INTRAABDOMINAL SOFT TISSUE SARCOMA IN AN ELDERLY CALIFORNIA SEA LION FROM A ZOO

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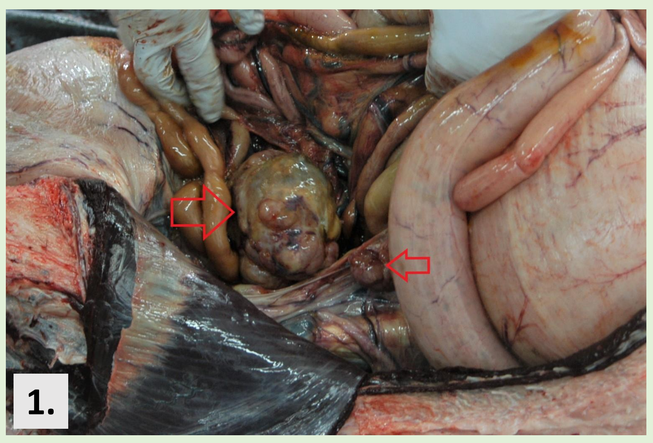
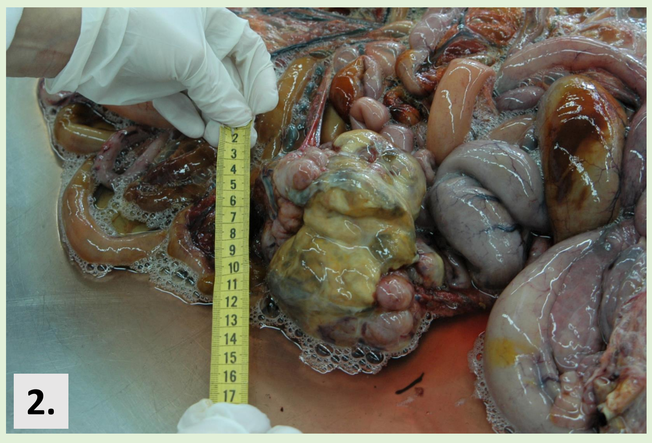
Introduction: Neoplastic diseases in free-living sea lions are frequent, however, tumours associated with high age in ZOO-kept sea lions are uncommon. This report presents one such case.

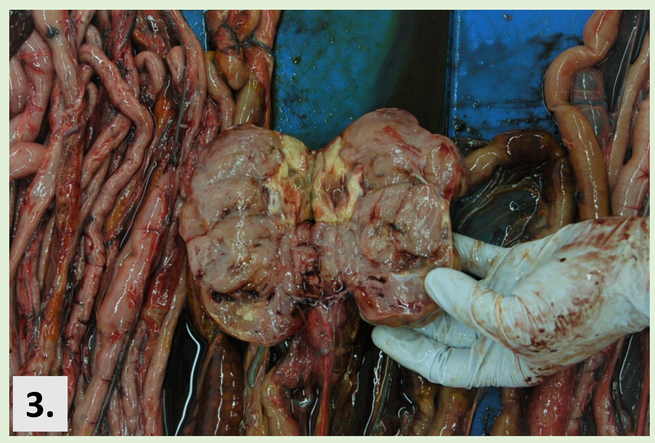
Material and methods: A routine necropsy was performed on a 27-year-old, male, California sea lion (*Zalophus californianus*) submitted from Zagreb ZOO.

Results:

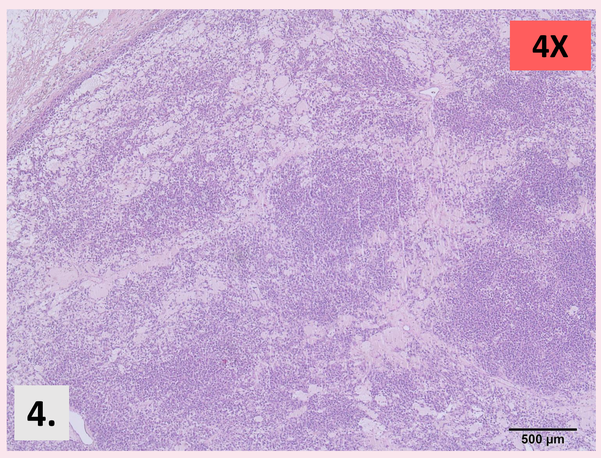
Gross findings: Necropsy revealed two multilobulated, round, pink to grey, soft elastic, 13 and 3cm in diameter intraabdominal masses that were attached to the jejunal mesentery (figures 1.-3.). The animal died due to causes unrelated to the tumour (chronic heart failure).

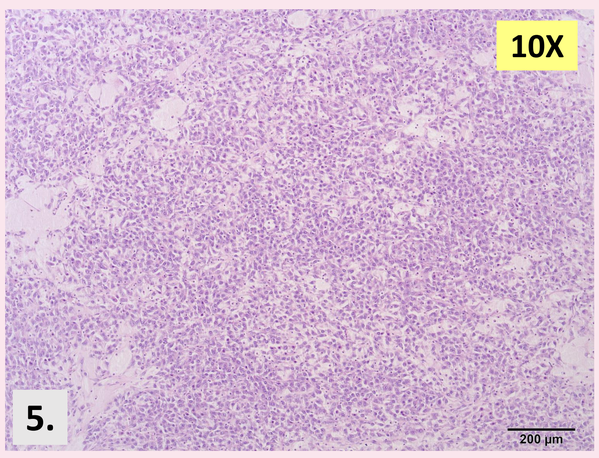


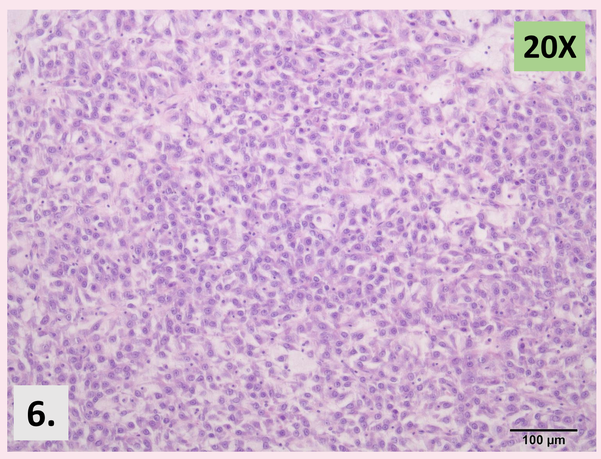


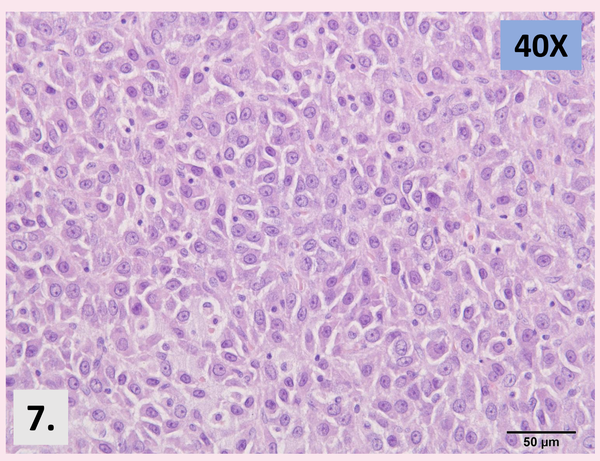


Microscopic findings: A moderately cellular mass supported with scant stroma often containing watery extracellular matrix or protein, and composed of poorly defined streams and bundles of mostly plumpy, but also elongated and oval-shaped, medium-sized cells. Large areas of the tumour were necrotic or haemorrhagic, mitoses were moderately frequent (figures 4.-7.).

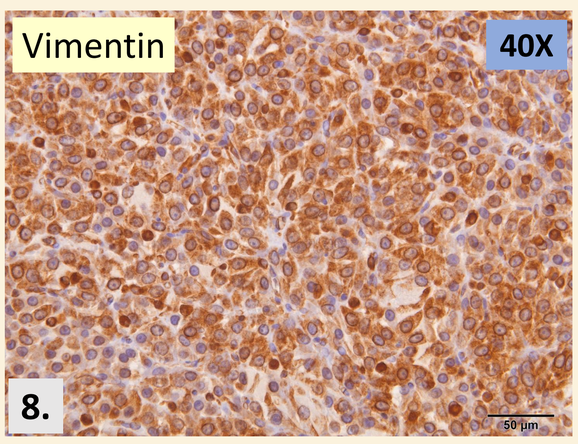


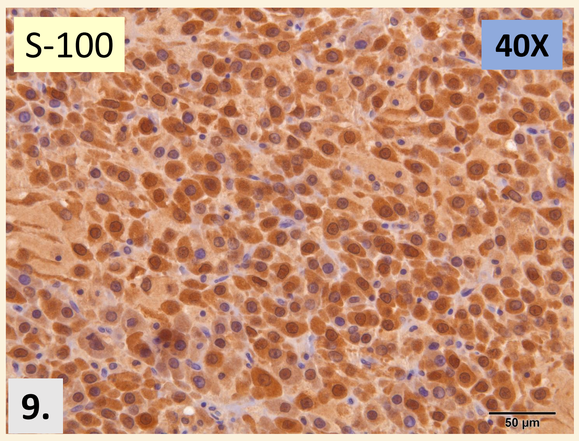


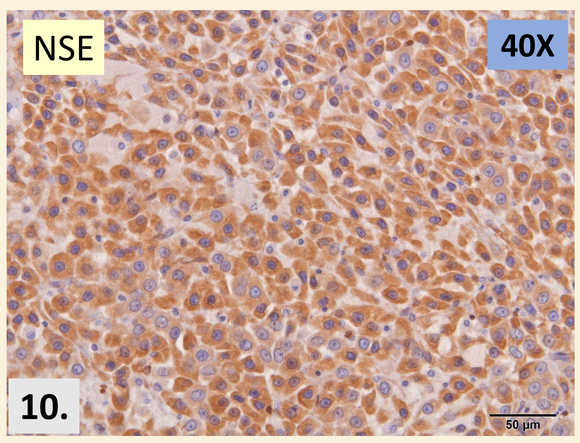




Histochemical and immunohistochemical findings: Periodic acid-Shiff, pancytokeratin, smooth muscle actin, and glial fibrillary acidic protein were negative, while vimentin (fig. 8.), S-100 protein (fig. 9.), and neuron specific enolase (NSE, fig. 10.) were positive.







Conclusion: Based on the results the diagnosis of soft tissue sarcoma was made. The morphology of the cells and findings of the IHC-markers used favour the diagnosis of schwannoma.