

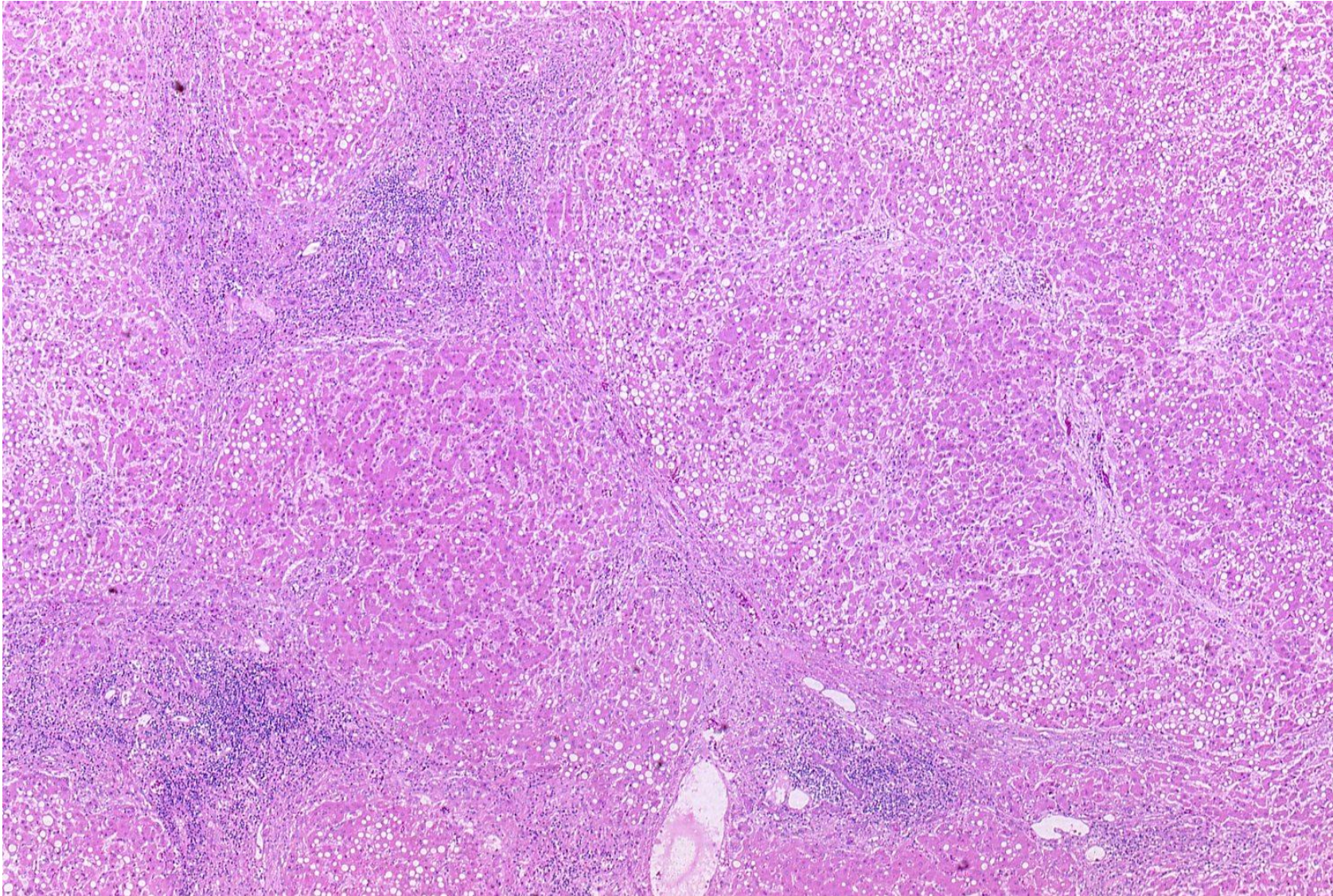
Gross appearance of esophageal varices

Esophageal varices rupture is a medical emergency leading to life-threatening bleeding. The risks include hemorrhagic shock due to significant blood loss. Endoscopic treatment for esophageal varices, including endoscopic injection sclerotherapy and endoscopic variceal ligation, has significantly prevented lethal rupture of the varices. Regular screenings for those at risk are crucial for early detection and management of esophageal varices. However, esophageal varices rupture may still cause unexpected sudden death in cases of subclinical but advanced liver cirrhosis with portal hypertension.

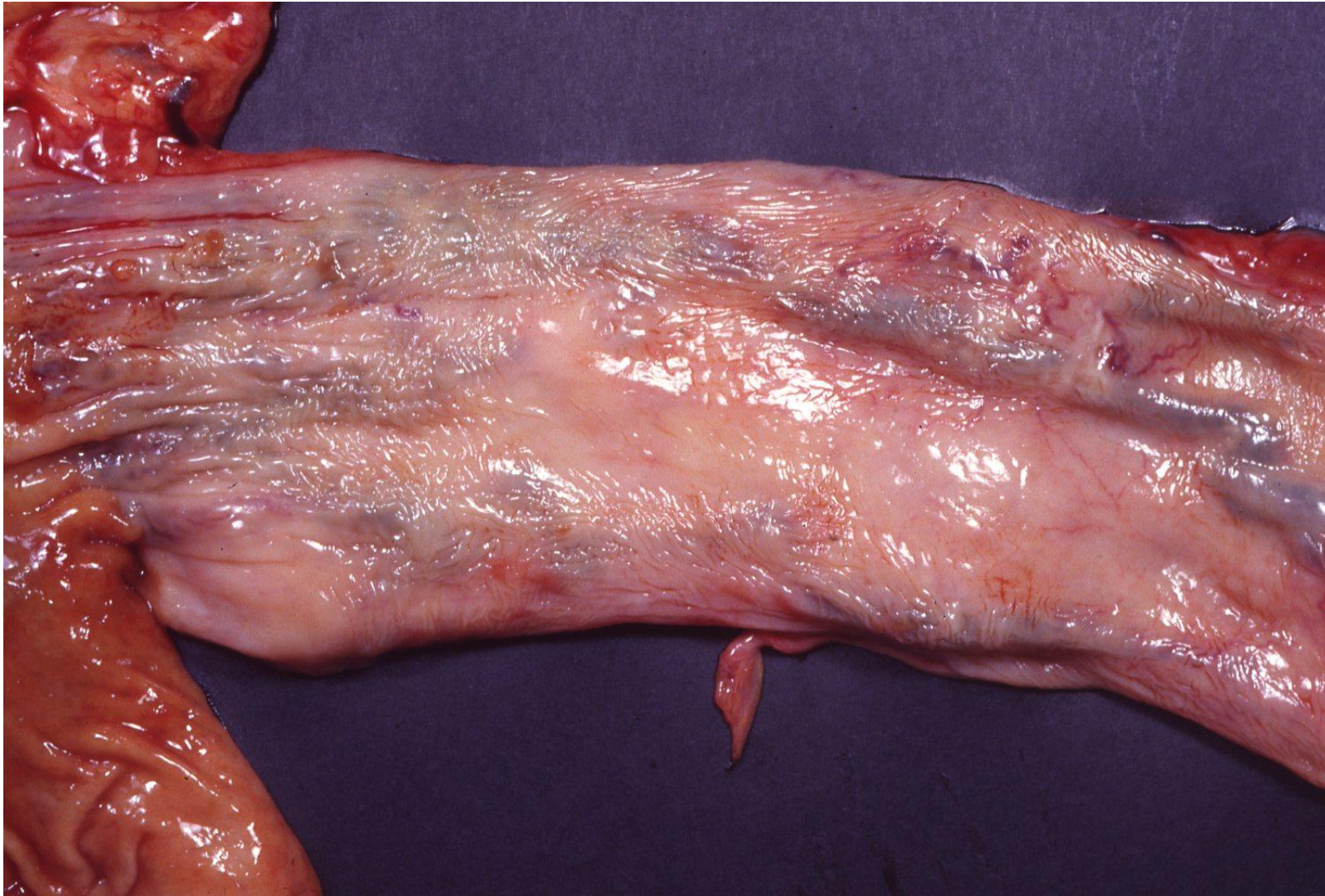
Ref.: Verma A, et al. Sudden death caused by gastroesophageal varices rupture: insights from an autopsy-based case series unraveling the pathological events. *Cureus* 2023; 15(9): e46166. doi: 10.7759/cureus.46166



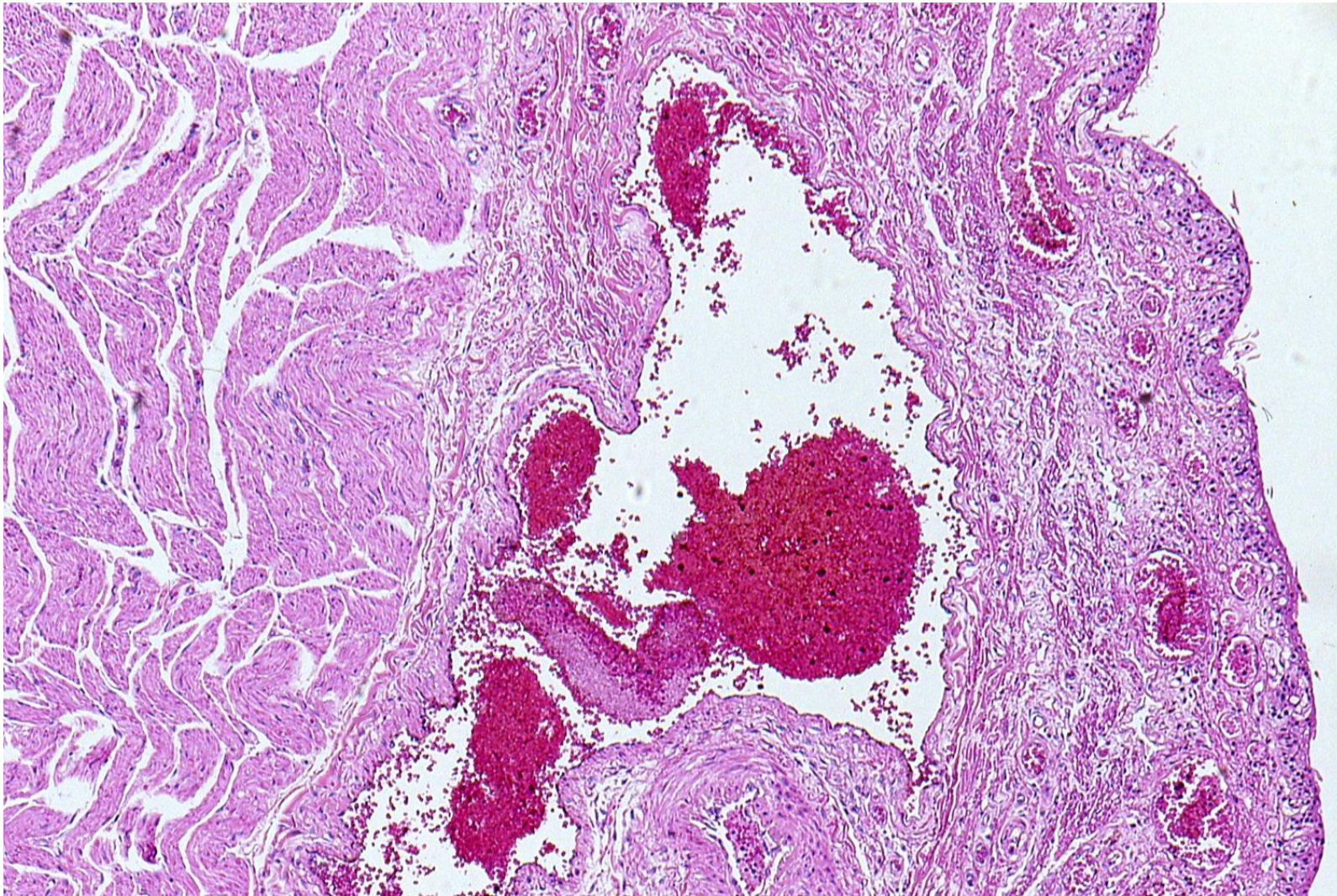
Advanced HCV-positive liver cirrhosis seen in a 55 y-o female patient. The cirrhotic liver weighs 960 g, and the enlarged spleen weighs 500 g. Hepatic failure with portal hypertension is evident (cut surfaces of the liver and spleen after formalin fixation).



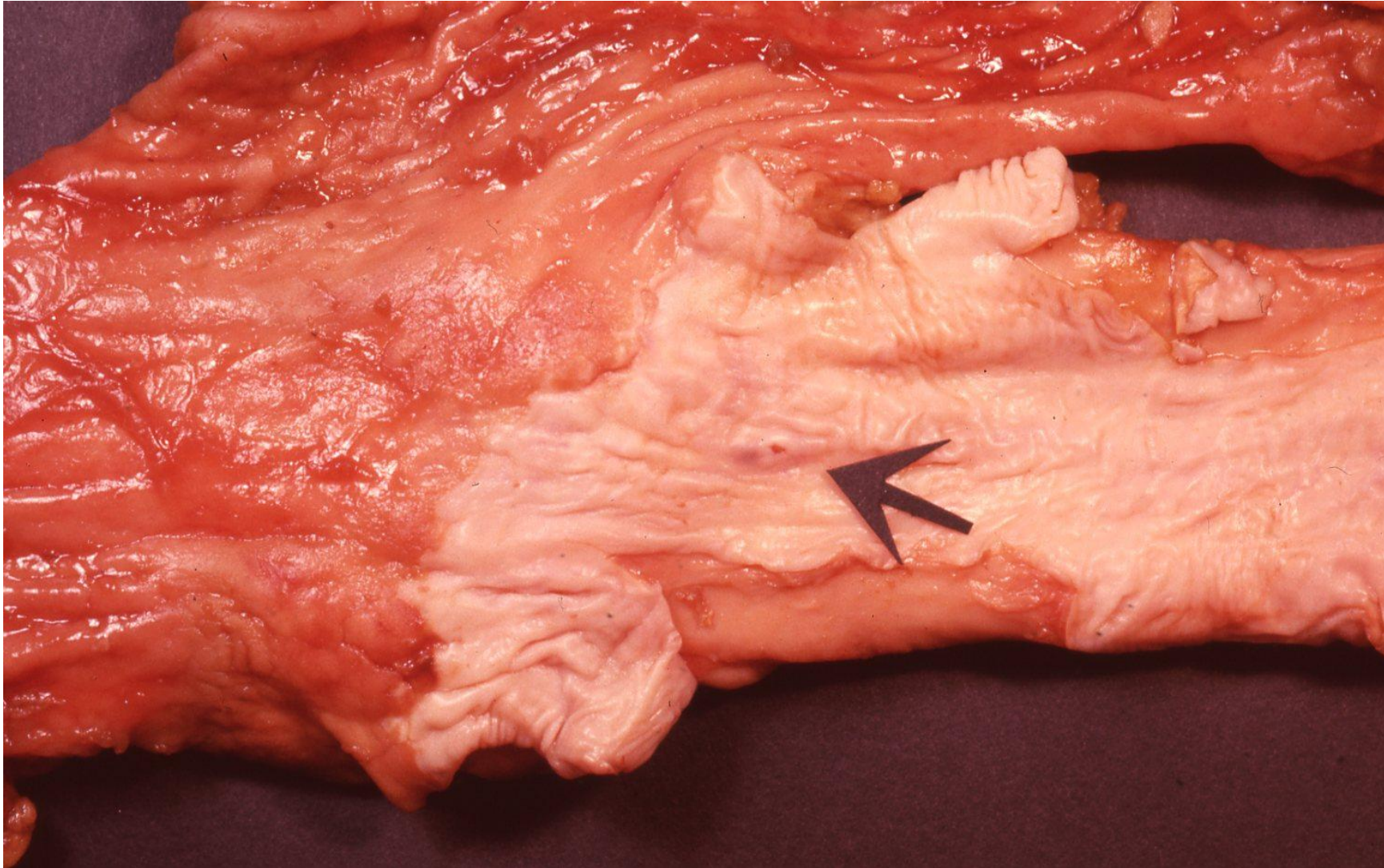
Advanced HCV-positive liver cirrhosis seen in a 55 y-o female patient. The cirrhotic liver microscopically shows regenerative nodule formation. Moderate lymphocytic infiltration is observed in the fibrotic and septating portal triad (H&E).



Advanced HCV-positive liver cirrhosis seen in a 55 y-o female patient. The esophagus at autopsy shows three engorged esophageal veins beneath the squamous mucosa, indicating the association with portal hypertension. The varices are not ruptured in the present case (gross appearance).



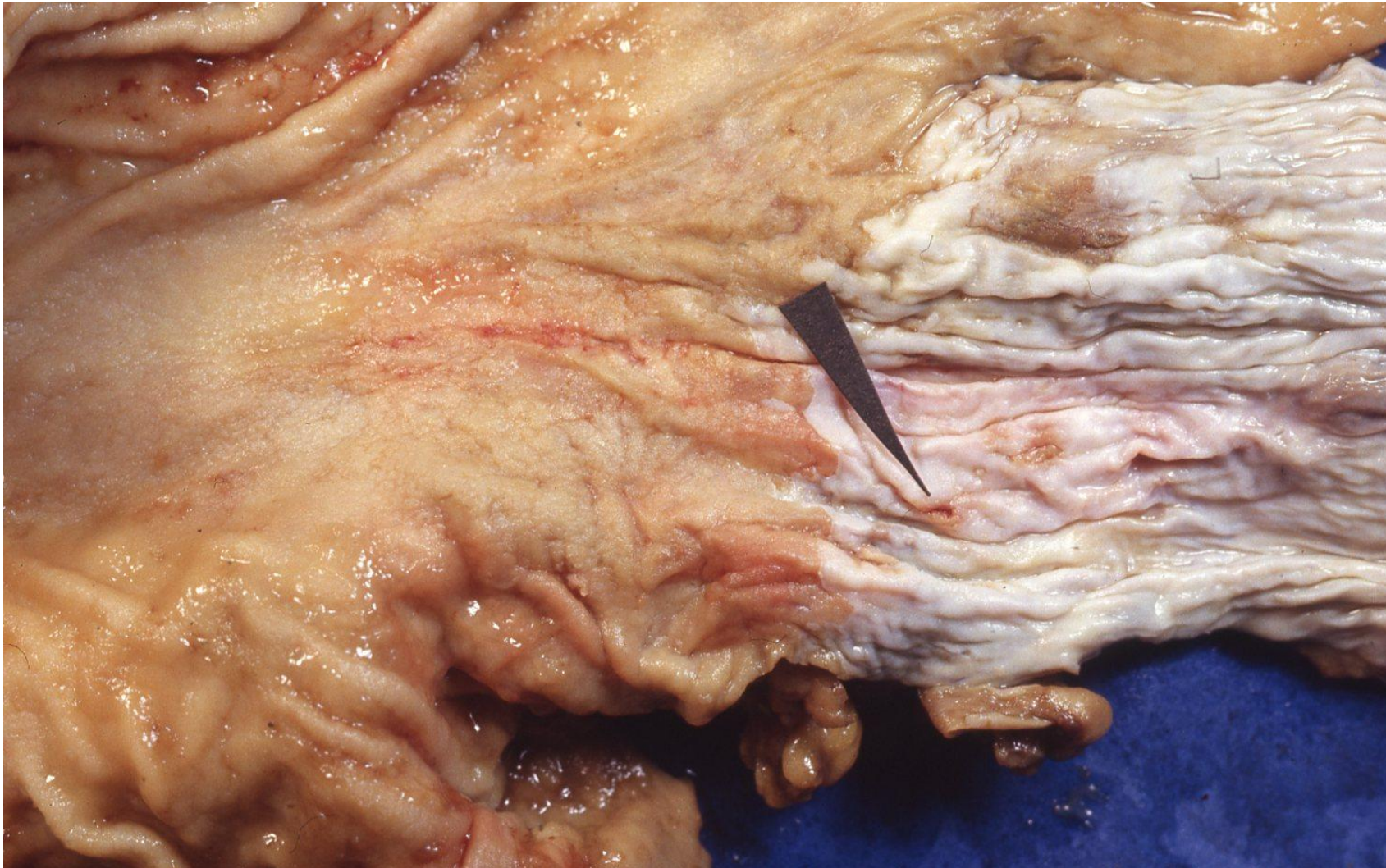
Advanced HCV-positive liver cirrhosis seen in a 55 y-o female patient. The varicose vein is noted in the submucosal layer of the esophagus at autopsy (H&E).



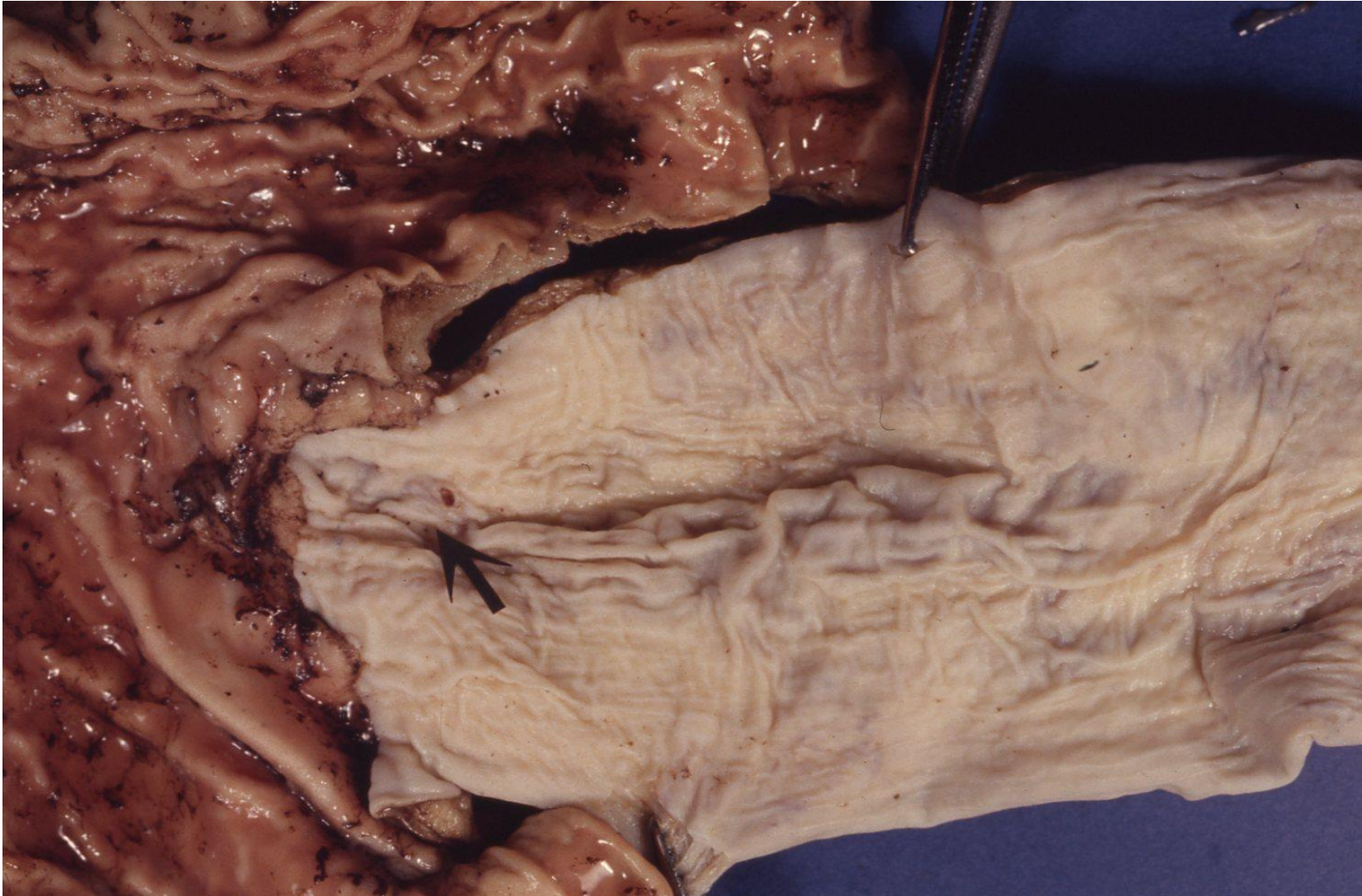
Ruptured various vein in the esophagus of a 52 y-o male patient with advanced HCV-positive liver cirrhosis. Massive hemorrhage from the ruptured varices (arrow) was the direct cause of death in the present case (gross appearance).



Ruptured various vein in the esophagus of a 43 y-o male patient with advanced liver cirrhosis. Massive hemorrhage from the ruptured varices (arrowhead) was the direct cause of death in the present case (gross appearance after formalin fixation).



Ruptured varicose vein in the esophagus of a 43 y-o male patient with advanced liver cirrhosis. Massive hemorrhage from the ruptured varices (arrowhead) was the direct cause of death in the present case (close-up view of the gross appearance after formalin fixation).



Ruptured various vein in the esophagus of a 55 y-o female patient with HCV-positive advanced liver cirrhosis. Massive hemorrhage (1,100 mL) from the ruptured varices (arrow) was the direct cause of death in the present case (gross appearance after formalin fixation).