

# Spectrum of Benign Respiratory Cytology from Exfoliative to FNAs, Core needle Biopsies and EBUS

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## For This session.....

- Types of Respiratory Specimens
  - Types of Preparations
  - Adequacy issues
  - Infections
  - Non neoplastic infiltrates
  - Pitfalls...causes of false+ and false negatives
  - Benign Neoplasms and non neoplastic masses
  - Benchmarking/Interlaboratory comparison
-

# Respiratory Cytology Indications

- To diagnose Infections (Fungal, Viral, others)
  - Protocol BALs (s/p transplantation)
  - Other non neoplastic, non infectious conditions
  - Diagnosis of Cancer
  - Staging of Lung cancer
  - In inoperable cases or recurrence for diagnosis and molecular testing
-

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-

# Types of Pulmonary Cytopathology

- Sputum
  - Bronchial/Tracheal Brushings
  - Bronchial Washings
  - Bronchioloalveolar Lavage
  - Fine Needle Aspiration Biopsy (Trans thoracic CT or US guided, TBNA, EBUS, Superdimensional Lung FNA)
  - Biopsies with Touch Preps for adequacy evaluation
-

## Type of Specimen depends upon....

- Patient's clinical differential diagnosis (infection Vs tumor)
  - Location of the lesion.....central vs peripheral
  - Enlarged lymph nodes
  - Diagnosis vs Staging vs additional testing
  - Method of Procurement and who does the procedure (Pulmonologist vs Radiologist vs Surgeon)
-

# Utilization Review and Reimbursement of Cytology Services In Endobronchial Ultrasound-Guided Procedures: Challenge and Opportunity

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## ABSTRACT

A representative number of rapid on-site evaluations (ROSE) were documented for a three month time period at our institution (a quaternary care, 975 bed hospital). The case type and procedure along with time spent for travel, adequacy assessment, processing, screening, and sign out were recorded in order to assess time demands placed on staff by different procedures (Endobronchial ultrasound guided (EBUS), Computed Tomography-guided (CT), Ultrasound-guided (US), and Fluoroscopy guided). EBUS posed the greatest time challenges having the longest travel and processing times by cytotechnologists and longest adequacy assessment times by pathologists. Utilizing telecytology reduced the average time needed for adequacy assessment from 44.8 minutes to 24.6 minutes for EBUS procedures, advocating that telecytology can save time for the pathologist and make the service more cost-effective if the number of procedures is sufficient to justify investment in the technology.

## INTRODUCTION

The roles of pathologist and cytotechnologists continue to evolve to optimize patient care, particularly with regard to ROSE. Having ROSE performed helps ensure sufficient material is obtained for diagnosis<sup>1</sup> and permits specimen triage for ancillary studies. At our institution, both on site and telecytology evaluations are increasingly utilized, particularly in EBUS. Consequently, time demands placed on the pathology and cytotechnology staff have exponentially increased creating workload management challenges.

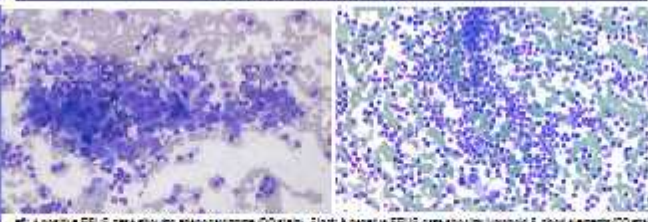
## MATERIALS & METHODS

We representatively documented a number of ROSE for a three month period. Case type and procedure along with time spent for travel, adequacy assessment, processing, screening, and sign out were recorded in order to assess time demands placed on staff by different procedures (including EBUS, CT guided, US guided, fluoroscopy guided, and airway). Because EBUS posed the greatest time challenges, cost and reimbursement differences were compared when telecytology was used and not used during EBUS adequacy assessment.

## RESULTS

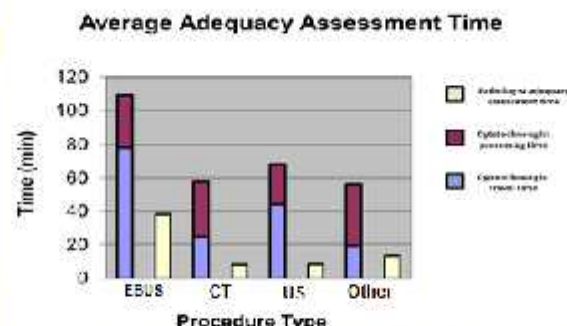
Average travel and processing time by cytotechnologists was variable among procedures (average 72.9 minutes) as was the adequacy assessment time by pathologists (average 16.9 minutes). EBUS posed the greatest time challenges with the longest travel and processing times (average 109 minutes) and longest adequacy assessment time (average 44.8 minutes). Using telecytology for EBUS procedures resulted in decreased adequacy assessment time (44.8 to 24.6 minutes on average) and a decreased net loss for the laboratory.

## EBUS CASE EXAMPLES



Left: Positive EBUS case showing adenocarcinoma (Giemsa). Right: Negative EBUS case showing lymphoid & blood elements (Giemsa).

## Average Adequacy Assessment Time



## EBUS Procedure Cost and Reimbursement

|                           | Technical Component | Professional Component | Global Component     | Net Gain/Loss (range) |
|---------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Reimbursement             | \$46.78             | \$113.97               | \$160.70             |                       |
| Cost (using telecytology) | \$109.00            | \$55.71 to \$89.13     | \$164.71 to \$108.13 | \$-4.01 to \$-37.43   |
| Cost (non-telecytology)   | \$109.00            | \$101.45 to \$162.31   | \$210.45 to \$271.31 | \$-49.75 to \$-110.51 |
| Cost (overall average)    | \$109.00            | \$85.60 to \$136.95    | \$191.60 to \$245.95 | \$-33.01 to \$-85.25  |

\*\*Data are derived from individual administrative records and are not adjusted for case mix or other factors. Values represent individual and are not representative of the entire study population. All values are in US dollars.

## DISCUSSION

From a work-management perspective, the provision of ROSE is challenging as reimbursement is low and time commitments are high. EBUS, compared to other procedures utilizing ROSE, is the most challenging as cytotechnologist travel and processing times take almost 40% longer and pathologist adequacy assessment time takes 3-4x longer. These increased time demands for EBUS are due to the targeting of multiple sites with associated procedural delays. Despite these workload management issues, ROSE is important for optimizing patient care as it helps ensure sufficient material is obtained for diagnosis<sup>1</sup> and permits specimen triage for ancillary studies. Telecytology has been shown to be a cost-effective alternative when distance and time constraints are placed on the pathologist in certain settings<sup>2,3</sup>. Our data show that telecytology can make ROSE more cost-effective in a large hospital setting when implemented in daily practice.

## CONCLUSIONS

- Cytotechnologist travel and processing time for EBUS took almost 40% longer compared to other procedures.
- Pathologist adequacy assessment time for EBUS took 3-4x longer when compared to other procedures.
- ROSE reimbursement is low, and no greater for EBUS than other procedures. Use of telecytology can save time for pathologist and make the service more cost-effective if the number of procedures is sufficient to justify investment in the technology.

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## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

# Utilization review and reimbursement of cytology services in endobronchial ultrasound-guided procedures: challenge and opportunity

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# Specimen Preparations

- Smears
  - Cytospins
  - ThinPreps
  - SurePath
  - Cell blocks (various types)
-

# Respiratory, Adequacy

- Adequate if it explains the clinical condition
- Sputum - Alveolar macrophages, no numerical cut point.
- Bronchial wash & brush - Cells or agents diagnostic of a pathologic process are present.
- Well preserved, optimally stained ciliated columnar cells, goblets and macrophages.

– *Respiratory Specimen Guidelines. Modern Pathology. 1999: Vol 12;427*

- BAL -Adequate if demonstrates specific pathologic process
- Numerous alveolar macrophages(93+/-5%) and few lymphocytes(7+/-1%). Occasional neutrophils and rare ciliated or squamous cells

BAL(Chamberlain et al) Inadequate if:

- Paucity of alveolar macroph (<10/10hpf or <25/hpf with\*
- \*excess epithelial cells, degenerative changes or > # of macrophages
- \*Mucopurulent exudate of PMNs
- RBCs, degn changes, artifacts

Acta Cytol 1987;31:599

## Unsatisfactory BAL

- Paucity of alveolar macrophages(<10/hpf)
  - Too many ciliated or squamous cells
  - Mucopurulent exudate(polys)
  - Degenerated cells and lab artifacts
  - *By Chamberlain et al. Acta cytol 1987;31:599*
-

## Respiratory FNAs (any type)

- Cells that explain the radiographic and clinical presentation
  - Alveolar macrophages, mesothelial cells, resp epithelial cells...not enough
  - Lymphocytes if EBUS of peribronchial lymph node
  - Diagnostic tissue i.e carcinoma, granuloma
  - Blood, low cellularity, tracheobronchial secretions air drying etc contribute to unsatisfactory
-

# Sensitivity, Specificity, PPV, NPV of Different Specimen types (%) for Neoplasms

| Specimen Type       | Sensitivity (%) | Specificity (%) | PPV (%)   | NPV (%)   |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Sputum              | 42/91 (5 specs) | 96-99+          | 100       | 15        |
| Bronchial Brush     | 59 (C)/52 (P)   | 98+             |           |           |
| Bronchial Wash      | 48 (C)/33 (P)   | 99+             |           |           |
| BAL                 | 40 (C)/37 (P)   | 99+             |           |           |
| Transthoracic FNA   | 82-89           | 96-100          | 98-100    | 70-77     |
| Endobronchial FNA   | 56              | 74              | 100       | 53-70     |
| <b>EBUS W ROSE*</b> | <b>88</b>       | <b>98</b>       | <b>71</b> | <b>98</b> |
| EBUS no ROSE*       | 80              | 97              | 76        | 98        |

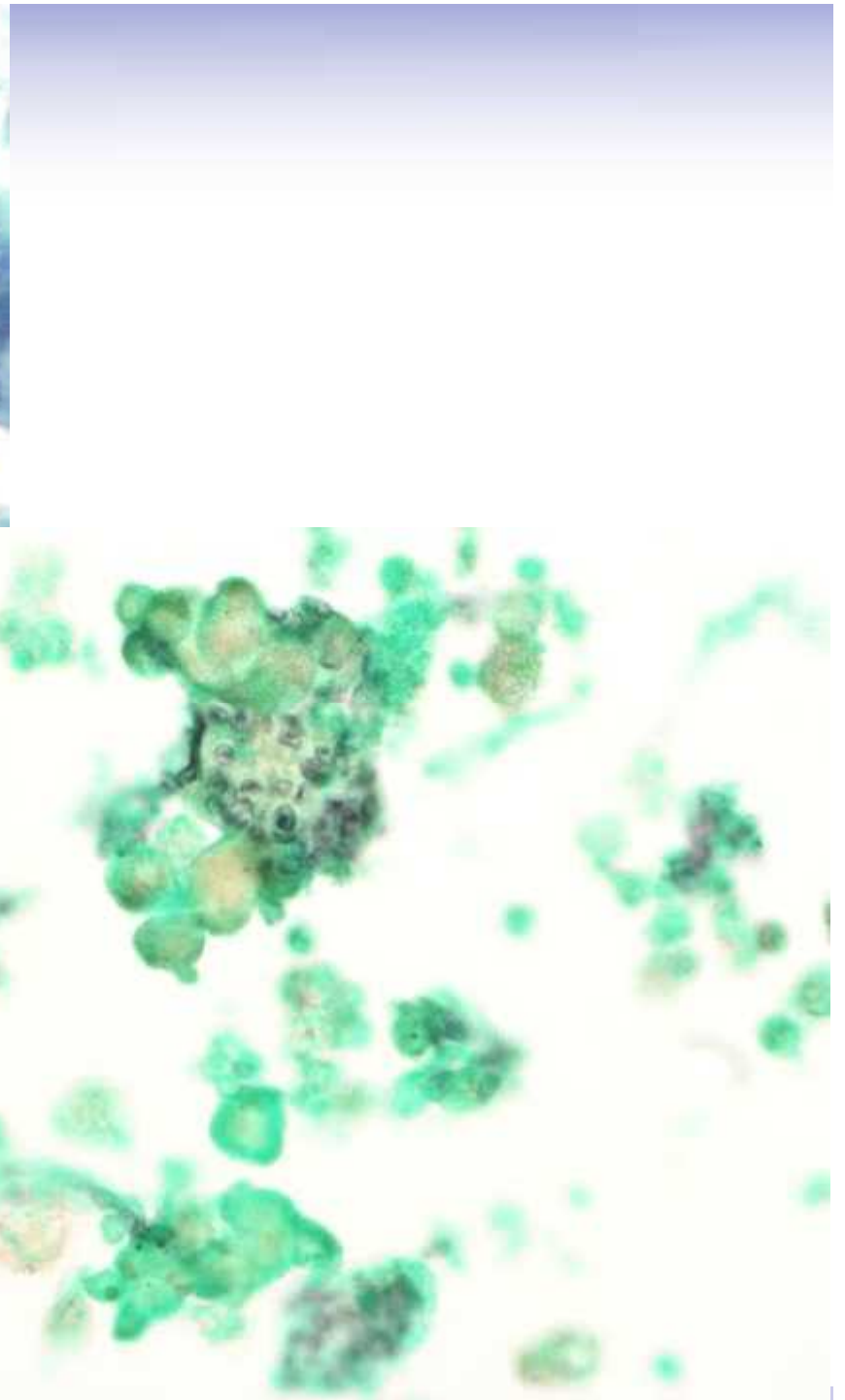
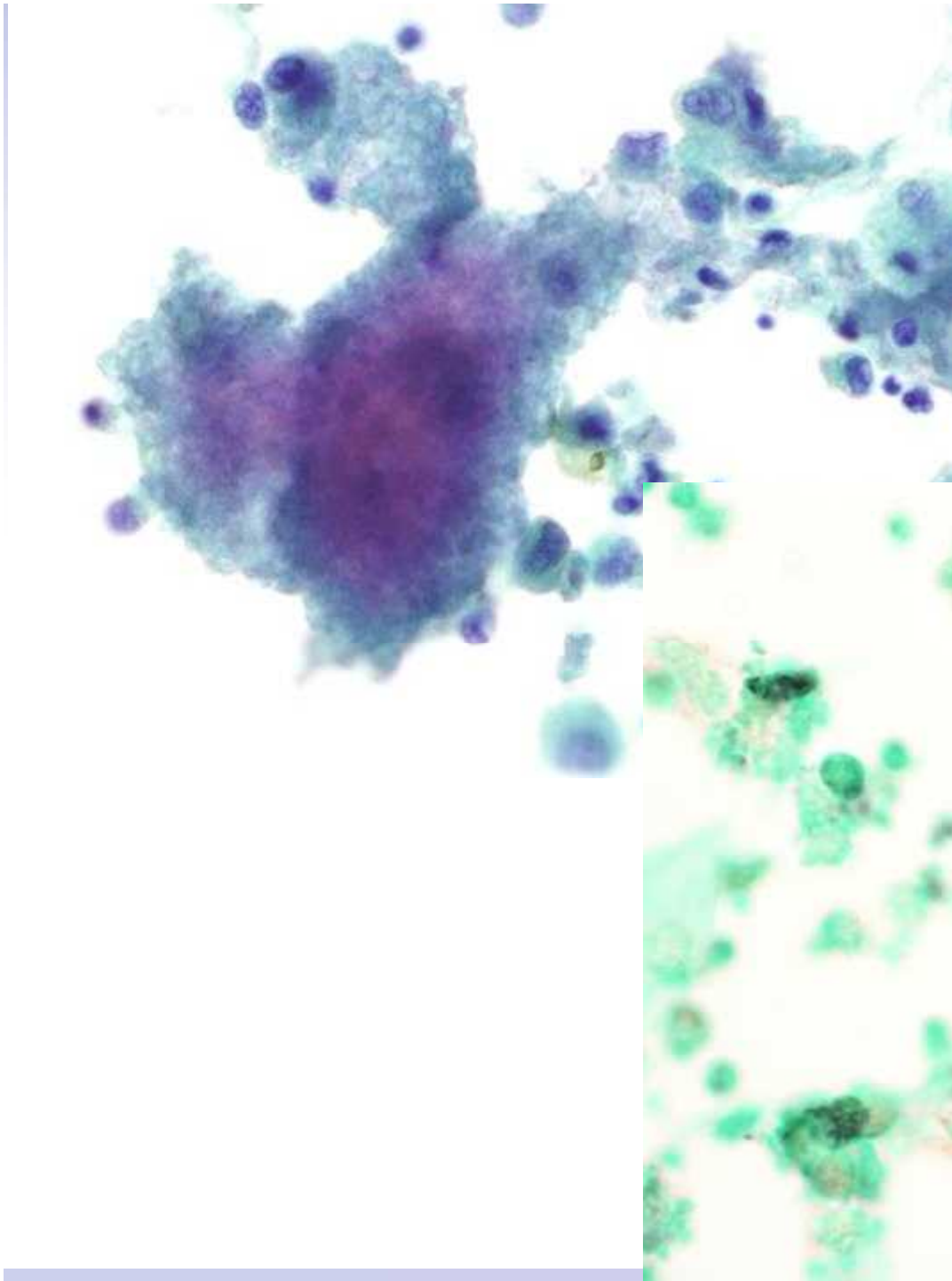
PPV=Positive predictive value  
 NPV=Negative Predictive value  
 ROSE=Rapid on site evaluation

\* *Micames et al. Chest 131/2/2007 pgs 539-548*

## Case 1

50 yr old male with h/o treatment for lymphoma and cough, weight loss and a radiographic infiltrate. Bronchoscopy with washings, BAL and brushings performed.

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## FUNGAL ORGANISMS IN RESPIRATORY CYTOLOGY

### Key Facts

#### Cytopathology

- *Aspergillus*-like hyphal fungi have septate straight-edged hyphae (3-6  $\mu\text{m}$ ) with acute-angle branching
- *Zygomycetes/Mucor* have ribbon-like wavy-edged non-septate hyphae (4-15  $\mu\text{m}$ ) with right-angle branching
- *Candida* species, usually contaminants in lung specimens, have yeast or pseudohyphal forms
- Major infectious yeasts include *Cryptococcus*, *Histoplasma*, and *Blastomyces*

- These can be differentiated by size, shape, budding pattern, and encapsulation

#### Ancillary Tests

- Gomori methenamine silver improves sensitivity and morphologic characterization
- Mucicarmine highlights capsule of *Cryptococcus*

### Comparative Features of Dimorphic Fungi

| Fungus                               | Size                                   | Reproduction                 | Distinctive Feature               |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Cryptococcus neoformans</i>       | Variable (3-20 $\mu\text{m}$ )         | Narrow-based budding         | Mucicarmine-positive capsule      |
| <i>Histoplasma capsulatum</i>        | Small (3-5 $\mu\text{m}$ )             | Narrow-based budding         | Always intracellular              |
| <i>Blastomyces dermatitidis</i>      | Large (10-25 $\mu\text{m}$ )           | Broad-based budding          | Thick walls                       |
| <i>Coccidioides immitis</i>          | Large spherules (10-60 $\mu\text{m}$ ) | Endospores within spherules  | Empty ruptured spherules          |
| <i>Paracoccidioides brasiliensis</i> | Large spherules (10-50 $\mu\text{m}$ ) | Peripheral buds on spherules | "Mariner's wheel" budding pattern |
| <i>Penicillium marneffei</i>         | Small (2-6 $\mu\text{m}$ )             | Fission rather than budding  | Central septation of yeasts       |
| <i>Sporothrix schenckii</i>          | Small (2-8 $\mu\text{m}$ )             | Round-to-oval buds           | Elongated "cigar bodies"          |

# Pulmonary Fungal Infections

| Fungus                          | Morphology                                               | Size(D)      |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Crypto</b>                   | Yeast<br>mucin,broad based buds                          | 4-15micron   |
| <b>Aspergillus</b>              | septate hyphae<br>45 degree branching                    | 5-10 mic     |
| <b>Phycomycosis<br/>(Mucor)</b> | non septate hyphae<br>90 degree branching<br>ribbon like | 10-30 (Wide) |
| <b>Candida</b>                  | budding yeast<br>pseudohyphae<br>sausage like            | 2-10         |

# Pulmonary Fungal Infections

| Fungus                 | Morphology                                    | Size(D)               |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Histo</b>           | Yeast<br>small,budding,intracellular          | 1-5micron             |
| <b>Coccidiomycosis</b> | spherules<br>endospores                       | 15-60 mic<br>1-2 micr |
| <b>Blastomycosis</b>   | broad based budding<br>yeast, thick cell wall | 8-20 micr             |
| <b>Sporotrichosis</b>  | Intracellular ovoid yeast<br>with slight halo | 2-4micr               |

# Aberrant Staining with Gomori's Methenamine Silver: Utility Beyond Fungal Organisms

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## ABSTRACT

**BACKGROUND:** Historically, Gomori's methenamine silver (GMS) stain has been used in cytopathology preparations to highlight *Pneumocystis jirovecii*, as well as other fungal organisms including *Cryptococcus*, *Candida*, *Histoplasma*, *Blastomycosis*, and *Aspergillus*. However, several non-fungal organisms can show distinct staining patterns with GMS that are important to recognize.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS:** We prospectively and retrospectively identified non-fungal pathogenic organisms on GMS-stained ThinPrep and cytospin preparations of recent bronchioloalveolar lavage and bronchial wash cytologic specimens. The organisms included parasitic worms, virus, acid-fast, partially acid-fast bacilli and nonacid-fast bacteria. Six cases were identified, including two cases of *Strongyloides stercoralis*, one case of Cytomegalovirus, one case of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, one case of *Nocardia* species, and one case of anthrax-like *Bacillus cereus*. Staining patterns were recorded.

**RESULTS:** The non-fungal organisms in all six cases had silver deposition in varying locations within the cell. The GMS strongly stained the internal organs of *Strongyloides stercoralis* larvae and/or the cuticle. Intranuclear cytoplasmic inclusions of Cytomegalovirus-infected cells stained positively with the GMS stain. The surface of extracellular filamentous partially-acid fast *Nocardia* species and the small intracellular acid-fast *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* were highlighted with GMS stain. The cell wall and the central endospores of *Bacillus cereus* were delineated by GMS and easily visualized by light microscopy. In three of the six cases, these organisms were not clinically suspected. However, it was the aberrant GMS staining that pointed to the diagnosis and resulted in the performance of the definitive stain or test/cultures.

**CONCLUSION:** GMS is a chromic acid, sodium bisulfate stain that is known to precipitate silver ions within fungal polysaccharide walls, producing the characteristic black stain seen by light microscopy. In addition to *Pneumocystis jirovecii* and other fungi, we have found that GMS also stains several additional human pathogens, including various acid-fast, partially acid-fast, and non-acid fast bacteria; parasitic organisms; and virally infected cells. It is imperative to recognize aberrant GMS staining in order to avoid misdiagnosis of fungal elements. By highlighting several pathogenic non-fungal organisms, this stain may be a particularly useful diagnostic aid when the infectious condition is not clinically suspected or the number of organisms present is sparse and otherwise difficult to visualize by routine staining methods such as the Pap stain.

## INTRODUCTION

Fungal organisms including *Pneumocystis jirovecii*, *Cryptococcus*, *Candida*, *Histoplasma*, *Blastomycosis*, and *Aspergillus* can be detected in cytopathology preparations using Gomori's methenamine silver (GMS) stain. However, several non-fungal organisms can have distinct staining patterns with GMS which are important to recognize to avoid misdiagnosis as fungal elements.

## MATERIALS & METHODS

Non-fungal pathogenic organisms which were highlighted on GMS-stained ThinPrep and cytospin preparations of bronchioloalveolar lavage and bronchial wash cytologic specimens from 2011 – 2012 were retrospectively and prospectively identified. The organisms included parasitic worms, virus, acid-fast, partially acid-fast bacilli and nonacid-fast bacteria.

Six (6) cases were identified:

- Two (2/6) *Strongyloides stercoralis*
- One (1/6) Cytomegalovirus
- One (1/6) *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*
- One (1/6) *Nocardia* species
- One (1/6) anthrax-like *Bacillus cereus*<sup>1</sup>.

Staining patterns were recorded.

## RESULTS

The organisms in all six cases (6/6) had silver deposition in varying locations within the cell (Table 1). The surface of extracellular filamentous partially-acid fast *Nocardia* species and the small intracellular acid-fast *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* were highlighted with GMS stain (Figure 1). The GMS strongly stained the internal organs of *Strongyloides stercoralis* larvae and/or the cuticle (Figure 2). Intranuclear cytoplasmic inclusions of Cytomegalovirus-infected cells stained positively with the GMS stain (Figure 3). The cell wall and the central endospores of *Bacillus cereus* were delineated by GMS and easily visualized by light microscopy (Figure 4).

In three of the six cases (3/6), including *Nocardia*, *Strongyloides stercoralis*, and anthrax-like *Bacillus cereus*, organisms were not clinically suspected. However, it was the aberrant GMS staining that pointed to the diagnosis and resulted in the performance of the definitive stain or test/cultures.

TABLE 1

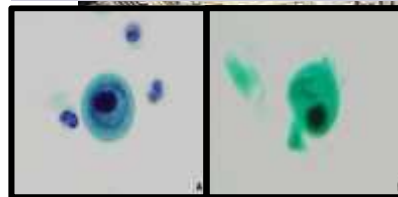
| ORGANISM                          | GMS STAIN LOCALIZATION           |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>Strongyloides stercoralis</i>  | Internal organs and cuticle      |
| Cytomegalovirus                   | Intranuclear inclusions          |
| <i>Nocardia</i> species           | External surface                 |
| <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> | External surface                 |
| <i>Bacillus cereus</i>            | Cell wall and central endospores |

FIGURE 2



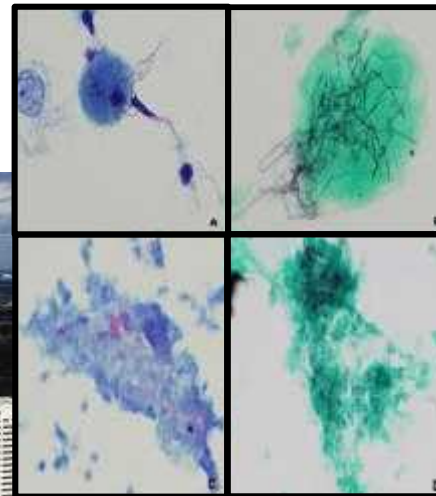
*Strongyloides stercoralis* (20x: A. Pap stain, B. GMS stain)

FIGURE 3



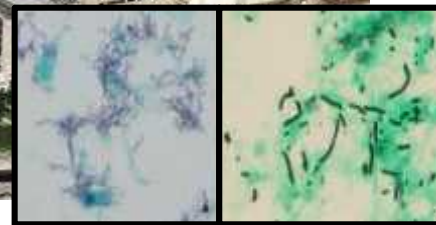
Cytomegalovirus (100x: A. Pap stain, B. GMS stain)

FIGURE 1



*Nocardia* species (40x: A. Fite modified acid-fast stain, B. GMS stain); *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (20x: A. Fite modified acid-fast stain, B. GMS stain)

FIGURE 4



*Bacillus cereus* (100x: A. Pap stain, B. GMS stain)

## DISCUSSION

GMS is a chromic acid, sodium bisulfate stain that is known to precipitate silver ions within fungal polysaccharide walls, producing the characteristic black stain seen by light microscopy.

In addition to *Pneumocystis jirovecii* and other fungi, we have found that GMS also stains several additional human pathogens including various acid-fast, partially acid-fast, and non-acid fast bacteria; parasitic organisms; and virally infected cells.

An extensive literature review of peer-reviewed journals and cytopathology textbooks shows only one article discussing GMS positive CMV inclusions<sup>2</sup>; there is otherwise a paucity of published information regarding aberrant GMS staining in non-fungal organisms.

## CONCLUSION

The recognition of aberrant GMS staining is imperative in order to avoid misinterpretation of non-fungal organisms as fungal elements.

By highlighting several pathogenic non-fungal organisms, this stain may be a particularly useful diagnostic aid when the infectious condition is not clinically suspected or the number of organisms present is sparse and otherwise difficult to visualize by routine staining methods such as the Pap stain.

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Bronchial Washings: General Dx: Neg. Reference DX: Fungal

**General Diagnosis(Lab)**

| <b><u>Pos</u></b>    | <b><u>Neg/Bn</u></b> | <b><u>Susp/Pos</u></b> | <b><u>Usat</u></b> |
|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>2.8%</b>          | <b><u>94.4%</u></b>  | <b>0%</b>              | <b>2.8%</b>        |
| <b>0.9</b>           | <b>95.6</b>          | <b>2.7</b>             | <b>1.8</b>         |
| <b><u>Ref Dx</u></b> | <b><u>Lab</u></b>    | <b><u>PTH</u></b>      | <b><u>CT</u></b>   |
| <b>Fungal</b>        | <b>69.4%</b>         | <b>69%</b>             | <b>78.6%</b>       |
| <b>Fungal</b>        | <b>74.3</b>          | <b>83.1</b>            | <b>83.2</b>        |
| <b>PAP</b>           | <b>8.3%</b>          | <b>13.8%</b>           | <b>5.4%</b>        |

BAL: General Dx: Neg. Reference DX: **Fungal** Infection

**General Diagnosis(Lab)**

| <b><u>Pos</u></b>    | <b><u>Neg</u></b>  | <b><u>Susp</u></b> | <b><u>Usat</u></b> |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b><u>0%</u></b>     | <b>100%</b>        | <b>0%</b>          | <b>0%</b>          |
| <b><u>Ref Dx</u></b> | <b><u>Lab</u></b>  | <b><u>PTH</u></b>  | <b><u>CT</u></b>   |
| <b><u>Fungal</u></b> | <b><u>100%</u></b> | <b>88.9%</b>       | <b>76.5%</b>       |
| <b>NI/Reactive</b>   | <b>0%</b>          | <b>3.7%</b>        | <b>17.6%</b>       |

BAL: General Dx: Neg. Reference DX: PCP

**General Diagnosis(Lab)**

| <b><u>Pos</u></b>    | <b><u>Neg</u></b> | <b><u>Susp</u></b> | <b><u>Usat</u></b> |
|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b><u>0.7%</u></b>   | <b>98.6%</b>      | <b>0.2%</b>        | <b>0.5%</b>        |
| <b><u>Ref Dx</u></b> | <b><u>Lab</u></b> | <b><u>PTH</u></b>  | <b><u>CT</u></b>   |
| <b>Fungal</b>        | <b>1.2%</b>       | <b>2.8%</b>        | <b>4.2%</b>        |
| <b>NI/Reactive</b>   | <b>0.9%</b>       | <b>0.9%</b>        | <b>3.7%</b>        |
| <b>PCP</b>           | <b>91.2%</b>      | <b>93%</b>         | <b>88.1%</b>       |

## Case 2

37 yr old male, with shortness of breath and pulmonary infiltrates. Bronchoscopy with washings, brushings and BAL performed.

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## Differential of Amorphous Material in Respiratory Specimens

- Pneumocystis Jiroveci (PCP)
  - Pulmonary Alveolar Proteinosis
  - Microliths and Psammoma bodies
  - Fibrin
  - Hemorrhage
  - Amyloid
  - Aspirated material
-

# Pulmonary Alveolar Proteinosis

- Seen in people exposed to fine dusts, altered immunity/immunosuppression, Rx for hematopoeitic malignancies
  - More recently, post transplant drug Rx
  - Alveoli filled with fine granular frothy material with darker globs of eosinophilic material and cholesterol clefts, macrophages
  - PAS +, Diastase resistant
  - Deactivated Surfactant (EM-lamellar myelin bodies)
-

# Pulmonary Alveolar Proteinosis

- Impaired alveolar macrophage function caused by neutralizing anti-granulocyte macrophage colony stimulating autoantibodies(anti-GM-CSF)
  - Dx and RX BAL
  - Sub cutaneous GM-CSF x 12 WKS
  - Repeat BAL
-

# Pulmonary Alveolar Proteinosis

- Final common expression of abnormalities of pulmonary surfactant and pulmonary immune function
  - Inherited or acquired mutations
  - Deficiency of surfactant proteins
  - Impaired function of granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor (GM-CSF)
-

# Pulmonary Alveolar Proteinosis

- Three Subgroups
    - Idiopathic (acquired/adult-type): 90%
    - Secondary: 5%-10%
    - Pediatric: 2% Rare juvenile and familial cases, some may be same as chronic pneumonitis of infancy
    - $\frac{3}{4}$  of idiopathic and secondary PAP patients are tobacco smokers; male:female = 3:1
-

# Idiopathic PAP

- 90% of cases
  - Worldwide prevalence of 3.7 cases/million persons
  - Autoantibodies against GM-CSF
    - Impair GM-CSF terminal differentiation of alveolar macrophages
    - Results in impaired clearance of surfactant from lung
    - Also impair antimicrobial activity of GM-CSF
-

## Secondary PAP

- 5%-10% of cases
  - Dust exposures: Silica, cement, aluminum, titanium dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, fiberglass
  - Hematologic malignancies: Leukemia, Lymphoma
  - Immunodeficiency: HIV, transplant patients, cytotoxic and immunosuppressive therapy
-

## PULMONARY ALVEOLAR PROTEINOSIS AND MIMICS

### Key Facts

#### Clinical Issues

- Respiratory distress due to alveoli filled with proteinaceous material secondary to macrophage dysfunction or surfactant excess
- Usually autoimmune but also seen in association with immunosuppression, hematologic malignancies, inhalational exposures, congenital syndromes

#### Cytopathology

- Abundant proteinaceous material in the background

- Globular homogeneous structures
- Alveolar macrophages also contain proteinaceous debris in cytoplasmic vacuoles

#### Ancillary Tests

- Periodic acid-Schiff (PAS)

#### Top Differential Diagnoses

- *Pneumocystis pneumonia*
- Necrosis
- Corpora amylacea

### Background

- Proteinaceous material
  - Globular homogeneous structures
    - Alcohol fixation enhances this appearance
  - Scattered granular debris

### Cells

- Alveolar macrophages also contain proteinaceous debris in cytoplasmic vacuoles

### Corpora Amylacea

- Glycoprotein globules with faint concentric rings, positive for PAS
  - Usually few, weakly polarizable

### Amyloid

- Rarely forms distinct globules
- Congo red birefringence

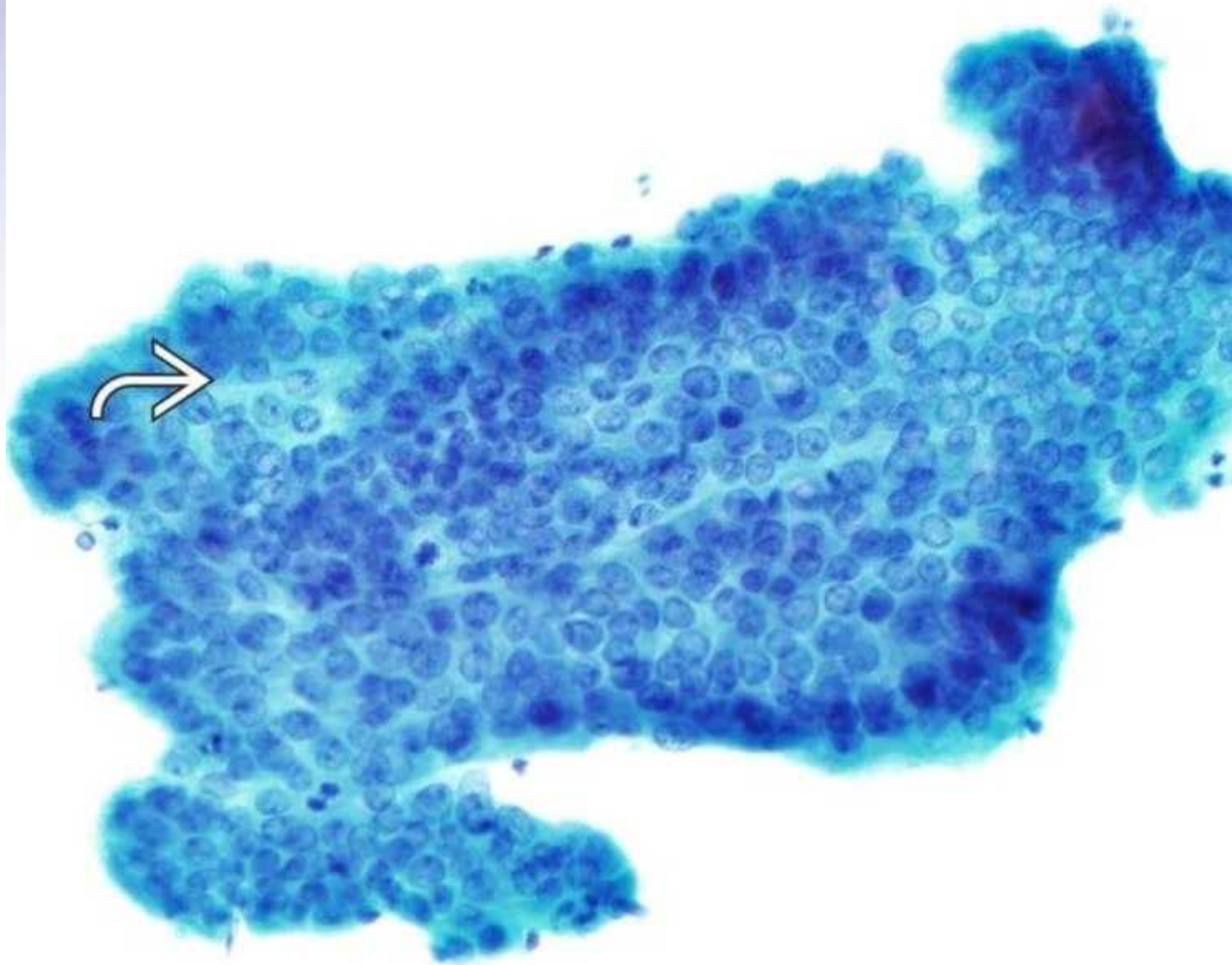
### Amiodarone Toxicity

- Lamellated inclusions in macrophages;
- Lacks globules

## MACROSCOPIC FEATURES

## For This session.....

- Types of Respiratory Specimens
  - Types of Preparations
  - Adequacy issues
  - Infections
  - Non neoplastic infiltrates
  - **Pitfalls...causes of false+ and false negatives**
  - Benign Neoplasms and non neoplastic masses
  - Benchmarking/Interlaboratory comparison
-



Well-differentiated adenocarcinoma shows minimal architectural disorder (white curved arrow) and nuclear changes, making separation from a reactive process difficult, even in well-visualized Pap-stained examples.

*Cytology Picture from Chapter by Thrall MJ in Diagnostic Pathology: Cytopathology Eds Mody, Amirsys 2014*

# Mimicks of Pulmonary Carcinoma

- Repair/reactive
  - Creola Bodies (bronchial hyperplasia)
  - Squamous metaplasia with atypia (due to radiation or other treatment)
  - Organizing Pneumonia and Pulmonary Infarcts....can be outright dangerous!
  - Abscess cavity lining
-

# Benign /Reactive Vs Malignant

| Benign/Reactive/Mimicks                                   | Adenocarcinoma or Squamous ca                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Orderly groups                                            | Disorderly groups                             |
| Some nuclear enlargement,<br>Hypochromatic or euchromatic | Marked Nuclear enlargement,<br>Hyperchromatic |
| N/C ratio maintained.                                     | N/C ratio increased.                          |
| Smooth nuclear membranes                                  | Irregular nuclear membranes                   |
| Regular micronucleoli                                     | Irregular or macronucleoli                    |
| Terminal bars and cilia                                   | None or very focal cell T bars and cilia      |
| No Diathesis                                              | Diathesis                                     |
| Rare and normal mitosis                                   | Frequent and abnormal mitosis                 |

*Partly Abbreviated from DeMay Art and science of cytopathology, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition*

# Causes of False Positive Diagnosis

- Reactive Type 2 Pneumocytes
  - Reactive Bronchial epithelium
  - Reserve cells
  - Cavitory lesions
  - Granulomas
  - Mesothelial cells
  - Contaminants
  - Benign neoplasms
-

## Atypical Cells in Bronchoalveolar Lavage Specimens From Bone Marrow Transplant Recipients

### A Potential Pitfall

H. Evin Gulbahce, MD,<sup>1</sup> K. Scott Baker, MD,<sup>2</sup> Pragati Kumar, MD,<sup>1</sup> Klint Kjeldahl, CT(ASCP),<sup>3</sup> and Stefan E. Pambuccian, MD<sup>1</sup>

**Key Words:** Bronchoalveolar lavage; BAL; Bone marrow transplant; BMT; Atypical

DOI: 10.1309/ASAP01HEH3HJUTYX

#### Abstract

Numerous nonneoplastic conditions of the lungs may result in atypical cells in bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) specimens mimicking malignant neoplasms. Bone marrow transplant (BMT) recipients have many predisposing factors that would lead to atypical cells in BAL specimens, presenting diagnostic challenges. We

Bone marrow transplant (BMT) therapy for patients with hematologic disorders, and certain congenital disorders, are associated with pulmonary complications after BMT. Up to 60% of the patients and include graft-vs-host disease (GVHD), and to conditioning therapy.<sup>1-3</sup> Bron-

Gulbahce E et al Am J Clin Pathol Vol 120(1) 101-6. 2003

Kosarac O, Carrum G, Mody D & Takei H. Acta Cytol Vol 53(5) 565-70. 2009

## NONGYNECOLOGIC CYTOPATHOLOGY

### Cytologic Findings in Allogeneic and Autologous Bone Marrow Transplant Patients with Pulmonary Symptoms

#### A 9-Year Follow-up Study

Ognjen Kosarac, M.D., George Carrum, M.D., Dina Mody, M.D., and Hidehiro Takei, M.D.

#### Objective

To evaluate cytologic findings in patients who underwent bone marrow transplant (BMT) and correlate with the clinical, radiologic and histologic findings.

#### Study Design

Cytologic findings of the BMT patients with pulmonary symptoms from 1994 to 2007 were reviewed for the presence of malignancies, infections or inflammation, and reactive changes, including treatment-related cellular atypia. Corresponding clinical

Reactive bronchial epithelial cells were found in 4 specimens and reactive squamous cells in 1 specimen. Four patients had markedly atypical cells in 4 specimens—atypical epithelial and mesothelial cells in 3 and 1 specimen, respectively. No malignancy was seen in any specimens examined. Acute inflammation was present in 6 specimens. Candida was the most common microorganism found (31 specimens). The cytologic findings were felt to correlate with clinical and radiologic findings and histologic follow-up.

**It is important to be aware of the range of cellular atypia in various cytology specimens and their associated clinical conditions.**

## How do you tell reactive type 2 Pneumocytes with Atypia?

- History: Patients ill with “pneumonia” or whited out lungs or have chronic disease which is worsening
  - Few cell groups
  - Hypocellular, few clusters
  - Few single atypical cells
  - Background inflammation or hemorrhage
  - Smudged nuclei
-

## How do you tell reactive type 2 Pneumocytes with Atypia?

- History: Pneumonia
  - ARDS
  - Chemotherapy/XRT
  - Oxygen therapy
  - AIDS
  - Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis
  - No distinct mass...more pneumonia like
-

# Causes of False Positive Diagnosis

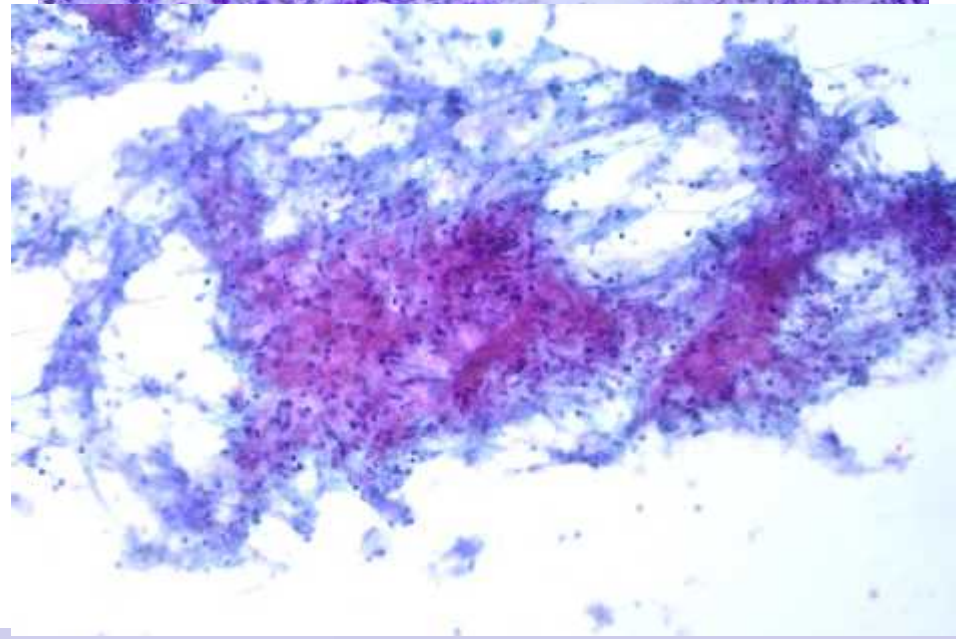
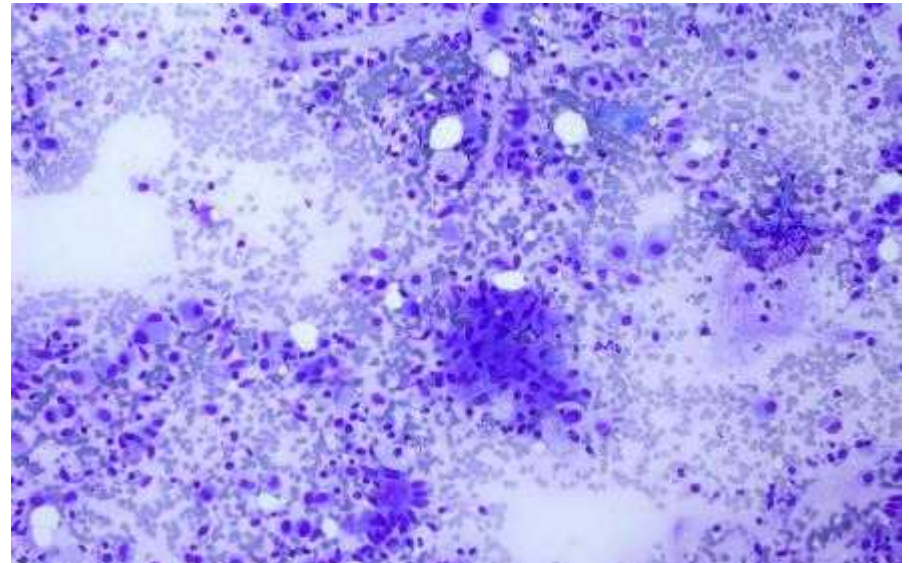
- Reactive Type 2 Pneumocytes
  - **Reactive Bronchial epithelium**
  - Reserve cells
  - Cavitory lesions
  - Granulomas
  - Mesothelial cells
  - Contaminants
  - Benign neoplasms
-

# Causes of False Positive Diagnosis

- Reactive Type 2 Pneumocytes
  - Reactive Bronchial epithelium
  - Reserve cells
  - Cavitory lesions
  - **Granulomas**
  - Mesothelial cells
  - Contaminants
  - Benign neoplasms
-

# Cytologic Features of Granulomas

- Aggregates of Histiocytes
- Syncytial arrangement, no cell boundaries
- Vesicular and boomerang nuclei
- Vesicular and elongated nuclei
- Scattered lymphocytes
- Necrosis, organisms, +/-



# Changes Associated With Radiotherapy

- Cytomegaly with bizarre shapes
  - Nuclear and cytoplasmic enlargement
  - Multinucleation
  - Nuclear and cytoplasmic vacuolization
  - Repair like changes
-

# Greatest Potential for Mis diagnosis

- Granulomatous Inflammation
  - Organizing Pneumonia
  - Therapy effect(XRT/Chemotherapy)
-

## RARE BENIGN AND LOW MALIGNANT POTENTIAL TUMORS

### Key Facts

#### Clinical Issues

- Hamartoma results from overgrowth of mature mesenchymal elements
- Sclerosing hemangioma arises from pneumocytes though lesions resemble vascular tumors
- Solitary fibrous tumor usually arises from pleura but may arise elsewhere and is not always single
- Clear cell (sugar) tumor arises from perivascular epithelioid cells (PEComa)

#### Cytopathology

- Hamartoma consists of mixed benign stromal and glandular elements
- Sclerosing hemangioma neoplastic pneumocytes form loose clusters surrounding stromal cores
- Solitary fibrous tumor features bland spindle cells with collagen in background
- Clear cell (sugar) tumor consists of bland cells with abundant finely vacuolated glycogen-rich cytoplasm

### Characteristics of Benign and Low Malignant Potential Tumors of Lung and Pleura

| Tumor                                | Clinical/Radiologic Features                                                                                | Cytologic Features                                                                  | Helpful Stains                                         |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Hamartoma                            | Incidental "popcorn" lesion, lobulated but well demarcated                                                  | Mixed benign cartilaginous and glandular elements, fibrillary matrix                | Romanowsky highlights cartilaginous matrix             |
| Sclerosing hemangioma (pneumocytoma) | Incidental "coin" lesion, usually female                                                                    | Loose clusters surrounding stromal cores, fine chromatin, nuclear pseudoinclusions  | TTF-1 positive, negative for vascular markers          |
| Solitary fibrous tumor               | Pleural-based, well-circumscribed tumors                                                                    | Uniform bland spindle cells, ropey collagen fragments                               | CD34 and Bcl-2 positive, S100 and cytokeratin negative |
| Clear cell (sugar) tumor             | Incidental "coin" lesion; may be associated with tuberous sclerosis or other perivascular epithelioid cells | Bland cells with finely vacuolated cytoplasm, naked nuclei, transgressing vessels   | PAS highlights cytoplasmic glycogen, HMB-45 positive   |
| Granular cell tumor                  | Endobronchial, possibly with obstruction                                                                    | Polygonal epithelioid cells with abundant granular cytoplasm and small bland nuclei | PAS highlights granules, S100 positive                 |
| Salivary gland analog tumors         | Endobronchial, possibly with obstruction                                                                    | Same as salivary gland counterparts                                                 | Diff-Quik highlights stroma of pleomorphic adenoma     |

## Pulmonary Cartilaginous Hamartoma

- Most common Benign lung tumor, M>W
  - Characteristic Radiographic appearance, 1-5cms, peripheral
  - Mixture of cartilage, adipose tissue and respiratory epithelium, may calcify/ossify
  - Distinctive clonal cytogenetic aberrations
  - Resection is curative
-

## Pulmonary Cartilaginous Hamartoma

- Aspirate similar to Pleomorphic Adenoma of salivary glands
  - Chondrocytes, adipose tissue and varying amounts of respiratory epithelial elements are admixed
  - Brilliant magenta staining of chondroid matrix on DQ stain.
  - Chronic inflammation and smooth muscle also may be seen
-

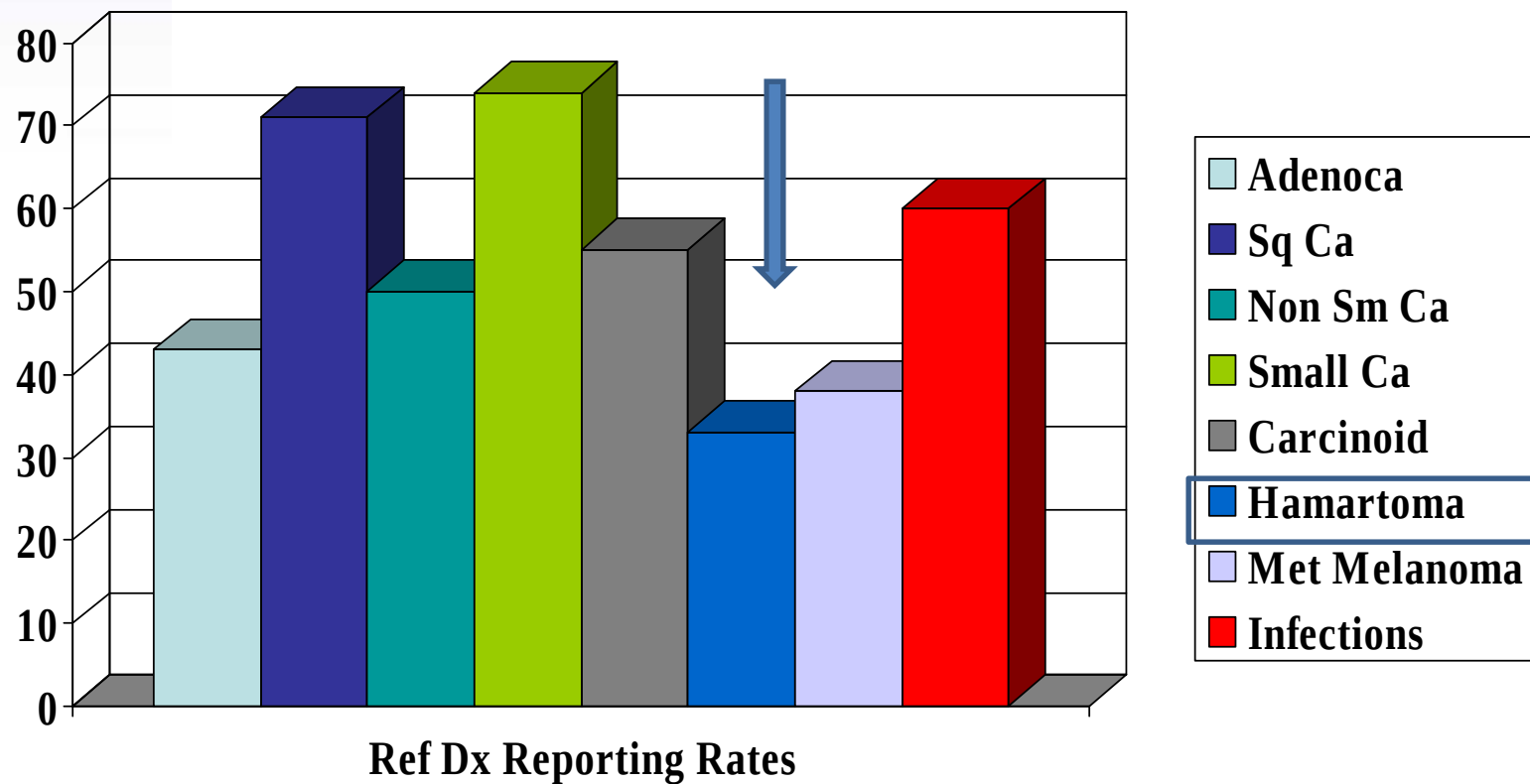
CAP Non Gyn program Lung FNA General Dx:  
Negative/Benign  
Reference DX: Hamartoma

| <u>General Dx</u> | <u>Pos</u> | <u>Neg/Benign Susp</u> |      |
|-------------------|------------|------------------------|------|
| (Lab)             | 13.6%      | 78%                    | 5.1% |

| <u>Ref Dx</u>    | <u>Lab</u> | <u>PTH</u> | <u>CT</u> |
|------------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| <u>Hamartoma</u> | 42.4%      | 37.4%      | 22.5%     |
| Bn Lesion        | 15.3%      | 18.7%      | 15.5%     |
| Normal           | 13.6%      | 8.4%       | 31%       |

CAP Interlaboratory comparison program in Non Gyn cytology 2002 data

## Lung FNA: Reference Diagnosis Comparison(Lab reporting rates,2001)





## Sclerosing Hemangioma/Pneumocytoma

- Age full spectrum, early childhood-old
  - Female preponderance, 5:1
  - Incidentalomas on films, usually <3cms, well circumscribed peripheral lung lesions
  - 4 basic patterns histologically- papillary, sclerotic, solid, angiomatoid
  - Two basic cell types. Surface and round cells
-

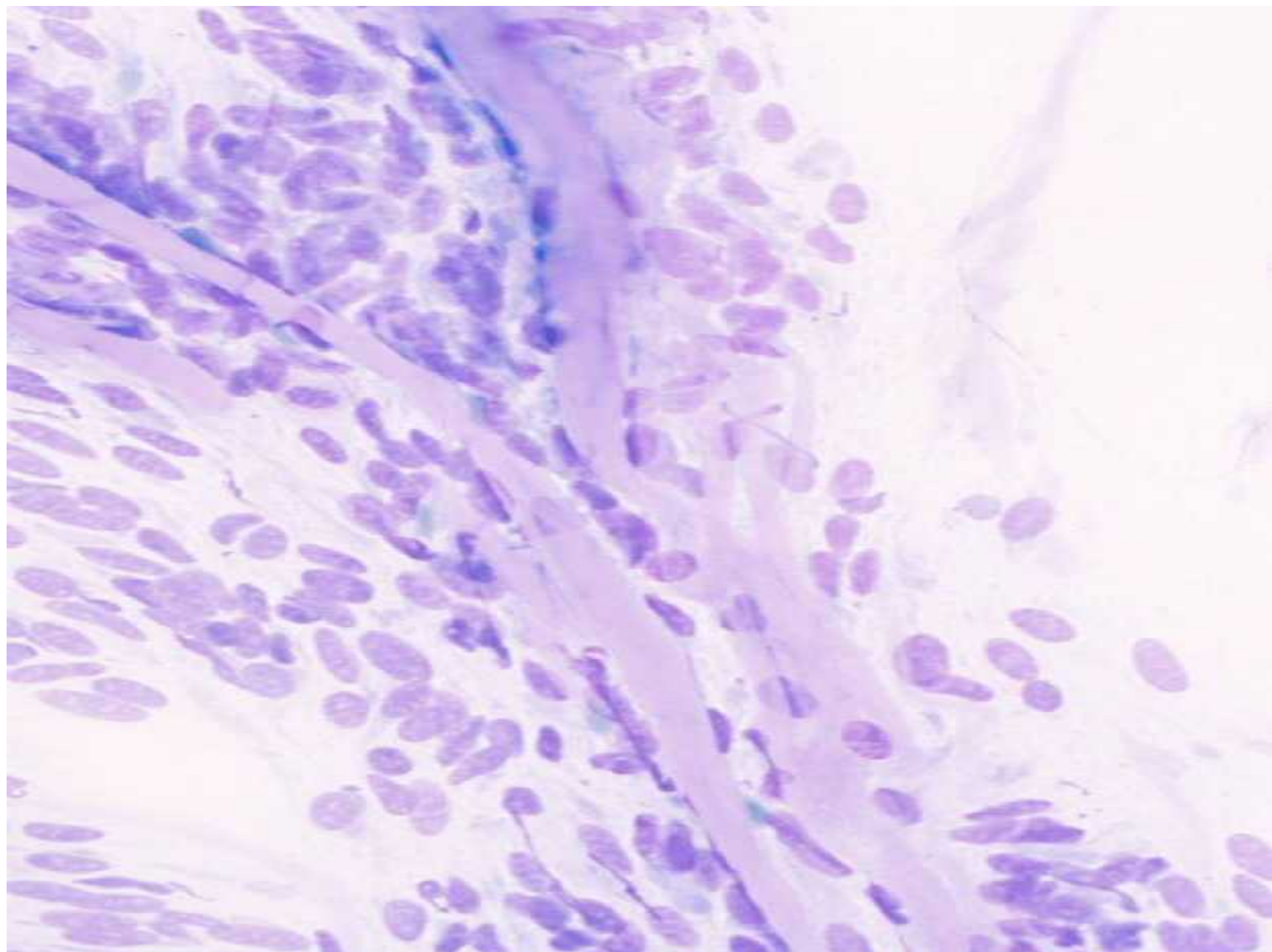
## Sclerosing Hemangioma/Pneumocytoma

- DD Well differentiated ACA. TRAP on FNA!
  - TTF1 and Keratin positive too!
  - Mesothelial markers negative.
  - Very important to correlate clinical and radiographic findings with the cytology as these are benign/very rarely borderline lesions
-

# Case

55 yr old male with large pleural based right lung mass. FNA and core needle biopsy performed.

---



# Differential Diagnosis of Spindle Cell Neoplasms of Pleura & Lung

|                    | AE1/3 | CD31 | CD34 |
|--------------------|-------|------|------|
| <b>Solitary FT</b> | -     | -    | +    |
| <b>Sarc CA</b>     | +     | -    | -    |
| <b>MMeso</b>       | +     | -    | -    |
| <b>Melanoma-</b>   | -     | -    |      |
| <b>Atyp Carc</b>   | +     | -    | -    |
| <b>Sarcoma</b>     | -     | +/-  | -    |

And now **STAT 6!!!**