

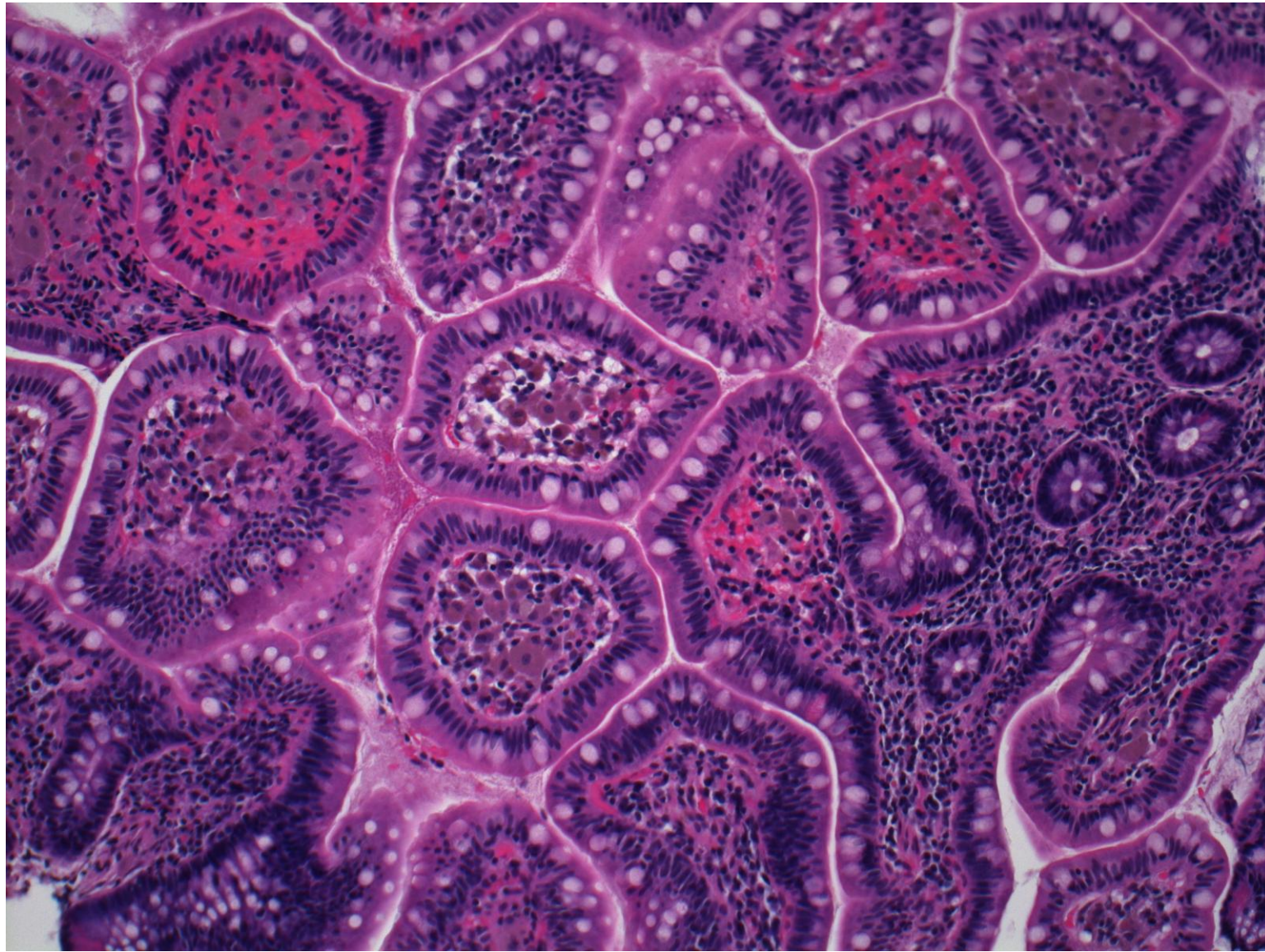
Pseudomelanosis of the small bowel

Pseudomelanosis of the small bowel endoscopically reveals a tigroid mucosa with brown-black or grey-black speckling. It is not associated with laxatives, unlike its colonic variant. PAS-reactive ceroid pigments are seen in macrophages in the lamina propria mucosae. The disease may be asymptomatic or associates dyspepsia and abdominal discomfort: chronic illness may be related to impaired iron utilization and absorption. Medications of anti-hypertensives, iron supplements, diuretics, beta-blockers and multivitamins may be seen in the patients.

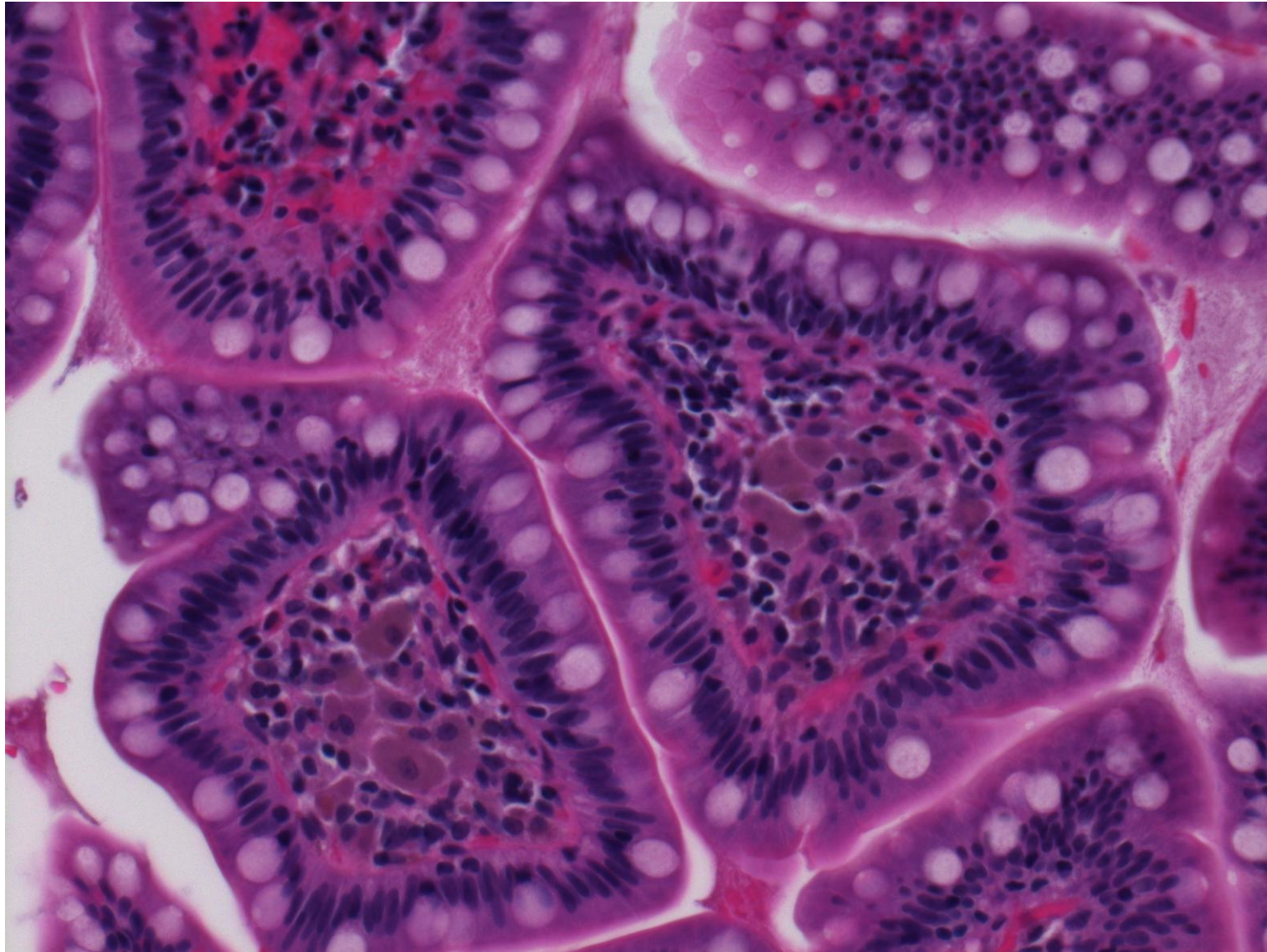
Ref.: Deliwala S, et al. Pseudomelanosis of the small bowel: a systematic review. Am J Gastroenterol 2020; 115(Suppl): S662-S663. doi: 10.14309/01.ajg.0000707320.29204.d6

Case presentation:

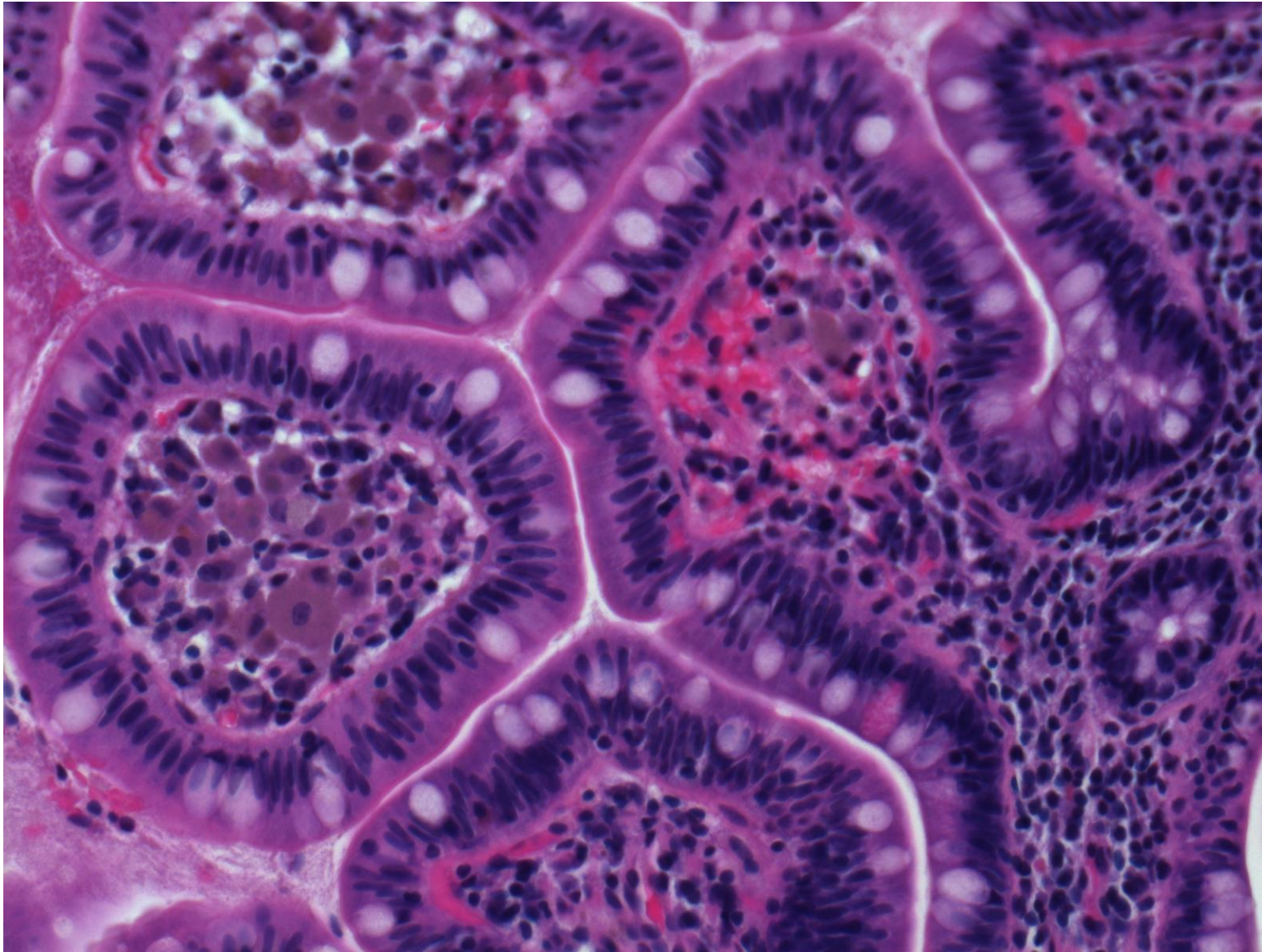
A 74-year-old man manifested long-lasting diarrhea with abdominal pain and steatorrhea for years. Jejunal biopsy reveals clustered macrophages containing PAS-reactive granules distributed in the lamina propria mucosae. Differential diagnosis of Whipple's disease is requested. Ultrastructural study was performed.



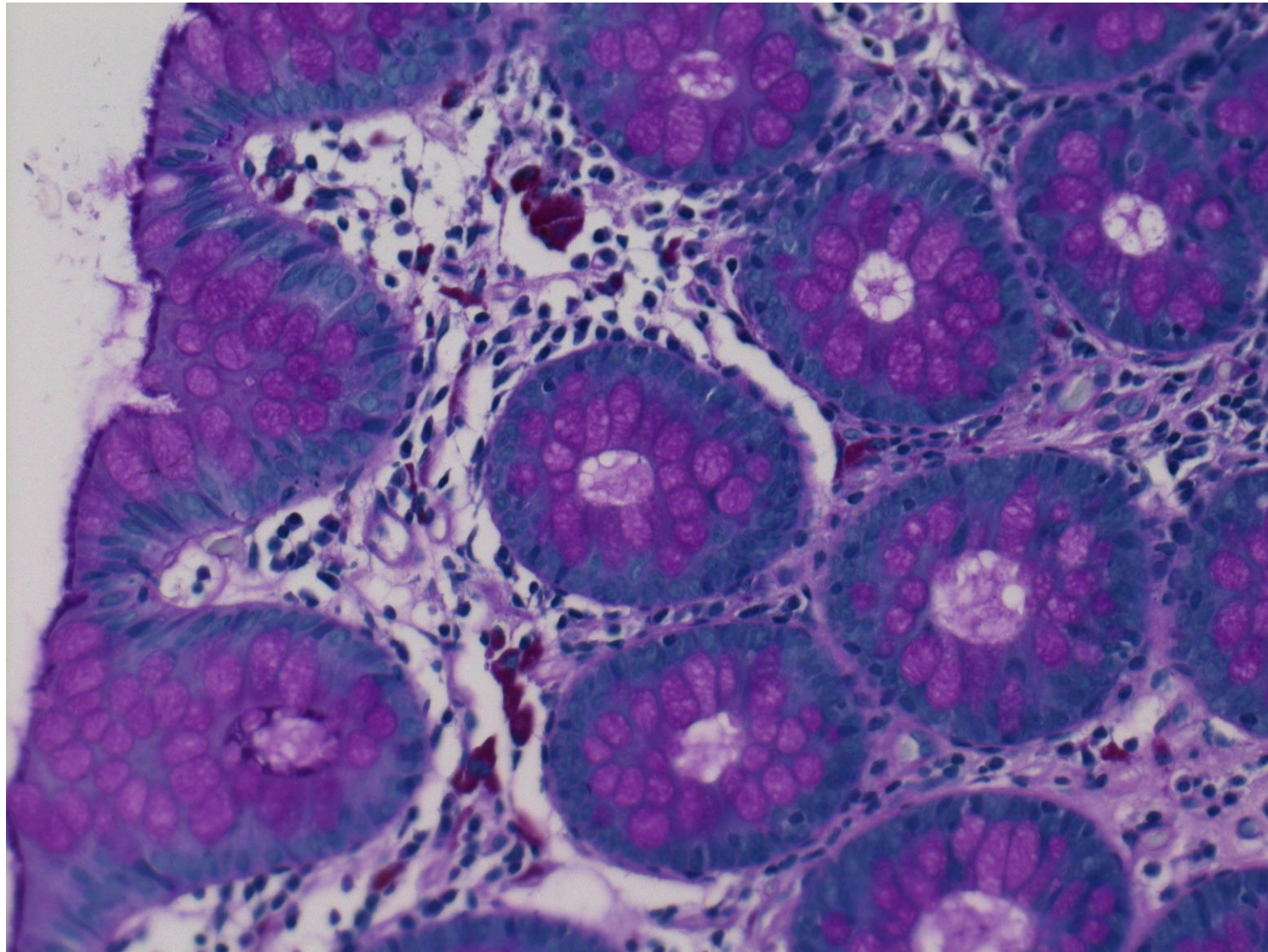
Jejunal biopsy from a 74-year-old man with chronic diarrhea and abdominal pain shows lamina propria accumulation of ceroid-containing macrophages. H&E-1



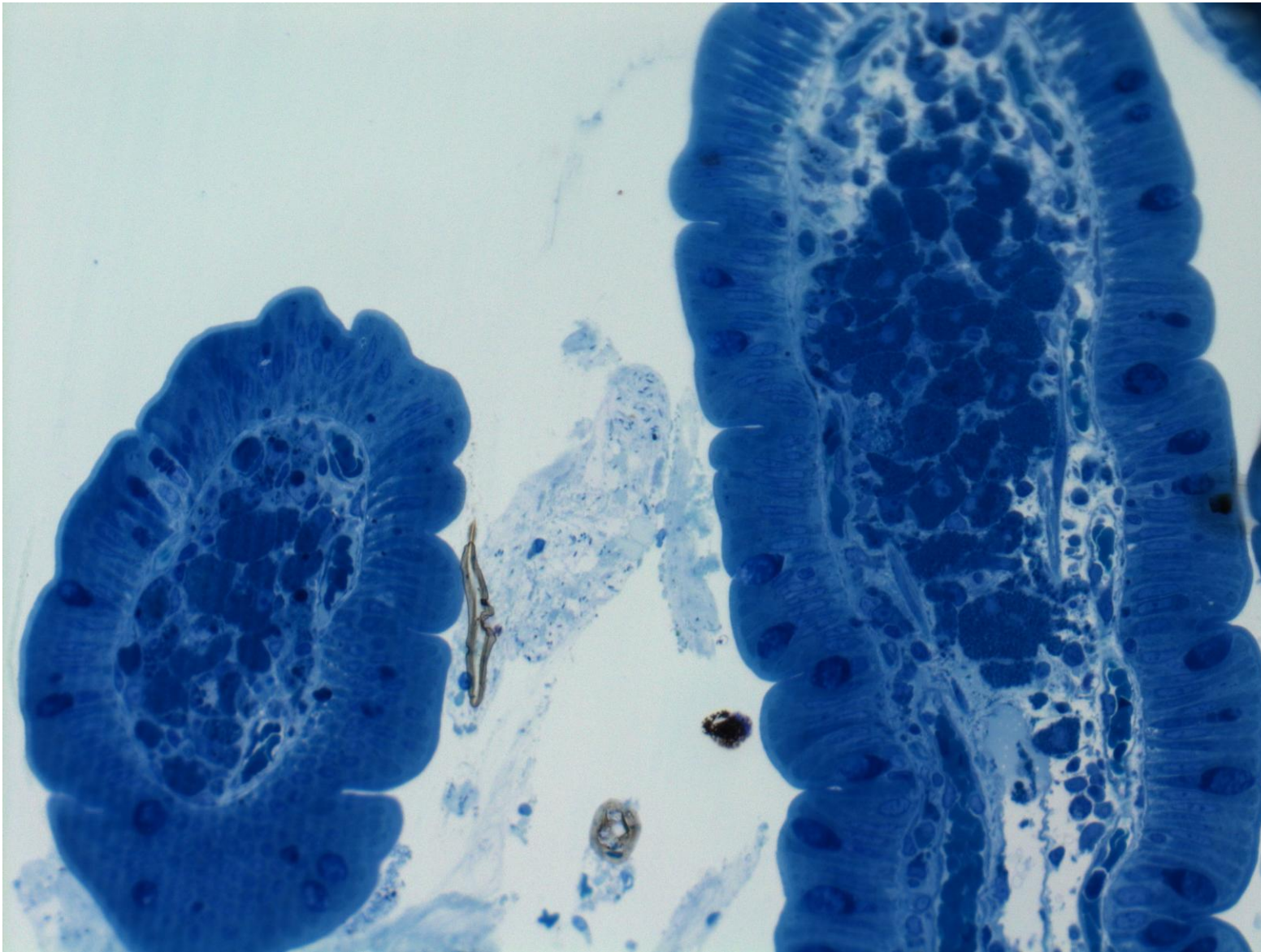
Jejunal biopsy from a 74-year-old man with chronic diarrhea and abdominal pain shows lamina propria accumulation of ceroid-containing macrophages. H&E-2



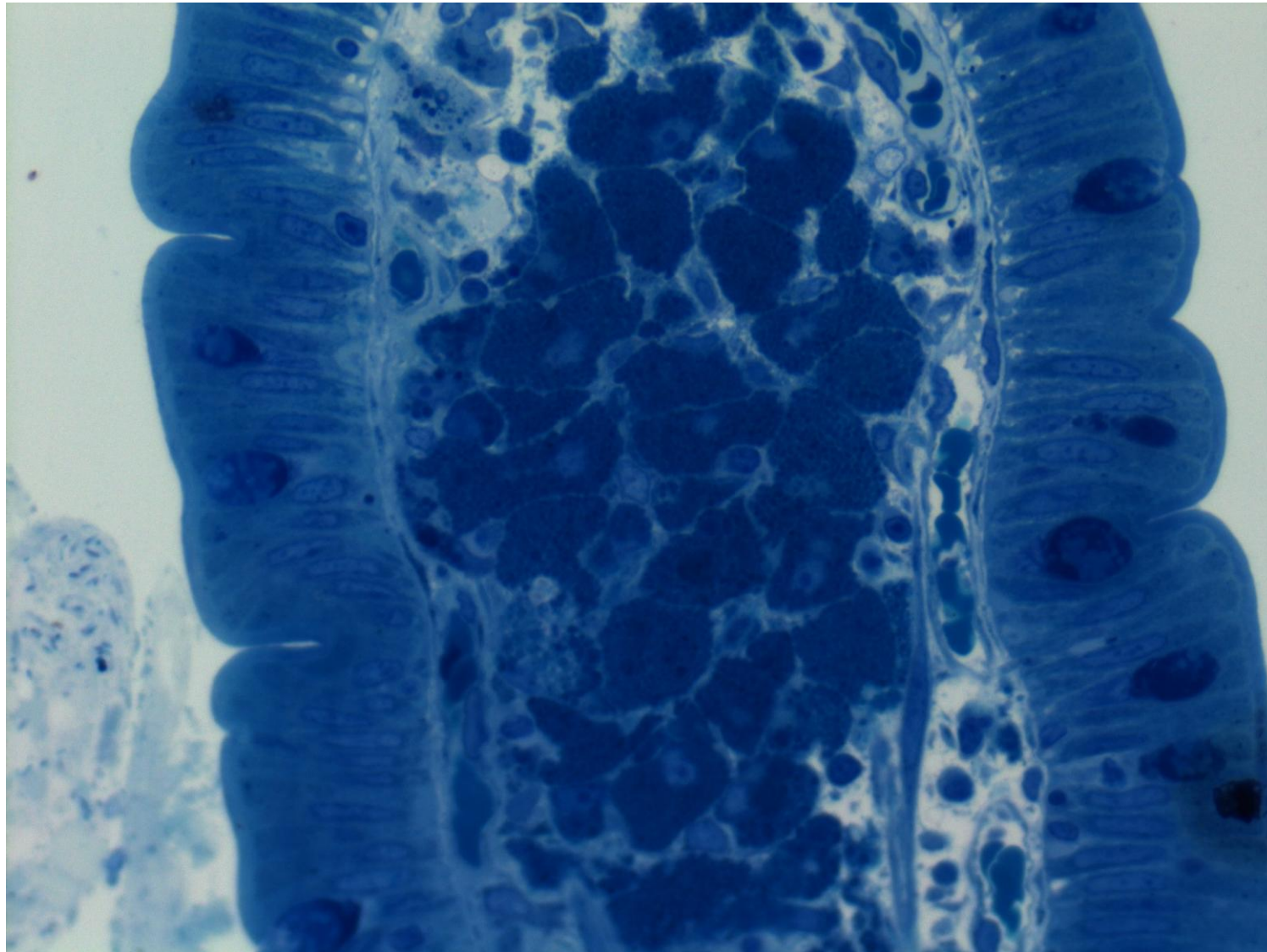
Jejunal biopsy from a 74-year-old man with chronic diarrhea and abdominal pain shows lamina propria accumulation of ceroid-containing macrophages. H&E-3



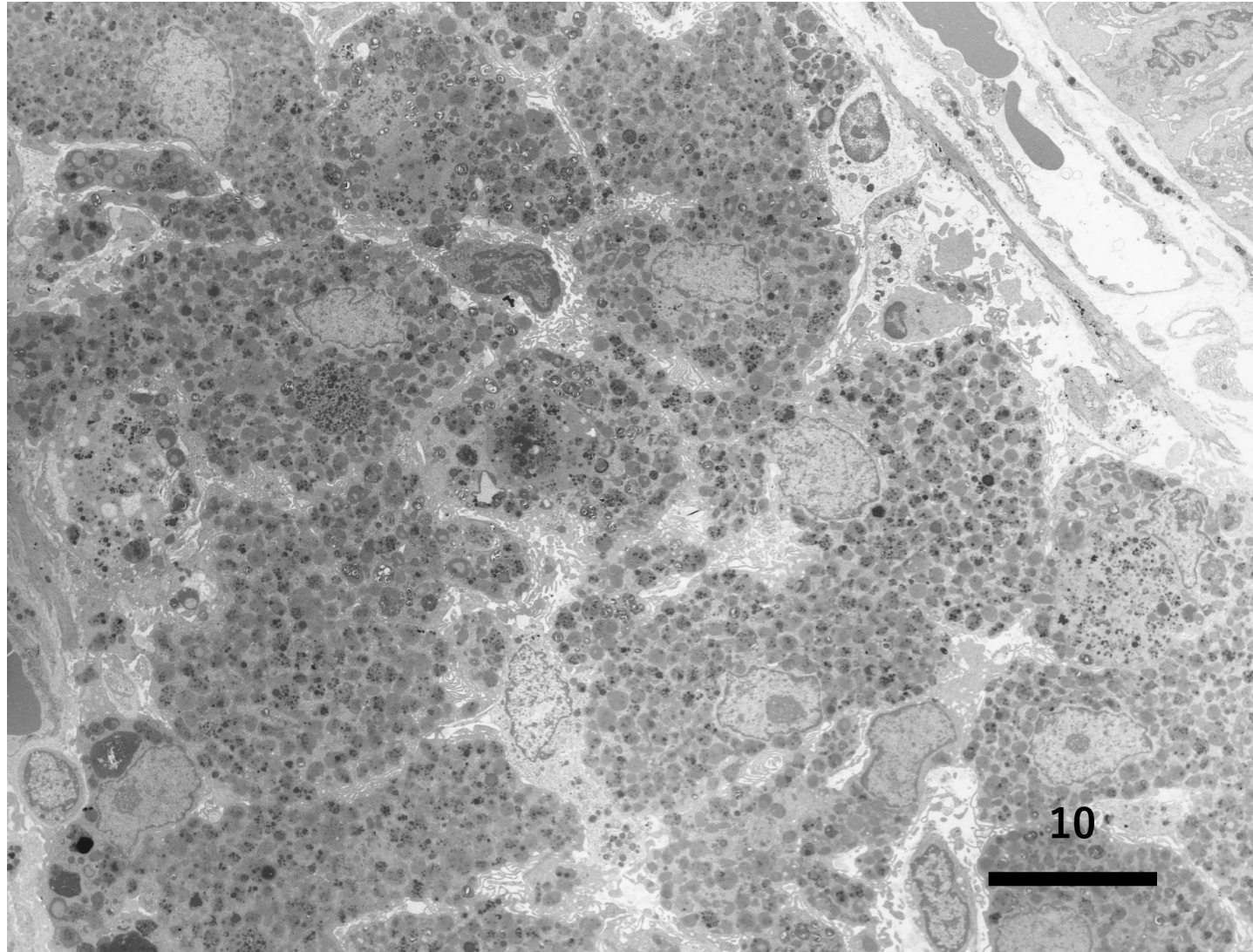
Jejunal biopsy from a 74-year-old man with chronic diarrhea and abdominal pain shows lamina propria accumulation of PAS-reactive ceroid-containing macrophages. PAS-1



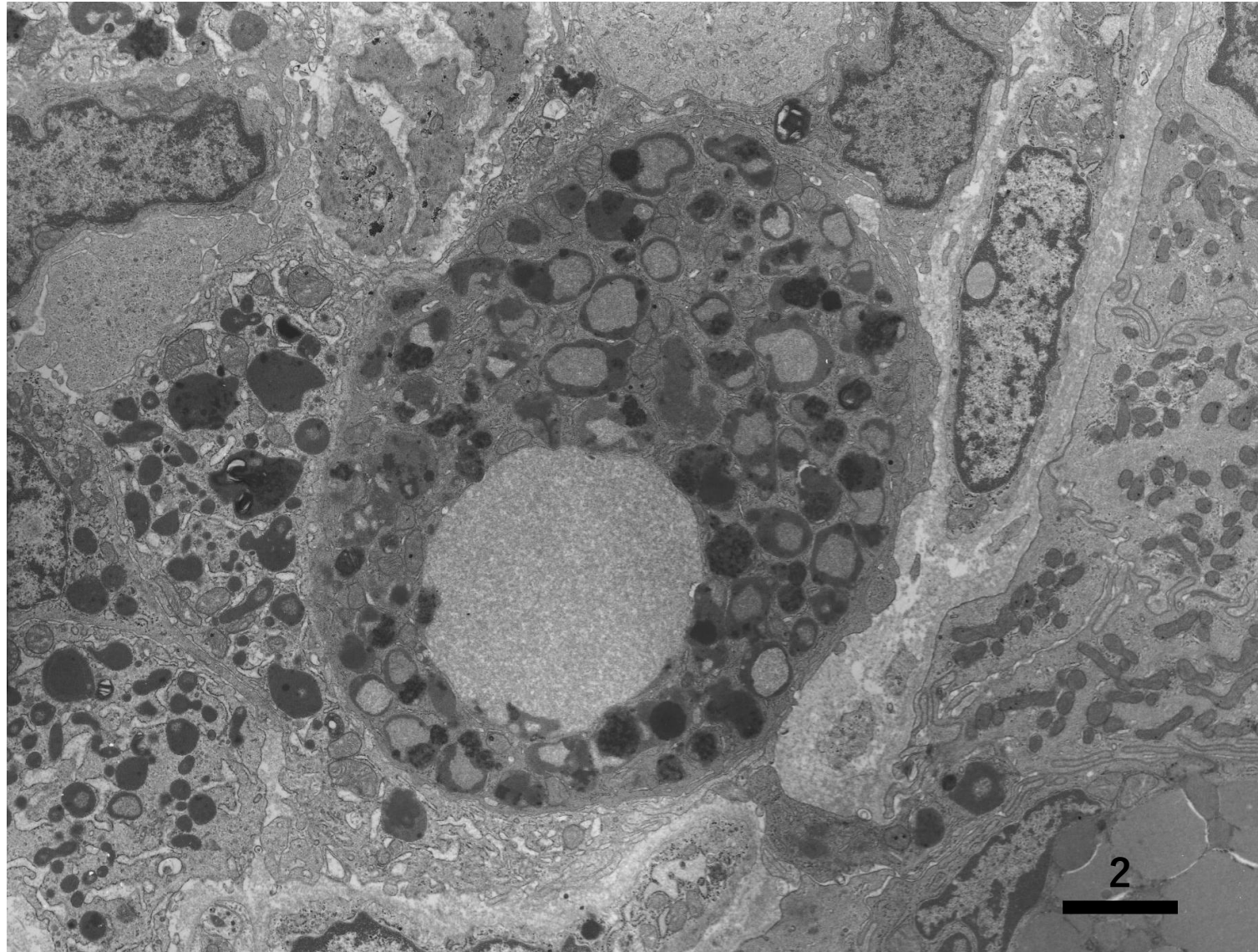
Jejunal biopsy from a 74-year-old man with chronic diarrhea and abdominal pain shows lamina propria accumulation of PAS-reactive ceroid-containing macrophages. PAS-2



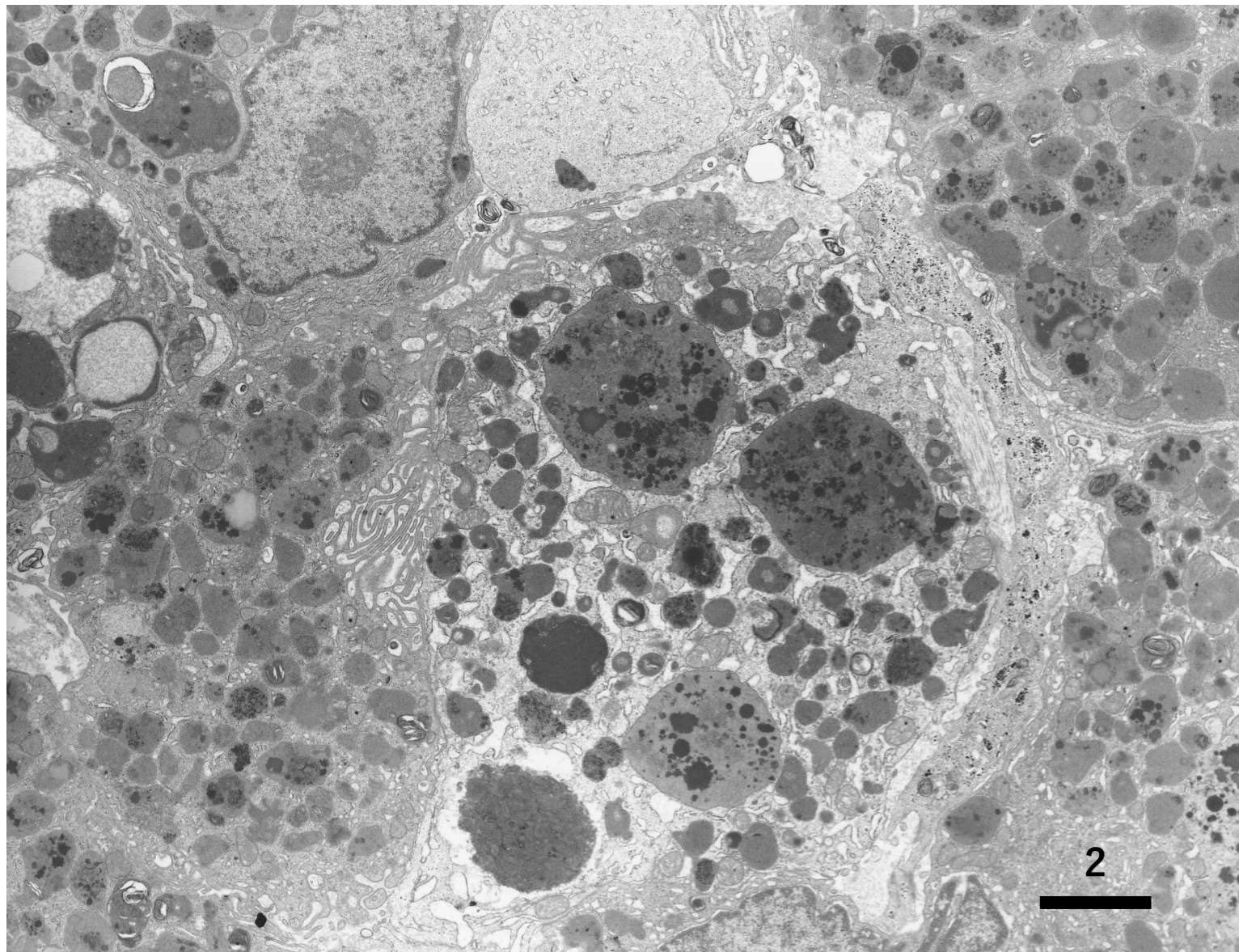
Jejunal biopsy from a 74-year-old man with chronic diarrhea and abdominal pain shows lamina propria accumulation of PAS-reactive ceroid-containing macrophages. PAS-3



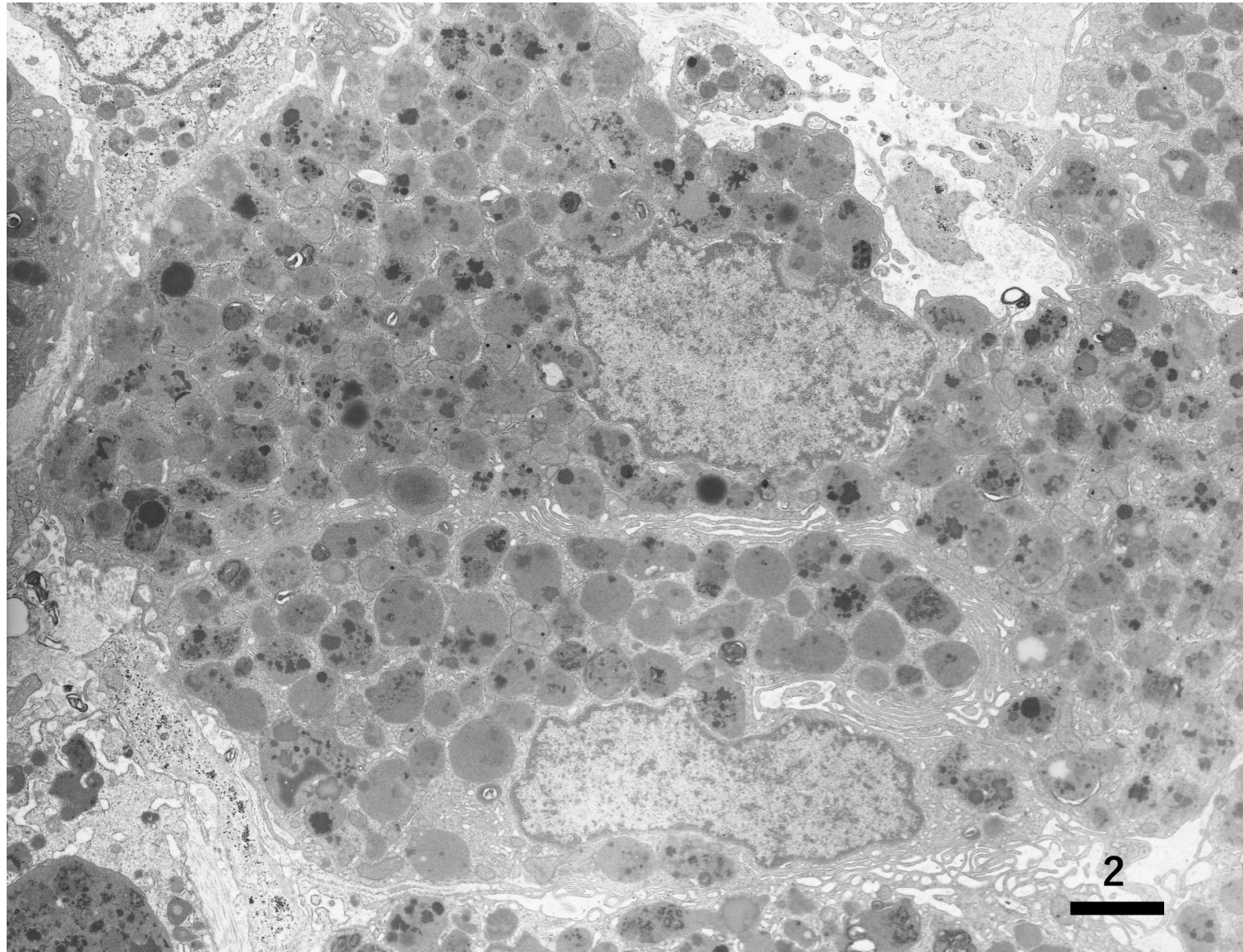
Ultrastructure of the jejunal biopsy from a 74-year-old man with chronic diarrhea and abdominal pain. The lamina propria mucosae is filled with macrophages rich in ceroid-containing granules. EM-1



Ultrastructure of the jejunal biopsy from a 74-year-old man with chronic diarrhea and abdominal pain. The lamina propria mucosae is filled with macrophages rich in irregular-shaped ceroid-containing granules. EM-2



Ultrastructure of the jejunal biopsy from a 74-year-old man with chronic diarrhea and abdominal pain. The lamina propria mucosae is filled with macrophages rich in irregular-shaped ceroid-containing granules. EM-3



Ultrastructure of the jejunal biopsy from a 74-year-old man with chronic diarrhea and abdominal pain. The lamina propria mucosae is filled with macrophages rich in irregular-shaped ceroid-containing granules. EM-4