

My Approach To Placentas

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With thanks To Dr Rosemary Scott, UCH

Context

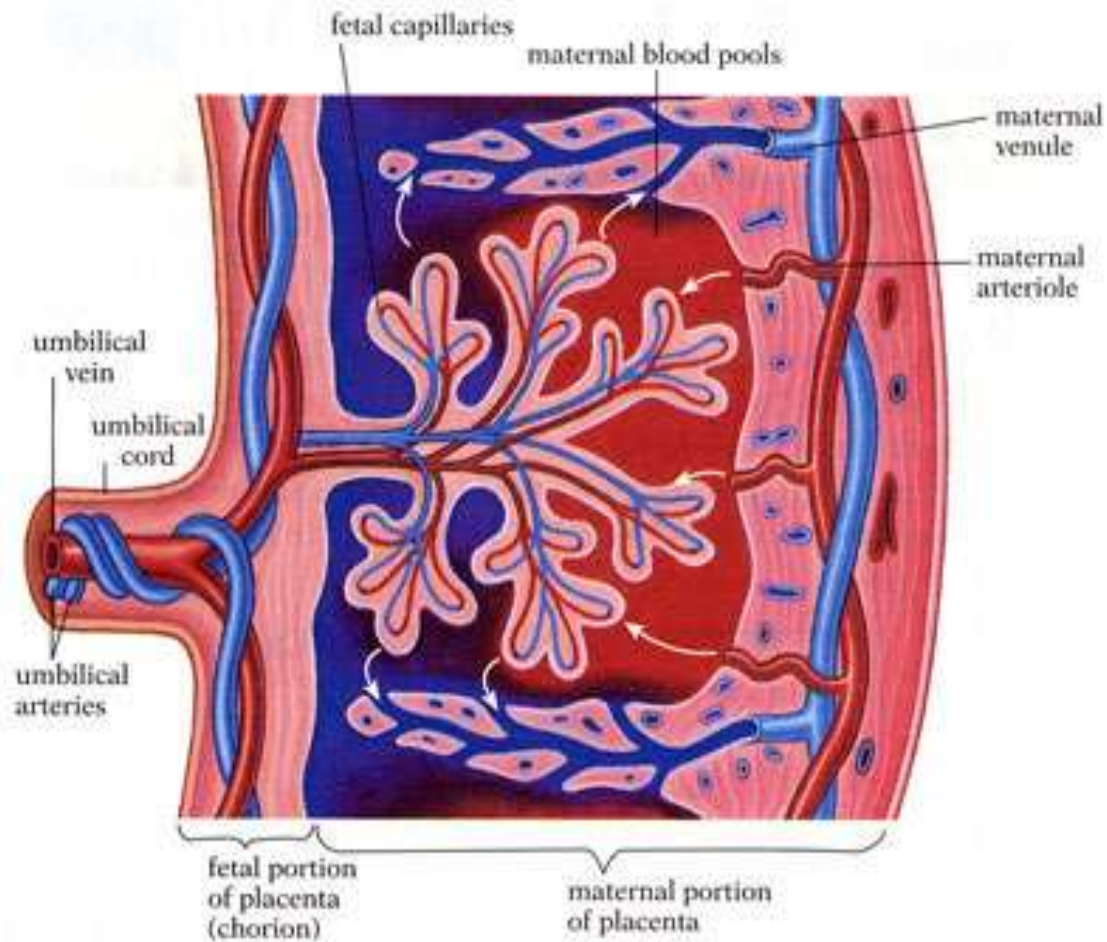
- Clinical info
 - Gestation
 - Birth weight
 - Circumstances and mode of delivery
 - SVD/LSCS
 - Fetal issues
 - Maternal disorder
 - Obstetric History



CONTEXT

Without it, some things just look wrong.

Placental cross-section



Macro

- Umbilical cord
 - Markers (twins)
 - Insertion + distance from margin
 - Vessels
 - Knots



H11_00142

Macro

- Fetal membranes/surface
 - Colour
 - Opacity
 - Lesions
 - Sampling

- Maternal surface
 - Retroplacental clot
 - Completeness

Macro

- Untrimmed/trimmed weight
- Cut surface
 - Lesions
 - Number
 - Size
 - Appearance

Twins

- Weights – if dichorionic, of each disc
- Dividing membranes
- Cord insertions, distance between cords
- Guestimate vascluar territory sizes
- If monochorionic
 - Anastomosis
 - Ablation sites



Photographs!

- Often more info than descriptions!

Sampling

- Cord
- Membranes (if twins, dividing + free membranes)
- Disc – lesions + background x 3
 - Include fetal and maternal surface
- TS/en face block of maternal surface of little value

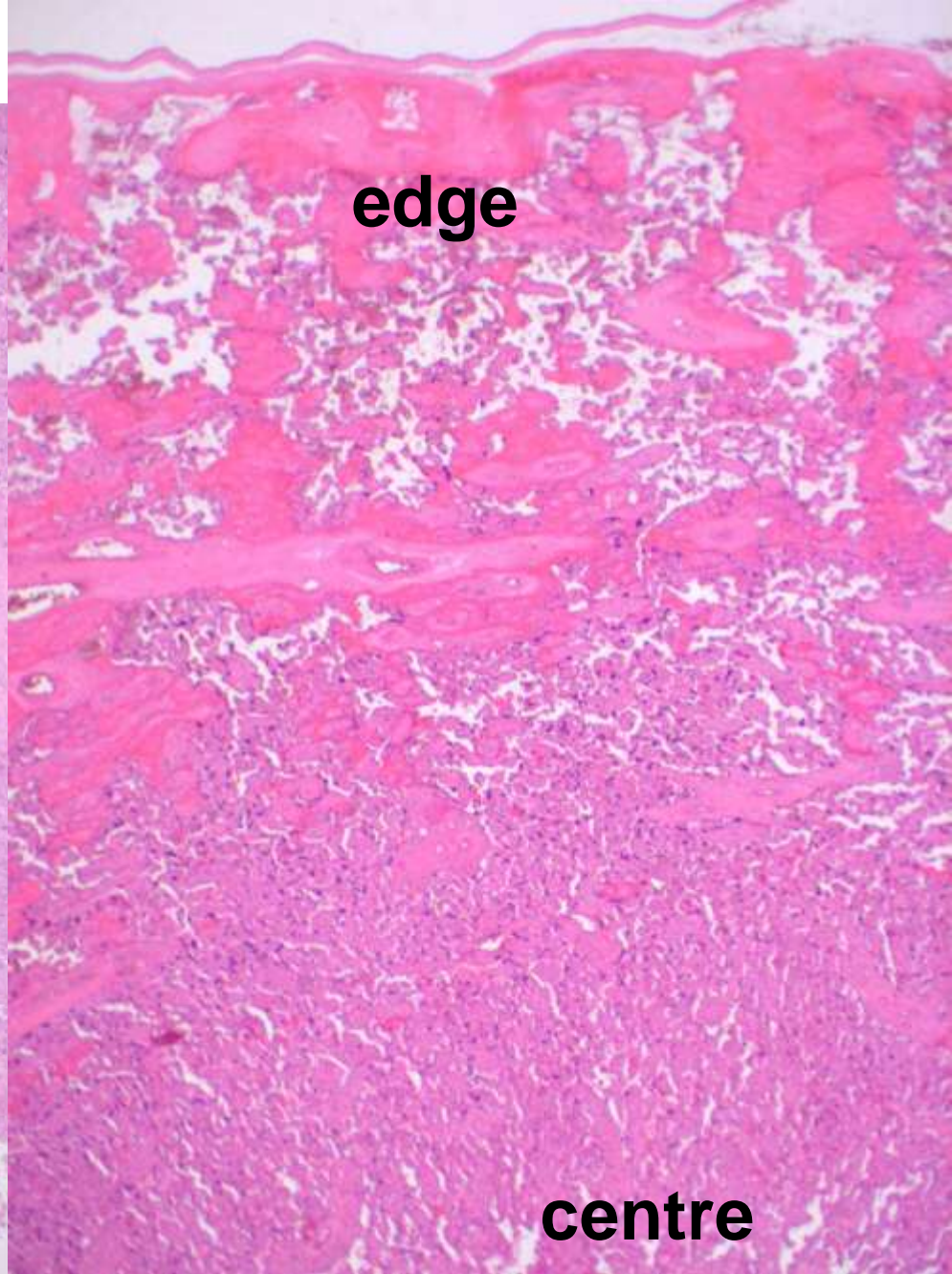
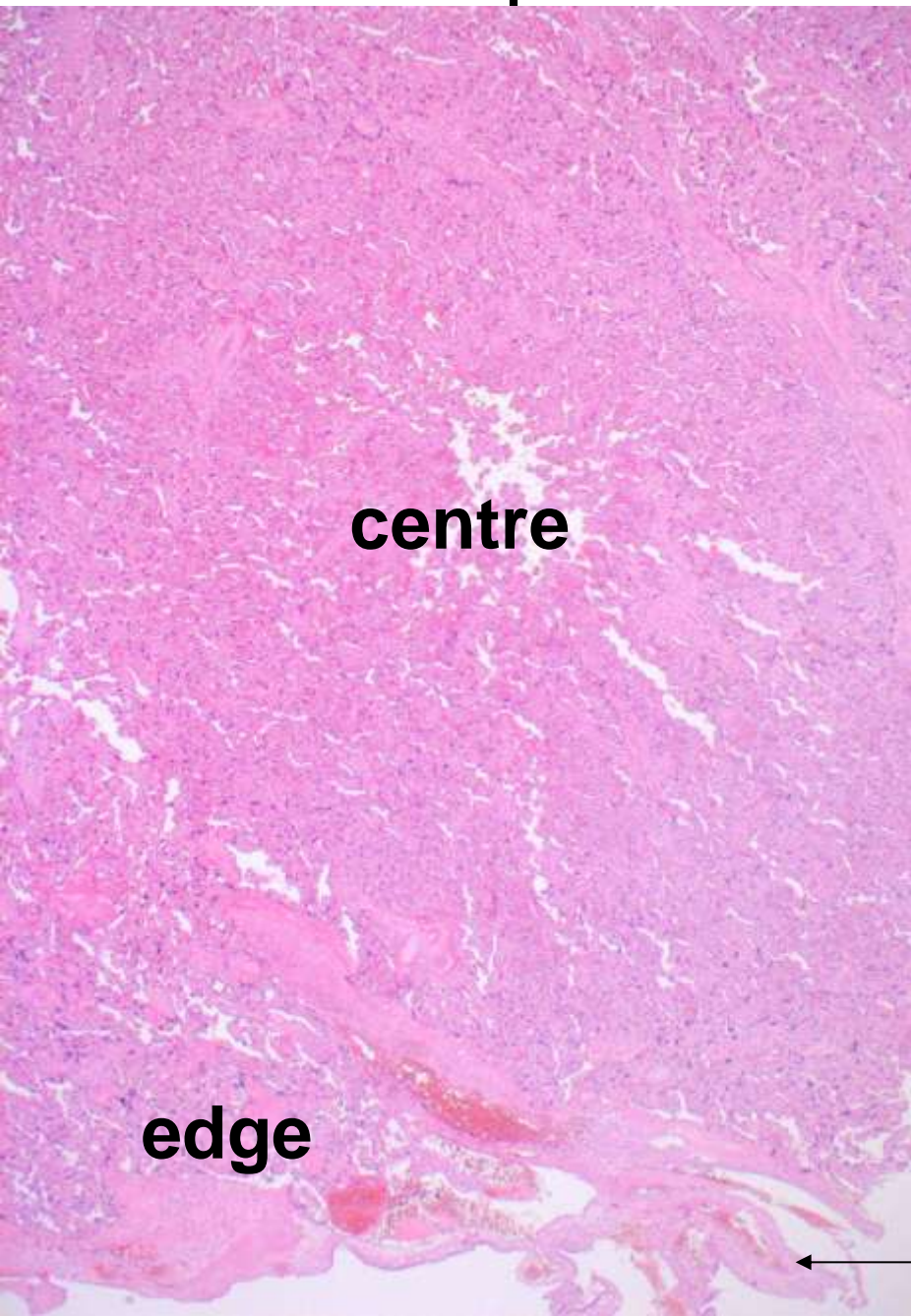
Micro

- Cord + membranes
 - Inflammation
 - Organisms
 - Amnion nodosum

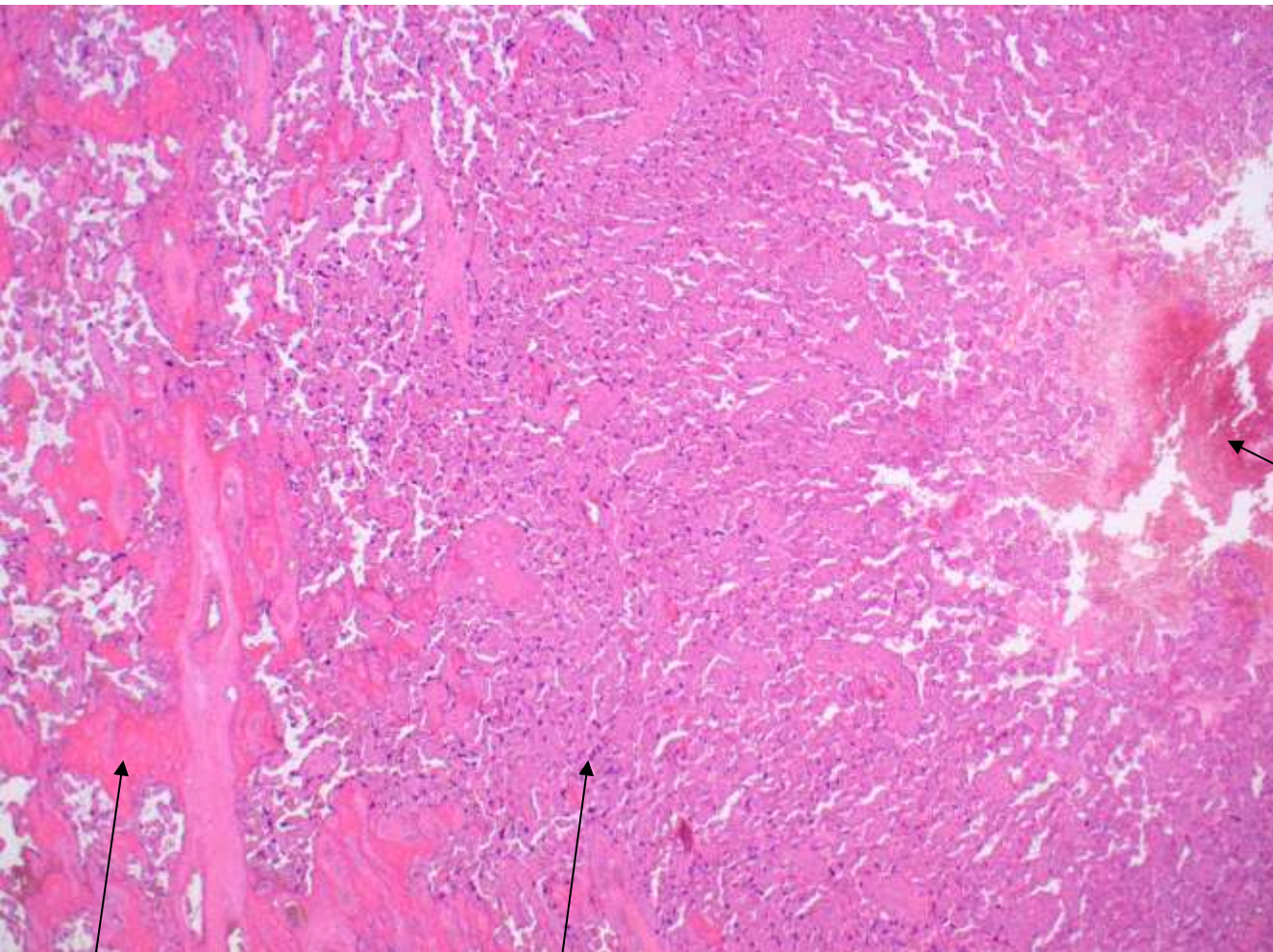
Micro

- Chorionic villi
 - Maturity – appropriate for age?
 - Architecture
 - Other cells – macrophages/lymphocytes?
 - Fetal vessels
 - Vasculopathy
 - Nucleated RBCs/other cells?
 - Viral inclusions
 - Infarcts

Fetal aspect →



← **Maternal aspect**

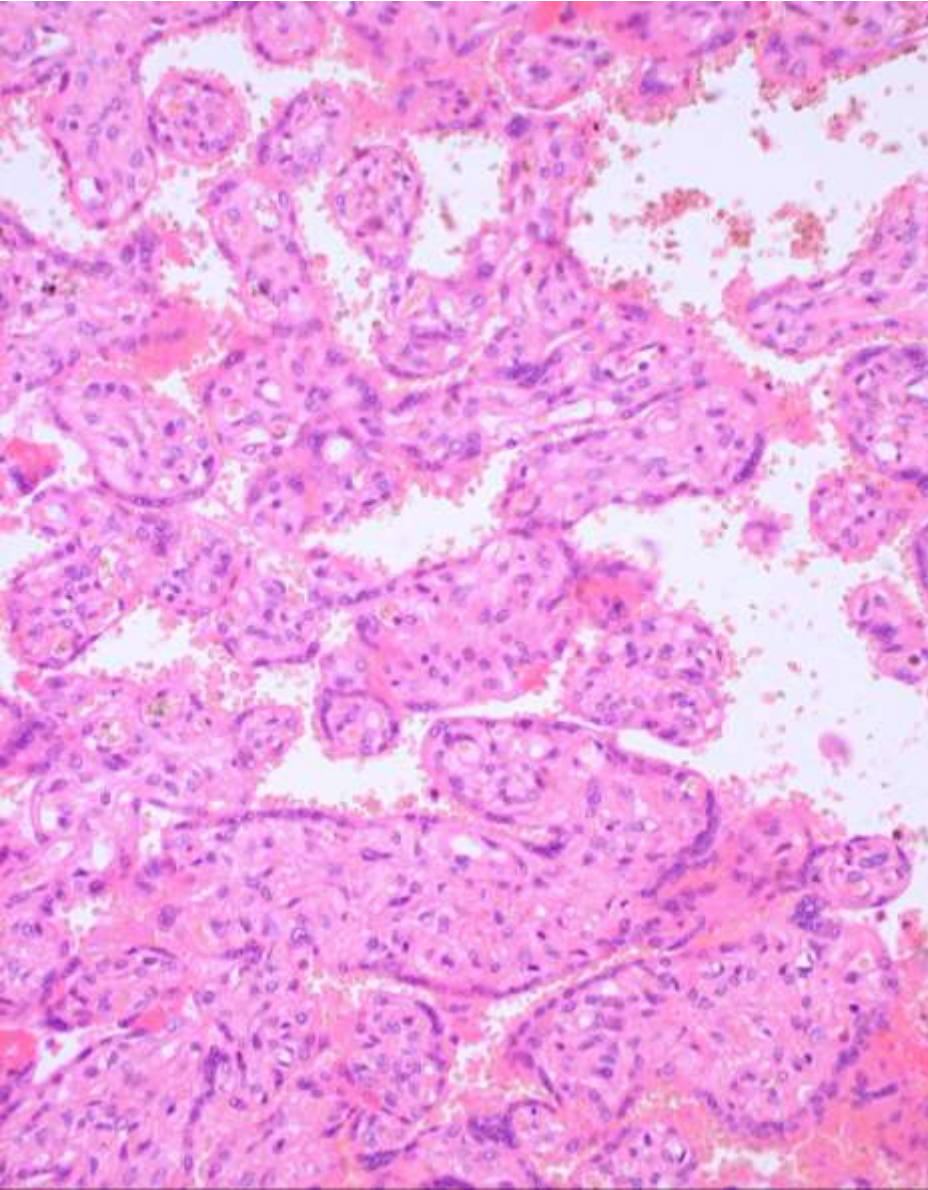


**Peripheral
perivillous
fibrin**

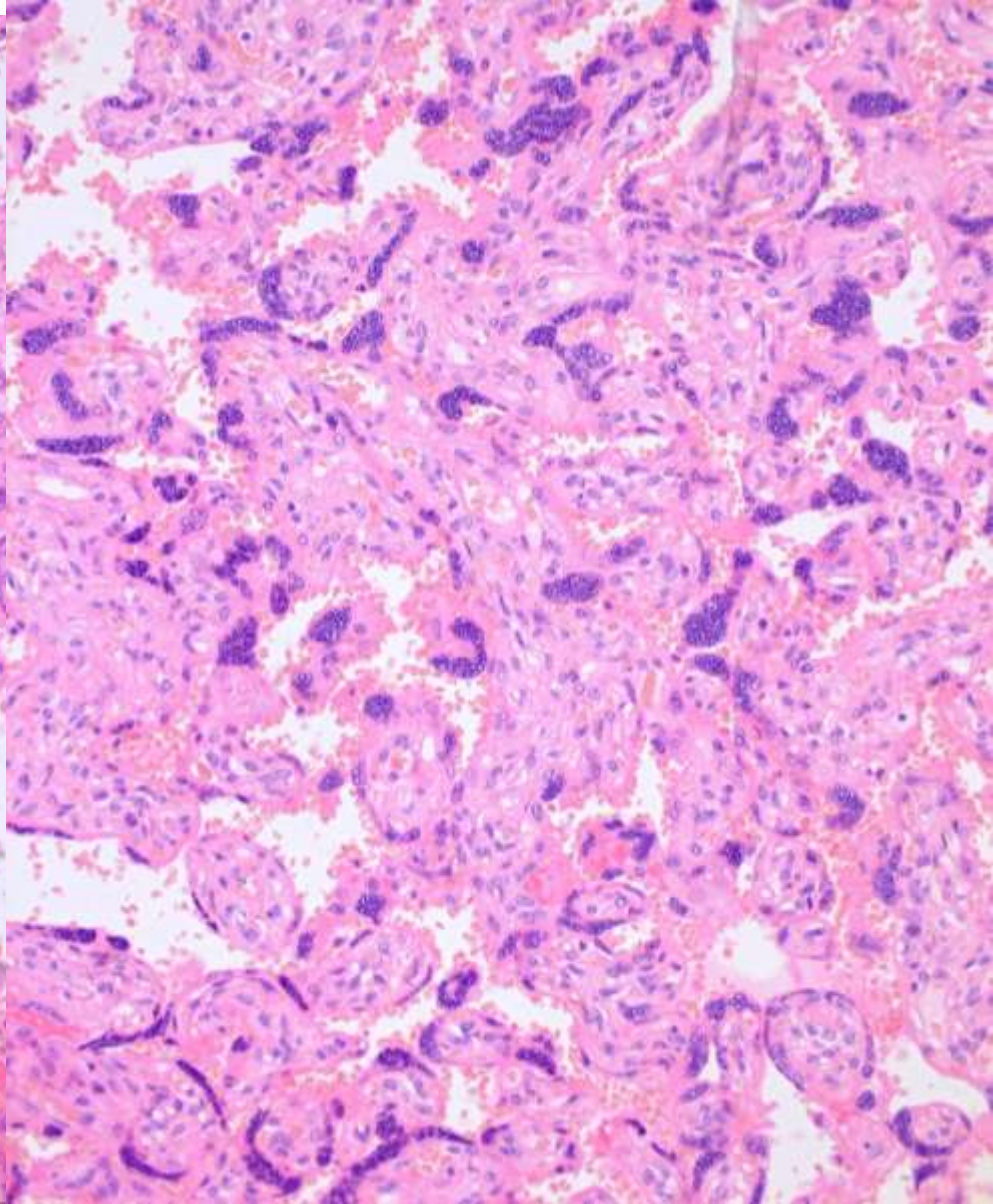
**Syncytial
knots**

Centre of
lobule still
contains
some
maternal
blood

Centre: well-perfused



Edge: less well-perfused



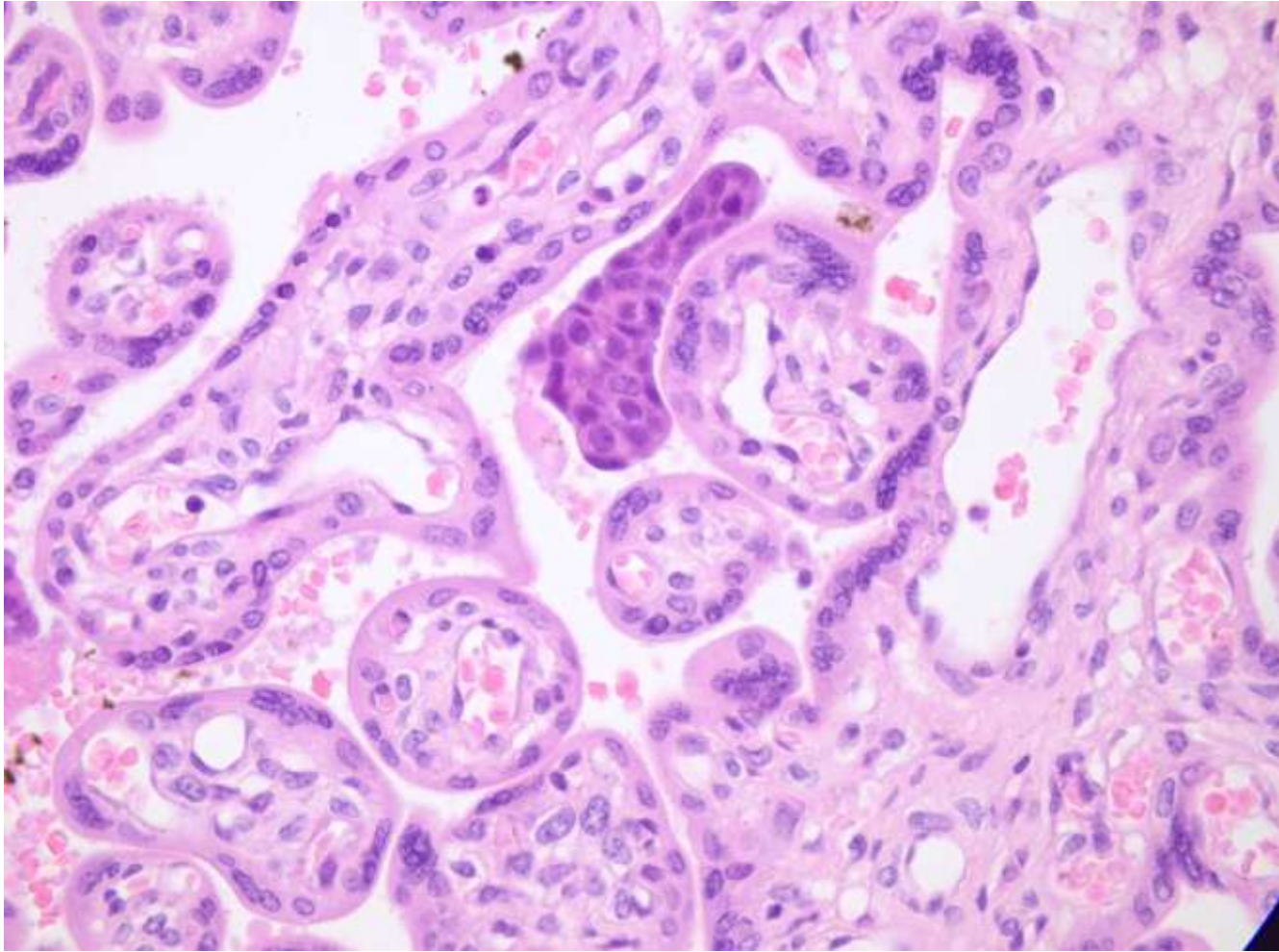
Micro

- Maternal space
 - Intervillositis
 - Maternal blood
 - Thrombi
 - Perivillous fibrin

Micro

- Decidua
 - Multinucleate extravillous trophoblastic cells
 - Decidual vessels
 - Size
 - Acute atheroma

Placenta?



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Metastatic carcinoma

