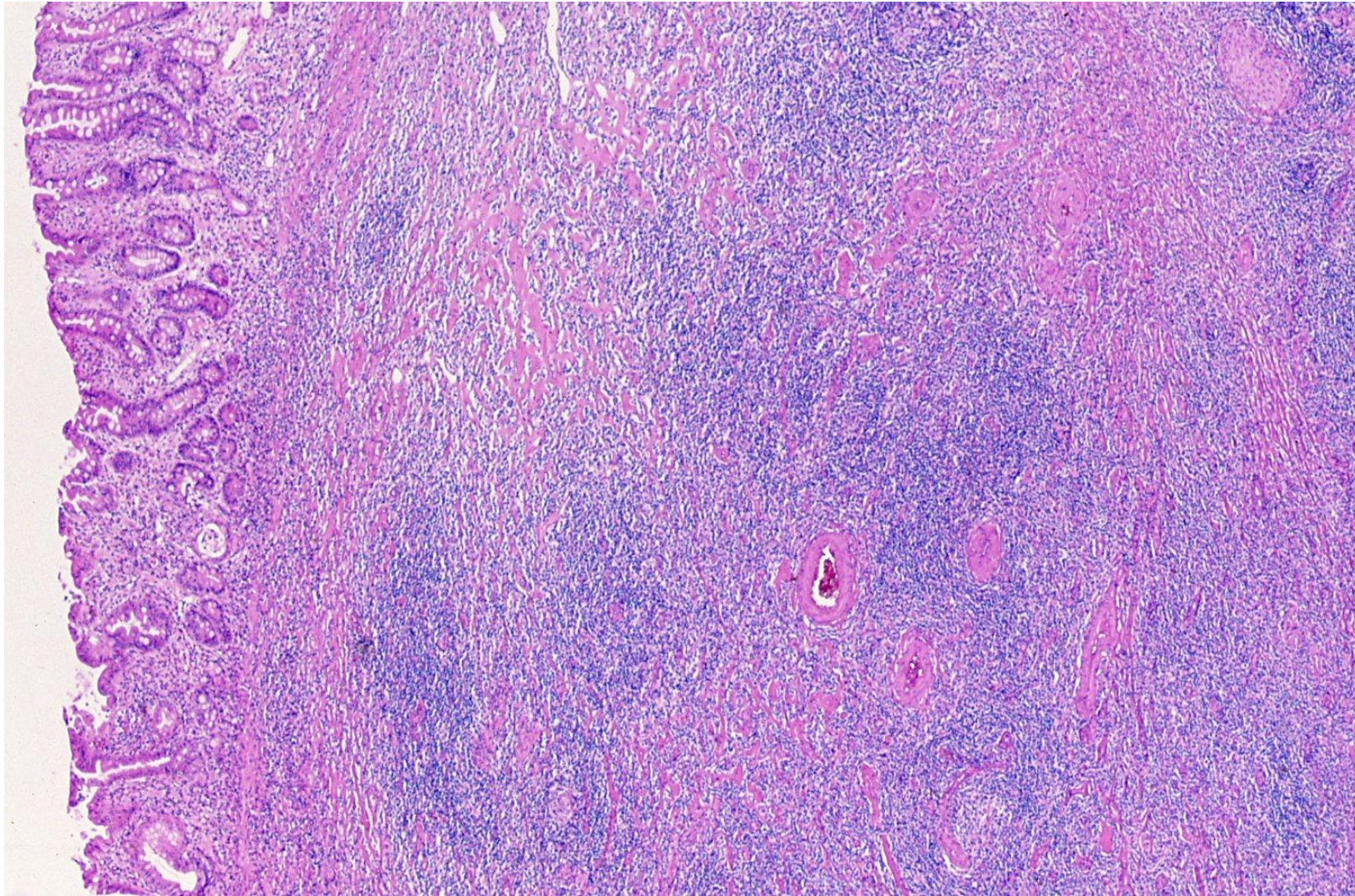


MALT lymphoma of alpha-chain type

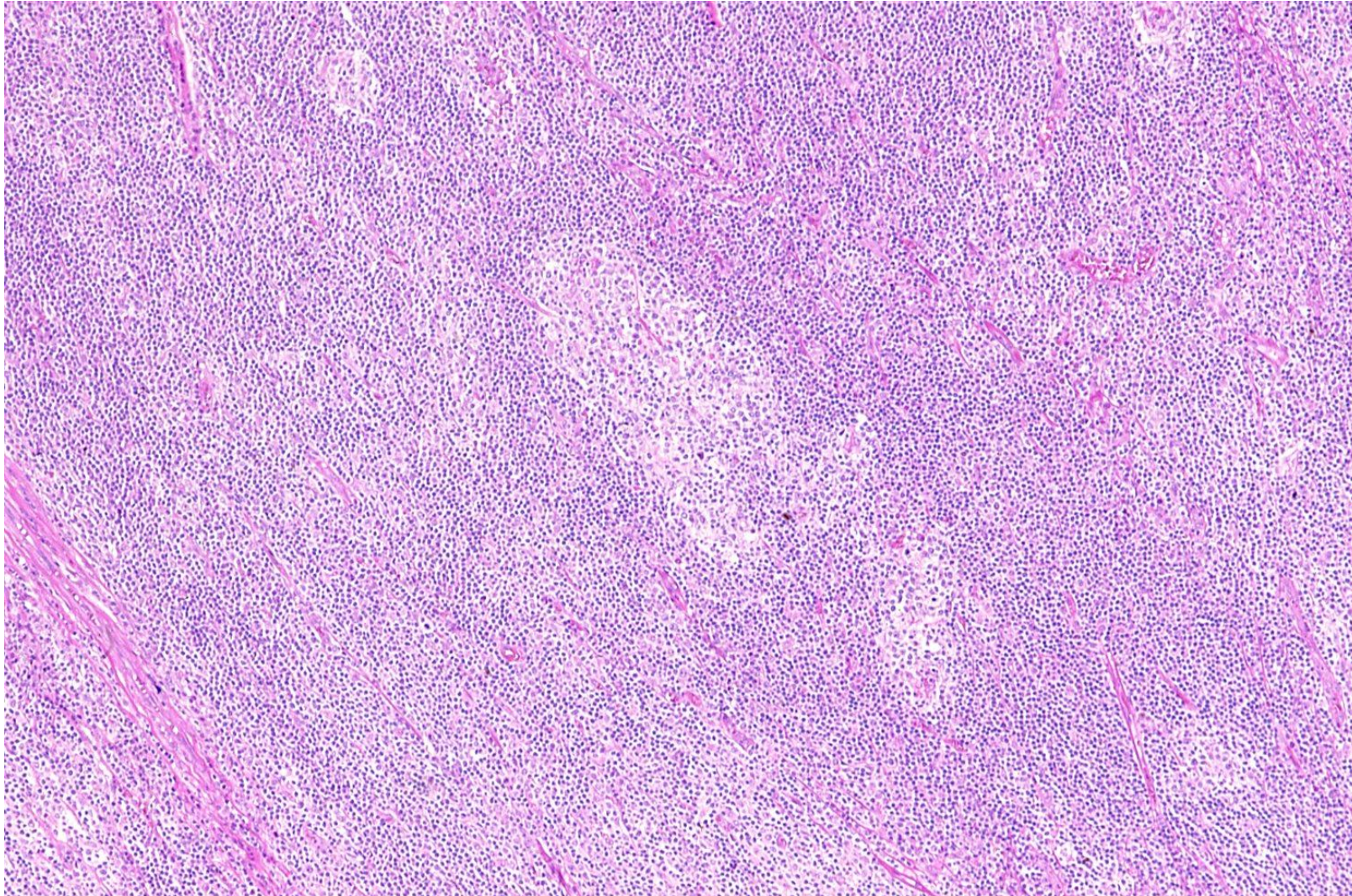
In alpha-chain disease, diffuse plasmacytic infiltration is seen in the lamina propria mucosae along the whole length of the small intestine and of the mesenteric lymph nodes. The disease of MALT lymphoma type usually affects young subjects (between ages 10 and 30 years) living in the Mediterranean districts, particularly concentrated in the Middle East. Alpha-chain disease manifests as malabsorption syndrome with villous atrophy of the intestinal mucosa. The neoplastic cells secrete alpha-heavy chain molecules devoid of light chains. The alpha chain is found in the serum and intestinal fluid. Complete and prolonged remissions can be obtained with antimitotic and/or oral antibiotic treatment, but the disease frequently progresses to a fatal immunoblastic lymphoma deriving from the same B-cell clone. Here presented a Japanese case of localized duodenal MALT lymphoma expressing alpha heavy chain without light chain formation. Malabsorption syndrome was not associated.

Ref.-1: Rambaud JC, Seligmann M. Alpha-chain disease. Clin Gastroenterol 1976; 5(2): 341-358. doi: 10.1016/S0300-5089(21)00292-3

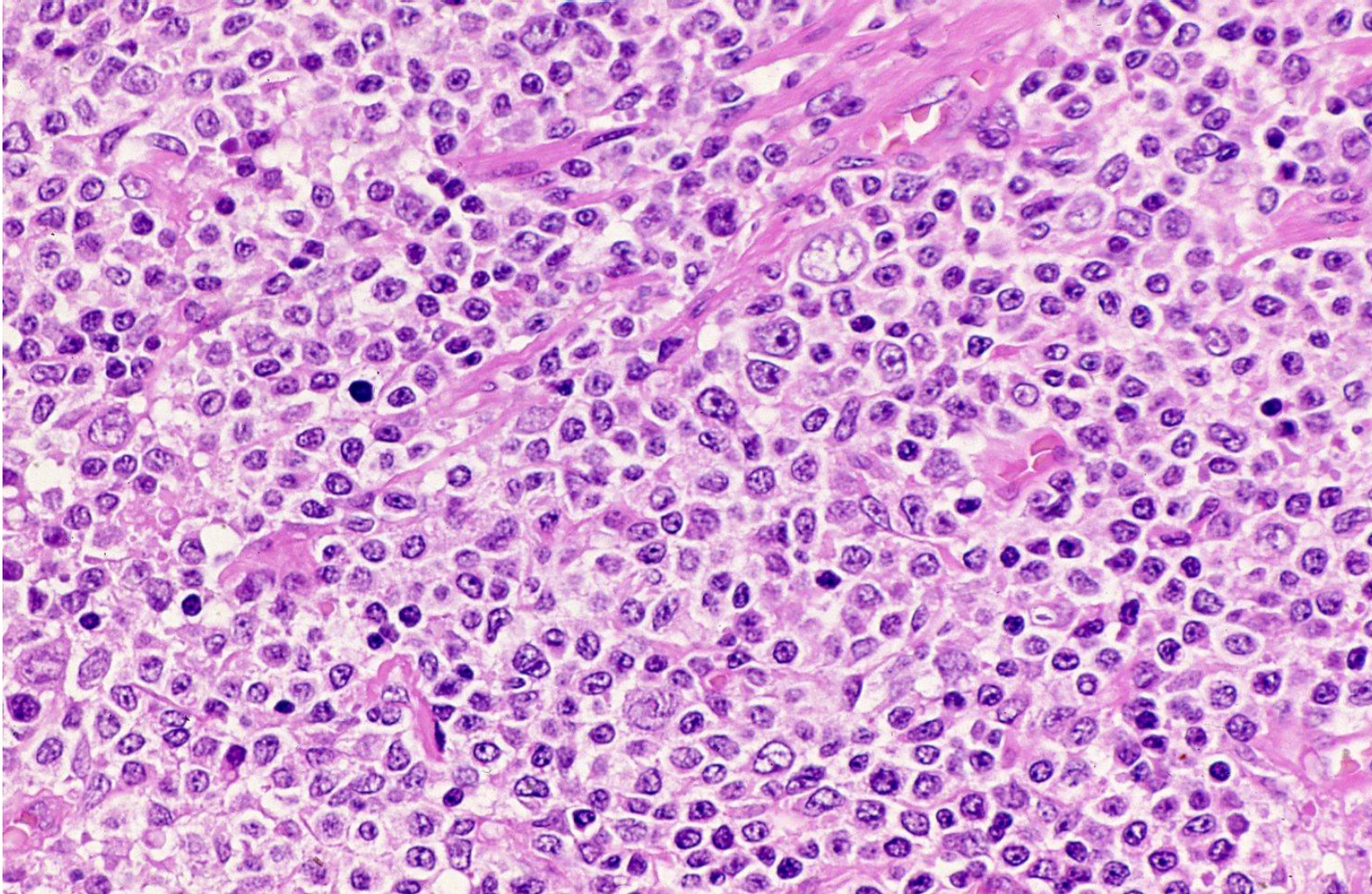
Ref.-2: Lecuit M, et al. Immunoproliferative small intestinal disease associated with *Campylobacter jejuni*. N Engl J Med 2004; 350: 239-248. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa031887



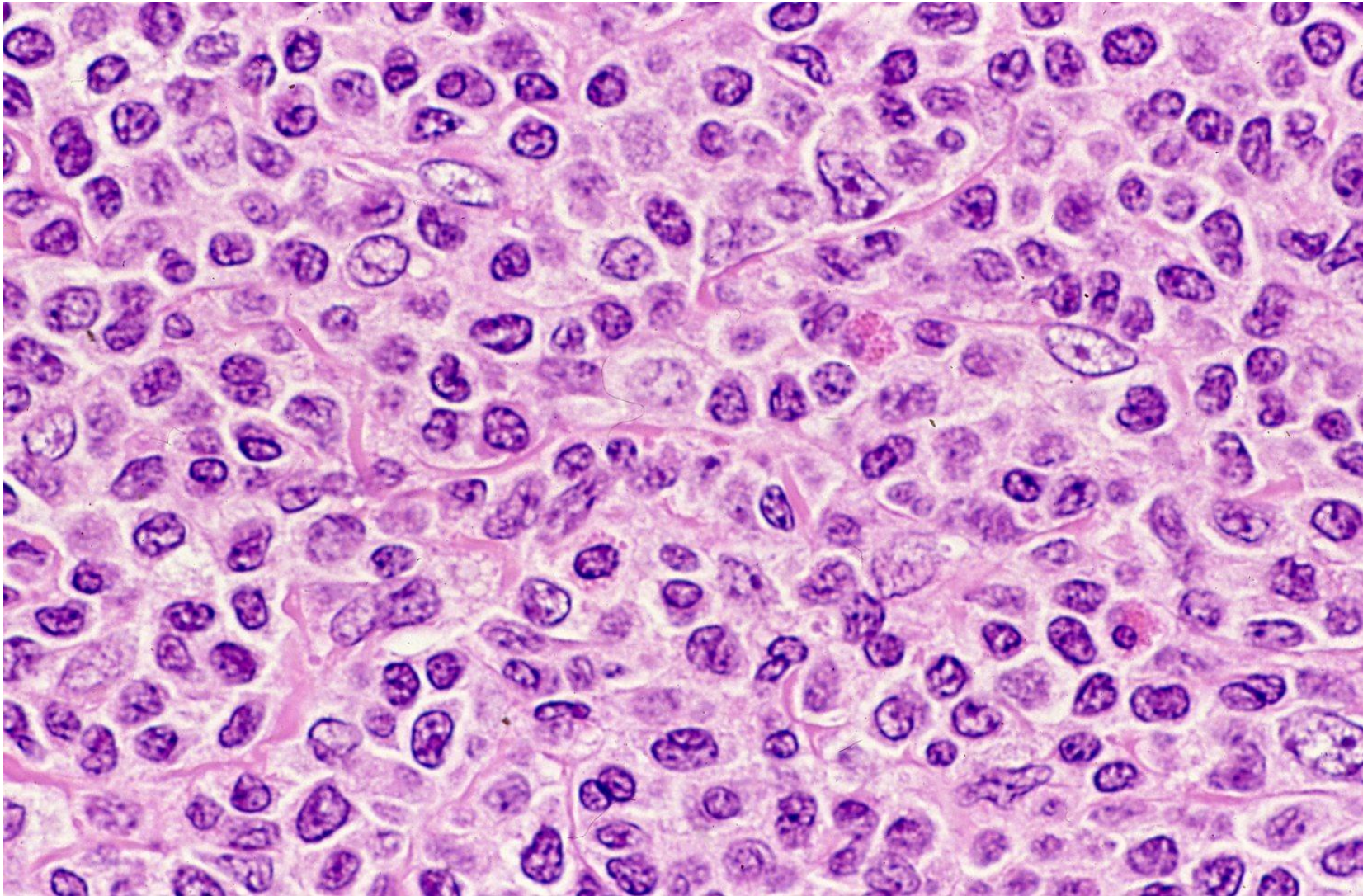
Duodenal MALT lymphoma of alpha-chain type seen in a male patient aged 50's. The surgical specimen shows transmurial invasion of small lymphoid cells with lymphoid follicle formation. MALT lymphoma is indicated (H&E-1).



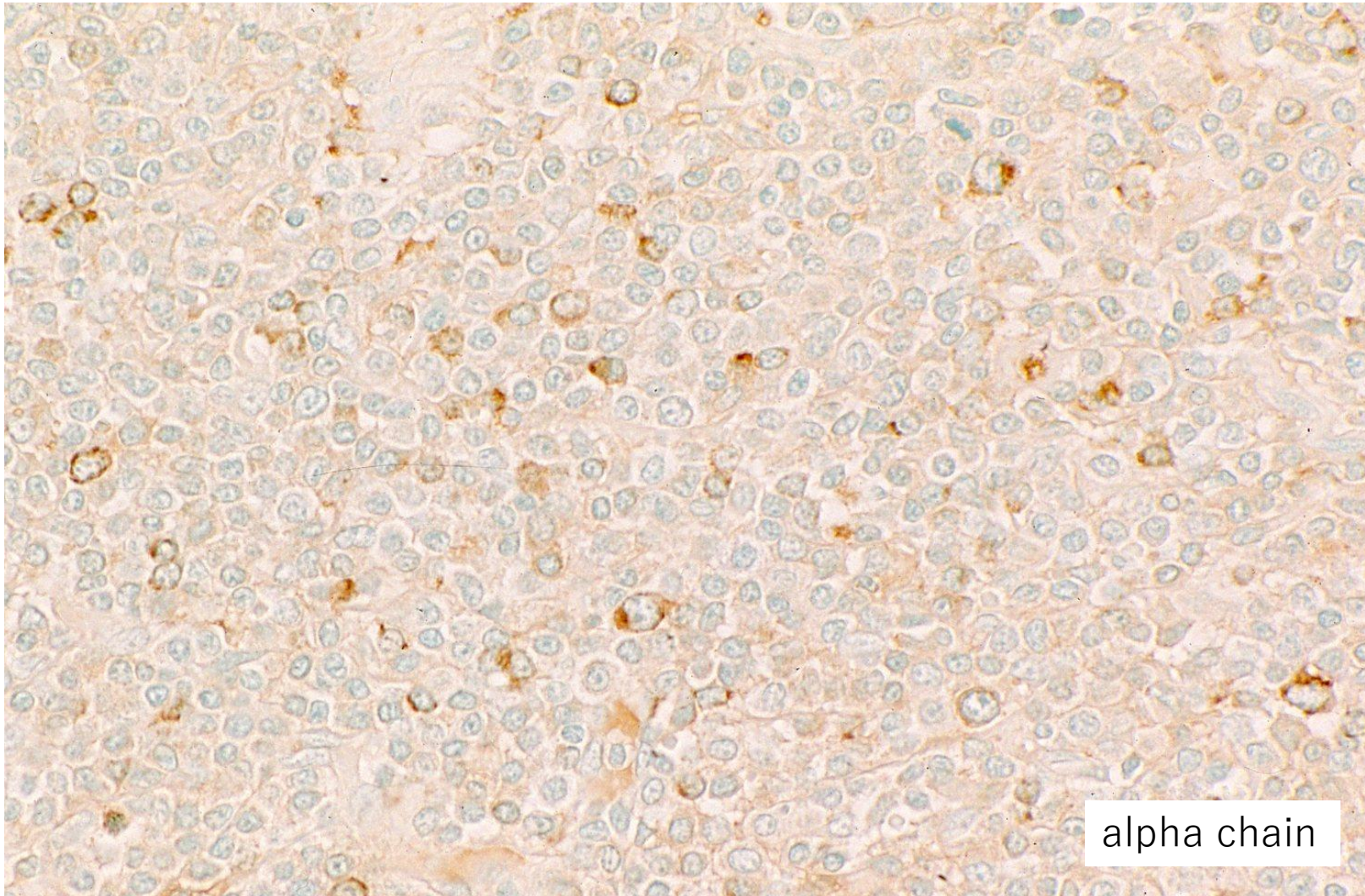
Duodenal MALT lymphoma of alpha-chain type seen in a male patient aged 50's. The surgical specimen shows transmural invasion of small lymphoid cells with lymphoid follicle formation. MALT lymphoma is indicated (H&E-2).



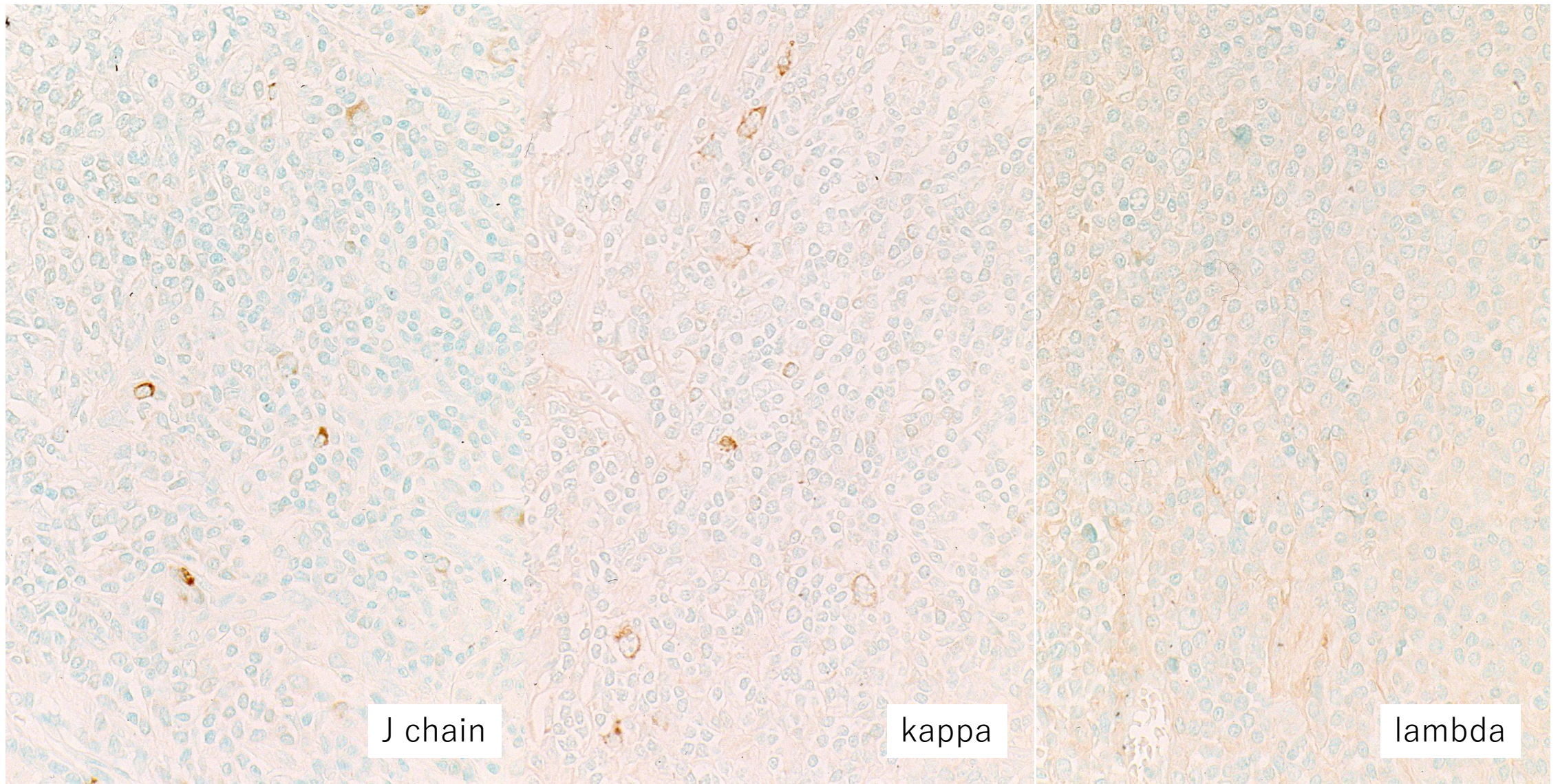
Duodenal MALT lymphoma of alpha-chain type seen in a male patient aged 50's. The surgical specimen shows transmural invasion of centrocyte-like cells and plasmacytoid cells. A few activated lymphoid cells are intermingled. MALT lymphoma is indicated (H&E-1).



Duodenal MALT lymphoma of alpha-chain type seen in a male patient aged 50's. The surgical specimen shows transmural invasion of centrocyte-like cells and plasmacytoid cells. MALT lymphoma is indicated (H&E-1).



Duodenal MALT lymphoma of alpha-chain type seen in a male patient aged 50's. The cytoplasm of many plasmacytoid cells is immunoreactive for alpha-chain. MALT lymphoma with plasmacytic differentiation is indicated (immunostaining for IgA).



Duodenal MALT lymphoma of alpha-chain type seen in a male patient aged 50's. Only a few lymphoma cells are immunoreactive for J chain (left), kappa chain (center) and lambda chain (right). MALT lymphoma with alpha-chain production without light chain positivity is indicated (immunostaining).