



UNUSUAL METASTASIS SITE FOR DERMAL MELANOMATOSIS IN A LIPIZZANER MARE



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Introduction: Equine melanocytic tumours are reported to have 15-20% prevalence, approximately 66% being likely to acquire malignant behaviour. Lipizzaner horses develop melanomas with a 50% incidence.

Materials and Methods: A 20-year-old Lipizzaner mare (BCS 2 out of 9) with dermal melanomatosis and difficulties in defecation was euthanised and submitted to post-mortem examination.

Results: The mare showed a 22 x 32 x 10 cm plaque-like grey circular mass involving perianal, perineal, vulvar regions with confluent nodular masses and ulcerations. Metastases were noted at the ventral part of the tail, in the mammary gland region, left atrium and anorectal.

Histologically, the primary tumour was a deep dermal pseudo-encapsulated, slightly pigmented mass with pleomorphic melanocytes and melanophages. The mammary gland showed focal lesions with highly-pigmented epithelioid cells in papillary dermis, fibrous stroma and mammary lobules; junctional dermal-epidermal activity was present. The nodular cardiac mass was pseudo-encapsulated in the myocardium with melanophages containing abundant amounts of melanin pigment.

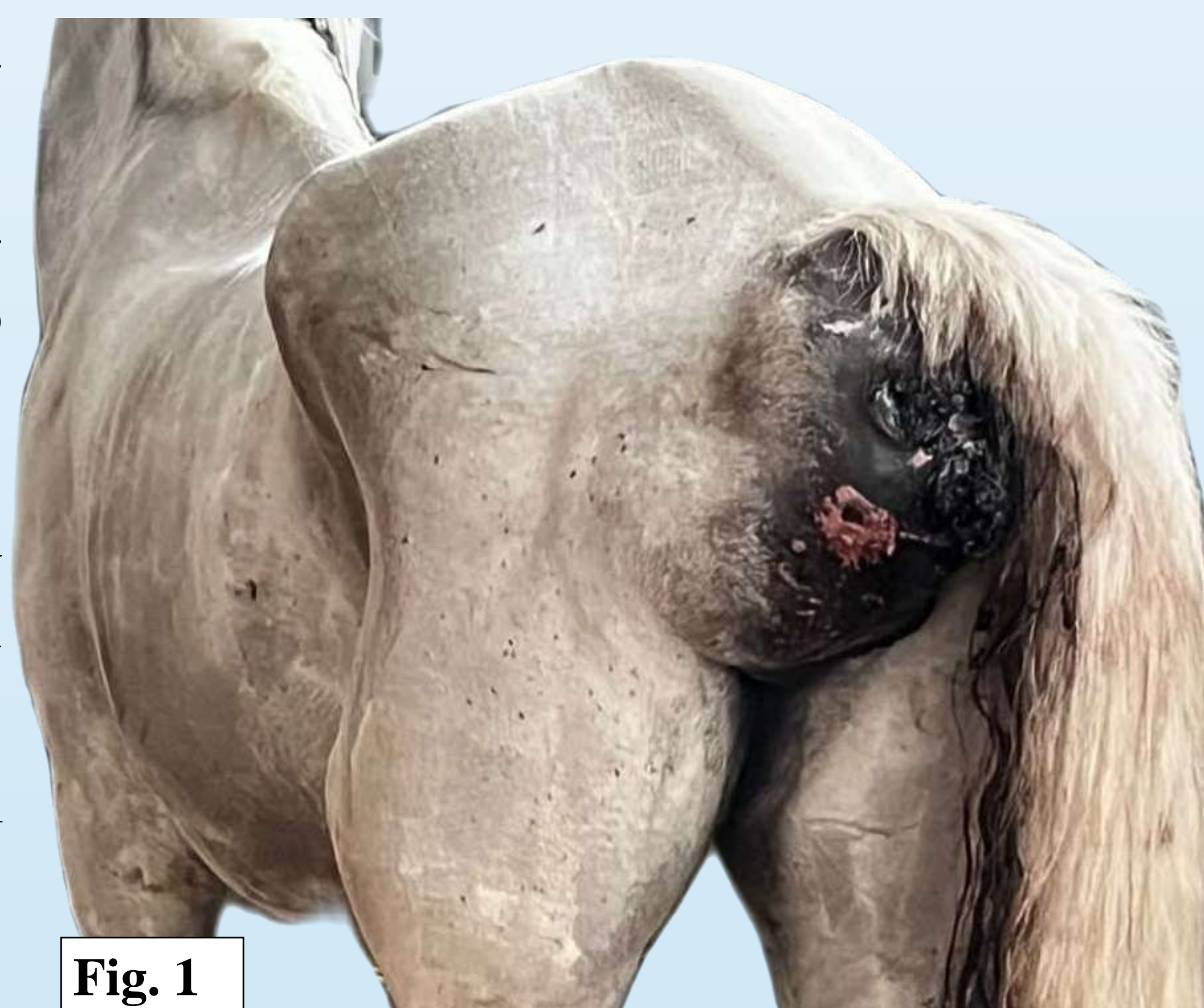


Fig. 1

Fig. 1 – Perianal, perineal and vulvar plaque-like confluent mass – ante-mortem

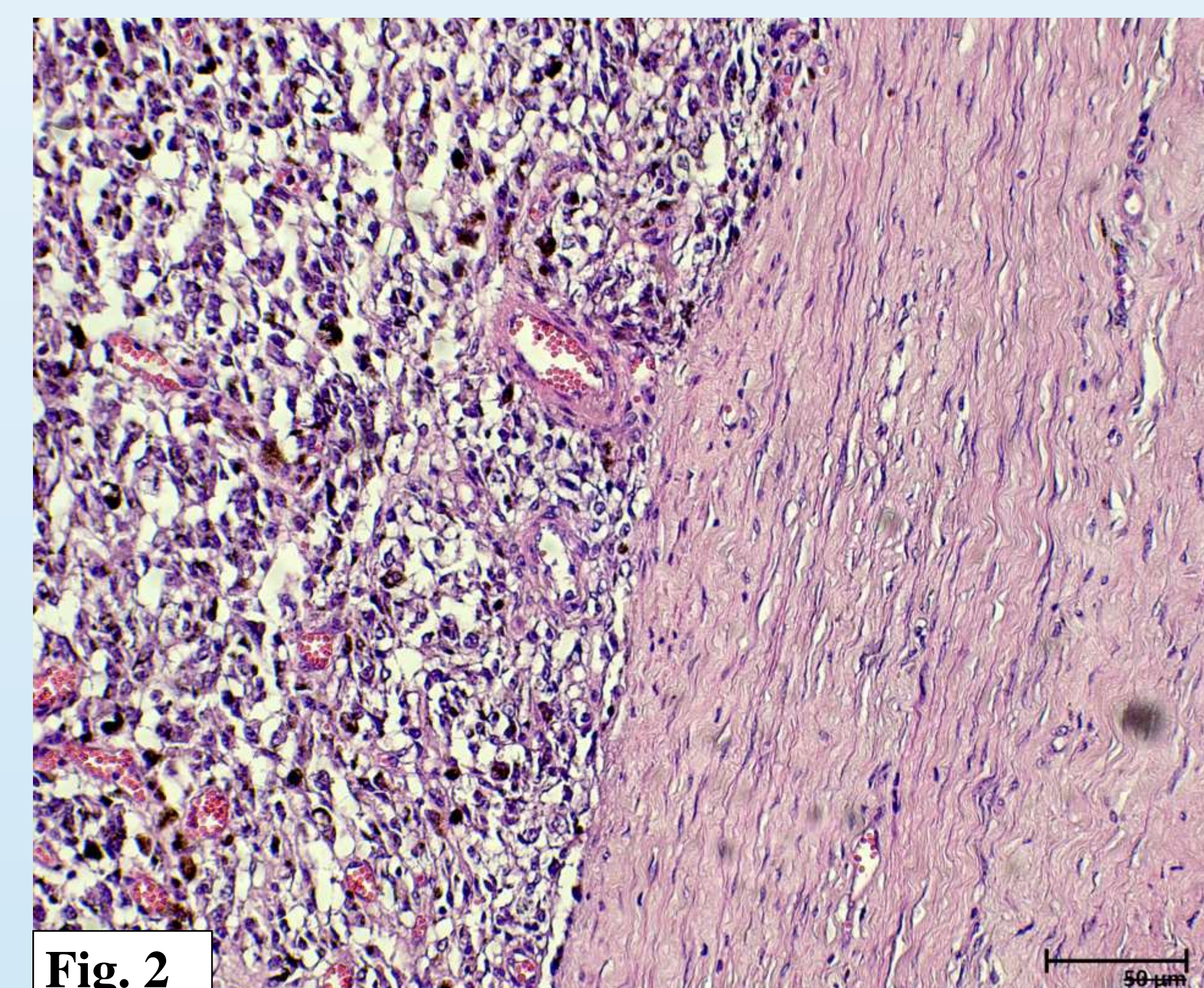


Fig. 2

Fig. 2 – Histopathological aspects of primary tumor: pseudo-encapsulated mass with pleomorphic melanocytes and melanophages; H&E, x200

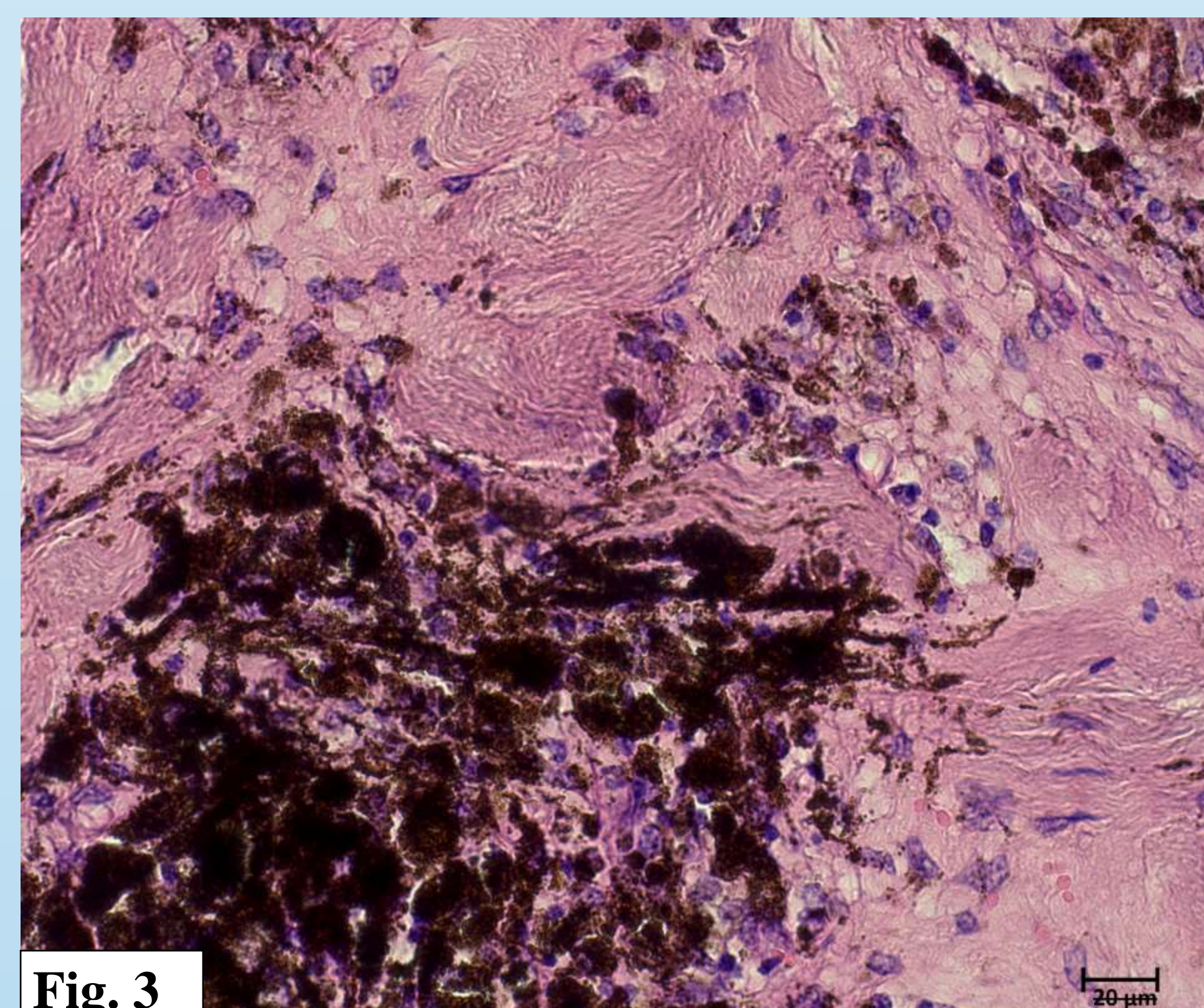


Fig. 3

Fig. 3 – Histopathological aspects of ventral tail metastasis: fibrous stroma with pigmented melanocytes and melanophages; H&E, x400

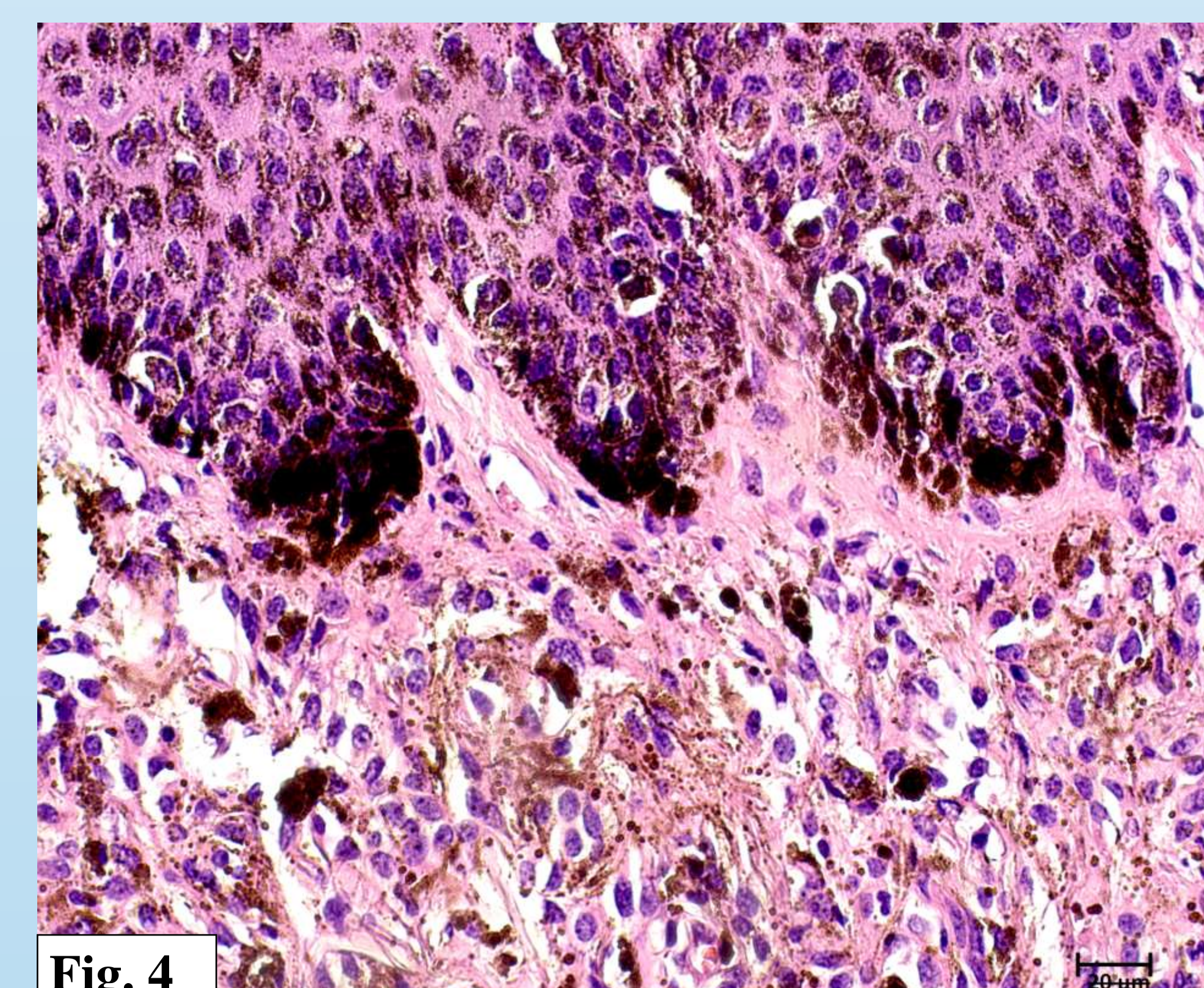


Fig. 4

Fig. 4 – Histopathological aspects of mammary gland metastasis: junctional dermal-epidermal activity was present; H&E, x400

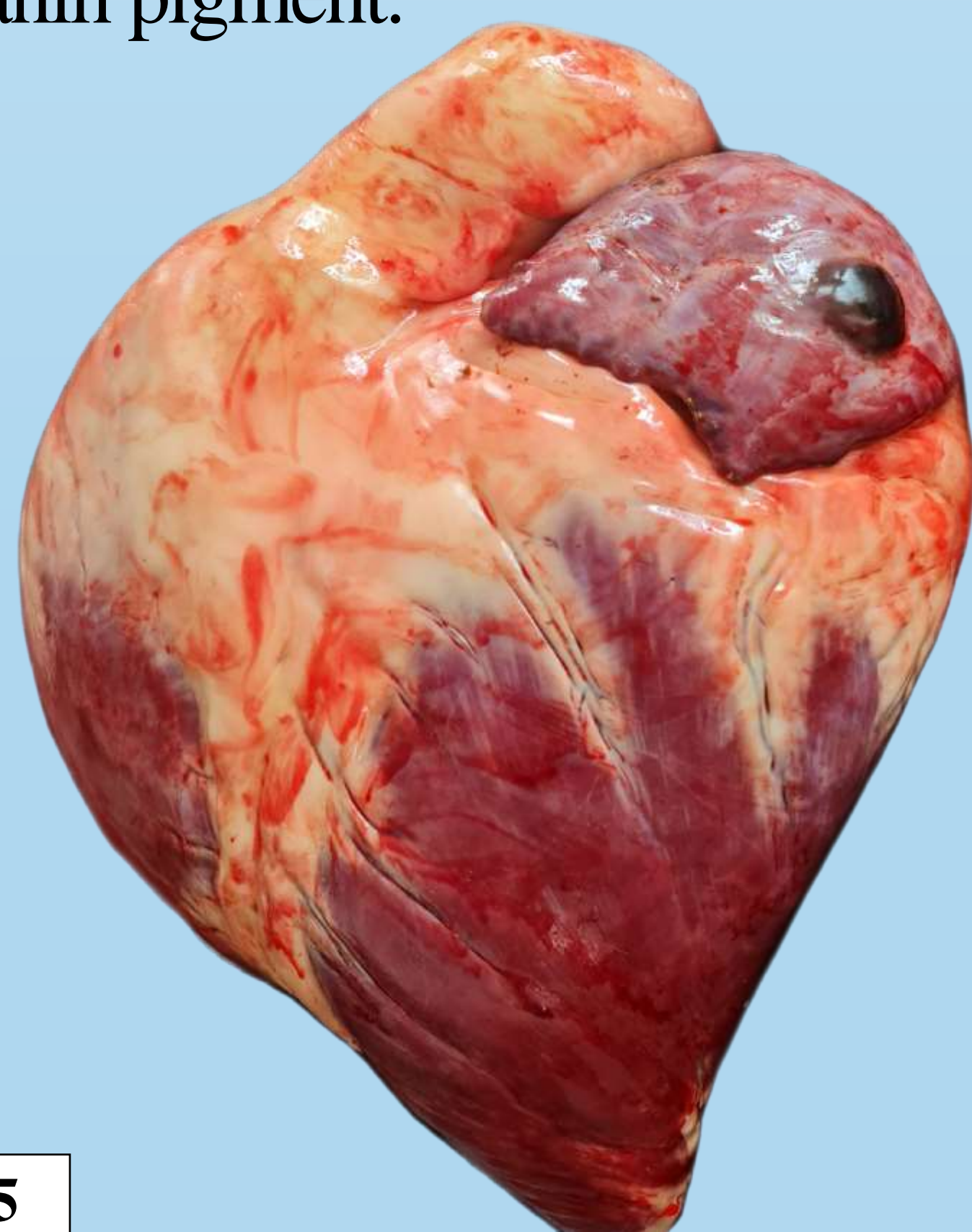


Fig. 5

Fig. 5 – Gross aspect of left atrium pigmented nodule (2 cm diameter)

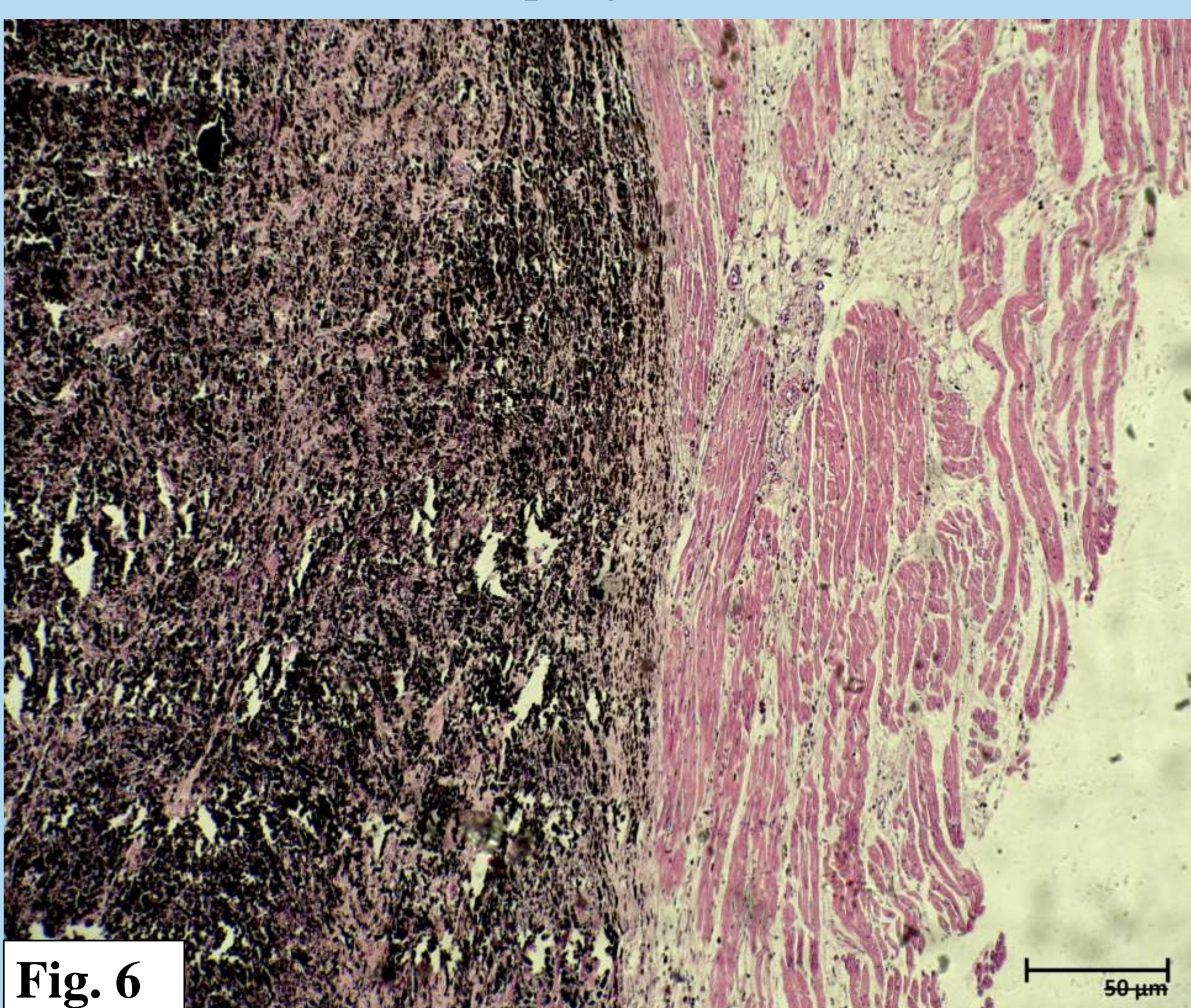


Fig. 6

Fig. 6 – Histopathological aspect of atrial metastasis: pseudo-encapsulated highly-pigmented mass; H&E, x50

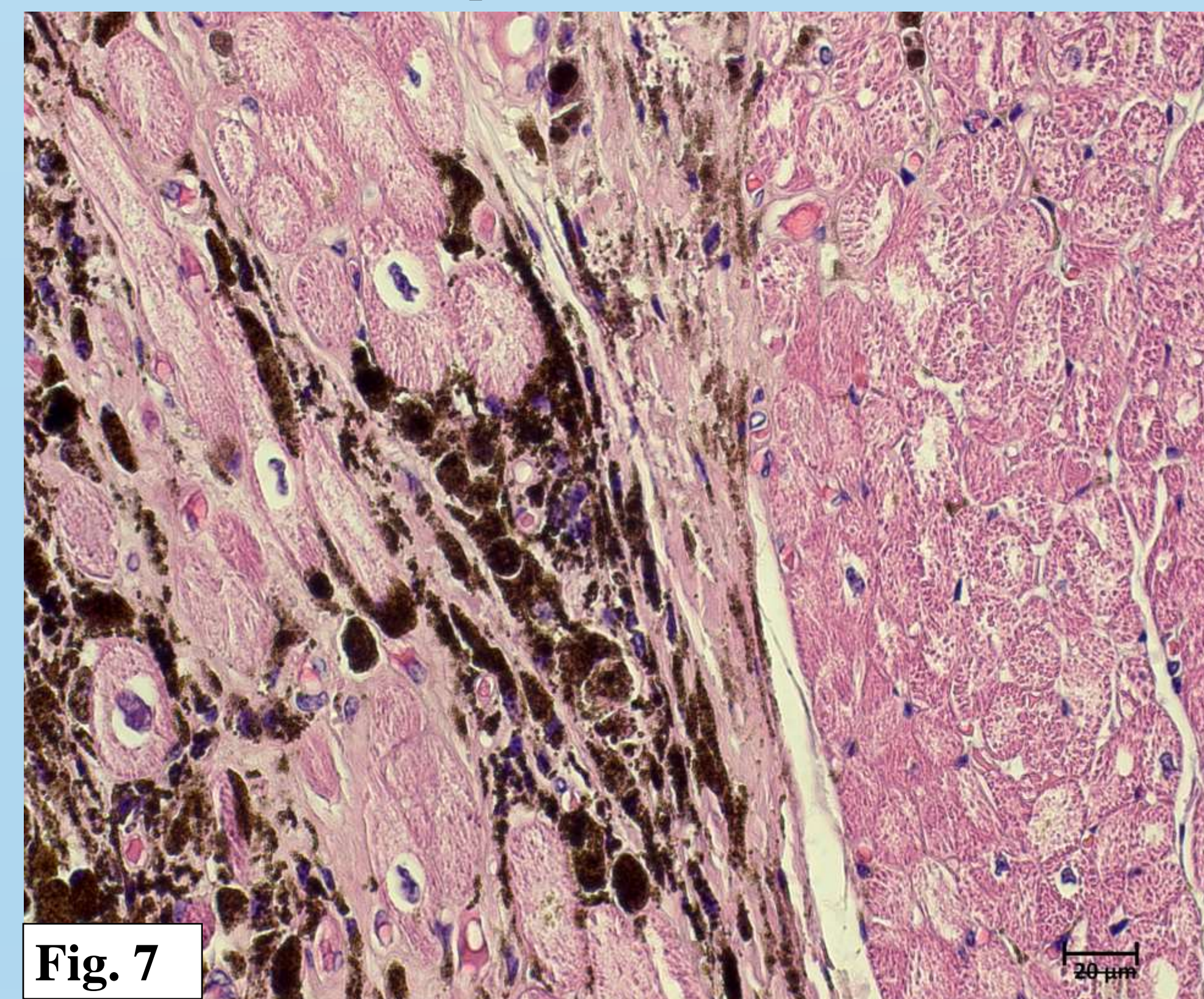


Fig. 7

Fig. 7 – Histopathological aspect of atrial metastasis: tumor cells infiltrating the myocardium; H&E, x400

Conclusions: In this case, typical internal metastases (lungs, liver, spleen) were not encountered, apart from the **nodule in left atrium** that was confirmed as distant melanoma. This has previously been described as a less common metastatic site (29%) in equine dermal melanomatosis.

References:

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