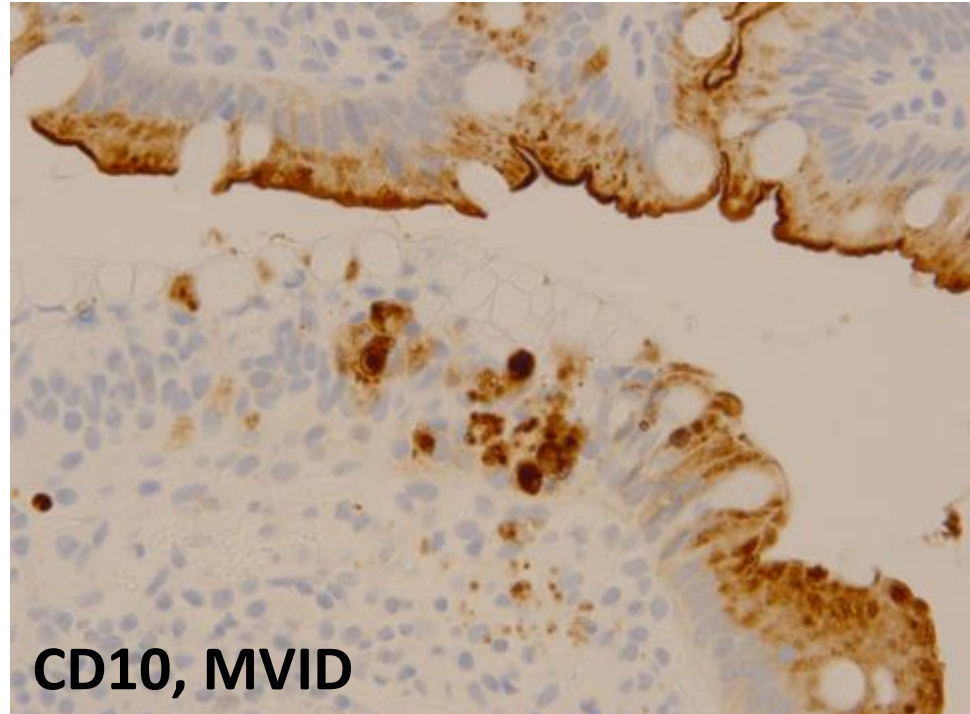
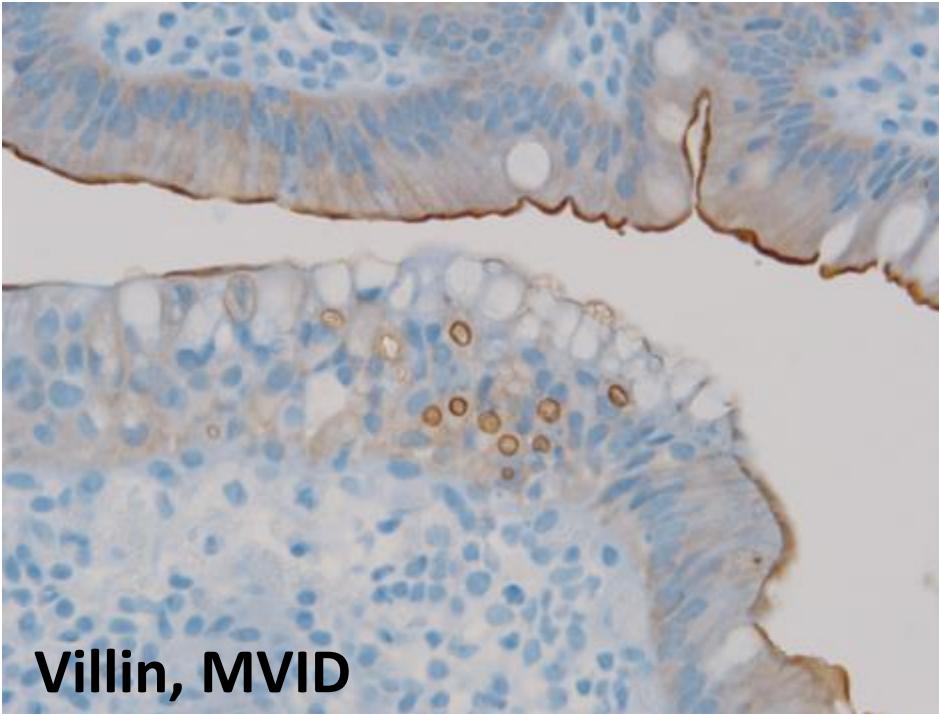
CD10, normal

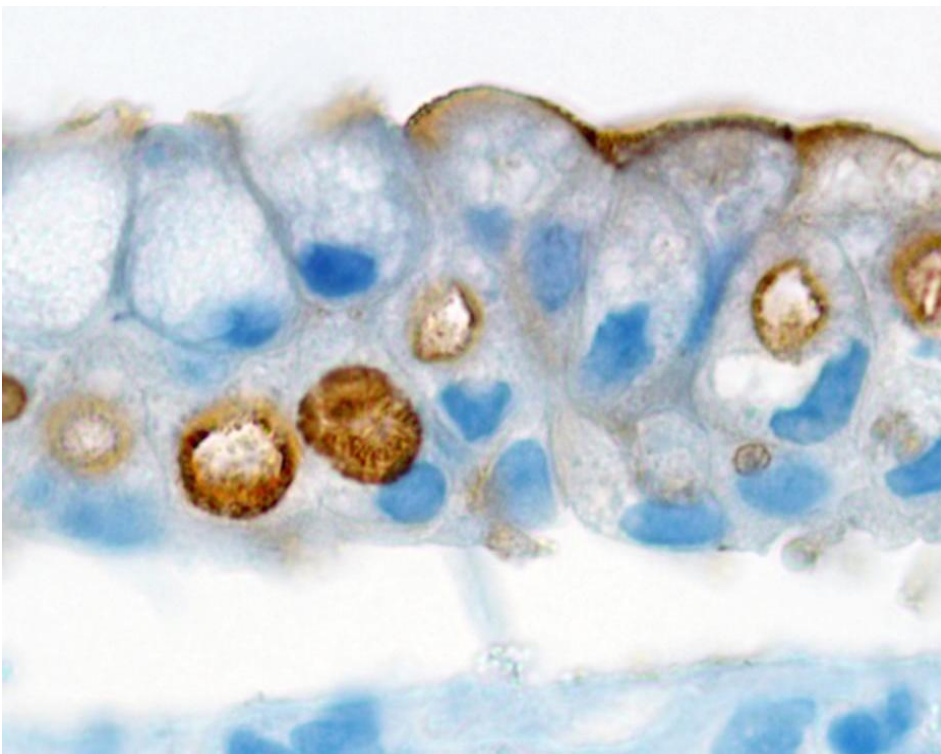


Villin, celiac

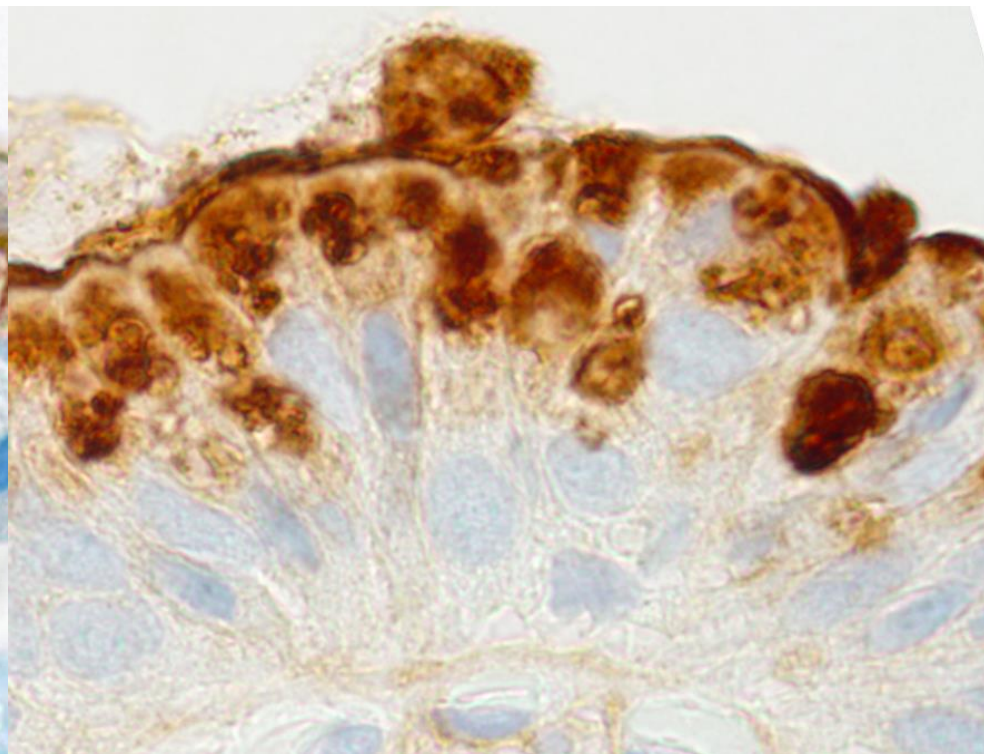


CD10, celiac

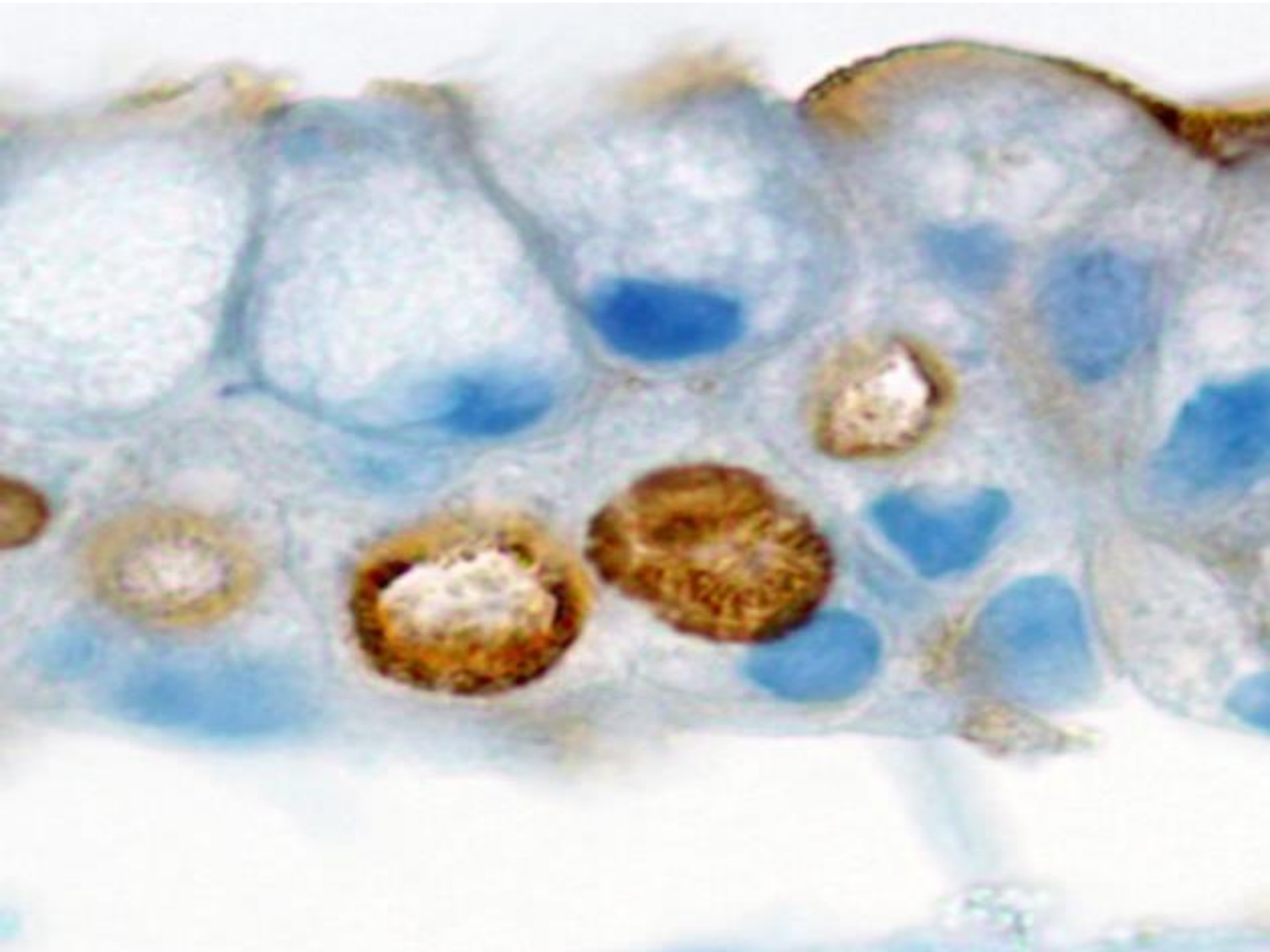




Villin, MVID



CD10, MVID



Villin Immunohistochemistry Is a Reliable Method for Diagnosing Microvillus Inclusion Disease

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Abstract: Microvillus inclusion disease (MVID) is a rare congenital disorder that manifests early in infancy as intractable watery diarrhea. The entity is characterized morphologically by a deficient brush border and apical cytoplasmic inclusions within absorptive cells (enterocytes) due to misplaced assembly of brush border proteins. The diagnosis is based upon histopathology, special stains, immunohistochemistry (IHC), and ultimately upon electron microscopy. Currently, the periodic acid-Schiff stain (PAS) and CD10 IHC are commonly used as adjuncts, but in addition to brush border structures, they stain a

Microvillus inclusion disease (MVID) is a rare autosomal recessive disorder characterized by profuse watery diarrhea beginning shortly after birth. The disease is progressive and fatal unless intestinal transplantation is performed. Intestinal biopsies show villous atrophy with variable absence of the brush border of enterocytes, increase in lysosome-like inclusions, and characteristic microvillus inclusions containing misplaced brush border structures. The extensive absence or misplacement of surface microvilli leads to the inability to absorb even the simplest of nutrients.^{1,2}



Differential diagnosis for enteroendocrine cell dysgenesis

Enteroendocrine Cell Dysgenesis	Microvillus Inclusion Disease
Normal villi	Severe villus atrophy
Intestinal endocrine cells markedly decreased or absent	Normal intestinal endocrine cells
Normal enterocyte cytoplasm	PASd positive apical cytoplasmic inclusions (microlumena)
Normal brush border	Loss of brush border
Markedly decreased or absent endocrine cells	Endocrine cells present

Both present with neonatal diarrhea and lack significant inflammation

Enteroendocrine Cell Dysgenesis	Tufting Enteropathy
Normal villi	Variable villus atrophy
No enterocyte disorder or tufting	Surface epithelial crowding and tufting at villus tips
Markedly decreased or absent endocrine cells	Endocrine cells present

Both present with neonatal diarrhea and lack significant inflammation

Enteroendocrine Cell Dysgenesis	Abetalipoproteinemia
Normal enterocyte cytoplasm	Foamy cytoplasm filled with fat vacuoles

Both present with neonatal diarrhea, essentially normal villus length and lack significant inflammation

Enteroendocrine Cell Dysgenesis	Autoimmune Polyglandular Syndrome Type 1
Congenital onset	Childhood or older onset
Unremitting diarrhea following feeding	Transient diarrhea
No associated abnormalities	Multiple endocrine organ failure, ectodermal dystrophy

Both have essentially normal histology, without villus atrophy and decreased endocrine cells may be seen in both

Enteroendocrine Cell Dysgenesis	Autoimmune Enteropathy
Normal villi	Partial to complete villus atrophy
No inflammation	Increased lamina propria and intraepithelial lymphocytes
Normal goblet cells	Goblet cells may be lost
Congenital	May present after neonatal period
Responds to total parenteral nutrition	Does not respond to parenteral feeding

Endocrine cells may be depleted in autoimmune enteropathy

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THANK YOU!