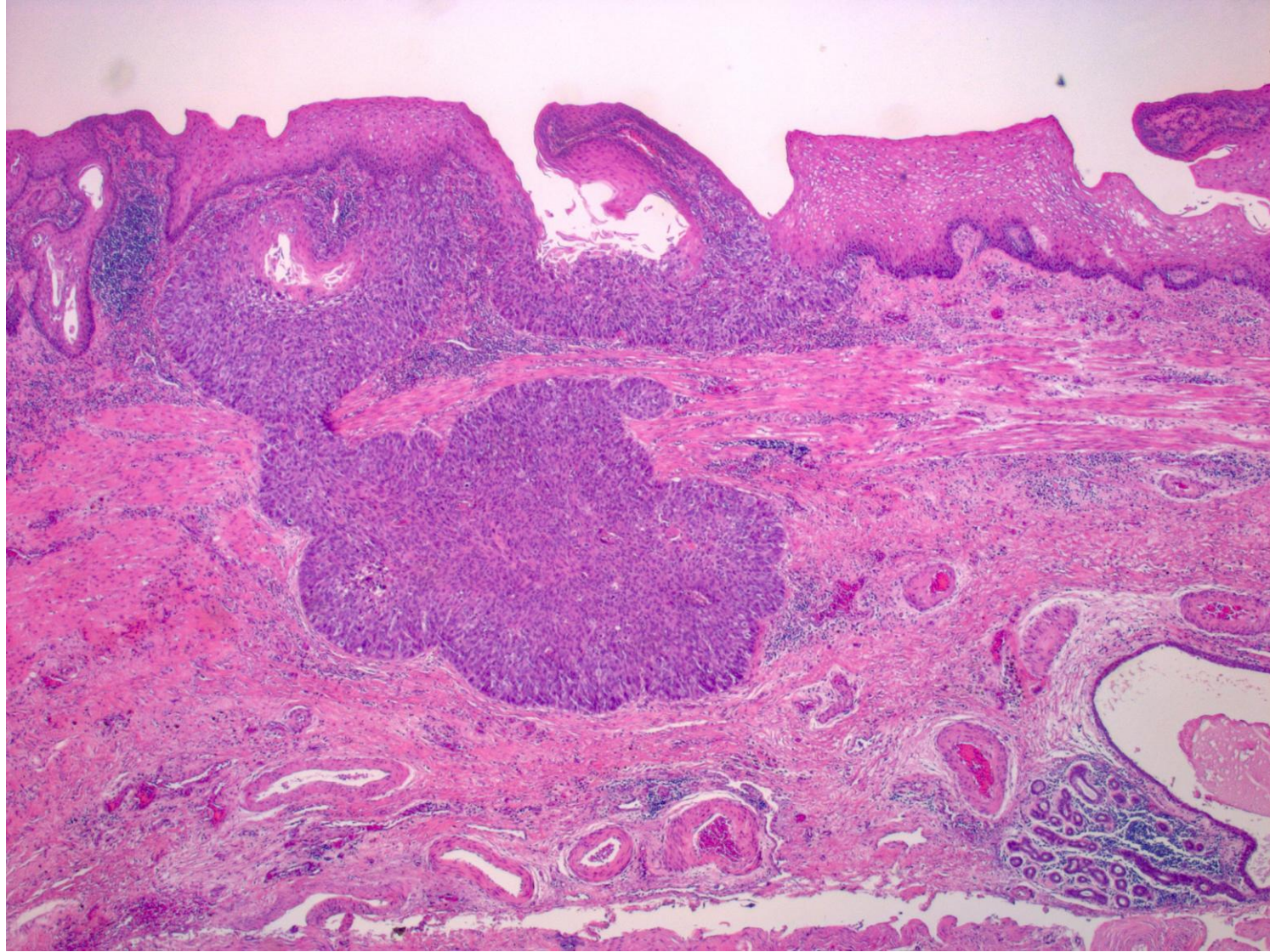


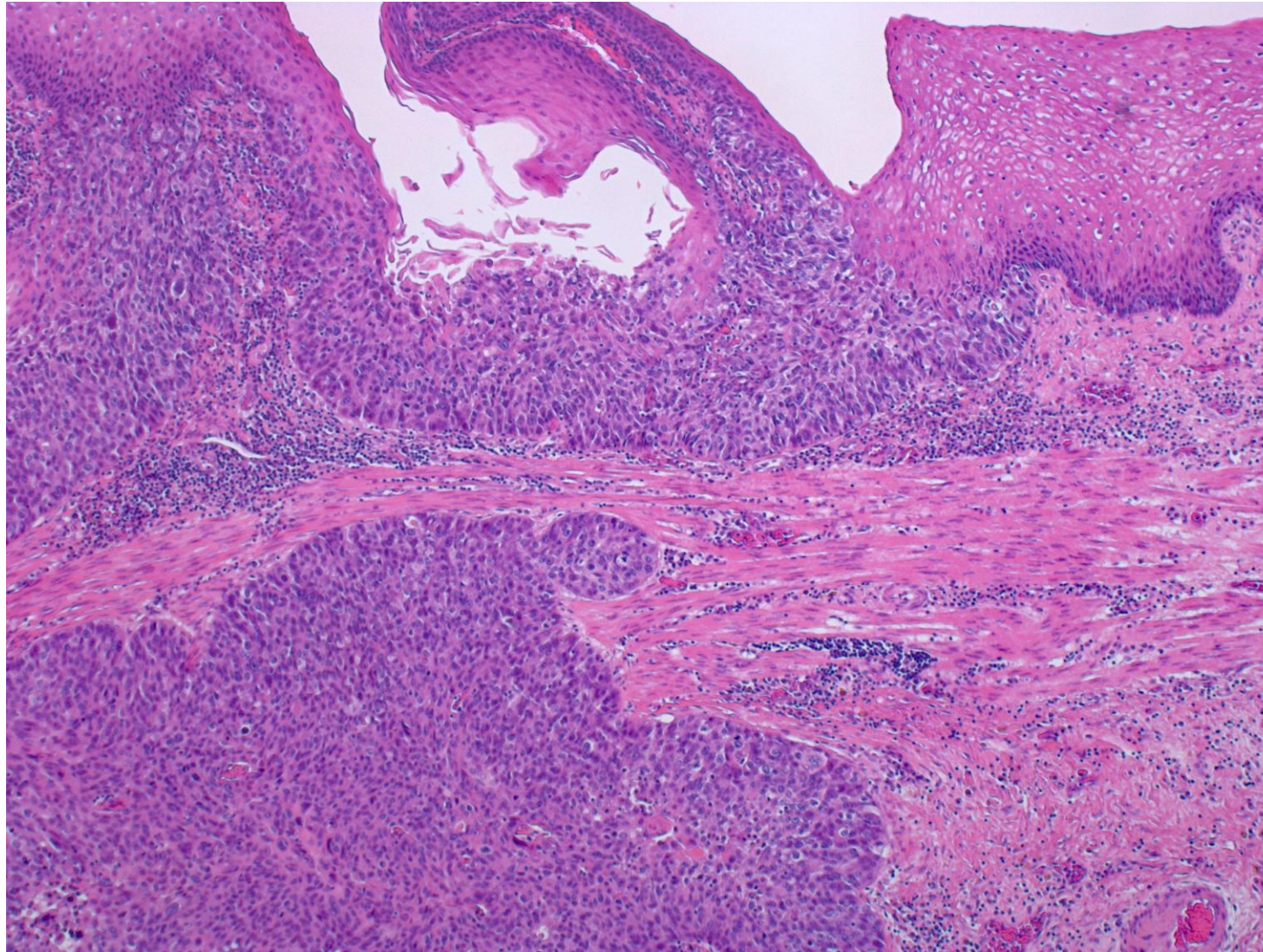
Early squamous cell carcinoma of the esophagus metastatic to regional lymph nodes

The incidence of lymph node metastasis in patients with early-stage esophageal cancer is relatively high, especially for submucosally infiltrating tumors. Duan, et al. reported that 36 (16%) of 223 patients with T1 cancer showed lymph node metastasis. When the nodal metastasis is positive, endoscopic resection is not curative. The prediction of nodal metastasis before surgery is critically important for the curability of the patients.

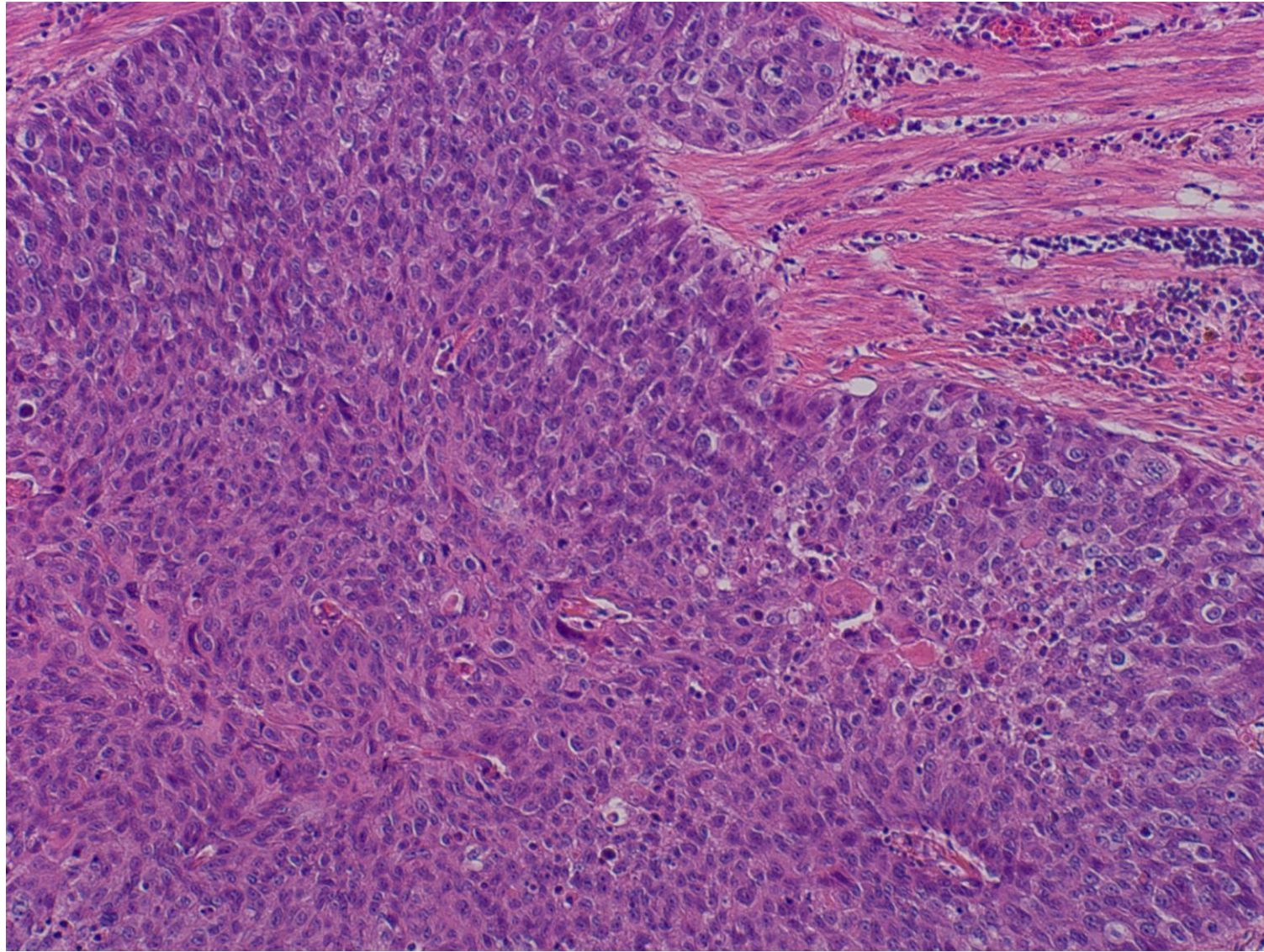
Ref.: Duan X, et al. A nomogram to predict lymph node metastasis risk for early esophageal squamous cell carcinoma. BMC Cancer 2021; 21: 431. doi: 10.1186/s12885-021-08077-z



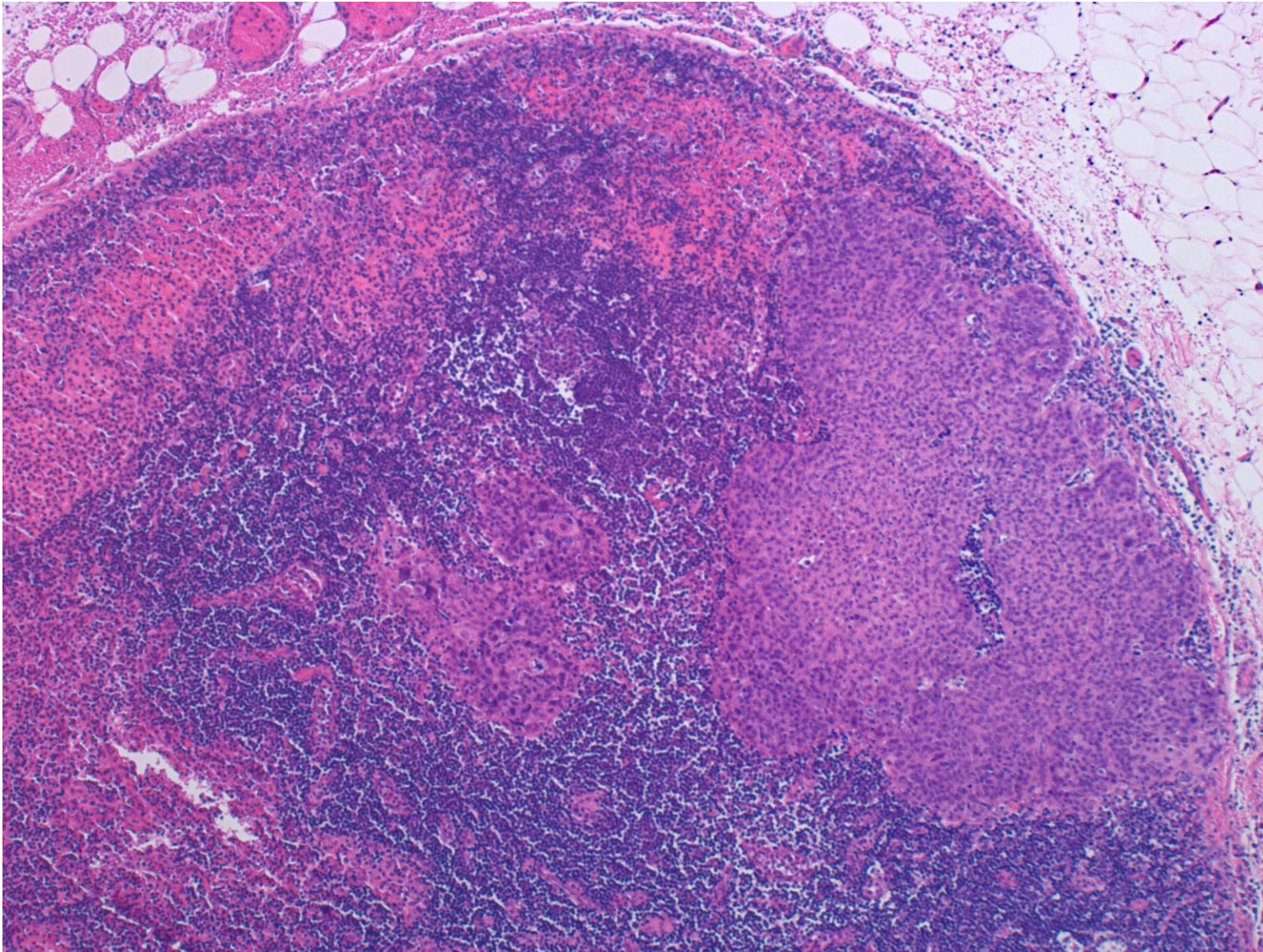
Early squamous cell carcinoma of the esophagus with lymph nodal metastasis seen in a 65 y-o male patient. In the total esophagectomy specimen, submucosal invasion continuous to the intramucosal malignancy is evident. Lymphatic invasion is not proven microscopically (H&E-1).



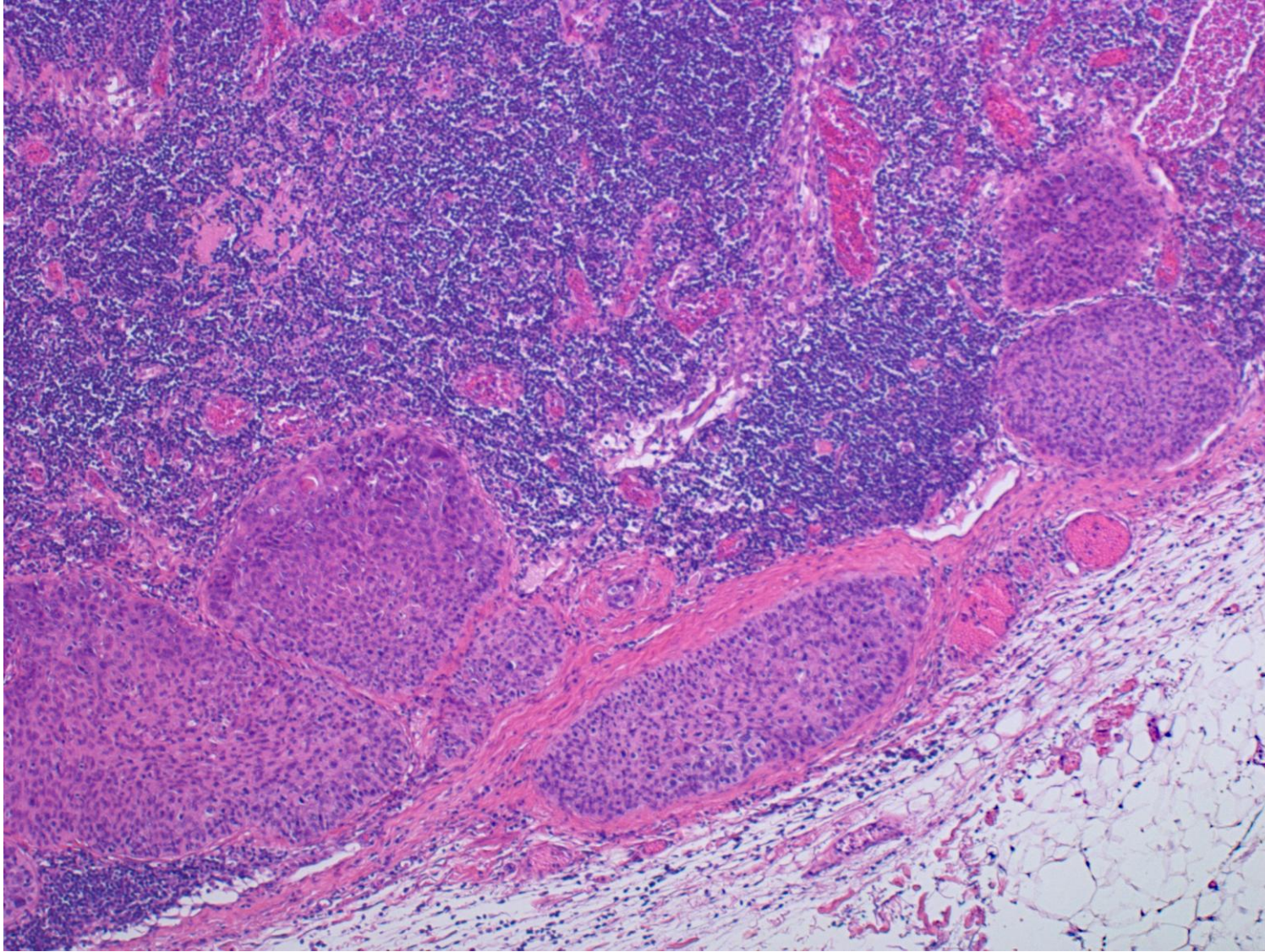
Early squamous cell carcinoma of the esophagus with lymph nodal metastasis seen in a 65 y-o male patient. In the total esophagectomy specimen, submucosal invasion continuous to the intramucosal malignancy is evident. Lymphatic invasion is not proven microscopically (H&E-2).



Early squamous cell carcinoma of the esophagus with lymph nodal metastasis seen in a 65 y-o male patient. In the total esophagectomy specimen, submucosal invasion is evident. Nuclear atypia is recognized in the parabasal-type cancerous keratinocytes (H&E-3).



Early squamous cell carcinoma of the esophagus with lymph nodal metastasis seen in a 65 y-o male patient. In the regional lymph node (No. 106R), metastasis of squamous cell carcinoma is observed along the peripheral sinus (H&E-4).



Early squamous cell carcinoma of the esophagus with lymph nodal metastasis seen in a 65 y-o male patient. In the regional lymph node (No. 106R), metastasis of squamous cell carcinoma is observed along the peripheral sinus. Invasion to the afferent lymphatics is associated (H&E-5).